

# REGENCY GRIFFINS

MAY 2015



## Principal's Message

I would like to begin by saying **thank you to our School Council members** for their dedication to our school this year. Decisions that are made at School Council meetings reflect the best interests of all students in our school. As a result, students in all grades have benefited. Here are some terrific examples from this year: Mosaic tiles art project, outdoor play toys (K-3), repainting of the exterior play surface, garden tools (K-3), Alyson Shafer presentation, Music program: new instruments & refurbishing, Library: new books, Smart document cameras, netbooks, laptops, Healthy schools program (healthy food for all students), 2 water filling stations, a new front entrance upgrade, school team uniforms, electronic drop down screen in large gym for assemblies (coming in the fall), presentations, workshops, and new gym mats for a safer gym experience. Any parent is invited to attend council meetings and experience for themselves how council works. It's a pleasure to work closely with such a committed and professional group of parents! There are also many other parents I'd like to thank that volunteer their time (at school and in their homes). We truly are partners in education!

A very special **invitation** is extended to all students and their families. On **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm**, we will be celebrating the official opening (a ribbon-cutting ceremony) of our new front entrance which has evolved into our indoor "Regency Park". We have invited the media to capture this event and so far the Aurora Banner newspaper has confirmed their attendance. The positive feedback from parents, students, staff and visitors (including general community members) has been overwhelming. There is well-documented research that supports the importance of designing learning environments (often referred to as "environment as third teacher") and its impact on student learning. What we display on our school walls, in our classroom and how we set up physical spaces for learning, matters!

At first glance, you may see newly painted walls in our front entrance but it is much more than that. For over a month, students and staff have worked on creating the acrostic poem that spells REGENCY - each letter representing 7 shared commitments. We refer to this as "**Our Regency Pledge**" (which will entail every student and staff actually taking a pledge during an upcoming school assembly. Moreover, each sentence in the pledge represents 7 core values that binds us together as a school community. The silhouettes of people that will be painted will reinforce the shared values by visually demonstrating how to *act out* the values on a daily basis (for instance, recycling, exercising to stay healthy, reading for learning, etc.) and will offer many teachable opportunities for students. It will also serve as a restorative approach to dealing with student conduct as students may be asked to reflect on their actions. It also becomes an important opportunity for students to take ownership over their actions. We hope that you can all make it out this evening. Note: on this evening of **June 11<sup>th</sup>** it will also be our **Spring Concert** which starts at 7:00pm. We hope many can stay for that as well.

### Our Regency Pledge

I am responsible for creating the best learning environment possible.  
To make Regency Acres the greatest school community, I pledge to:

**Respect myself, others and the diversity amongst us**

*Respectful Learning Environment*

**Exercise my physical, emotional and mental well-being**

*Healthy Living*

**Grow to become a responsible member of a global community**

*Global Citizenship*

**Exclude bullying**

*Anti-Bullying*

**Nurture a mindset that is equitable and inclusive**

*Equity and Inclusivity*

**Care for the environment**

*Eco-friendly*

**Yearn for knowledge**

*Lifelong Learning*

Today and every day, this is what I pledge!

↑ **Our Commitments**

↑ **Our values**

Website:  
<http://regencyacres.ps.yrdsb.ca>  
Trustee:  
Peter Adams-Luchowski  
(416) 906-0937  
Superintendent:  
G, Brocklebank-Vincent  
Phone: (905) 884-4477  
123 Murray Dr. Aurora  
Phone: 905-727-9811  
Fax: 905-727-5109  
E-mail:  
[regency.acres.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:regency.acres.ps@yrdsb.ca)

Earlier this month, we emailed parents a **proposal for a revised Kiss and Ride** procedure for the morning drop off time. This proposal has been **CANCELLED** as it would impact our Bus Transportation services and the Town of Aurora. Therefore, we will continue with the current Kiss and Ride model. Having said that, we ask that all parents respect the traffic laws (no illegal u-turns).

Thank you.

## Spring Fundraising



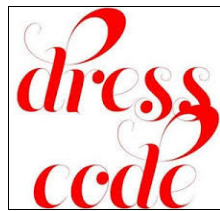
A great **BIG** Thank You to all the wonderful Regency Acres families for embracing our **Fitness-a-Thon** on April 22. We are happy to report that we raised \$6,953, which will be used towards educational items at the school.

Thank you for sending in prizes, donations and helping your children raise money. Even though it was a bit chilly the whole school got moving for 80 minutes, and everyone had a lot of fun!!!

THANK YOU TO ALL!



## Student Dress Code



Attending school is an important activity. Look

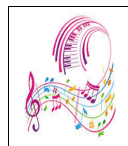
upon it as your job. You will have to accept dress standards at work and in many other situations. Your manner of dress affects the tone of your school and reflects how you think about yourself. Students are expected to dress in a manner that contributes to the learning atmosphere.

