



**October, 2020**

## **Message from Ms. Grossinger**

September is a special time as it marks a new school year for all of us. It is a time full of promise, joy and hope.

There is no doubt that this school year has a different feeling for obvious reasons - we are returning during unprecedented times, and to an environment and situation none of us have ever experienced. Although this school year started with uncertainty, concern and worry, our staff, students and community have adapted well to our new routines and expectations. Our entire staff have worked tremendously hard to ensure students are aware of, practicing and maintaining safe interactions throughout the day. At the same time, our staff have created warm and welcoming classrooms with work that represents their students' learning.

As we enter the month of October, we continue to face many opportunities and challenges. One of the biggest being how we are re-learning what it's like to be back in school and how we can maintain this new learning, while remaining diligent in protecting ourselves and each other.

For our youngest learners in Kindergarten, many of them have adapted to being away from their parents and caregivers for the first time. Their routines and learning are well underway. Although the desks have been moved apart to ensure physical distancing, the excitement and learning is evident. When you enter a Kindergarten classroom you can hear the excitement and the wonder of all the new learning they are doing. The same is true in our Primary classrooms. As for our older students in the Junior and Intermediate grades, they have been able to articulate how school feels different this year, and that they are indeed glad to be back. Overall, our students are excited to learn new skills, apply their background knowledge to new theories and to test their hypothesis in experiential learning.

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Trustee: Bob McRoberts

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Phone: (905) 884-4477

### ***First Entry Bell/ School Timetable***

#### **8:20 a.m.**

Instructional Time

8:25 - 10:05 a.m.

#### **RECESS**

**10:05 - 10:35 a.m.**

Instructional Time

10:35 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

#### **LUNCH**

**12:15-1:15 p.m.**

Instructional Time

1:15-2:55 p.m.

#### ***Dismissal***

**2:55 p.m.**

At Regency Acres, each class has spent considerable time re-learning how to be safe in school - we have adapted hand washing and hand sanitizing at multiple times throughout the day, students are reminded to wear their masks, and to keep physically apart inside and outside. They are using the signs posted around the school and the floor decals to visually see how they can spread themselves out. It is important that we continue to keep our guard up about wearing our masks properly, hand hygiene and physical distancing. Please allow me to remind each of you that by keeping apart and taking all of these steps to be safe allows us to remain together at school. During all of this - the continuous learning, the health and safety precautions - we are also monitoring our student's mental health and well-being as both are an important part of keeping ourselves safe. Our staff have been attentive and supportive to ensure that each student's best interests are at the core of what we do. Please remember that the YRDSB website has some great mental health resources for parents and students. Feel free to visit the website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) or use this link to visit the [mental health](#) page should you be interested in accessing these resources.

October is a special month. With Thanksgiving quickly approaching we should take time to give thanks for all that we have. At Regency Acres, we are thankful for our wonderful students, staff and parent community. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. May you take time to be thankful and show those you love and that you care.

*Ms. Grossinger*

# Hello Autumn

## **Caring and Safe Schools**

It is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. This week has been safety week and we have had announcements each morning about different topics such as fire safety, bicycle safety, bus safety, and online safety. Last week, we held virtual divisional assemblies to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. Each assembly was adjusted to make the content age appropriate. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they learned and discussed. Topics covered include:

### **Positive Behaviour**

Students are encouraged to demonstrate positive character attributes (such as empathy, courage and respect for human rights and inclusivity). We also discussed standing up for each other in bullying situations and the importance of reporting incidents of bullying, including:

- Telling a caring adult
- 
- Using the YRDSB's ["Report It Button"](#) (located on our school website)
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)
- 

### **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and our Board Caring and Safe Schools Policy outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

### **Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment**

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as vaping, electronic cigarettes and cigars and related products) and/or student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 meters of school boundaries. This also applies during Board or school-sponsored events and activities. This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services and the Tobacco and Smoke-Free Environment Policy and Procedure. A progressive form of discipline, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000), is in place for students who break the law. In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

We also discussed the potential harms associated with vaping and e-cigarettes, including that e-cigarettes can contain nicotine, formaldehyde and other harmful chemicals, and are being used to inhale other harmful substances such as marijuana, weight loss supplements and other drugs. [Partnership for Drug Free Kids also provides a resource on how to talk to your kids about vaping.](#)

**Appropriate Use of Technology** Students were reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. Students were reminded that threats made online are taken seriously and may have serious consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works closely with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remains our top priority.

### **For More Information**

For more details on each of these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

### Safety In and Around Regency

#### Scooters and Skateboards:

We ask that students lock up Scooters and Skateboards on the bike racks. We are asking that they not be stored in the school as we have already had an injury with scooters being swung around and it may fall out of a locker. Please have a lock so it can be left at the bike racks.

#### Concussions:

Our school board protocol around concussions is: If your child has sustained a concussion whether at school, at home or somewhere else, please ask us for a concussion form. This form helps give us direction around what your child can or cannot do and when they may resume activities. Thank you for your cooperation.



### Chronic Lates/Absences



If a student is chronically late or absent, the school will engage the parents/ guardians to discuss the absences. The school social worker may be consulted/ referred if attendance patterns are ongoing, possibly connected to a concern for student well-being or affective academic achievement. This school social work consultation/ referral may result in regular contact with the student and family to address possible barriers to school attendance and support student well-being.



