



**York Region District School  
Board**

## **From the desk of Ms. Leoni**

This is our last newsletter for the school year and I would like to thank our entire staff for their commitment to students. They really go above and beyond and it is such a pleasure to work with an amazing team! Thank you to our long-term occasional teachers during this school year. Unfortunately, their term at Regency ends this month. They are: Ms. Pignatelli, Ms. Pilato, Mr. Fleischman, Mr. Adams, and Ms. Tel. We also had Ms. Ng who left last month whom we wish to thank as well. We would also like to thank our Tutor in the Classroom, Danielle Kangas who has worked in a few of our classrooms during the past couple of months.

A special tribute goes to Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Hillaby (see next page) who will sadly be retiring. We wish them all the best. We know that they have both supported Dramatic arts and Theatre at Regency for many years. Mrs. Hillaby and Marquee Theatre have been transformative and we appreciate their dedication over the years. Unfortunately, they will not be returning next year in this capacity and this has been concerning for many students and parents. I wanted to reassure everyone that I am currently in the process of speaking with another theatre company who we hope to work with next year. Once we firm up details, communication will be shared in another email this month.

I would also like to thank our parents for all the support our school received. Many parents have volunteered a lot of time and we appreciate it. I'd also like to acknowledge our School Council members for their time and dedication. As we wrap up this year there are many things to celebrate. Stay tuned for a final year note and report from our School Council that will be sent out via Judy Sandiford on June 20. To our "graduating parents" thank you for all the years of service.

On behalf of the staff, we want to extend our wishes to our Gr. 8 Graduates. We will miss all of them and wish them all the best in high school. We hope they keep in touch and visit us. We are excited to have new JK students. So far, we have 34 new JKs registered and joining the Regency family in September. I would like to thank our Student Council for all their leadership this year. They have demonstrated such enthusiasm in their roles and managed their portfolios with integrity. In May, our Student Council sold FREEZIES on 3 Thursdays and raised \$634.60 that will go towards the Fort McMurray relief fund. Red Cross will double our school donation and provide \$1269.20. Thanks everyone for your generous support and effort.

**Our school hours will remain the same for next year. Please note that the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for the 2016-2017 school year is Tuesday, September 6, 2016. The school office will be closed during the summer holiday and will re-open during the week of August 29, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Please note that our school's Meet the Teacher/Curriculum BBQ Night will be Thursday, October 6, 2016. More details will be provided in September.**

It is an honour to serve this school and I look forward to September. We have new plans in store. Makerspace is just one. We are currently planning the design of this learning space. Although we did not proceed to the final round for the \$100,000 grant, we are committed to making this a reality at Regency. We have already ordered a green screen and robotics. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for our project idea daily and for Judy for sending out the daily reminders! We appreciate your support and if the opportunity arises, we'll try again next time.

We wish everyone a very enjoyable summer!

**Thank you to everyone who attended the special gathering for our beloved teacher, Mrs. Zsebk. Our Butterfly Garden is dedicated to her. Her memory will always live in our hearts forever.**

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# Retirements

Mrs. Becky Knowles and Mrs. Brenda Hillaby will be retiring from teaching at the end of June. The Dynamic Duo are hanging up their capes! They have spent many years at Regency and have been a tremendous foundation for our school. One page is not enough to highlight all but below is a synopsis of their incredible contributions to Regency and to the teaching profession.

Mrs. Becky Knowles started teaching in 1971 and has spent the past 26 years teaching at Regency Acres P.S. She taught several grades (Kindergarten - through Gr. 8). She has been an amazing librarian/computer teacher and has been a Math "Go To" support for many teachers and students. Becky has been instrumental in setting up and maintaining the permanent computer lab and 2 portable computer labs and has brought many new technologies into our school. She has spent countless hours not only introducing and training students but also teachers at Regency and other schools, student teachers and school administrators. She helped computerize report cards, netbooks, laptops, Smartboards, iPads, Smart document cameras, and kindles. Becky has also maintained the Regency Website, Twitter Account and front hall TV in order to communicate more effectively with our school community. Becky has been the Lego Robotics Team Leader, Gauss Contest administrator and report card liaison. Many will miss her Kiss and Ride support during morning drop-off. There have been many proud moments for Becky at Regency. She implemented 'ABEL Program' at Regency, introduced CS (computer science) Club this year, 'Hour of Code' 3 years ago for all students, and piloted many computer initiatives (MXWeb, Dell partnership and wifi in our school). She was an Google Camp presenter in its initial year and the GAPPs initiator (Google community). A highlight has been planning the Gr. 8 Grad trips and accompanying them to Montreal and Ottawa with Mrs. Hillaby and Mr. Moore. Becky is sad to leave all her students and families at Regency. She has enjoyed reading to every new kindergarten child for the past 16 years. Regency will always be home to her.

