

February 2021

Hello February



Regency Acres Public School

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Regency Acres P.S.

February is a wonderful month that is filled with an array of interesting themes. In February, we celebrate Black History/African Heritage. It reminds me of what a great country we live in, one where we work hard on appreciating and developing diversity. While we are not perfect and have work to do, we can all strive to be better by challenging our own biases. The celebration of Black History/African Heritage Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950's. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History month in Ontario in 1993, and it was in 1995 that the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Commons in Ottawa. These declarations set the stage for acknowledgement of the contributions of peoples of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600's. They also increased our awareness that people of African Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

Two other themes are those of love and family. February is a fabulous month as it reminds us to celebrate those we love. It has two wonderful celebration days, Valentine's Day and Family Day. Both remind us that we have a lot of love to share, the joy and love we have for the most important people to us, our family. Both celebrations are intertwined, as the love we get and give to our family, is important to the health and well-being of all. Family day gives us a chance to pause, spend time with our kids, and give them our undivided attention. There are many possibilities for Family Day. Please have each family member turn off their tech for at least a day and consider playing a board game, reading a book, going for a walk or building in the snow. Find something to do together. No matter what you do, spending time with your kids benefits them in so many ways.

As we begin the month with continued online learning we still want to unite our students by showing their Regency Acres Spirit. On Friday February 12th we will have friendship day, so those who wish to participate can do so by wearing red, white, pink or purple. On Friday February 19th we will encourage students and staff to dress as their favourite character. Ideally to show spirit for our online book fair, costumes will relate to your child's favourite book character.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, but in the meantime would like to invite you to our Snuggle Up and Read Virtual Evening. On Thursday February 11th you are invited to wear your favourite pajamas and join me and some staff on Zoom to share some of our favourite stories. Details will be shared in an email, please mark the date on your calendar.





SAFE ARRIVAL

REGENCY

As we continue with online learning I wanted to remind you of some tips and clarity about this period of online learning.

School starts online at 8:25 am. Teachers will be taking attendance daily. If your child will not be joining the class virtually, we ask that you email or call the school to notify us of the absence. If we don't hear from you, we will be following our safe arrival process. If we do not hear from you, we will be calling.

Teachers are teaching synchronously for grades 1-8 throughout the day. Classes are following their regular schedule on the 5 day cycle. Teachers have shared this in their google classroom. Teachers are delivering lessons, meeting with students and monitoring student work. There are times where students will be working on their own to complete tasks but teachers will be available to help them - just like in class but online.

Breaks will occur during recess and lunch time
Recess 10:05-10:35 am and
Lunch hour from 12:15-1:15 pm.

Students are expected back online for class to begin promptly at 1:15 pm. Attendance will be taken in the afternoon. If your child will not be joining the class virtually, we ask that you email or call the school to notify us of the absence. If we don't hear from you, we will be following our safe arrival process.

Students will be dismissed at 2:55pm (as per our usual schedule).

2 1 1 O N T A R I O

211 Ontario

211 is a free service that connects individuals and families with the complete range of government, health, community and social services in their communities.

Do you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter?

For information and referral to government, health, community and social services, call 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, text 21166, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email gethelp@211Ontario.ca. 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports.

See this [fact sheet](#) for more details.





MOVEMENT

X-movement is a health and wellness program that has gone virtual. We are bringing them to us virtually this year. Check out the website to learn more:

<https://xmovementclassroom.com>

There are short videos and information that focus on fitness, self-regulation, mental health, conflict resolution, etc. This supports our focus on health and safety, which includes both our physical health and our mental health and well-being. We secured a license for staff usage at school and for families to use at home use as well. We would like to thank our School Council for supporting our purchase and are thrilled to share the login information with you again. We wanted to be sure that all of our Regency Acres families (face to face and EVS) had access to this resource. We thought it might be helpful for those of you who may be looking for some fun and engaging physical activities to do with your kids, as well as help to support your family's mental health.

To login in please use this information:

regency-acres@xmovement.com

gryphons123





To all our families during this time of learning.

Thank you for supporting your kids and the staff.

**WE
ARE
FAMILY**

SKATING RINK



Please note that the Skating Rink is **OFF LIMITS** at all times during the school day (unless there is a supervised Phys. Ed. Gym class).



VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR



Don't forget, our school is hosting a **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** from **Wednesday February 10th to Tuesday February the 23rd.**

The **Virtual Book Fair** is a fantastic way to continue to give our students access to the books they want to read. We're excited that you will be able to shop selecting the books that inspire your readers, from the comfort of home.

All purchases benefit our school and earn **Rewards** that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's classrooms and library.

When it's time to shop, visit our school's **Virtual Book Fair** site using this link:

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5153595>

Before our Fair begins, click the link to:

- **SAVE** it to your browser
- **WATCH** videos of popular new titles
- **PREVIEW** our Featured Books

Plan to attend our **Virtual Family Event** on **Thursday, February 11th**, for even more excitement and fun!



