



Dear Regency Families,

Regency Acres June 2020

Unfortunately we had to end the school year online and not in person. We really miss seeing the students at school. I can't believe that time has passed so quickly and this will be my last school newsletter submission.

I will ask Judy to send my final farewell letter to the Regency community so stay tuned.

Although we've all been at home, we've managed to keep Regency's spirit alive! I want to thank all the staff at Regency, during this COVID time who have literally set-up an on-line school overnight. I am impressed by their leadership and sincere care to make sure all students were engaged in learning and most importantly were keeping well. Our EAs, DECEs and other support staff who were instrumental too in offering personalized lessons with students, even on the phone and for conducting mental health check-ins to make sure supports were continuing and that there was a caring adult from school still connected to them. Our caretaking team has also been working hard to ensure public health safety measures were in place and for preparing us for school closure. I also want to thank our office staff, Nikki and Judy who are crucial to the daily operations of our school. I could not do my job without them! As you are all aware, Robin Claus is retiring and Mr. Lanning will be taking over the library! Mrs. Claus will also be working with Mr. Lanning to ensure a successful transition. As for new teachers, I am delighted to announce that Neelu Sahrawat has been hired as the SK/Grade 1 teacher. She will be working at our school starting September and will be a great addition to the Regency community!

I will say this again, there is no other staff team like Regency's!

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A new Principal has been assigned to Regency Acres this week. Her name is **Kerry Grossinger**.

Kerry is very excited to be joining the Regency Acres team. She brings with her many years of experience in the YRDSB. She has a passion for leading and learning and working with teams to uphold the mission, vision and values of our school board. At the start of her career she worked at Highview P.S. nearby in Aurora, and is enthusiastic about returning to the Aurora community. Mrs. Grossinger looks forward to getting to know everyone and working with students, their families, staff and the community at Regency Acres P.S.

I want to also thank our Lunch Assistants who work over the lunch period to supervise the hallways, classrooms and playground areas. A huge thank you to all our volunteers, especially Ms. Judy Sands.

I also want to thank all the community and parent volunteers that we have been so lucky to have over the years. Thank you to our School Council members for leading so many amazing fundraising events that have raised so much money, which has benefit classroom learning and student experiences at school.

I'd like to offer a special mention to Gwen Al-Kas who has offered her help with translation, to Adrienne Watt for leading our Pizza lunch program and to Diana Moniz-Choudhry who is moving on as a high school parent. Your time and dedication to our school was greatly appreciated.

June 22 was our scheduled Gr. 8 Grad ceremony and although we could not celebrate in person, Mrs. Beach and Mrs. Sarabun did a great job in organizing lawn signs and a car parade for our graduates. Many staff members joined by standing on the road to wave and cheer. Thank you to Mrs. Beach and Mrs. Sarabun for taking the time to do this. We wish our graduates the best of luck as they move into high school.

For students who are moving to other school areas, we wish you the best of luck. For our new JK students, we welcome you and can't wait until you start school. Our new JK parents will be receiving a Welcome to Kindergarten powerpoint this week as a school orientation.

You will notice that this month, Regency raised a PRIDE Flag which is hoisted underneath the Canadian Flag. This was a special moment at our school. It makes me so happy to see this flag waving each time I walk into the school building. Regency will continue to run the GSA when school resumes. Student and staff well-being and sense of belonging is paramount!

We don't know the exact details about what September school start-up will look like but more information will come late summer (or on the news).

I hope you all enjoy your summer.

If you wish to reach me, email me at: lisa.leoni@yrdsb.ca

Sincerely,
Lisa Leoni

HAPPY
SUMMER

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Regency Families,

Many of you have already heard the news that Mrs. Claus will be retiring this month – a great loss for Regency but we do wish her luck!

Mrs. Claus has been with the YRDSB for 30 of her 31 year teaching career. Much of her career has been focused on teaching grades 2-5, though she has worked with students at all grade levels (K-8) in her role as Teacher Librarian (both at Regency and at Stonehaven ES in Newmarket). Besides Regency and Stonehaven, Mrs. Claus also taught at Sharon PS, Lakeside PS and Keswick PS.

Mrs. Claus has demonstrated great Leadership throughout her teaching years. Here are some of her contributions: inspiring new classroom techniques and technologies; acting as Lead Teacher for grade groupings, serving as Technology Lead Teacher, demonstrating learning and teaching styles at meetings and conferences, writing curriculum units for the Board, organizing and running 2 full-day STEAM conferences for students, and running groups/clubs for students.

