



September 13, 2019

Important School-Wide Upcoming Dates

September 18	School Council Meeting #1 - 6:30 to 8:00 pm
September 23	PA Day (no school)
September 25	Open House and Meet the Staff Evening from 5:30 to 7:15 pm
September 26	Terry Fox Walk/Run at Rouge Park P.S.
October 21	PA Day (no school)

LIVE! on School Cash Online

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Item	Who does it apply to?
Milk (Weekdays, Oct 7 - June 12) 3 Sessions	All Students
Pizza (Thursdays, Oct 3-June 11) 3 Sessions	All Students

Principal's Message

It has been an amazing first couple of weeks here at Rouge Park P.S. as we opened our doors for the very first time ever on September 3, 2019. Meeting and getting to know each of our students and families

has and will continue to be a priority as we establish the foundation for a positive and inclusive learning environment at RPPS. The staff worked with commitment and diligence to set-up classrooms and ensure we were ready to go right from day one.

Students have been coming to school ready-to-learn and excited about the possibilities for new opportunities, new friendships and engaging learning at their new school. We are learning more and more about our students each day and have been sharing some great moments online through our Twitter account for families to stay connected. Please follow us on Twitter at [@RougeParkPS](#) and/or on Instagram at [yrdsbrougeparkps](#).

I continue to work with our site Project Manager and caretaking team to ensure the finishing touches on the school building are being completed. I'm pleased to share that we will soon be able to open up our Learning Commons (library) for our students and staff, and it is a beautiful, modern space for innovative learning.

If you are interested in engaging with the school as a regular member or executive of the Rouge Park School Council, this is a reminder that our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the staffroom. Our **Open House ~ Meet-the-Staff evening will take place on Wednesday, September 25**. More information will be shared with the community soon.

On behalf of the entire staff, I'd like to thank you for your support and partnership as we work together to develop an excellent, community school where your children, our students will thrive and be successful.

Ms. F. Durrani

Message from Our Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees makes policy and budget decisions, and communicates with the public, among other responsibilities.

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the message from the Chair of the Board on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the policies that are under review and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many different ways to get involved and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Allan Tam

Trustee, Markham Wards 4 and 5



Casual School Assistant Position Available

We are looking for additional Casual School Lunch Assistants to join our team. This is a paid position that includes the supervision of students during the lunch hour each day from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. If you are available as a casual School Assistant and would like more information or would like to apply, please speak to Ms. Khan in the office. **905-350-0005**



PIZZA LUNCH COMBOS will be available to purchase on **School Cash Online** this week. Pizza will be served on Thursdays based on pre-orders. We will be supporting a local community pizza lunch provider this year, *My Little Pizzeria in Markham*. **The first pizza day will be on Thursday, October 3, 2019.**



Driving & Safety for All

Community safety is a high priority for us all-year round. We have been communicating with the **York Region Police and the City of Markham** to advocate for and school safety measures as we appreciate the urgency of traffic-related matters. The Traffic staff for Markham will monitor, assess and evaluate the traffic needs surrounding the school and further decisions will be implemented based on their findings and recommendations. The York Region Police have been in the area to remind vehicle owners of speed limits and City by-laws, and I suspect they will continue to be more present to help the community become more aware of school zone regulations. Now that the school is open, the City of Markham will also be monitoring the need for School Crossing Guards. We will share their findings with you when the Traffic surveys have been completed and shared with the school.

Please continue to be extremely careful with driving, walking and cycling at and around the school.

Drivers on school property are reminded to drive slowly and cautiously as we have 400 children arriving to and leaving from school at the same time of the day.

Whether you're cycling, skateboarding, riding, walking or driving, road safety in our school zones is everyone's responsibility. Here's how you can do your part.

Pedestrians:	Drivers:	All Road Users:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always use sidewalks and crosswalks • Look both ways and only cross the roadway when it is clear • Be visible and indicate which direction you are crossing • Walk, don't run or cycle, when crossing • Make eye contact with drivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce your speed • Be prepared to stop at all times • If dropping children off, have them exit on the passenger side • Be extra cautious in or near school parking lots • Always stop for school buses with lights and stop signs activated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be alert • Be patient • Obey crossing guards • Don't be distracted by electronic devices • Keep your eyes up and ears open • Follow all the rules of road—they apply to everyone







