



REVIEW



January 21, 2022

Message From Administration:

Hello Rouge Park Families!

What a week of weather we have had! Thank you for your continued flexibility with daily changes to our expected learning model. It seems that the only thing we can be sure of these days is that plans change often. Maybe a silver lining is our children are learning the value of being resilient, flexible and accommodating.

It was amazing to welcome our in-person learners back to school on Wednesday. They were certainly excited to see their friends and teachers and all of the snow made recess time extra fun. Once again staff are focusing on supporting not only the academic achievement of each of their students, but also the mental well-being of everyone in their care. Our goal is for every student to know that they have an adult in the building who they can trust and who they know cares about them. We want everyone to have a sense of belonging regardless of whether they are in the physical building or learning from home.

As administrators, we continue to be very grateful for our Rouge Park community. We have incredible staff who see the bright side in every curve ball thrown their way and the families we serve (you and your children!) continue to show their appreciation in so many ways. Thank you for being such a caring and appreciative community.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend!

Lindsey Maclean
lindsey.maclean@yrdsb.ca

Leeann Morrow
leeann.morrow@yrdsb.ca

Upcoming Dates:

February 3rd	~Grad photos and photo retake day (potentially postponed due to Covid) ~School Council meeting @ 6:30
February 4th	~PA Day
March 3rd	~Virtual Parent Presentation @ 6:30

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration for September 2022 will begin on Friday, January 14th. If you have a child who will turn 4 years old before the end of 2022, they are eligible to begin school in September. There are several ways you can register for kindergarten on or after January 14, 2022:

- Online - Families can access the [Online Kindergarten Registration Information](#) . It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.
- By email - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) and email the completed form to their school email address.
- By phone - Families can request support from the school Principal/Vice-Principal to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone.
- By mail or appointment. You can mail completed applications to the school, or request an appointment (once schools have reopened) to drop-off your completed paper application form.

At this time, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be making appointments for documentation verification. Once Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted we will be in contact with you to set up an appointment to review your documents. In the meantime if you have any questions, please refer to www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten .

School Council:

Our next School Council meeting will be on Thursday, February 3rd beginning online at 6:30 pm. A link will be sent out closer to the date. All are welcome to attend. We have an incredible group of School Council members and we hope you will consider joining!

Save the Date:

On Thursday, March 3rd, Rouge Park and two neighbouring schools will be offering a virtual workshop aimed at helping parents support their children through the challenges of Covid. More information will be coming but for now, SAVE THE DATE!

New Screening Tool

Please remember that daily screening confirmation is once again required. Students and families will be required to complete the confirmation of screening before coming to school each morning.

- [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#)
- [Elementary School Confirmation Form](#)

Moving If you are planning on moving or have moved, please be sure to contact the office so we have your updated information. If you are no longer in our area, you will need to register in the school closest to your home.

Attendance:

- Virtual Students - We need your help with reporting absences. Even if your child is learning from home, you must report their absence if they are going to miss school. If you do not, our secretaries have to phone to find out why your child is not attending class. This creates a great deal of extra work for them.
- Face to Face Students – We need your help with reporting absences. If your child is going to be away from in person learning, you must report their absence, even if they are going to attend online for the day. When they are registered as face to face, we must know why they are away if they are not in the building. It is taking most of the day for our secretaries to follow up with families as to why their child is away so we appreciate your help with reporting.
- Reporting an absence online is available through Edsby. If you have activated your Edsby account, you can login to Edsby and report your child's absence online. You can access an [online video tutorial to learn more](https://bit.ly/edsbyabsence) (bit.ly/edsbyabsence) about how to do this.

Kiss and Ride Rules - It was better out there today!

- Only drop your children at the two places that have plowed access to the walkway. We will have a staff member at each of these places (please see the photos attached). Do not drop your children in front of a snowbank. These areas are icy and children can easily slip under your car.
- Be patient during the winter weather when we have more people using the kiss and ride. Try arriving earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon (drop off is from 7:55 am to 8:10 am and pick up is 2:40 pm to 2:55 pm).
- Wait in the one line (do not drive the wrong way through the exit) until it is your turn to pull up to the drop off/pick up area. We recognize it can be frustrating but trying to cut the line is dangerous.
- If your children are older, consider dropping and picking them up on a side street away from the school. Even better, have your children walk the whole way to school. A walk before and after school is good for their mental health and will help with kiss and ride congestion (not to mention promoting your own well-being when you don't need to wait in line).
- Do not leave your car unattended in the kiss and ride. We have had many parents block others and even the school bus.

