



OAK RIDGES PS

Welcome back to Oak Ridges Public School, as you begin or as you continue your child's educational journey! We hope that everyone enjoyed the wonderful weather of summer and found time to spend with family and friends. To those families who are new to our school community, we welcome you and feel confident that your child will engage in rich learning experiences in an inclusive atmosphere here at Oak Ridges Public School. This year Oak Ridges recognizes and celebrates twenty years of learning and growing at this site on Coon's Road.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful office staff (Mrs. Brouwers and Mrs. Caicedo) and our fantastic caretaking team (Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Foster, Ms. Salkeld and Mr. Wallbank) for their hard work and dedication to ensure that the school is refreshed over the summer months and that everything is in place to start off a new school year. We would also like to thank the many teachers and support staff that were hard at work over the summer months preparing for this new school year!

At Oak Ridges P.S. we believe a strong partnership between home and school is essential for a child's development and success. We encourage you to become involved in the many activities and events at the school. To help you stay connected with all school events, please visit the calendar on our school website (www.yrdsb.ca/schools/oakridges.ps) and follow us on twitter (@oakridgesps). We invite parents to join our School Council, a group made up of parents and guardians and school staff whose purpose is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. Our first School Council meeting is Sept. 16 at 6:45 pm in the school library. We look forward to working together with you to enhance the learning opportunities here at Oak Ridges Public School and support your child's ongoing success. The start of the school year often brings some changes to our staff. We welcome new Support Staff: Symond Alegado, Natasha Chisholm, Kayla Gosse, Lidia Motta-Pennella, and Tanja Watters. We welcome new Designated Early Childhood Educator Yalda Alizadeh. We welcome new teaching staff: Jessica Kazemi, and Jennifer Pilkey, and we welcome back familiar faces Lubna Rahman and Suzy Reel. Our new staff are joining a dynamic team of educators here at Oak Ridges. Every member of our team plays a part in supporting student success. We know that all of our students belong to a family. Your partnership is important to us and we are excited to get to know you and work with you over the school year.

We look forward to seeing all the members of our Oak Ridges community over the next few weeks. Please read on for important information and dates! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the Administration team.

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at Oak Ridges Public School!

Trish Dynes

Nadia MacKinnon

Principal

Vice-Principal

SEPTEMBER 2019

160 Coon's Rd.

Richmond Hill, Ontario

L4E 2P7

Tel: (905) 773-5572

Fax: (905) 773-0228

Website:

<http://oakridges.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

Trustee: Corrie McBain

Superintendent: Becky Green

Principal: Trish Dynes

Vice-Principal: Nadia MacKinnon

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Brouwers

Administrative Assistant:

Anna Caicedo

Lead Caretaker: Melissa Salkeld

Daily Timetable

8:27	ENTRY BELL
8:30 - 9:30	Period 1
9:30 - 10:10	Period 2
10:10 - 10:40	RECESS
10:40 - 11:40	Period 3
11:40 - 12:20	Period 4
12:20 - 1:20	LUNCH
1:20 - 2:20	Period 5
2:20 - 3:00	Period 6
3:00	Dismissal

Respect Honesty Fairness Perseverance Courage
Responsibility Empathy Initiative Integrity Optimism



Inserts

The following inserts are in the September newsletter:

- September calendar
- Welcome letter from YRDSB

Important Office Note

Please refrain from calling or coming to the office after 2:30 pm to arrange last minute pick up plans. The office staff cannot always safely relay the information to the teacher/student by the 3:00 pm dismissal time.

Reminder of PA day on Monday, September 23rd

Thank you for your co-operation in planning ahead.

School Cash Online

All payments for field trips, hot lunches, agendas, milk etc. can be made through School Cash Online.

Click on the School Cash Online button on our school's website at <http://oakridges.ps.yrdsb.ca/> and select the "Get started Today" button.

Please note you need to have your child's Student ID# (not the OEN #) in order to register.

Online Absence Reporting

Parents/guardians can now report student absences online.

Regular and punctual attendance affects school success and is expected of all students. It is important that students, families and school staff work together to ensure regular attendance. You are expected to notify the school as soon as possible if your child will be absent or late.

