



October, 2021

## Message from the Principal

October has arrived! It's hard to believe how quickly the first month of school has gone by. As the saying goes, time flies when you are having fun and working hard! This month is full of enriching learning opportunities and activities. October is Cyber-safety Awareness month, Islamic Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and 2SLGBTQ+ History Month. We will be hearing about these significant things on our morning announcements and in class. As we move ahead through the school year, we will be recognizing many significant months and days. For more information, you can look at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) or go to the [Ministry of Citizenship](http://www2.gov.bc.ca) website.

Upcoming events for the October:

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| October 1   | Terry Fox Walk           |
| October 4-8 | Fall Food Drive          |
| October 4   | School Council           |
| October 11  | Thanksgiving (no school) |

**Asynchronous Learning Day:**  
**Friday October 15th students are**  
**not in person**

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Trustee: Bob McRoberts  
289) 221-4816  
Superintendent: Neil Gunathunge  
Phone: (905) 884-4477

***First Bell goes at 8:10 for soft entry***

**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.**

On Thursday October 7th we will be hosting our 2021-22 Curriculum Night where you will have a chance to meet your child(ren)s teachers and hear about the year ahead. Teachers will be communicating with you to share information about how to join the virtual presentation. There will be two times to accommodate families with multiple children in hopes that you can meet each homeroom teacher.

October is a special month and with Thanksgiving approaching we realize that although we have been faced with many challenges, there is still so much to be thankful for. A mindfulness activity that you can do is to create a 4 or 5 work affirmation. An affirmation is a phrase that states a positive fact, created by compressing new insights and meaning into 4 or 5 words. Creating personal affirmations supports students (and adults) in identifying assets. During the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, consider taking some time to reflect about what positive experiences, emotions or understandings you are learning about yourself and your family during COVID. What short phrase will remind you of what you are learning and how to continue to apply this learning going forward in a positive way? Try brainstorming examples together (e.g., I can do this; I'll try my best; I am loved today; I believe in myself; Today will be awesome; I am not alone; I am really brave). At Regency Acres P.S. we are thankful for our wonderful students, staff and parent community.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

October, 2021

# Around Our School





# 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.



## Islamic Heritage Month

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.



## Parent, Family and Community Engagement Committee

In YRDSB, the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) supports parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. It represents the collective voice of parents who have children attending public schools in York Region.

In collaboration with members of last year's PEAC Communications Hub Sub-Committee, a new Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) web page was added to the YRDSB website.

To help support the work of school councils, Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) members have launched a quarterly newsletter to assist school councils, parents and caregivers in enhancing student experience with York Region District School Board.

The newsletter was launched in June 2021. Today, we would like to share the September 2021 edition of the newsletter, Engagement Matters. The newsletter has also been posted on the newly designed PEAC web page. Contents of the quarterly newsletter include:

- news and information about PEAC initiatives,
- tips for school councils and,
- feature articles highlighting the work of various school councils



## LATE

Chronic Lates/Absences Being on time for school is very important as it helps students transition into their day of learning. Arriving at school between 8:10 and 8:20am will give students enough time to get their belongings prepared, say good morning to their peers and teachers, and settle into their day by being ready to learn. If a student is chronically late or absent consistently, the school will engage the parents / guardians to discuss this pattern. We want to address any possible barriers to school attendance and support students well-being and achievement.



## Vehicle Safety

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 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. We ask that you do not park in the fire route.

As always, we encourage you to use the KissNRide to drop off your children in the morning.

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



## October 15 Asynchronous Day

### Asynchronous Learning Day: Friday October 15th

Last week, the YRDSB announced an asynchronous learning day for students in an email sent to families. A copy of that communication is provided for you here: **On Friday, October 15, school staff will engage in professional learning on the hybrid model. Schools will be closed to students on Friday, October 15 . Please do not send your child to school. Asynchronous (not live) learning activities will be provided to students in order to support their continued learning.**

This additional professional learning will enable us to share effective practices and support, and be responsive to some of the feedback we have heard. We are committed to creating learning environments that enable all of our students, both in-person and remote, to be successful, and feel connected and supported. We want to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of our educators as they implement this new model, which enables students to remain connected with staff and peers in their home school, and allows for greater flexibility between remote and in-person learning options, and maintaining the continuity of learning.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for families and thank you for your patience and support.



## Regency Acres Public School

[www.oliverslabels.com/RegencyAcres](http://www.oliverslabels.com/RegencyAcres)

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

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## 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

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