2022 #TOONIE 4 TUMMIES:

From January 13 to March 31, donate a toonie at your local grocery store and 100% of your donation will benefit Student Nutrition Programs at Rouge Park and other local schools. Fresh-Co, Sobeys, Metro, Food Basics, Foodland and Longos are all participating.

Word of the Year

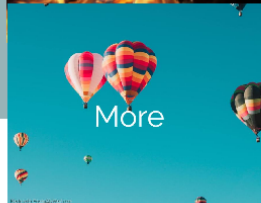
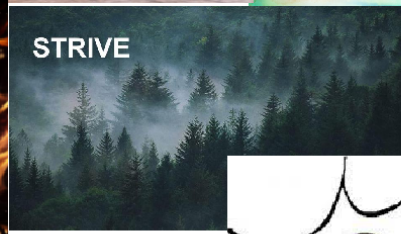
Ms. Russel's grade 5 class worked through a process to decide on a positive word that they can commit to for this year and that reflects their life right now. Here are some examples of the inspiring words they came up with:



Gratitude



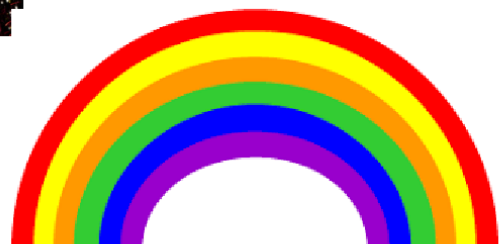
explore



Grade 5, 6
Word of the
Year



Grade 5, 6
Word of the Year



YORK REGION ALLIANCE OF AFRICAN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES
PRESENTS



5th Annual

Black History Month Event

Date: February 19, 2022

Time: 11am - 2pm

Black Health, Well-Being, and Resilience
through Ubuntu – I am because we are!

Keynote Speaker:
Ms. Ginelle Skerritt

First Black CEO of YRCAS, public speaker, published author, dedicated to principles of diversity, inclusion, positive identity and social justice.



Breakout Sessions / Entertainment

Mental and Physical Health Resilience

Resilience through Community

Financial Resilience

Online Bullying - Social Media Resilience

Drumming, Poetry, and More

 **Venue: Virtual Event**

 **Registration at:**

[YRAACCBHM2022.eventbrite.ca](https://www.yorkregionaacc.ca/events/yraaccbhm2022)