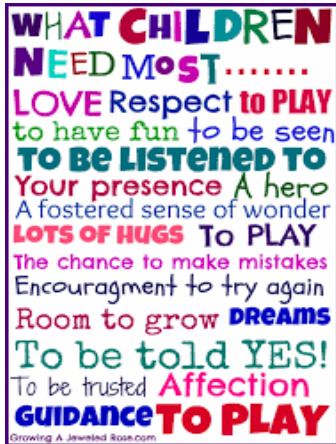
A reminder to all parents, who drop off in the morning and pick up at the end of the day. Please drive slowly when in our parking lot. In the first month

### Vehicle Safety

of school, we have witnessed some cars driving extremely fast in the parking lot. Remember there are many children and adults who may be in this area that may be hit. Please exercise caution when driving.

### School Photos

School photo days will not take place this fall. Schools will not be scheduling them at this time. Sorry for any inconvenience.



*A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye.*

## **From our Trustee**

The City of Richmond Hill will hold a by-election on **Monday, October 19, 2020** to fill the vacant trustee position for Richmond Hill, [Wards 1, 2 and 4](#).

This **Monday, October 5** at **6:30 p.m.**, York Region District School Board will host an online candidates meeting for members of the public to learn more about the candidates and the candidates' views on issues that affect public education in York Region. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this event will be held electronically.

If you are interested in joining this session, please [register](#) to receive connection instructions directly. Please note, only residents of Richmond Hill, [Wards 1, 2 and 4](#) may vote in the by-election.

## **Terry Fox 2020**



Regency will host our Terry Fox run between October 5th and October 23rd to raise funds for cancer research. This is the 40th Anniversary of his run so Regency has decided to complete the run as a collaborative effort, in honour of this occasion. Since Terry Fox ran from St. John's, Newfoundland to Thunder Bay, Ontario which is a total of 5 373 km, Regency has decided to run the distance by collaborating over the course of 3 weeks. Each class will be responsible to complete a total of 335 kms (a km lap will be modified for our Junior and Primary classes). It works out to about 16 laps/student. Laps will be run on school property and teachers will review safety protocols with students around physical distancing and mask wearing. Teachers will keep track of the laps they run and they will be added to our school totals.

A map will be displayed in Regency where students can see how far we travelled and how far we need to go.

We hope to reach Thunder Bay by October 23rd! Families are encouraged to support our run by donating to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Our fundraising page is: <http://www.terryfox.ca/RegencyAcresPSAurora>

UserName: 20200N5338

CUREON9878

Last year we raised \$301.40 so lets try to reach or surpass this goal this year.

Let's keep Terry's dream alive and show him and the rest of Canada that with Regency's spirit, anything is possible if you try!

**Regency Griffins**



**School Council 2020-2021**

**School Council Meeting Dates:**

Thursday October 1, 2020  
Tuesday November 3, 2020  
Wednesday December 2, 2020  
Thursday January 14, 2021  
Tuesday February 23, 2021  
Wednesday April 7, 2021  
Wednesday May 12, 2021  
Tuesday June 15, 2021

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20% of your purchase will support our fundraising efforts! (excluding gift cards)

## **EarlyON Child and Family Program**

We are EarlyON Child and Family Centre operated by Social Enterprise for Canada.

We offer a range of programs that provide early learning and parenting programs for families with children birth - 6 years of age. EarlyON programs are funded by the Ministry of Education and are free to all families in Ontario.

Our programs focus on:

- Providing children and families a sense of belonging
- Supporting healthy child development
- Encouraging children to engage in active and creative exploration, play and inquiry
- Encouraging children to express themselves in many ways
- We are a welcoming place that offers a range of services
- Join fun activities - reading, storytelling, sing-alongs, games and more
- Get advice from professionals trained in early childhood development
- Find out about other family services in your community
- Connect with other families with young children

These free programs are available now virtually and are designed to promote positive and meaningful interaction that enhances learning across all domains. Please share our attached flyer with families in your community. We would be happy to partner with you in supporting the needs of these families.

Best regards,

EarlyON Woodbridge, Aurora and King Admin

[www.earlyonsec.com](http://www.earlyonsec.com)

Email: [early.on@socialenterprise.ca](mailto:early.on@socialenterprise.ca)

## **2SLGBTQ**

The month of October commemorates the impact that Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, queer, questioning, and individuals with related identities have had in our local communities, nationally and internationally. It is an opportunity to build awareness of the contributions the 2SLGBTQ+ community has made in Canada and abroad.

The affirmation of sexual and gender diversity in our learning and working environments means that we recognize the diversity within our 2SLGBTQ+ communities and acknowledge the presence of Indigenous, racialized, disabled and other diverse identities among our students and staff. Likewise, knowledge about 2SLGBTQ+ history helps to address the systemic barriers that contribute to heterosexism and cissexism.

Each year, students, educators and allies bring attention to the need for safer and more inclusive learning and working environments for two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (2SLGBTQ+) people. October 15 is Spirit Day. It is an annual day in October when millions of North Americans wear purple to show their support for 2SLGBTQ+ youth and to take a stand against bullying. For those who wish to participate, we are inviting our students and staff to wear purple to send a message that 2SLGBTQ+ youth are to be celebrated and respected for who they are.

## **Islamic Heritage Month – October 2020**

In 2007, the Government of Canada declared the month of October as Canadian Islamic History Month. The province of Ontario passed the Islamic Heritage Month Act (2016) to recognize and affirm the important contributions that Muslims make in Ontario as part of the vibrant social, economic, political and cultural fabric of our province.

This month affords an opportunity to reflect, celebrate and learn about the rich and longstanding contributions of Muslim Canadians to this nation. Affirming Muslim identity for our students is critical in combating Islamophobia in our schools and further challenging systemic barriers that impede the inclusive climates necessary for student well-being and achievement.

Announcements are being made throughout the month to share information about Islamic Heritage month and the contributions that Muslim people have made to our community.