PRACTICAL TIP FOR TURNING IN WORK ONLINE

A member of our Board's Digital Literacy Team created a [tip sheet](#) for our families to use when assisting children in taking a photo of their work for submission (i.e. Primary students completing a hand written journal entry). Families/students can take a photo from their phone and quickly upload directly to the assigned task in Google Classroom. Check out the simple steps here.

REMOTE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

It has come to our attention that some students are turning off their cameras during online learning and become distracted by things in their immediate environment (i.e. video games, toys, etc.). To maximize while online treat the online school day as a regular school day (but just from your home). Establish a routine for students to wake up, make their bed, get dressed, have breakfast and go to school (by logging on to their google classroom). Take physical and nutrition breaks at recess and lunch time. When possible, get outside for some fresh air and breaks from screen time. Establish a space to learn with as few distractions as possible. For example, we would *highly* recommend that your children's gaming devices are not in the same room as they are participating in synchronous learning. While we hope to return in person soon, we want to maximize all of the time we have together until then.

MORE TOOLS FOR SUPPORT

Emotional Well-Being Support - You can find tips on how to speak to your child about COVID-19 on our Board's website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/school-reopening/Pages/Mental-Health.aspx>

· Families looking for assistance in navigating online tools can find resources here: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Parents/Pages/Edsby-Resources.aspx>

· Families looking for virtual school IT support are encouraged to visit our Virtual School IT Support page for FAQs and a student tech help form. <http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/Departments/ITS/Pages/VirtualSchool-IT-Support.aspx>

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration for September 2021 began on Friday January 15, 2021. Children who turn four or five years' old during 2021, 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. In order to register, please access the following address: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Online-Kindergarten-Registration.aspx> At this link you will find simple instructions to follow in order to register remotely. Please note, due to current COVID-19 restrictions, we are not accepting in-person registration. If your child is presently attending Junior Kindergarten at Regency Acres P.S., there is no need to reregister.

FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

For the 2021-22 school year, a French Immersion (FI) pre-recorded information session provides information about the schools that offer FI and information about the program. FI registration continues until February 5th, 2021. Registration is not first-come, first-served. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2021, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office (where your child currently attends) and declare their intention to register in FI.

"START WHERE YOU
ARE. USE WHAT YOU
HAVE. DO WHAT YOU
CAN."

Arthur Ashe

faithit.com

MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their flexibility, patience and perseverance during the school closures. We understand that the pandemic is creating challenges and hardships, and we will continue to prioritize and do our very best to support the well-being, learning and achievement of our students during these difficult times.

There are resources on the Board website that students and families may find helpful, including tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19, support using technology, community and mental health resources and more at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

One of our [priorities](#) as a Board of Trustees is to Champion Equity and Inclusivity: we aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.

Anti-Black Racism

We want each and every one of our students to know that they are valued, welcome, safe and respected in our schools. We know that sadly that is not the reality for some students and that incidents of anti-Black racism continue to occur in our community and our schools. These incidents cause pain, make our students feel unsafe and affect their well-being and achievement. This is not acceptable.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing information and inviting you to participate in the *Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black affirming learning and working environments* virtual event. During this event we will be unveiling our Anti-Black Racism Strategy, which was developed in coordination with families, students, community partners, educators and members of our senior leadership team. The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism, and it will be a critical tool to support positive change in the system and to improve the experiences of Black students and staff.

A series of training sessions, webinars and opportunities for learning will also be made available. Future communication will provide registration options.

I want to thank the members of the Anti-Black Racism Committee for generously giving their time, sharing their difficult experiences and their voice. We are committed to ensuring that this strategy is more than a piece of paper and are committed to doing the work to create more equitable learning environments.

I also want to acknowledge that February is Black History Month, and while we take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contributions made by Black Canadians, we will also be looking forward to launching our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. We will also be continuing our [celebration of Black excellence](#) in our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the stories of some of the inspiring individuals learning and working here in York Region.

We all have a role to play in creating a community that enables everyone in it to thrive, and in doing this work, we will create a more inclusive and positive environment for all of our students and families.

Thank you.
Bob McRoberts
Trustee



LET US WELCOME
FEBRUARY &
take EVERY chance
to show love
to all WE meet.

Monday, February 22, 2021 6:30 pm - 8 pm

5th anniversary of this Chapter!!!

PARENTS' Support Group-All are welcome!

VIRTUAL MEETING

Guest Panel: Social Media: Positive Use during COVID-19

Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behaviour challenges make parenting difficult? Join us...

PCMH Chapter Support is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Aurora York PCMH Chapter 5th ANNIVERSARY Meeting

Time: Feb 22, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94001101367?pwd=VFpTbGJQTEhUeWJkMzk2cUIBaWhzQT09>

Meeting ID: 940 0110 1367

Passcode: 403748

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,94001101367# Canada

+15873281099,,94001101367# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 940 0110 1367

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adEPMyilm>

Benefits of PCMH Support Group:

- meet other parents with children who have similar challenges
- find encouragement and emotional support
- learn strategies to help your child or youth at home/school
- learn how to access resources in the community

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centred principles of care. PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit www.pcmh.ca.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 22nd at 6:30 pm – 8 pm. Topic to be announced next flyer