 **For more information:**

(647) 280 - 9879

Info@yorkregionaacc.ca



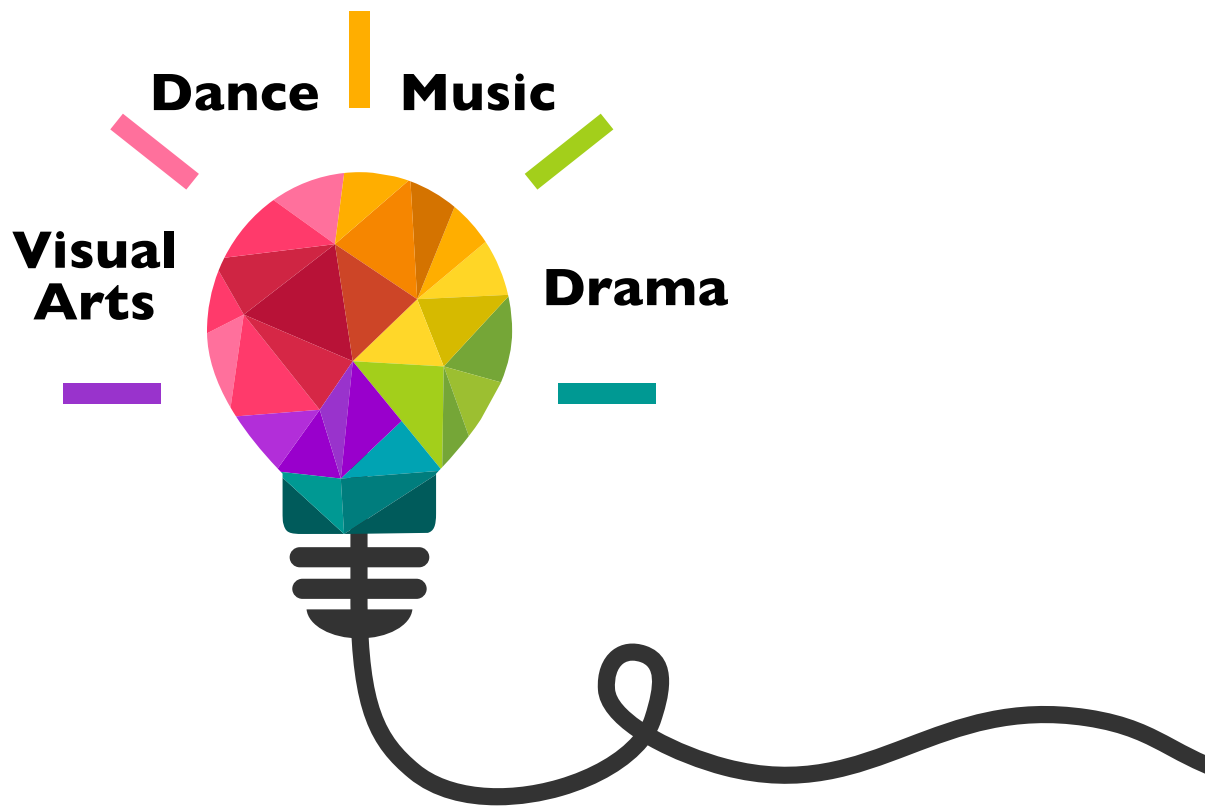
 **Visit**

www.yorkregionaacc.ca/events
for more details.



Apply for the Integrated Elementary arts@Baythorn!

YRDSB offers an Elementary Integrated Arts Program at Baythorn Public School. **GRADE 4 OR 5** students can apply for the full time arts@Baythorn program.



The arts@Baythorn allows you to explore **Dance**, **Drama**, **Visual Arts**, and **Music** integrated into your learning each and every day in a collaborative and cooperative learning environment.

Learn more about our program and how to apply by visiting our website <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/baythorn.ps/arts/Pages/default.aspx>

REMINDER Application and Information video will be available beginning January 17th on the website. Application opens: January 17, 2022 and closes January 30, 2022



INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) Extended to May 7, 2022

The CRCB is extending until **May 7, 2022**. The maximum number of weeks you can apply for also increases to **44 weeks**. You can apply retroactively until February 16, 2022 if you are eligible.

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. This applies if their school, regular program or facility is closed or unavailable to them due to COVID-19, or because they are sick, self-isolating, or at risk of serious health complications due to COVID-19. The CRCB is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

If you are eligible for the CRCB, your household can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period.

If your situation continues, you will need to apply again. Each household may apply for up to a total of 44 weeks between September 27, 2020 and May 7, 2022.

For more information and to apply please take this link:

[Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#)

If you have any questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer with Regional Portfolio on Poverty and Intersections of Poverty Inclusive School and Community Services

Yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca

416-697-4208



Sample: Newsletter insert

Career Discovery Expo: Dream Big York

On behalf of Build a Dream and in partnership with York Region District School Board, you are invited to a **FREE, VIRTUAL CAREER DISCOVERY EXPO** on **Thursday, February 3rd, 2021 from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm EST** for parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 to 12.

This online event will highlight opportunities in a number of careers along with OYAP/Pre-apprenticeship opportunities to better assist students to make informed career choices. This event will include information on:

Skilled Trades
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
Entrepreneurship
Advancing Women

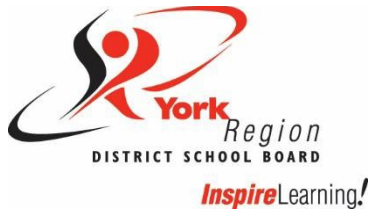
This is an opportunity for families to learn collaboratively about the many careers in the growing sectors. It's career exploration from the comfort of your home!

