

“Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs”



JANUARY 2020

Important School-Wide Upcoming Dates

January 6	Back to School - Happy New Year
January 15	School Council Meeting (6:30-7:30 pm)
January 16	Community, Coffee, Croissants and Conversation (9:00-10:15 am)
January 16 - April 2	Pizza Program - Thursdays only - Session 2 Begins
January 17	KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2020-2021 Begins*
January 17	PA Day - No School
January 24	New Year's Dance - School-Wide
January 21 - April 3	Milk Program - Session 2 Begins (Parent Volunteers Needed)
January 31	PA Day - No School

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.



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This **school fundraising event** is intended to promote our community-building and healthy schools goals and to raise funds to offset the cost of other student events taking place this year (e.g., performances, speakers, workshops).

Please purchase your entry ticket and 'Glow' package using **School Cash Online** as per the options below. Make your purchase early as 'glow' item quantities are limited.

- A. Entry + 1 glow band/bracelet for \$3.00
- B. Entry + 3 Glow bands/bracelets for \$5.00.
- C. Entry + 1 pair of 2020 Glow Glasses \$7.00

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School Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm in the Staffroom

Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, the principal, community and school boards.

School councils provide advice on school matters and help to strengthen the important relationship between schools, parents/guardians and their communities.

All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings. Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council. Getting involved gives you the opportunity to be part of a team working to ensure a high quality of education. School councils are supported in their work through various resources available online or through the school administrator.

This is just one way families can get involved to support students and schools. Learn about other things you can do to engage with your child’s learning at home and at school.

You are invited to join us for a community coffee time chat on
Thursday, January 16 from 9:00-10:15 am.

Please RSVP today on School Cash Online to help with planning. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring your completed **3-2-1** Input form with you to the event.



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Community Vigil for Victims

Families and community members are invited to attend a vigil honouring the victims of the January 8 plane crash in Iran.

This tragic event has deeply affected our community and we invite you to join us in a show of support.



**Monday, January 13, 2020
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

***Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning
36 Regatta Ave. Richmond Hill, ON***

Please note - This is an outdoor event. Please dress for the weather.



To mark the tragic plane crash in Iran which took the lives of 176 people including 63 Canadians, all YRDSB schools and Board offices have lowered the flag to half-staff until Tuesday, January 14.

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Welcome to Kindergarten

Accurate numbers greatly help with school planning.

If you have a child to register for Kindergarten (Year 1 or Year 2 - formerly JK/SK), please register ASAP as we are already beginning to plan for the next school year (2020-2021).

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our learning spaces. Our goal is to support your child's learning, well-being and achievement.

Our kindergarten classrooms offer warm, welcoming and caring environments where students learn through exploration. Learn more about our [Kindergarten program](#) and [routines](#).

Will you need before and after care for your child? We have partnered with the [YMCA](#) to provide [child care](#) for school-age children.

Registering for Kindergarten

Kindergarten registration at the York Region District School Board opens on January 17, 2020.

We are pleased to offer [online Kindergarten registration](#) at Rouge Park P.S. this year.

Families can continue to register using paper documentation whether their home school offers online registration or not.

Process

- Confirm if you need to visit the [Reception Centre](#).
- [Find your school](#)-online or in person registration.
- Download and complete the required forms.
- Complete the [Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Questionnaire](#)
- Complete the Ministry [EYE@K Questionnaire](#) (Early Years Experiences at Kindergarten). The Ministry has provided the survey in nine additional languages.
 - [EYE@K Questions - English](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Chinese Traditional](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Hindi](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Chinese Simplified](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - French](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Ojibwe](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Arabic](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Punjabi](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Vietnamese](#)
 - [EYE@K Questions - Spanish](#)

Documentation: Please check on the Board website to see what documentation is required for Kindergarten registration.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Kindergarten/Pages/default.aspx>

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What’s Happening at Rouge Park

- Junior Girls Volleyball Team
- Junior Boys Volleyball Team
- Junior Boys Basketball
- Junior Girls Basketball
- Reach for the Top Trivia Club
- Spoken Word - Poetry Slam Club
Booster Club)
- Art Club
- Ontario Skills Challenge - Character Animation Team
- ECO Team
- Social Justice Team
- Intermediate Boys Basketball
- Intermediate Girls Basketball
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Bookworms (Primary Reading -
Kindergarten/Office/Announcement
and Library Helpers)

As an additional Reminder regarding Winter Weather



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.