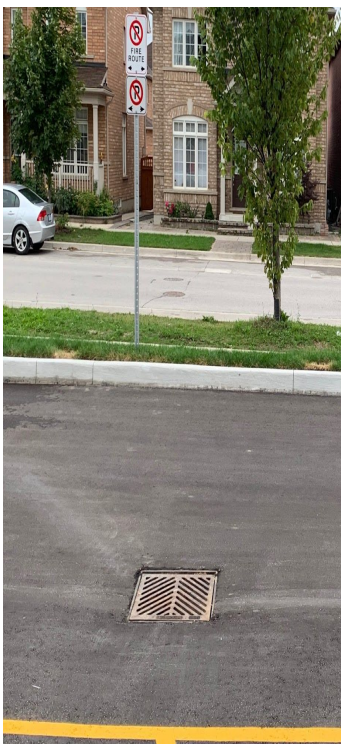

Kiss and Ride Lane

If you do not need to get out of the car and would like to drop your children off in the Kiss and Ride lane, please be sure to drive only in the lane closest to the school, marked “Kiss and Ride Lane”. *Children should only exit the car from the passengers’ side safely.* Move all the way along the Kiss And Ride Lane before stopping behind the vehicle in front of you to safely allow your child to exit and proceed into the school from the back tarmac.



PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN OUR PARKING LOT.

PLEASE DRIVE WITH GREAT CARE AND SLOW DOWN.



If you are parking on RIVERLANDS AVENUE, please use the sidewalk and intersections to escort your child(ren) to or from the school. It is unsafe to allow them to walk across Riverlands Avenue and through the bus loop to get to and from school.



BUS DROP OFF AND PICK UP LANES

The driveway at the front of the school is a FIRE ROUTE . You may be ticketed by the YRP if you park there. Please follow the traffic and no parking signs that are posted.

This driveway is ONLY to be used by the **School Bus company to drop off and pick up** our students who travel by bus to and from school.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ALL OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

YRDSB SAFE ARRIVAL POLICY

Parents/Guardians are responsible for:

- ensuring the school has **complete and current emergency contact information;**
- communicating with the school about any absences, lateness or change in safe departure plans for their child as soon as possible; and
- making decisions about sending their child to school, using their best judgement, when buses are cancelled.

School staff members are responsible for:

- ensuring that attendance is taken and any unexplained student absence is addressed immediately.

Our secretarial staff will need to contact you or your emergency contact to confirm your child's absence if you have not called the school to inform us. Thank you in advance for helping us to ensure your child is safe and accounted for.

Please phone *Ms. Khan* or *Ms. Draper* in the office at

905-350-005

to report your child's absence daily.

School Agendas



Rouge Park P.S. agendas are due to arrive next week for students from Grades 1-8.

Please use *School Cash Online* to purchase your child's agenda this year.

CARING AND SAFE SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Dear families,

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. On Monday, September 16, we will have school assemblies to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. After the assemblies, you may want to have a conversation with your child about what they learned and discussed. Topics covered will 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 metres 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.

At our Caring & Safe Schools assemblies, we will also discuss 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 will be 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 will also be 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 and staff 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 partnering with us and helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community at Rouge Park Public School.



Grade 8 Families:

Save the Date

Are you interested in the International Baccalaureate Programme?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is student-centred with a focus on developing intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills for students who live, learn and work in a rapidly changing world. The Programme emphasizes critical, compassionate thinking, community involvement and intercultural understanding. It is founded on international standards and assessment. Students who complete the Programme earn **both** an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and an IB Diploma.

We invite students who will be starting **Grade 8** in September to find their area IB School or Candidate School on the YRDSB School Locator (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/pages/school-locator.aspx>) and join us for an information evening to discover what we can offer.

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IB Information Evening

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Students and their families interested in York Region District School Board's IB Programme are invited to attend an information session at their area school to learn more about the Programme and application process.

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. @ 7:00 p.m.	Bayview S.S. @ 7:00 p.m.
Milliken Mills H.S. @ 7:00 p.m.	Maple H.S. @ 6:30 p.m.
Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. @ 7:00 p.m.	

Assessment Days

Thursday, November 21, or Saturday, November 23, 2019

Calendar

Admission to the York Region District School Board IB Programmes includes an assessment at your area IB School or Candidate School. At the time of application, students will select to write in either the evening on Thursday, November 21 or in the morning on Saturday, November 23.

There is a \$35 non-refundable administration fee to apply.

@yrdsb

YRDSBMedia

For more information, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/IB