Students are expected to come to school appropriately attired for classroom learning and should reflect their increasing physical maturity. Muscle shirts, beach wear, mini skirts and mini dresses, halter tops, clothing that exposes undergarments, spaghetti straps tops, half of cut off T-Shirts, short shorts, bare midriff tops are considered inappropriate in school. Shorts need to be mid-thigh or longer in length. For all grades, any clothing with objectionable or offensive words, signs, or

logos on them are considered inappropriate as well. Students who are not appropriately dressed will be required to change offending clothing items or cover them with another piece of clothing. We have a number of clean clothing items that may be borrowed. Should a student refuse to comply with the above, parents will have to pick their child up so that he/she may go home to change.

## Spring Concert and Ribbon Cutting

## Grade 8 Graduation



The Regency Acres' Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the large gym for all our Regency families.

On June, 11 Regency will be having a "ribbon cutting" ceremony for the "new" look of

our front foyer. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a glass of orangeade and enjoy a "walk in the park" in the front foyer.

Graduation is on

Monday, June 22nd  
at 5:30 p.m.

The Grad Committee meeting will be held May 12th at 7 p.m. in the library.





## Summer Institute

The York Region District School Board's Summer Institute is a program that offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Weekly sessions are offered at 12 elementary schools throughout the region from **June 29, 2015 to August 7, 2015.**

### How to Register?

Registration will be accepted in person at the regional Summer Institute office located at Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning, 36 Regatta Drive, Richmond Hill.



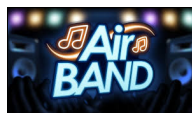
## Air Band 2015

**A 15 YEAR TRADITION**  
**CONTINUES!!! REGENCY**  
**ACRES P.S. AIRBAND**  
**2015 - Wed., May 6,**  
**7:00 p.m.**

An evening of entertainment not to be missed! Come and see some of your favourite bands from years gone by: The Backstreet Boys and even the Jackson 5! The Grade 8 and 7 students are ready to entertain you with their amazing lip synching abilities and fantastic dance routines. Our panel of expert judges will be awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for the very best of the best! Tickets (\$10 each) are on sale now.

Please contact Mrs. Judy Sandiford at 727-9811 or in person at the office. Tickets are VERY LIMITED as performers are given first chance at tickets.

If you wish to see the dress rehearsal held during the morning of Wed., May 6th from 9 a.m.-10:00/10:45-12:00 (Gr. 1-3 classes will attend) then you must purchase a ticket for \$5.00 from Mrs. Hillaby. Once again, these tickets are very limited (25 seats). Thank you for supporting Grade 8 graduation. B. Hillaby.



## Welcome to Kindergarten - New Families ONLY

**Welcome to Kindergarten Parent/**

**Student Orientation Session - Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:00pm**

Kindergarten is a big step! It is the foundation of a child's school learning. In the York Region District School Board, we place a strong emphasis on the importance of early learning. The Ministry of Education's Kindergarten Program is a two-year continuum and addresses learning in:

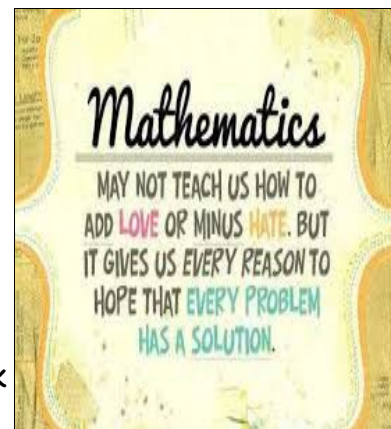
- Personal and Social Development;
- Language (Literacy);

- Mathematics (Mathematical Literacy);
- Science and Technology;
- Health and Physical Activity; and
- The Arts.

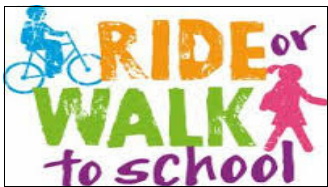
The Kindergarten Program also includes learning in the following strands: self-awareness and self-reliance; social relationships; and awareness of surroundings. Before school starts, consider enrolling your child in an early learning program at the library, Ontario Early Years Centre, Early Child Development and Parenting program, child care centre or recreation program near you in order to foster the

above skills.

**If your child is starting JK in September 2015, we encourage you to attend this very important session. You will receive a bag full of learning materials to take home with you (see photo).**







## *Walk or Wheel to School Wednesday*

Regency Acres P.S. will celebrate International Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015. On this designated day, Regency is providing the opportunity to 'break' the driving habit and will encourage students to 'walk' or 'wheel' to school!

This will reduce congestion at our school's Kiss N Ride

and allow students to add to their daily recommended 60 minutes of vigorous activity.

Each and every Wednesday thereafter we would encourage you and your child/ren to choose to walk or wheel your way to school!

**Please remember if you "ride" to school to bring a lock to secure your 'wheels' outside.**

## *EQAO*

**Grade 3 and Grade 6** students will be taking part in the **provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics** created by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) soon. This assessment is administered to all Grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario's publicly funded school system. EQAO assessments are an important source of information about student strengths and areas needing improvement. We can use them as a school community, along with other information, to guide our school improvement planning goals for reading, writing and mathematics. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed. **Grade 3 students will complete the assessment from May 25-28 and Grade 6 students from June 1-3.**

Thank you.