Mrs. Claus has spent the past few years re-branding the Library into a Learning Commons and Makerspace at Regency, turning it into an inclusive and inviting space for all students, teachers, and families to use and enjoy. In 2017, she received the Canada 150 Citizenship Award from the Government of Canada for her innovative work in the Makerspace and creating and running the STEAM Conferences. She was also presented with a YRDSB Applause Award in February of 2018 for her leadership in the library (leading the Makerspace development and STEAM Conferences).

On top of being an incredible teacher, Mrs. Claus has built very strong relationships with families, the broader community and students in her care. She has been an equity advocate and has taken it upon herself to connect with community members to create displays and purchase resources for the school that highlight various student identities and lived experiences. She was instrumental in the development of Regency's first GSA. Mrs. Claus is adored by her colleagues. She has been a strong support and mentor to many new teachers. She kept the spirit of the school alive with her enthusiasm and creative ideas and I know I speak for all the staff – Mrs. Claus will be missed so much! We hope she volunteers and visits sometimes.

Lisa Leoni



Message to parents from school council

It's the end of our 2019/2020 school year, and it's one for the history books!

The last few months have seen change, upheaval, adjustment and adaption in ways that were unexpected at the beginning of this school year. Special thanks should go to our committed teachers for pivoting their lesson plans and curriculum in order to support our students especially through distance learning, as well as an acknowledgement of the spectacular efforts of parents and students to try and work within the online learning environment. Teachers have checked in with individual students, as well as completing regular online lessons with their students in order to support individual and class learning goals. Thank you to our teachers and staff for working so hard to continue the connection with our students and families.

We would also like to extend a special notes to; Mrs. Claus- congratulations on your retirement; Thank you to Ms. Leoni for your hard work and commitment to the students, we wish you well in your next year. Thank you to the staff leaving us this year, we'll miss Ms. Vasilopolous, Ms. Bassi - you've all been a valuable part of the lives of our students.

We've seen just how integral our school is for our families and the community we serve, as the school shut down we donated our remaining nutrition supports to the Aurora Food Pantry. The school was able to extend our technology to support students learning at home, but the nutrition support programs that were used daily ended in March along with in person learning. If your family is able please consider a donation to the Aurora Food Pantry <http://www.aurorafoodpantry.ca/>

Regency Acres PS has a long history of fund raising efforts that support student classroom enhancements, sports programs, arts programs, library & makerspace, music and technology. This year our fundraising efforts were the chocolate fundraiser, pumpkin patch and festive shop - fundraisers are an integral part of supporting all our students. You may have noticed that we had fundraising efforts planned for the spring of 2020 but those did not happen, we decided that with the general uncertainty surrounding a global pandemic that it would be appropriate to place those efforts on hold. The Regency Acres volunteers have been instrumental in the success of our fundraising efforts this year, as well as previous years, and we're hoping to be able to have volunteers in the school in September. A special thanks to volunteers who are graduating from Regency acres along with their student Diana Moniz and Adrienne Watt and all the other parents who took time out of their days to volunteer at Regency. We will miss the longstanding contributions of these parents, they've worked so hard to create the community we value for all our students.

We wish every family a summer filled with long walks, good conversation, life lessons, joy and connection. Stay safe and healthy and we hope that we will get to see you in September.

Sera Weiss and Kim Davies

Languages

International and Indigenous Languages Fall Registration

Elementary School Programs

Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 can learn to read, write and speak a new language or maintain their heritage language. More than 20 different language courses are available. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin in early July 2020. For locations, times and dates, please see the list of Elementary courses.

Research shows that speaking more than one language has many cognitive benefits and may:

- improve how the brain functions such as improving memory and concentration
- enhance decision-making and multi-tasking skills
- open future employment opportunities

Please check our [website](#) in July for the most up to date information on registration and program delivery. Due to space limitations, registration will take place on a first come first served basis.

Secondary School Credit Programs

The Credit International and Indigenous Languages program, offering 15 different languages, is available to students from Grades 9 to 12. Registration is now open for the [upcoming 2020-2021 school course offerings](#), and closes on September 9, 2020.

Did you know there are many benefits to taking credit language courses? Students can take one International Languages Course as a Group 1- Compulsory or as an Elective Credit towards their Ontario Secondary Diploma. Students can also earn up to three credits towards graduation. If students successfully complete the Level D - University course, it can be used as one of their top six (6) marks for post-secondary entry.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information about our courses, program delivery and registration information.

Thank you for your interest in our programs. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us if you have any questions international.languages@yrdsb.ca



Regency Acres Grad



Regency Proud!

Students from Kindergarten to our very Proud Grade 8s.

Together for a quick photo and back to Social Distancing.

Congratulations to all Regency Grade 8 students. Good Luck!

Regency PRIDE Flag

