

February 2022



# FEBRUARY

## Regency Acres P.S.

Regency Acres Public School

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Although February is the shortest month in the calendar, it is filled with many great themes and topics to recognize. This year Lunar New Year takes place on February 1st. It is the Year of the Tiger. Those born in the Year of the Tiger are characterized as being brave, competitive and confident. At this time of the year, families come together to spend time with one another. Many customs are associated with this festive occasion.

February is a month where we explicitly participate in the celebration of Black History Month which has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa. These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history. During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions. This year we will continue to recognize the theme of Black Excellence in our board and schools.

February is also the month that reminds us to celebrate with the theme of love and friendship. Show appreciation and gratitude to those who are important to you. Try out some of the ideas in the Action for Happiness February calendar. <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/february>



2022 has continued to give us some challenges and unpredictable times. One of the best ways to handle our difficult emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control. This month, I encourage you to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness for ourselves and others around us. Spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. Help us to unite our students by showing Regency Acres Spirit on Friday February 11th by wearing red, white, pink or purple for Friendship day.

Continuing with the theme of kindness, friendship and anti-bullying please participate in Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday February 23rd. What is Pink Shirt Day? It's an anti-bullying day when people wear a pink shirt to symbolise a stand against bullying. Did you know that Pink Shirt Day originated in Canada? It's now celebrated on various dates around the world.

As we continue to focus on mental health. Please remember to refer to the monthly newsletter created by our YRDSB mental health lead and associate coordinator of mental health. The focus is to help focus on this phase of the pandemic

[Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - January 2022](#)

One of the silver linings of the pandemic for me has been the support of those who I am connected with professionally and personally. I want to thank our amazing staff, students and community for their support to come together for our children and each other.

Enjoy the month.





## 2 1 1 O N T A R I O

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





To all our families during this time of learning.

Thank you for supporting your kids and the staff.



### SKATING RINK



Please note that the Skating Rink is **OFF LIMITS** at all times during the school day.



### MESSAGE FROM THE TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN

*This year, Regency Acres Public School came together to raise an incredible \$524.10 for cancer research for our Terry Fox School Run. The Terry Fox Foundation is so grateful for our commitment and dedication. It is wonderful to see that Terry continues to inspire millions of students across the country. If you have not donated and would still like to contribute, our school donation link is still open at <http://www.terryfox.ca/RegencyAcresPSAurora> #TryLikeTerry.*



## MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Dear Families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our [values](#) as an organization and the goals set out in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

On the website, you can also find information about the [Board of Trustees](#), including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board meetings. Following [a review](#) completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to [committee structures](#) and [delegation process](#) to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year [schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared](#). This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the **student trustee elections**. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees).

Throughout February, we recognize **Black History Month**. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to [read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone](#). You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our [TuneIn YRDSB podcast](#), exploring Black History Month and beyond.

Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge **Pink Shirt Day** and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to [prevent and address bullying](#) and create [equitable and inclusive learning environments](#).

**Family Day** and **March Break** are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break.

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what **graduation ceremonies** will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

Bob McRoberts  
Trustee, Aurora and King



## COVID-19 Self Assessment and Self-Screening Confirmation

Please continue to complete your daily screening and self screening confirmation each day. A good practice is to build this into your daily routine by completing it before school each day.

<b>DAILY SCREENING CONFIRMATION</b>	<b>3-PLY OR MEDICAL MASK FOR K-8</b>	<b>IF YOU BORROWED TECH, PLEASE RETURN IT</b>
<b>LUNCH &amp; WATER BOTTLE</b>	<b>INDOOR SHOES (IF YOU TOOK THEM HOME)</b>	<b>DRESS FOR THE WEATHER: BOOTS, SNOWPANTS, HAT, GLOVES</b>
<b>IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS PLEASE STAY HOME</b>	<b>REPORT ABSENCES AHEAD OF TIME ON EDSBY OR CALL THE OFFICE</b>	 <b>YOUR BEST EFFORT</b>

### 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>

### 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 2022-23 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 4th, 2022. 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 2022, 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.



WE <sup>^</sup>BUILD A DREAM

# CAREER DISCOVERY EXPO



\*ATTEND\*  
VIRTUALLY  
FROM HOME

February 3 · 6PM EST

2022

**UNSURE ABOUT THE  
FUTURE? WE'RE HERE  
TO HELP!**

- **Pathways:** Discover opportunities you can access in high school
- **Dream Makers:** Hear inspirational women share their career journeys
- **Industry Secrets:** Learn what companies look for & how to get an edge

REGISTER TODAY: [WEBUILDADREAM.COM/EVENT/YORK22/](https://webuildadream.com/event/york22/)



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### Course Selection, Transitions and Pathways - from Grade 8 to Grade 9 Community Information Evenings

York Region District School Board is hosting virtual information evenings for families of children in grade 7 or 8 about school course selection and pathway planning. Learn more about secondary school options and choosing courses. There will also be time for families to ask questions about courses and pathways.

There are several different sessions being offered for different community groups. Translators will be provided on the February 9th and 15th sessions if needed and as available.

For more information and to register, please visit: [bit.ly/pathwaysevent22](https://bit.ly/pathwaysevent22).  
All sessions will be held virtually from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

These evening sessions are complementary to the information sessions offered at individual schools.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Community Group</b>
February 7	General Session - Open to all parents and families of Grade 8 Students
February 7	Session for Families of Black Students
February 7	Session for Families of Indigenous Students
February 7	Session for Families of 2SLGBTQ+ Students
February 9	Session for Families of South Asian Students
February 9	Session for Families of East and South-East Asian Students
February 15	Session for Families of Turkish, Iranian, Afghan and Yazidi Students
February 15	Session for Families of LatinX Students
February 15	Session for Families of Jewish Students