The event features:

- ★ Pathways Presentation: 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
- ★ Breakout rooms, games, and prizes!

REGISTER TODAY AT:

<https://www.webuildadream.com/event/york22>



SEX TRAFFICKING

Instances of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are a growing concern in York Region.

Youth as young as 12 are being recruited!

Would you know it if you saw it?

What could you do?

This session will provide awareness and information about:

- What is sex trafficking
- How to identify signs of someone who may be in the process of being recruited or is already being trafficked
- Who is at risk
- Available resources and supports in the school and community

[Register](#) Now!

Parents, Grandparents,
Caregivers and Community
Members!

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

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Zoom Link will be provided

Facilitator: Shannon Seeraj
Program Manager
Women's Support Network
York Region

More Information:

Oksana Majaski
Community & Partnership Developer
Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca

This free parent presentation is brought to you in partnership with Women's Support Network York Region and York Region District School Board.



Ministry of Education

Minister

315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We know how critical in-person learning is to the mental health, well-being and academic success of Ontario students. As we meet the challenge presented by the Omicron variant, we are building upon Ontario's cautious and leading plan to protect in-person learning.

Ontario students and children have benefitted from continuous efforts to protect schools and child care settings, including high-quality masks, enhanced cleaning and improvements in air ventilation in every school – with more than 70,000 HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices deployed. In December 2021, Ontario sent a total of 11 million rapid antigen tests home with students to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 and to support the return to in-person learning in 2022. Since the winter break, we have distributed millions more rapid antigen tests to students as well as staff in publicly funded schools, with each student going home with two rapid antigen tests over the coming weeks.

We are taking nothing for granted. Health and safety in our schools and child care settings remains a top priority and we continue to monitor to ensure that every precaution is taken to protect children, students and staff and to keep our schools and child care settings as safe as they can be.

To further protect schools, the Ontario government will provide rapid antigen tests for students and staff in public elementary and secondary schools, along with children and staff in child care settings. More than 3.9 million rapid antigen tests are dedicated for school boards this week, with additional tests to be delivered next week. The use of the tests is for symptomatic individuals, who will be required to take two rapid tests 24 hours apart – where both tests are negative, and with symptoms improving for 24 hours, individuals can return to class. Information is included in the school and child care screener and we ask that all students and staff screen daily and follow the screening guidance.

Ontario's schools are also benefitting from high rates of vaccination. We thank students, parents and staff for helping to keep our schools and child care settings as safe as possible by getting vaccinated. With 400 school-focused clinics to date, Ontario has one of the highest rates of vaccination in Canada. More than 86.5 per cent of youth aged 12 to 17 have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and nearly 83 per cent have received a second dose, while 50.1 per cent of Ontario children between ages 5 and 11 have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. School-based clinics are also being launched when students return to in-person learning to support additional access points for students and families, including targeted clinics to take place during instructional hours in schools selected by local PHUs and school boards. For these specific schools, parents will receive a form in the coming days offering the opportunity to safely and conveniently provide public health units the authority to vaccinate their child at a school-based vaccine clinic. These clinics are in addition to many options available to families including through mass vaccination clinics, pharmacies and through primary care.

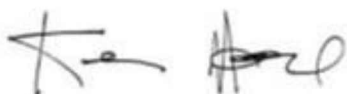
We encourage everyone who is eligible for a vaccination or booster to get vaccinated to further protect students because this is the best way to keep schools open and as safe as possible. It is natural to have questions about the vaccine. Parents or guardians with questions can reach out to the SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service at www.sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult, or 1-888-304-6558 to book a consultation. The consultation service is available in multiple languages, using over-the-phone language interpretation. Parents and caregivers can also contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to receive more information from a health specialist. In response to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, Ontario is putting in place additional health and safety measures to create more layers of protection to keep schools as safe as possible for in-person learning, which is critical to the positive mental health and academic success of students.

