



# REVIEW



December 10, 2021

## Message From Administration:

Hello Rouge Park Families!

It seems hard to believe that we are almost at winter holiday time. The excitement is ramping up in the building with snow on the ground and Winter Wonder Week just around the corner. We are hoping that some of the fun activities we have planned for next week will help our students feel connected to their friends and all staff at Rouge Park. A list of the activities is on a bulletin closer to the end of this newsletter. A special thank you to the grade 7 and 8 students who suggested having a spirit week and brainstormed the ideas for each day.

If you have any questions, concerns or general feedback, please feel free to reach out by phone or email.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend!

Lindsey Maclean  
[lindsey.maclean@yrdsb.ca](mailto:lindsey.maclean@yrdsb.ca)

Leeann Morrow  
[leeann.morrow@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leeann.morrow@yrdsb.ca)

## Upcoming Dates:

December		January	
1-17	Coat and mitten drive	3	First day of school for 2022
13-17	Winter wonder week (see below)		
15	Photo Day		
17	Last day before winter break		
February		March	
3	Photo retake day Grad photo day School council meeting	14-18	March Break

## Primary Games Club - Lunch Play Option

Do you have a child who enjoys playing games? The Primary Games Club might provide the perfect opportunity for your child to have some fun with others!






The Primary Games Club is now in full swing, running from November, 30 - March break at lunch (12:30-1:00) in the Multi-Purpose room. Masks must be worn, properly, at all times, and students will need to sanitize their hands before game play begins. Students will be encouraged to work on turn taking, positive encouragement and discourse during play, and following the rules of a game. If your child is interested they will need to look at the schedule to determine when to go (they participate according to cohort group).

## Winter Wonder Week

# WINTER WONDER WEEK

Rouge Park's Spirit Day

December 13-17

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Cohort Colours</b> Represent your cohort by wearing your colours	<b>Me Day</b> We all have unique identities and today you can show off any part of it through your outfit.	<b>Movie Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Watch a movie with your class</li><li>- Popcorn (pre-ordered)</li></ul>	<b>Mixed Up Patterns</b> Let's get funky and mix and match all the patterns you have in your closet.	<b>Comfy Cozy Game Day</b> Dress in your pj's or other comfy clothing and get ready to play some games with your classmates
				

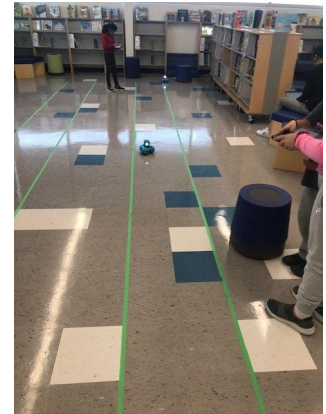
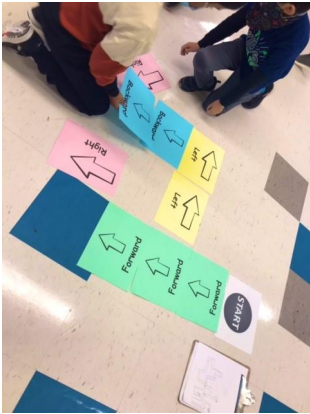
\*\*\* Please pre-order your popcorn on School Cash Online

## Spirit Wear:

Almost all Rouge Park Spirit Wear orders that were placed prior to November 30th will receive their clothing next week. There are a few items/sizes that have been held up due to the flooding in BC but we are working to fill those ASAP.

## Hour of Code:

This week students had an opportunity to engage in coding activities in the Library Learning Commons. They were introduced to coding, how coding is used in our daily lives and also the opportunity to work on plugged and unplugged activities. This included working with our Dash Robots, Scratch Coding, coding our own maze as well as hour of code activities.



## Traffic Safety:

We wanted to update you on some safety concerns we have noticed as students travel to and from school each day. The 4 way stop at Riverlands Ave. and Cornell Rouge Park is becoming increasingly busy. If you walk or drive this route to school, we are asking that you be extra vigilant of pedestrians and cars. We have contacted the City of Markham about our concerns and they are currently conducting a crossing guard survey to see if we are eligible.

Secondly, we have noticed that students are j-walking at the corner of Riverlands and Crossbrook (right at the driveway entrance to Rouge Park). There is not a stop sign here and therefore students should NOT be crossing the road at this intersection. Please remind your child(ren) to walk to the nearest stop sign before crossing the road. The City of Markham is also aware of this concern and will be looking into whether a stop sign is needed at this location.