Reporting an absence online is now available through Edsby. If you have activated your Edsby account, you can login to Edsby and report your child's absence online. You can access an [online video tutorial to learn more \(bit.ly/edsbyabsence\)](http://bit.ly/edsbyabsence) about how to do this.

If you have not yet created an Edsby account, you will receive an invitation email from the York Region District School Board on **Wednesday, September 25th**.

Families can still continue to report absences by phone.

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Forgotten Lunches

If you are dropping off a forgotten lunch for your child, please make sure his/her name is clearly marked on the lunch bag. There will be two coolers located in the hallway by the office doors where you can place the forgotten lunch.

Please make it an important habit to send snacks and lunches to school with your child in the mornings.

Supervision Before and After School

Morning supervision for your children begins at 8:15 a.m. in the school yard. Parents are not to drop off their children early as they will not be supervised before this time.

If your child is walking to school, please make sure they arrive after 8:15 am and before 8:25 am.

Students are dismissed at 3:00 pm. Unless students are receiving additional help or attending an after school practice, they should not be on school property after hours.

Search and Seizure Reminder to Parents

"At the commencement of each school term or semester, school administrators shall ensure that all members of the school community are made aware of the right of the school administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. School administrators shall also make the school community aware that police may from time to time be invited onto school premises to conduct their own searches. Those searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal."

Police/Board Protocol 2006

Volunteers in the School Vulnerable Sector Check Required

As of September 2013, all volunteers in the school must provide a Vulnerable Sector check. In order to volunteer in our school, please go to the York Regional Police website, print off and complete the Vulnerable Sector Check. A letter from the school must also accompany the police check. This will be used to ensure the safety of students, staff and community members.

Please click on this link to access the York Regional Police Vulnerable Sector Check:

<http://www.yrp.ca/pvsc.aspx>

Contact the school office if you have any questions.

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Substitute Peanut Butter

A substitute peanut butter product is being marketed to consumers as a safe alternative for children to bring to schools in place of peanut butter. We ask that parents refrain from including these kinds of products in your child's lunches or snacks. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that is indistinguishable from the allergen. It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, which is why our schools have procedures in place to minimize risk of anaphylaxis reactions in our students. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Student Birthday Celebrations

Due to the number of student and staff members with severe food allergies and food reactions, food items to celebrate student birthdays etc. will no longer be permitted at Oak Ridges PS.

If parents would like to recognize their child's birthday please do so only with non-food based items.

Peanut/Nut Free Environment

As some of our students and staff have life-threatening allergies to peanuts/nut products, please do not send these items to school in lunches and snacks with your child. We are a peanut and nut safe school.

Thank you for your co-operation.

If your child is anaphylactic, please make sure we have updated medical records and epi-pens in the office.

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Parking Lot Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

The safety of our students is very important to us; therefore, we ask for your support as we highlight some key points of our parking lot arrival and dismissal procedures. In an effort to make drop-off and pick-up as orderly and safe as possible we ask that drivers respect the following rules:

- Pylons have been placed on the cross walk and walkway to Greyfriars Ave. Please drive with caution and keep an eye out for pedestrians on the walkways. This entrance is **one way**. When exiting, you must use either the exit to Coon's Road or the exit to Greyfriars Ave. The exit to Greyfriars Ave is only available in the afternoon, as busses use this entrance in the morning.
- Please obey road rules, crosswalks and speed limits.
- The entrance to the parking lot is **one way**. During afternoon dismissal, please do not park your car in this entrance.
- Parking spaces in our main lot are limited. If no spaces are available, please use street parking.
- Please do not leave your car parked or unattended in our kiss and ride or bus loop.

Thank you in advance for assisting us to keep all our students safe.

Safe Arrival

Punctuality and attendance are very important to ensure your child does not miss important material being taught. It is critical that you report when your child is going to be **absent or late** so that the school can ensure all students are safe. If you do not report the absence or late, the school will call the home, business, and then emergency numbers provided to ensure your child is safe.

In the event that we are unable to contact anyone, it is Board policy that we contact the police.

After office hours, the answering machine will pick up your calls and you can leave a message.

Be at School on Time!