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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.

Reporting Student Absences and Lates using INFORM

As you know, we now 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](#) (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.

Ms. Draper and Ms. Khan
Administrative Assistants

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PA Day Program - Just a Few Spots Remain Please register through the Red Cross

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

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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 continues well into 2020, 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.



Please **drive slowly in the school zone and in our school parking lot**. Remember that pedestrians have the right of way. We have several staff members outside in the Kiss and Ride and in the Kindergarten Play Area to assist in making sure our students arrive safely to school. A staff member wearing a **fluorescent vest** is available to escort your kindergarten child to their teacher/DECE in the kindie play area. Please do not get out of the car in the Kiss and Ride and ensure that children exit the vehicle through the passenger side door. There are parking spots in our parking lot should you wish to escort your child to their entry door.

No Parking: Please do not park in the Bus Loop at the front of the school or in the Kiss and Ride lane at anytime. The parking lot has several available spots for parking.

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Happy Lunar Year to all who celebrate this occasion.

January 25, 2020



Lunar New Year is a cultural and religious celebration for many Chinese, Koreans and Vietnamese.

Many rituals are associated with this festive occasion.

They include cleaning house, paying off debts, settling old arguments, and other means of making a “fresh start”.

To celebrate, people may light firecrackers, hang poetry, enjoy a family feast (oranges and apples are considered lucky fruits), exchange gifts (adults may give children laisee, red envelopes filled with money), and buy new clothes or new shoes

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Tamil Heritage Month

On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed in the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming **January** of every year as **Tamil Heritage Month (THM)**. Thus, we are pleased to invite you to join us in acknowledging and celebrating Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, as well as to highlight the vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures of Tamil Canadians. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.



Pongal

According to the Tamil calendar, January 14 begins the month of “Thai” and the start of the Tamil New Year. On this day Tamils around the diaspora will be celebrating Tamil New Year and Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the blessings

of the previous year and a time to look forward to the New Year. Pongal refers to rice cooked in milk and sweetened with chakkarai (brown cane sugar). On Thai Pongal, members of the family wake up early in the morning, dress in new clothes and gather together to cook the traditional Pongal meal. Additional ingredients used in this special dish include milk-roasted green gram (payaru), raisins, cashew nuts (optional), and cardamom. Pongal is served with fruits (banana and mango) on a banana leaf, and the family gives thanks to the sun and the farmers for a bountiful harvest before sharing the special dish with family members, friends and neighbours.

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January 10, 2020

ETFO Work-to-Rule Phase 3

Dear families,

I am writing to provide an update from my previous letters regarding job action by members of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO). ETFO has announced that, beginning on January 13, 2020, they will begin phase three of work-to-rule strike sanctions.

The third phase of the work-to-rule strike sanctions add to the sanctions announced in phase two in December. While previous sanctions were mostly administrative in nature, during the third phase, students and families will begin to notice some activities being withdrawn.

Of note, the phase 3 work-to-rule strike sanctions will mean that ***elementary school teachers across public schools in Ontario will:***

- Not participate in extra-curricular activities, except for those scheduled within the school day.
- Not participate in field trips.
- Not arrive at school any earlier than 30 minutes before the start of the day, and not stay later than 15 minutes after the end of the day.
- Not participate in assemblies, except to provide student supervision.

ETFO also announced phase four strike sanctions, effective January 20. In phase four, ETFO has announced that teachers will participate in rotating one-day strikes if a deal is not reached. We do not yet have details on the timing of the rotating strike which will impact schools at the York Region District School Board and will provide information as early as possible. The full list of sanctions by ETFO is available on the Board's website.

We know this is disappointing for students and families. Your child's school will provide additional information regarding extra-curricular activities, events and field trips that may have to be cancelled as a result of this work-to-rule strike action.

Student safety continues to be our priority and we continue to make contingency plans and work to minimize the impact of labour sanctions on students.

We will continue to keep families updated. You can find updates and information about labour issues on the Board website: www.yrdsb.ca. You may also follow our Twitter account for more immediate updates: [@yrdsb](https://twitter.com/yrdsb).

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko

Director of Education