Mrs. Brenda Hillaby started teaching in 1984 at Kerry's Place Centre for Autism, in Thornbury. She has spent the past 28 years teaching at Regency Acres and has taught many different grades (S.E.R.T., Kindergarten, 5, 6, 7 & 8), and has Specialist Certificates in Special and Primary Education. As we all know, Brenda has a passion for the arts (Drama, Dance & Visual Arts) and over the years has inspired her students to explore their abilities to the fullest. She has been instrumental in bringing 8 school musicals to "LIFE" and developing a partnership between Marquee Theatrical Productions and Regency Acres. Her proud moments at Regency include: 8 school musicals at Newmarket Theatre, Sign Language Club, Kindergarten Chick parties, bringing the Safety Patrol program to Regency, Air Band (staff numbers), Grade 8 Grad trips and Graduation, Student Council, Regency Spirit Days and mentoring Student Teachers. Brenda is very proud to have been a long time member of the Regency community and she will miss the Regency staff and students the most - she has always felt at home at Regency where the camaraderie and the sounds of music and laughter have filled the hallways and her heart over these many years. She thanks everyone for making her time here so wonderful. She will never forget everyone at Regency Acres P.S.

Please join us to celebrate the retirements of Brenda Hillaby and Becky Knowles.

**Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Place: Regency Acres P.S. – small gym

No RSVP necessary.

This event is for parents (present and past) and former students. Your children will be attending a special event during a school day.



## Early Dismissal June 29



All schools in the York Region District School Board are committed to improving student achievement and well-being. On **Wednesday, June 29th, 2016** an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to take part in meetings during the afternoon of that day. These meetings will allow for school

staff to engage in culminating activities regarding the review and revision of the School's Improvement Plan as well as year-end and transition activities that support student success.

As has been our practice in the past, students will attend school during the morning of Wednesday, June 29th, 2016 only. Students will be dismissed early that day at **11:25 a.m.**

Arrangements will be made to ensure

that students who are normally bused to and from school will receive transportation at this time. Parents/guardians whose children attend after school child care should make appropriate arrangements to address this change in schedule.



## Stay Active and Fit All Summer Long



Keeping children physically active improves their health, increases their confidence, gives them a chance to make friends and also keeps them from becoming bored. Encourage children to think about any potential risks before they start their activities. Together, create your own family

summer safety rules.

**Safety questions for children to ask themselves:** Is my bike fully tuned up?

Are my in-line skates or skateboard in good shape?

Is my helmet certified and specific to the sport in which I am participating?

Does my equipment (e.g., wrist guards, knee pads, lifejacket, etc.) fit me properly?

Do I understand the rules of the game and the skills needed for the activity?

Am I playing in a safe area (e.g., park versus the road, supervised pool or lake)?

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653,

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

## Are you moving?

If you are planning to be moving out of the Regency Acres' area and will



not be with us for the 2016/2017 school year, please contact our school office and let us know.

This information is important for our planning purposes and could impact our teacher allocation.

## Volunteer Award

We would like to congratulate one of our parents, **Gwen Al-Kas**, for receiving the **Community Organizer of the Year** award at the Town of Aurora Community Recognition Award Night on May 30th. You can view Gwen's video by clicking on this link: <https://www.aurora.ca/Live/Pages/Community%20Involvement/Community-Recognition-Awards.aspx>. You can view the news coverage in The Auro-ran by clicking this link: <http://www.newspapers-online.com/auroran/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/current-2016-06-02.pdf>. Gwen has been a volunteer for many years and will be greatly missed. She has transformed our Healthy Schools and has provided many healthy options for students (literally filling their tummies). She has treated every student with respect and collaborated with many of our staff.





## A message from our Trustee

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for all that you have done to help make this school year a successful one for our students.

We share a common goal - to give our young people every opportunity to reach their full potential, and we all have a role to play in supporting that goal. However you choose to get involved, your engagement and support make a difference. We know that good schools become better schools when they are connected with families.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our students, families, staff members and community partners, we are creating a welcoming, caring and inclusive learning environment that fosters student achievement and well-being.

As we move into summer, I encourage you to seek out opportunities to continue and complement the learning that takes place throughout the school year. That could mean taking a nature walk, visiting a museum or reading a book. Whatever your plans are over the next few months, I hope you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.



Our QSP Family Reading Magazine Fundraiser is returning this fall.

Please save your magazine orders (new and renewals) and order them through our school program.