## *Bag 2 School*

Regencys' second Bag 2 School Project was another huge success. A very big **THANK YOU** to *Ms. Clark* again for organizing this event. This year 1.5 tons (1500 kg) of items donated.

**We received \$225.00**  
**Money generated was donated to charity (CMHA and OSPCA).**

**Thanks to all who donated and the students who offered**

**their help to move the bags.**

**Nic B; Anthony I;  
Sarah C; Sarah G;  
Chiara B;  
Lochlyn A;  
Rachel G.**



Reduce your impact on the environment by walking or riding your bike, scooter or skateboard to school on Earth Day

### **Interesting Facts: Active and Sustainable Transportation**

- One busload of passengers takes the equivalent of 40 cars off the road during a typical rush hour.
- The first ever International Walk to School Day was October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Canada was among the first countries to participate, starting in 1998 before the international campaign was officially established. ([iwalktoschool.org](http://iwalktoschool.org))
- Did you know that distances up to 5 km are traveled more quickly door-to-door by bicycle than by car? ([publications.gc.ca](http://publications.gc.ca))
- Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada. Reducing your vehicle use is one of the most important things you can do to mitigate climate change. ([ec.gc.ca](http://ec.gc.ca))
- If just nine families participate regularly in a Walking School Bus they can collectively prevent almost 1000 kg of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. ([saferoutestschool.ca](http://saferoutestschool.ca))





## *School Council*

Our last meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. We were pleased to welcome guest speaker, *Nicky Kalogirou*, Manager—Quality Assurance, YRDSB, who came to discuss Board changes to the policies and procedures for fundraising.

The Spring Fitness-a-thon is one of our strongest Fundraisers of the year. Thank you to all families for supporting your children with their fundraising efforts. Also, a special mention goes to *Pat Morton & Anne Ross* for organizing/executing the fundraiser and securing such great prizes for the students!

Bag2School: We are excited to hear what the total donation will be on behalf of Regency this year. Thank you to the parent community for supporting this great initiative. *Leah Clark* has organized this program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year now. Thank you *Leah*!

The YRDSB Parent Symposium took place on April 15. *Lisa Leoni*, *Joan Lash*, *Sandy Kennedy*, and *Gayle Palmer* attended. We came back with some great ideas and will share the learning at our next council meeting.

Thank you to *Sandy Kennedy*, who will be applying for a Pro-Grant of \$1000 towards a presentation on financial literacy, supporting the Board's focus on math & numeracy.

*Lynn Pearson* spoke about Kids' Help Phone and has arranged posters for all classrooms & wallet cards for students. Thank you *Lynn*!

Congratulations to school volunteer extraordinaire... *Gayle Palmer*!! *Gayle* has been nominated for a Character Community Award. *Gayle* is a former Regency parent and a long-standing, current volunteer at the school. Good luck *Gayle*!

The Water filling stations are expected to be installed for the start of the new school year.

The new team uniforms have been ordered. A big thank you to *Mrs. Moffitt* for leading this project and for polling students & teachers in order to determine the top design choice! Also, thanks to *Dina Paraskevopoulos* and *Susan Roy* who liaised with *Mrs. Moffitt* on behalf of council.

Front entrance: Principal *Lisa Leoni* has worked wonders, and the front entrance is well on its way to completion. The opening night and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place the evening of Thursday, June 11 to coincide with the Spring Concert. *Lisa* spoke about the front entrance upgrade and how it supports the school's SIP (school improvement plan), as required for any fundraising dollars spent, and said that research supports the positive effects of allowing students opportunities to take ownership of their school. Thank you *Ms. Leoni*!

We are excited to have approved so many great items & initiatives for all students this year! Whether it is a light table & fishing kits for K, Aussie Dance, library books, leveled books, additional classroom resources, Anti-bullying workshops, Artist-in-residence program, additional science resources, graduation awards... all enhance our students' experience at Regency. It is incredibly rewarding to be part of such a dynamic, collaborative group who are focused on the student body at large. Well done council!

Our next school council meeting is **Wednesday, May 20, 7:00pm**. Please join us!

*Joan Lash*

Chair, School Council

# Regency Acres Public School

I wish to purchase a book for my child/children to give to his/her/their teacher in June. I understand that the book will be given to the teacher by my child/children at the end of the year and then the teacher will present the book to the library for everyone to enjoy. Mrs. Knowles will take the book to your child/children on the last day of school and have him/her/them sign a card to give with the book. Soft covered books are \$10 and hard covered books are \$20. You can place an order over the phone on Mrs. Knowles' voice mail (ext. 135) or you can fill this sheet in and return it to Mrs. Knowles in the library. Payment can be made at anytime.

Cash is accepted or you may make out a cheque to Regency Acres P.S.

Please have orders in to Mrs. Knowles by **June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hard ☐ Soft ☐

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hard ☐ Soft ☐

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hard ☐ Soft ☐

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hard ☐ Soft ☐

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



*Fundraising Update, Fitness-a-Thon and Around Regency*