These include:

- Updating the COVID-19 school and child care screener ahead of the return to school in January 2022 and asking students, parents and staff for rigorous screening and monitoring of symptoms
- Provision of rapid antigen test kits for staff and students to use when symptomatic
- Providing non-fit-tested N95 masks for staff in schools and licensed child care settings as an optional alternative to medical/surgical masks, and additional supply of high-quality, three-ply cloth masks that are strongly encouraged and free for students and children
- Deploying an additional 3,000 stand-alone HEPA filter units to school boards, building on the existing 70,000 HEPA filter units and other ventilation devices already in schools
- Inspecting and improving all mechanical ventilation systems using the highest grade filters and making improvements to optimize air quality and flow.
- Temporarily permitting only low-contact indoor sports and low-intensity extracurricular activities
- Supporting the projected hiring of more than 2,000 staff, funded by a \$304-million allocation for the second semester that includes additional teachers and custodians
- Implementing stricter lunch and recess cohort requirements and elevated cleaning requirements at all schools
- Opening and supporting additional vaccination clinics with accelerated access for education and child care staff.

By working together, we can help Ontario students achieve a successful continuation of in-person learning this winter. Please take a moment to review a few key important reminders or visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health



Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Important Information for Parents

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

Individuals who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12 who have symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to isolate for five days following the onset of symptoms. These individuals can end isolation after five days if their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours, and all public health and safety measures, such as masking and physical distancing, are followed.

Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or immunocompromised will be required to isolate for 10 days.

All household contacts must also isolate for the same duration as the person with symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should also consider informing close contacts beyond your household contacts.

If you have concerns about your symptoms, contact your doctor, health care provider or Telehealth for more information and guidance. If you develop severe symptoms requiring medical attention, such as shortness of breath or chest pain, call 911.

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but are feeling unwell, isolate until symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours.

If you've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

If you are fully vaccinated, have no symptoms, and do not live with the positive case, you are advised to:

- Self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days since you last interacted with the positive case
- Maintain masking, physical distancing and adherence to all other public health measures if leaving home
- Not visit any high-risk settings or individuals who may be at higher risk of illness (e.g., seniors) for 10 days from your last exposure.

If you are not fully vaccinated, or are immunocompromised, you must isolate immediately for 10 days (or 5 days if under 12 years old and not immunocompromised) following your last contact.

Regardless of vaccination status or age, if you live with the positive case, you must isolate for the length of their isolation period.

If you live, work, attend, volunteer or have been admitted in a high-risk health care setting, you must notify your employer and should not visit the high-risk setting for 10 days since your last exposure or symptom onset, or from your date of diagnosis. To

ensure sufficient staffing levels, workers in these settings will have the opportunity to return to work early on day seven of their isolation with a negative PCR test, or two negative rapid antigen tests on day six and seven. If you live in a high-risk setting, you should isolate regardless of vaccination status.

If you have had a positive COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen) in the last 90 days, collected on or after December 20, 2021, and are asymptomatic, you do not have to self-isolate as a close contact or household contact, and you can continue to work, attend or volunteer in a highest-risk health care setting.

If you have COVID-19 based on a positive test result

If you test positive from a PCR, rapid molecular or a rapid antigen test and you are fully vaccinated or under 12 years of age (and not immunocompromised), you must isolate for five days from the positive test result if you have no symptoms or five days from symptom onset and until your symptoms are improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) and you don't have a fever.

If you are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated or immunocompromised, you must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or from the date of your test (whichever came sooner), and until your symptoms are improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) and you don't have a fever.

In addition, household contacts of individuals who have tested positive must also self-isolate during this time. Individuals must isolate regardless of their vaccination status.

You should also notify your close contacts. A close contact is anyone you were less than two metres away from without personal protective equipment for at least 15 minutes, or multiple shorter lengths of time, in the 48 hours before your symptoms began or your positive test result, whichever came first.

How to Access Supports While Isolating

If you require assistance while isolating, visit [COVID-19: Support for people](#). People can also contact their public health unit for many isolation supports including:

- Use of isolation facilities
- Referral to community supports and agencies
- [Mental health supports](#)
- Courier and delivery supports for food and necessities
- Additional resources available to support isolation through the [High Priority Communities](#) strategy.