If you renew with the publishers directly, the school does NOT receive any profits.

Save any publisher discount renewal coupons you receive, as

## QSP MAGAZINE

QSP will honour all price discount coupons! Our school earns a profit while you save money.

You'll get great magazines at great prices. You can save up to 85% off news stand prices. A single magazine can cost as little as \$2.00 per issue. Magazines encourage children to read and there are subscriptions that suit everyone in your family.

If you can't wait until the fall, you can order early and support our

school by shopping online! It's easy...just visit [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca). and our school ID is: ID **3725249**

If you ever have a question about your order, please call QSP Customer Service at 1-800-667-2536.



## Student Award



Regency's Grade 8 student Tyriq Q. was nominated for an Athletic Award by Mr. Lanning.

## Summer Math

Summer is a great time for students to catch up on their math skills or get a head start on the next grade level. This summer, LDAYR and Evoke Learning are bringing back the highly successful Math Transitions program for students entering Grades 5-9.

**Contact LDAYR to register today!**

**Phone:** 905-884-7933 x 23

**Email:** [info@ldayr.org](mailto:info@ldayr.org)

**Website:** [www.ldayr.org](http://www.ldayr.org)

## Fort McMurray

Freezie Fridays... Thanks to your generous support, not only did the students get a cool treat but we raised **\$634.60** in freezie sales!! Red Cross will double our donation and provide **\$1269.20** to the Fort McMurray relief fund!

Thank you!



## Bike to School Week



honour of 'Bike to School Week' run by Tune your Ride. This was one of many events to come from the Healthy Kids Community Challenge in Regency Acres. Visit our web-

Regency Acres PS hosted a fun bicycle powered assembly in

site [www.windfallcentre.ca/healthykids](http://www.windfallcentre.ca/healthykids) to find out more and to enter our most recent competition to win a Rip-Stik, a Scooter and more. At the assembly 7 students cycled to power speakers, a projector and all the equipment needed to run the assembly. The students learned about the benefits of cycling as well as the need to conserve electricity.



## Ranji Singh Foundation Summer Events

Sunday, June 26 CASAS Cricket & Community Day engaging local youths in interactive cricket workshops conducted in partnership with York Regional Police. Music and other activities will be included off-field to engage families. Bring a picnic basket and a chair, and enjoy the day. Admission is free. 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Harvest Hills Park, 145 Harvest Hills Blvd, East Gwillimbury (at Yonge St. & Green Lane).

July 9 & 10 2016 Caribbean & South Asian Showcase (CASAS)  
The CASAS Festival will celebrate with two days of food, fashion, music, from around the world. There will be fashion and craft vendors, yummy island foods, South Asian curries, fresh coconut water and a cash bar. Admission is free. CASAS encourages patrons to bring a non-perishable food item for on-site donation to the Newmarket Food Pantry.

MAGNA Centre, 800 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Ranji Singh Foundation is a charitable organization with a vision of Caring Neighbourhoods Enriched Through Celebrations of Cultural Diversity in Communities.

For more information about times and the events, please visit [www.ranjisinghfoundation.org](http://www.ranjisinghfoundation.org)

## Student Council

Student Council has looked a little different this year at Regency. We have taken a different approach with our Student Government. This year, we elected different ministers for each role. We have ministers of Justice, Environment, Health, Finance, Multiculturalism and Education. They have been extremely excited and eager to make changes and take action

around our school. Every Day 1, all the council members gathered together to discuss possible ideas. During this time, we organized upcoming events, and talked about how we could continue to improve our council. We also occasionally went around to classes to inform students about activities and upcoming events. We enjoyed representing the voice of the students in

the school. Most of us will be graduating this year and we are looking forward to applying the many leadership skills we have learned at Regency at our new schools.



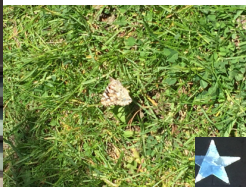
# Around Regency Acres



Spring Concert recognizing Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Hillaby and The Yellow Submarine.



A warm Spring day, Mason discovered a turtle in the creek behind his house. He named the turtle Marshmallow and marveled over his beauty! Mason and his mom took a picture of Marshmallow and submitted it to the Signs of Spring Photo Contest. The picture was awarded first prize - a brand new bike! Mason and his brother Jack love the new bike and are so happy that Spring is here!



## **Safety In and Around Your Community**

### **It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.**

It's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
  - How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
  - How and under what circumstances to call 911.
  - To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
  - Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
  - To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
  - If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it was a false alarm.
  - If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.
- It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, visit [www.yrp.ca](http://www.yrp.ca).