## Clothing/Sock Drive

**Ms. Russell, Ms. Orr and Ms. Stover's class are making a winter food, clothing and sock drive to help those in need and to benefit local communities.**

IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
DECEMBER 3-17 2021, TO  
DONATE COME TO ROUGE  
PARK PS IN THE FRONT LOBBY  
OR OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR

**We are collecting:**

- Gently used coats, snow pants, mittens, hats, scarves and boots (for both adults and children).
  - These will be used to support our own school community as well as the wider community by being donated to the Newmarket Lions Club "Coats For Kids" annual collection.
  - Some of these items will be kept here at RPPS as extra snow pants etc. for our own students.
- BRAND NEW, unwrapped socks. These will be donated to the "Socks Warming Hearts" Markham-Unionville Chapter.
  - Donations go to a variety of shelters, emergency services, and other local community organizations.

## **Dressing for the Weather**

Please help your children remember to dress for the weather. Students spend 15 minutes outside at morning recess and 30 minutes outside at lunch. Our school yard is windy and it gets very cold. Your help to ensure they are prepared for cold weather each morning is greatly appreciated.

## **Photo Day:**

Our Rouge Park Photo Day will take place on Wednesday, December 15th. Our face to face students will be called to the gym by class throughout the day. Virtual students who would like to have a school photo taken can come to school at the end of the day. If your last name begins with A-M, please come between 2:45 and 3:15 and if your last name begins with N-Z, please come between 3:15 and 3:45. Parents of kindergarten to grade 1 students can enter the building with their child provided they are masked. All other students will be brought in one at a time by a staff member.

## **Learning Models**

If your child is currently learning remotely and you wish for them to return to face-to-face learning, please contact our office. The switch from remote to face-to-face can be done with office approval. We hope to see all of our students back face to face this year!

## **Prayer Room at RPPS**

Due to the recent time change, we recognize that some of our Muslim students may choose to pray at school. Therefore, we have made room 213 available from 12:50-1:00 everyday. A staff member will be supervising students during this time. Please ensure that students bring their own prayer mat for use in accordance with COVID guidelines.

## **Screening**

York Region Public Health has asked us to remind all staff and students that screening must be completed every day using the [Ontario School Screening Tool](#) for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The tool indicates when individuals should be isolating at home and when they should be getting tested.

Lifetouch.

# PICTURE DAY IS COMING



## What to Expect:



Students are photographed on Picture Day



Pictures are sent home with your child



Review pictures & purchase on [mylifetouch.ca](https://mylifetouch.ca)

Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 866-457-8212.

29088 QB401085QP QB01XF100514

29088 © 2020 Lifetouch Canada ULC

All students will be photographed. Please notify your child's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your child. Your child may be included in a group picture requested by the school.



# COMMUNITY-BASED TESTING FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE CENTRES AVAILABLE STARTING OCTOBER 12, 2021

**Friday October 10, 2021**

To increase access to testing for students, children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, York Region Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health (Central), York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) to offer **drop-in community-based COVID-19** testing at two sites in York Region, in addition to the [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#).

Drop-in testing will be available for students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, ages two years and older, who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g., are part of a dismissed cohort) or for those with no known exposure or symptoms can receive a COVID-19 test.

Testing will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in October and November **with the first site starting Wednesday, October 13, 2021**. Based on the needs in the school and child care community, testing sites may remain open beyond November. Additional testing dates will be shared in future communications should this be extended.

Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs. One determining factor for a child's ability to complete a PCR saliva test is their ability to produce a sufficient amount of saliva. The clinician will advise on the appropriate test option. Families interested in potentially completing a saliva test should be prepared by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample

Testing options include PCR saliva and nasal swabs, which will be offered at the discretion of the clinician performing the test. Testing is voluntary and consent will be required from parents or guardians for students *under 18 years of age*.

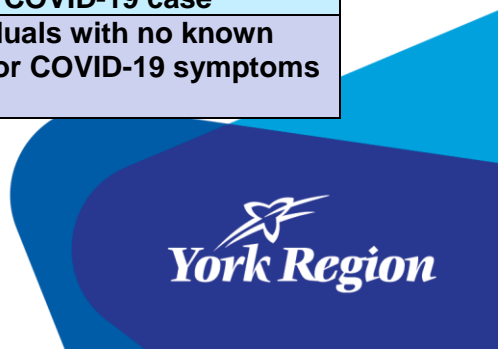
Rapid antigen testing will not be available at these testing sites. Rapid antigen testing **should not be used** when an individual is symptomatic or has been identified as a close contact of a case.

## When and where will testing be offered?

<b>George Street Public School</b> <a href="#">115 George Street</a> Town of Aurora, ON L4G 2S3 <b>Wednesdays and Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Starting Wed Oct 13<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School</b> <a href="#">2 Davos Road</a> City of Vaughan, ON L4H 2Y1 (Portables) <b>Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Starting Tuesday Oct 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case	3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case
5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms	5:45 pm to 7 p.m.	For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms

## PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675  
 TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/COVID19](http://york.ca/COVID19)



The sites are **walk-in** and do not require booking an appointment in advance.

