

Northern Highlights



Community Update

Week of September 16th, 2024

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 Elementary Office Admin. Assist.: diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca
 Diane O'Reilly
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 Trustee: Melanie Wright melanie.wright@yrdsb.ca

DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Sept. 16 Day 5		September is Deaf Awareness Month Terry Fox Run Rain Date - Monday, September 23, 2024 School Council - Monday, September 23, 2024 Meet the Staff Night - Thursday, September 26, 2024 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30, 2024 School Picture Day - Tuesday, October 8, 2024 Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Tuesday Sept. 17 Day 1		
Wednesday Sept. 18 Day 2		
Thursday Sept. 19 Day 3		
Friday Sept. 20 Day 4	Terry Fox Run	

INFORMATION & UPDATES

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT: We look forward to welcoming our NLPs families to our school and classrooms. Please hold Thursday, September 26th from 5:30-6:30 for our Meet the Staff Night.

TERRY FOX RUN: Northern Lights Public School is getting ready for the 2024 Terry Fox School Run! We're super excited to take part in this annual tradition that supports cancer research while building school spirit. Please support our student's fundraising efforts and donate today at:
<https://schools.terryfox.ca/NorthernLightsPSAurora> #terryfoxschoolrun #nomatterwhat @theterryfoxfoundation

PIZZA LUNCH: Block 1 of the Friday Pizza Lunch program will begin in October and run until December on the following dates: October 4, 11, 18 & 25 / November 1, 8, 22 & 29 / December 6 & 13. Orders may be placed through School Cash Online. The deadline to place an order is Thursday, September 26, 2024. Late orders will not be accepted after the deadline. The pizza provider is Pizza Pizza. Further details on the pizza program and how to order have been emailed to families.

SAFETY WEEK: The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills, including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

MINISTRY SURVEY: LAUNCH OF LIFE SKILLS CONSULTATION: On May 30, 2024, the Ministry of Education announced that it would be launching consultations in fall 2024 with students, parents, job creators, educators

and other stakeholders on the practical life skills students need to build a strong foundation for future success through modernized home economics education. To learn more visit [Province Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma](#). The Ministry has asked school boards to assist in the promotion and collection of feedback on the practical life skills that parents, students and educators think could be included or strengthened. The anonymous [Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation](#), designed by the Ministry, will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until September 24, 2024.

SUPPORTING EAST ASIAN STUDENTS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENING: YRDSB in collaboration with Family Services York Region are hosting our first Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) Family Engagement Evening workshop on October 9, 2024. Please [click here](#) for registration information.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS NEWSLETTER: Please [click here](#) for the September 2024 edition of the Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter.

INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

BIKES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY: We kindly ask that if your child/ren is/are riding bikes to school, to ensure once they are on school property that they walk their bike to the rack and safely lock it up.

STUDENT SAFE ARRIVAL - ABSENCES OR LATES: Letting us know of lates and absences greatly reduces the time our office staff have to spend calling parents in the morning and after lunch daily. If you do not report your child absent, you will receive an absence notification call and email. If you do not reply, we will call your emergency contact. Our Board Safe Arrival procedure dictates that if we can't reach you or your emergency contact after a set amount of time and your child is not at school, we must contact York Region Police. To help us ensure all students are safe and accounted for quickly each morning and after lunch, please:

- report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner by entering the absence/late through [School Attendance Reporting](#) (yrdsb.edsby.com) or by **calling the school at (905) 727-4224**
- ensure we have your complete and current contact information and your emergency contact information

After the first day of school, parents/guardians of **new students will receive an invitation** to set up an Edsby account. **It is very important that you do so right away** as Edsby is an important tool for communication and attendance. Should you need assistance, please contact the main office and we would be happy to help.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME: In partnership with our parent/guardian community, we work very hard at Northern Lights PS to avoid interruptions to instructional time. To that end, we ask families to please ensure that students come to school with all of the belongings that they need for the school day (e.g., water bottles, lunches, homework, gym clothes, outdoor clothing etc.). Please avoid drop-offs to the office during the school day. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

YRDSB SCHOOL START-UP PACKAGE 2024-2025: At the start of each school year, families are provided with a package of information about the school with a link to the [Guide to the School Year](#) booklet, and some forms parents/guardians need to complete. These will be sent to you in the coming week.

We ask that you complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms as soon as possible. It is important that these forms are completed at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms.

Families with more than one child will receive more than one invitation to the form. Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. The forms should be completed for all students. If you are not able to locate the invitation, the [Start-Up Forms](#) can be found on the YRDSB website. For ease of access, the forms are available in many languages.

IMPORTANT: You MUST be logged into your child's YRDSB GAPPS account to complete the digital Start-Up Forms. If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the main office.

NLPS SCHOOL COUNCIL – JOIN US!: Our School Council is made up of NLPS parents/guardians. We meet approximately 5-6 times throughout the school year to share updates and provide input toward our school improvement plan. Our first school council meeting for the 2024-2025 school year will be held on September 23rd at 6:30 pm in person at the school. If you are interested in running for an elected School Council position (e.g., Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), please fill in and return the nomination form included in the email with your School Start Up Forms. Please send in your intent to participate in School Council before our September 23rd meeting. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

CELL PHONES: A reminder that personal **cell phones are not allowed** in the classrooms, hallways, or outside during recess. Students are to leave their phones in their lockers or on the teacher's desk until the end of the day. Students have access to technology with Chromebooks/iPads in their classrooms. If parents/guardians need to contact their child/ren during the school day, we ask that you not text students directly. Instead, please call the office and leave a message.

LUNCHBOX PROGRAM: We are very excited to offer the Lunchbox program at Northern Lights Public School this year. The program will run weekly from Monday to Thursday. Families are able to place lunch orders with various vendors on specific dates. Further information has been emailed to families today. Orders are placed through SchoolCash Online. **The first orders will be delivered to the school the week of September 23, 2024.** Remember to place your orders!

DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY: A gentle reminder that your cute, four-legged friends must be on a leash at all times when on school property. We kindly ask that you avoid walking your dog on our back tarmac and field during recess times (10:25-10:55 and 12:55-1:35) as we have a number of students who are quite allergic.

SPIRIT WEAR: Spirit Wear is NOW AVAILABLE for purchase through the vendor, SchoolTee Screen Printers @ www.schooltee.com. Please see [NLPS Spirit Wear Flyer](#) for further details. **Please use Access Code: NOLI.AUR** to see all products. The deadline to order is Friday, February 27, 2024. Items will be delivered to the school and distributed to students 2-3 weeks after the online store closes. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. Please check the sizing before ordering. There are sample sizes in the school office for viewing.