Our entry bell rings at 8:27 a.m.

The second bell rings at 8:33 am.

Students need to be in their classroom at that time and be prepared to learn.

Please help us get your child to school on time to maximize their learning.

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Walking or Cycling to School

As we start the 2019-2020 school year, we would like to remind and encourage families to consider **walking or cycling with children to and from school**. There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school. It:

Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn.

Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness.

Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones.

Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future.

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice or a few days a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Include active travel as part of your daily routine!

Dear Families,

York Region District School Board's **Elementary International and Indigenous Languages Program** is pleased to offer over 20 languages at 35 different sites from Tuesday to Friday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Our Board has one of the largest International and Indigenous Languages programs in the province with approximately 15,000 students who register each year.

Classes run 2.5 hours once a week for 30 weeks for Elementary SK-8 students who want to learn a new language or maintain their heritage language. The cost for the entire program is \$20.00. Program brochures will also be sent home from your child(ren)'s school.

We would like to share with you our program information:

- New student registration (New registrants must submit a copy of the Birth Certificate) begins at the language location during the specified registration hours listed on our brochure or on our webpage.
- Please note online registration through EDSBY is now closed so families must register in person.
- First day of classes begin at the language location during the specified dates and times listed on our brochure or on our webpage.
- Students pre-registered online through EDSBY are to attend the first day of classes at the language location during the specified dates and times listed on our brochure.

Huron Heights Secondary School is a new language site opening for the 2019-2020 school year.

For elementary courses, registration times and locations, please see our [updated flyer](#).

For elementary program information, please visit:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/International-Languages-Elementary-Program.aspx>

If you require any further information, please contact us at:

international.languages@yrdsb.ca

Thank you,

International and Indigenous Languages Program

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Monday, October 7th

Days to Remember
-September-



The school BBQ date has been changed to Wednesday, October 2nd. We will be having a food truck and an ice cream truck available from 5:30-6:45 pm (no pre-ordering required).

Classroom visits and Meet the teachers will be from 6:30-7:30 pm.

More information to follow.

3 - First day of school
16 - School Council meeting 6:45 pm
23 - PA Day
25 - Lice checks
26 - Terry Fox run
30 - Rosh Hashanah



Message from Our Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Corrie McBain
Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

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Oak Ridges Public School


Tel: (905) 773-5572

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Website:

<http://oakridges.ps.yrdsb.ca/>Email: oak.ridges.ps@yrdsb.ca

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Day 1</i> First day of school 	4 <i>Day 2</i>	5 <i>Day 3</i>	6 <i>Day 4</i>	7
8	9 <i>Day 5</i>	10 <i>Day 1</i>	11 <i>Day 2</i>	12 <i>Day 3</i>	13 <i>Day 4</i>	14
15	16 <i>Day 5</i> School Council meeting 6:45 pm	17 <i>Day 1</i>	18 <i>Day 2</i>	19 <i>Day 3</i>	20 <i>Day 4</i>	21
22	23 PA DAY	24 <i>Day 5</i>	25 <i>Day 1</i> Lice checks	26 <i>Day 2</i> Terry Fox run	27 <i>Day 3</i>	28
29	30 <i>Day 4</i> Rosh Hashnah					



THE EDUCATION CENTRE

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September 3, 2019

Dear families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year at York Region District School Board. We hope that you are looking forward to a year of learning, growth and discovery. It is important to us that all of our students and families know that they are a valued part of our school community. Each and every child has important and unique contributions to offer and we aim to create learning environments where they feel safe, respected and supported in making those contributions.

It is a privilege to work alongside families to support your children in exploring their interests, learning more about the world around them and reaching their full potential. We are more successful in doing that when there are strong connections between our schools and families, and we hope you will find opportunities to build those important connections throughout the year.

Our work to provide your child with the best possible education is guided by four priorities set out by the Board of Trustees in our Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership. [Our plans](#) are available on the Board website or you can make a request through your school office.

As part of our commitment to build collaborative relationships, we will continue to keep you informed about our work at the board and important news and events through our website, social media and through your school. We look forward to connecting with you, and wish you a happy, safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Sirisko".

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C McBain".

Corrie McBain
Chair of the Board