**Who is eligible:** Students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families age two years and older who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g. are part of a dismissed cohort) can receive a COVID-19 test.

**What to bring with you:** Individuals/families are strongly encouraged to bring their valid Ontario Health (OHIP) card(s) to increase easy accessing of results (you can still get tested if you do not have one) and a face mask or covering, to be worn at all times.

**For saliva testing:** Participants should be well hydrated by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample.

**How to access your results:** You are able to access your COVID-19 test result online at [covid-19.ontario.ca](https://covid-19.ontario.ca); Note: It may take several days for your results to be processed.

### **Why is this testing being offered?**

Additional testing is being provided to support schools and child care centres with access to testing in addition to opportunities at COVID-19 Assessment Centres. This testing will:

- Support timely access to testing where students/children or staff are symptomatic and screen out of school or child care
- Support case finding in schools/child care centres where transmission may be occurring or has occurred in the setting to better isolate and control risk
- Provide more convenient access to testing for individuals who are part of dismissed cohorts
- Increase access to testing for students, children and staff who are not symptomatic but are part of a school with dismissed cohorts or an increase of cases within the school setting
- Support families to be tested at the same time

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the school-based testing initiative, please call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653. For general information about COVID-19 including symptoms, location of Assessment Centres in York Region and other resources, please visit our website at [york.ca/covid19](https://york.ca/covid19) or call Access York at 1-877-464-9675.

## **Letter to School Communities**

### **This letter is being sent on behalf of the Government of Ontario**

In an effort to promote a safer return to the classroom after the winter break, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, our school will be distributing take-home rapid antigen screening kits to every child who attends a publicly-funded school in Ontario.

Our school will be sending the rapid antigen screening kits **today**. Please check your child's backpack for the kit. Use of the screening kits is voluntary.

The rapid antigen screening kits are intended for use by any child who attends a publicly funded school, regardless of their vaccination status. Rapid antigen screening kits are to be distributed to students who participate in in-person learning. This testing option will **not** be available to students who have been learning remotely since September 2021.

Please note, your child's participation in this rapid antigen screening is **voluntary**. Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom after the winter break.

While providing students with rapid antigen screening kits is an important tool for managing the spread of COVID-19, vaccination remains the most effective protection against the virus and its variants. Ensuring that children and youth are vaccinated will provide them with a strong level of protection and help to keep schools open and as safe as possible.

It also is important to remember that we all need to continue with key public health advice, including staying home when sick, getting tested if you have symptoms, washing your hands frequently and wearing a face covering as required.

Please read the important information below prior to using the rapid antigen screening kit.

### **When to Use the Rapid Antigen Screening Kit (distributed prior to the winter break):**

- For students who choose to use rapid antigen screening kits, it is recommended students conduct the rapid antigen tests every 3-4 days over the holiday break, on every Monday and Thursday beginning December 23, until all five tests have been used.
- Rapid antigen screening kits are only to be used when a child is **asymptomatic** (i.e. does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19).
- Anyone with symptoms or who is identified as a close contact of a case should still get PCR testing. Rapid antigen screening tests should not be used as a substitute for PCR tests for people with symptoms or for people who are close contacts of cases.



### Using the Take-Home Rapid Antigen Screening Kit:

- The BTNX Rapid Response™ can be performed using anterior nasal swabbing (per the package insert, as approved by Health Canada) or using deep nasal swabbing (as recommended by Public Health Ontario in this document, given higher sensitivity compared to anterior nasal swabbing). Both types of specimen collection can be performed using the NP swab provided with the kit.
- Please follow the instructions provided with the kit.
- **Important note:** Parents or guardians may choose to administer this screening on children who may need help (i.e., younger children).

### What to do after your test:

- You will know the outcome of the test within 15 minutes. If test results conducted so far are negative, your child may return to school as usual. Even if your child tests negative, they should continue to adhere to all relevant public health guidance, such as guidance on gathering, distancing, and masking.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen screening test is considered a preliminary positive. A child that receives a positive result on a rapid antigen screening test should seek a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) at a [local testing site](#) or pharmacy that offers testing and isolate themselves until the result of that confirmatory PCR test is known.

## Raising Confident Competent Children

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children by;

- Encouraging respect and cooperating
- Learning to be independent
- Learning how to develop healthy self-esteem

### REGISTRATION

### Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers!

Join us to share, learn and build a school culture where mental health and well-being is valued and promoted.

**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

**Facilitator:** Uma Bhatt, R.S.W.  
York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

#### **More Information:**

Oksana Majaski  
Community Partnership Developer  
[Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

*This free Parent Presentation is brought to you in partnership with York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families and York Region District School Board*