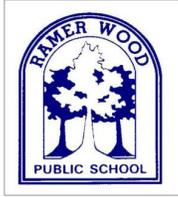




December



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Administrator's Message

December 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

With December upon us, we reflect on many Multicultural traditions within our community that offer us the opportunity to celebrate the richness of our diverse community, and share in the beauty of family and religious traditions. We would like to welcome Ms. Rosen, who is at Ramer Wood P.S. in Ms. Wu's absence. A huge thank you to our School Council and Community Members for supporting our pizza lunches and snack programs at Ramer Wood this year.

During the winter months it is very important for children to come to school appropriately dressed for snow, slush, wind-chill and icy conditions. We have some children (especially in grades 6 - 8) who come to school without proper footwear, scarves, gloves, snow pants or lined jackets. Please discuss the importance of winter clothing and footwear with your child. We need to plan for whatever Mother Nature may send our way. Children must always be prepared to go outside for morning and lunch recess. Only in severe conditions will outdoor activities be shortened or cancelled.

Arriving at Ramer Wood P.S. by 8:30 a.m. allows time for your child to enter the building when the bell rings at 8:45 a.m. each morning. Outside supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. and this 15 minutes before school begins allows children ample time without rushing onto the school property. This will also ensure a safe arrival by all.

We would like to thank our families for your participation with your child in our Progress Report Interviews. Ramer Wood is a school with 285 students, and the academic and social success of each student is very important to all of us. Continuing the suggestions made by the teachers during the Interviews is your way to support your child: using your child's agenda, encouraging your child to read each evening, reviewing completed or assigned homework, participating and sharing input on progress, goals and home support helps each child realize that their strengths and needs are important and special.

Our Winter Concert is tentatively set for Wednesday December 18, with appreciated food bank donations. Details, through email notice will happen closer to the time.

We value the relationships we have fostered with our parent/guardian partners. It is always exciting to look forward, but it is also a joy to reflect on the great work we have done together for each child. School resumes Monday January 6, 2020.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable Winter Break, Holiday, and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. C. Pink
 Principal



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Winter Break

December 23, 2019 to
January 3, 2020

The school will be closed during the break **reopens Jan. 6, 2020**

*Our Winter Concert
is tentatively set for
Wednesday December 18, 2019
with appreciated food bank donations.*

*Details, through email notice,
will be sent closer to the time.*



A Note From School Council



We would like to wish everyone compliments of the season! Our next meeting will be January 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. meeting in the library.

We are always looking for parents to come out to our meetings, and lend support where needed.

At the moment, we are looking for volunteers to help out from January to June, serving pizza to students on Tuesdays . Your commitment would be one day a month for an hour; or every other month, depending on how many volunteers we have to help out with our activities.

If you are able to help please email Chair Dharmendra Dholakiya at ramer.wood.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca please do so by December 18, 2019.

Winter Food Drive

Ramer Wood Student Eco Team will be organizing this years food drive for families in need.



We will be collecting nonperishable foods and other items until Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

Please forward canned foods, dry goods, jarred items, toiletry and household items to the school, checking for all expiry dates.

Thank you for supporting our local Markham Food Bank.

Indoor/Outdoor Recess Decisions

The decision to send students outside for recess or to stay indoors is made at the time of each recess and depends upon temperature, wind chill, sun/cloud conditions, and wind velocity.

Students can avoid feeling uncomfortable during cold winter weather by dressing in layers and by wearing hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens. It is always a good idea to keep a spare pair of mitts and a change of clothing for your child at school or in your child's backpack.



School Council Mitten Tree

It's time for the annual Mitten Tree! This holiday season, we are asking for donations of new mittens, socks, gloves and hats in varying sizes. We will be collecting these items from December 3 to December 18, 2019.

During the month of December, the hats, mittens and gloves will be hung on the holiday tree in the front foyer. These items will be donated to a charity in our neighbourhood.

Thank you for supporting School Council.



Lost and Found

Please remind your children to check the "Lost and Found" box located on the main floor by the caretakers office on a regular basis for misplaced hats, boots, shoes, sweaters and coats.

Labelling your child's clothing with his/her name is always a good idea. Any small items found like rings, keys, watches and valuables are held in the office.



December is an Exciting Time of Year!

The first day of winter falls in December!

Start of School Winter holidays!

Spending time with Family and Friends!

Brrrrrrr its cold outside!. For December, we have some tips to get outside and still have fun in the cold, including while you're walking or wheeling to school or the bus stop.

- Being dressed for the weather is the first step to enjoying the outdoors. Here are a few suggestions on how to stay warm:
- Wear a base layer.
- Wear an insulating layer (wool socks, shirt and pants but not jeans or cotton).
- Wear an outer shell (windproof jacket with a hood and snow pants with elastic or velcro fastening at the cuff).
- Wear insulated waterproof snow boots. ○ Have a hat that covers the ears (and a spare!).
- Add a neck warmer.
- Finish with waterproof mittens.
- Keep moving
- Eat healthy snacks to keep your body going
- Drink water! Even though it's cold, the air is dry and your body can become dehydrated.

It's winter, it's cold, and my children can't be outside, my children will get sick! Many families believe walking to school in the winter and playing outside in the cold weather months leads to children getting sick. In fact according to many health and children's play experts viruses that cause colds and the flu are spread indoors. The indoor circulation of germs and bacteria is much more harmful to your children than being outside. Being outside more often allows children to develop a stronger immune system and a resistance to allergies. It's snowy....walking to school and playing outside in the winter gives children the opportunity to develop and strengthen their overall muscular system. Walking in the snow encourages balancing and using new muscles that are often not used.

So let's bundle up, get outside and be active! Active School Travel is simple way to do so and can be easily added into your daily routine!

- Walk and/or wheel to school or to the bus stop.
- Park and walk a block to school.
- If Active School Travel every day is a challenge, choose two or three days a week to try and make a change.

The Active School Travel Team wishes you a wonderful Winter Break. Stay Active, Stay Safe and Have Fun!

Sincerely,
YRDSB Active Travel Team and York Region Public Health



With winter weather already here, we want to share a few important reminders

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an **extreme cold** or **inclement weather** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency weather events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.





Begins at Ramer Wood on January 17, 2020 (P.A. Day)

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2020 for the 2020-21 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2020, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this Spring.

For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

Grade 1— French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2020

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 17, 2020. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2020, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. This Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register, between January 17 and February 7, 2020. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 7, 2020. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Message From Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Allan Tam
Trustee, Markham, Wards 4 and 5



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
 School Council Mitten, Hat & Scarf Tree and ECO Food Bank Donations—December 3—December 18						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Spirit Days: Wear RWPS Spirt wear, red, green, blue or yellow clothing this week!						
						
			Winter Concert Time TBD	Leader by Example Assembly @ 11:35 am		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
 CHRISTMAS						
Chanukah—December 23—December 30, 2019						
WINTER BREAK →						
29	30	31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4
WINTER BREAK →						
						
Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11
School Resumes TODAY		Kindergarten Registration begins January 17, 2020				