

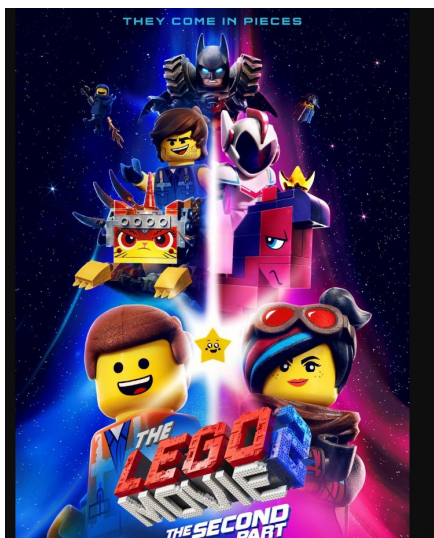
December 2019	
Important School-Wide Upcoming Dates	
December 4	Family Pizza-and-a-Movie Night at Rouge Park
December 9- January 10	Clothing Drive - Led by Grade 5 Classes
December 10	Staff vs. Student Basketball Game
December 18	Primary & Junior/Intermediate 'Gatherings at the Park'
December 23- January 3	Winter Break
January 6	First Day Back to School
January 15	School Council Meeting (6:30-7:30 pm)
January 17	PA Day & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION Begins

As a Reminder, please phone Ms. Khan or Ms. Draper in the office at 905-350-0005 or use EDSBY to report your child's absence daily.



Family Pizza-and-a-Movie Night - December 4, 2019

The Lego Movie 2



In partnership with the Rouge Park School Council, we are holding our first family event and fundraiser this evening.

Tickets and snack food items will be available at the door.

All profits raised will be used to purchase books for each of our classroom libraries.

Additional food items will be available to purchase using cash during the intermission. We are looking forward to seeing families on Wednesday, December 4. All students must be accompanied by and supervised by an adult.

"Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs"

On behalf of the staff here at Rouge Park I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Merry Christmas Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Hanukkah Khushali Mubarak

Ms. Durrani and the Rouge Park Public School Staff

Charitable Donations

Our Grade 5 classes have initiated a student-led charitable **Winter Clothing Drive** which will run from **Monday December 9 to Friday January 10**.

They will be collecting **gently used or new** coats and other winter gear to the Newmarket Lions Club's Coats for Kids Program

<https://www.newmarketlionsclub.com/coats-for-kids/>.

They are also collecting **new socks to SOCKS Warming Hearts**.

<https://www.sockswarminghearts.com/>.



Please support this student-led initiative and bring in your donations in starting next week!



As a new school, we are continuously purchasing and building our learning resources and supplies for our students. Knowing that we may have many indoor recesses over these next few winter months and beyond, teachers have asked their students to co-develop a **WishList of books and games they would appreciate having in their class**. If you were thinking of donating to the school, please consider sharing something from your child's class wishlist for them to enjoy in their classes.

Each class will be sharing their own co-created list with families soon.

“Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs”

Student & Community Safety is a Collective Responsibility

Please adhere to the safety measures that are in place to ensure that our students, staff and community members are safe within our school traffic zone.



As winter weather is upon us, please be sure to use the designated walkways which are being cleared and maintained in the winter months. There are signs posted to indicate which walkways will not be maintained as determined by Plant services.



Also, please note that pets are not allowed on the school property at any time. Signs have been ordered and will be installed to help remind community members of this important message as well.

"Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs"



With winter weather already here, we want to share a few important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, **they are expected to go outside for recess.** Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Forts & Snowballs

Students are to leave snow on the ground. Please remind your child(ren) that while building snow is allowed, using snow forts to store and throw snowballs or breaking snow forts which other people have built is not allowed at school. We appreciate you having this conversation at home to avoid injuries, conflicts and unsafe play during recess times.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an **extreme cold** or **inclement weather** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days (905-350-0005). Students **will not** be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency weather events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

“Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs”

Message from Our Trustee, Mr. Allan Tam

Markham, Wards 4 and 5

One of our top priorities as a school board is **creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful**. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

“Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs”

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Reporting Student Absences and Lates

We are pleased to let you know that effective Wednesday, December 11, 2019 we will have a new telephone attendance reporting system. This is *in addition to online absence reporting through Edsby.*

Regular and punctual attendance affects school success and is expected of all students. You are responsible for notifying the school before the bell time if your child will be absent or late. We have a safe arrivals program so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students if the absence has not been reported prior to bell time.

To enhance our safe arrivals system, this new telephone system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance. It will also confirm student absences that have not been verified by automatically calling you.

If your child is going to be absent or late, please let us know before bell time by:

1. Calling the schools main phone line at 905-350-0005 and select the option “To report a student absence or late.”

OR

2. **Logging in to Edsby and using the “Report an Absence” feature.** For more information on reporting your child’s attendance through Edsby, please see the [online video tutorial to learn more](https://bit.ly/edsbyabsence) (bit.ly/edsbyabsence).

Long-term absences or absences beyond the following day can be reported through the new telephone absence reporting system, Edsby or by contacting the school. If your child will miss more than 5 consecutive days of school, you must complete the Request for Vacation Form available through the school.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to ensure the safety of our students. There is a more detailed letter attached for your review. Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.

"Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs"

Amplifying Student Voice 3-2-1

This week, representatives from each of our classes are meeting with Ms. Durrani to share their feedback, questions and suggestions about how to continue making Rouge Park a safe, inclusive and AWESOME school for all. The conversations with students have been very informative and meaningful. **Lots of love and appreciation for the entire staff was shared by the students.**

Our Athletics Mascot

Our students have chosen our school mascot based on input and votes from every class. We had some votes for the Rhinos, the Ravens, the Polar Bears and more.

The number one vote by a whopping 90% was in favour of the

ROUGE PARK RAPTORS!!

Please see the attached flyer to register your child for the **Red Cross Babysitting Course** taking place on January 31, 2020 (PA Day) at Rouge Park



Red Cross Babysitting Course (with first aid & CPR) Offered by Stayin Alive With First Aid, CPR & AED

Caregiver and first aid skills for youth 11 to 15 years old. Participants learn how to manage difficult behaviour, gain essential leadership skills, and discover professional conduct for babysitters. Babysitting promises to deepen and enhance the responsibility that older youth feel when caring for younger children. The curriculum is complete with new science about giving appropriate care in the event of an emergency.

Date: Friday January 31st, 2020 (P.A. Day)
Duration: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (7 hours)
Location: Rouge Park PS, 568 Riverlands Ave, Markham
Instructor: Stayin Alive Certified Red Cross Instructor
Cost: \$60 per participant (11 to 15 years old) + HST = \$67.80