



REVIEW



January 27, 2023

Message From Administration

Hello Rouge Park Families,

Our students had a great time in the snow this week. There is so much more to do outside when there is snow to play in! Please remind your child to dress for the weather so that they can enjoy all that winter has to offer. If you are in need of winter clothing, please call our office and we can help outfit your child(ren).



To everyone who celebrated Lunar New Year, we hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends. It was awesome to see so many of our students dressed up on Monday. We were happy to see many student presentations designed to teach classmates about the history and rich traditions associated with Lunar New Year. Please enjoy some pictures below.

As always, reach out if you need us for anything. We are here to help.

Lindsey Maclean
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Upcoming Events:

Date	Day	What's Happening at School?
Jan. 30	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate boys basketball @ 9:50 • Eco- Primary Waste Inspector Club @ 12:00 • Junior Boys VolleyBall @ 12:20 • Junior/Intermediate Choir @ 12:20 • After school math tutoring with Ms. Russell • Junior Girls Basketball vs. Reesor Park
Jan. 31	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate boys basketball@ 9:50 • Primary games club @ 12:00 • Junior Girls Volleyball @ 12:20 • Primary choir/recorder group @ 12:00 • Intermediate Girls Basketball @ 2:45

Feb. 1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Walk Day • Junior Girls Volleyball Area Tournament • Dr. ABC student presentations • Snack Shack • Primary Coding Robotics Club @ lunch • Intermediate band @ 12:20 • Intermediate Girls Basketball @ 2:40 • After school math tutoring with Ms. Russell • Grade 8 trip family information night - 6:00 in the library
Feb. 2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grad Photos • Grade 6-8 TED Ed Club @ 12:00 • Junior Band Rehearsal @ 12:20 • Intermediate Girls Basketball @ 2:45 • Grade 4-5 After School Tutoring with Mr. Gourley • Intermediate Boys Basketball Game @ Black Walnut PS
Feb. 3	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Day - No School
<p>Upcoming: February 7 - School Council Meeting Feb. 8 - Intermediate girls basketball tournament Feb. 20 - Family Day Feb. 21 - Feb. 23 - First Term Reports Sent Home March 13-17 - March Break May 10- June 14- EQAO Test Dates June 27- Grade 8 Graduation</p>		



FlipGive

We are fundraising with FlipGive and would love your support!

It's simple:


1. Download the FlipGive app from the Play Store or App Store
2. Create an account
3. Join the Rouge Park Raptors using this team code: 9P7Q9Z
4. Purchase gift cards to everyday vendors like Tim Hortons, Wal-Mart, GAP, Swiss Chalet, etc and earn up to 10% cash back for the school!

Gift cards can be stored in the app, emailed to yourself or a friend, or transferred to your Apple Wallet.

Join the Rouge Park Raptors now and earn a bonus \$5 for the school the first time you shop!

Pizza Days and Inclement Weather Days

In the event that an inclement weather day is called on a Thursday, pizza day will still take place. Many schools cancel pizza day on a bus cancellation day but because we are primarily a walking school, pizza day will continue as planned.



Did you know that the wax used in crayons makes them non-biodegradable? This means that they sit in our landfills forever! If you have old or broken crayons, please send them to school to be recycled.

With your help, we can send old crayons on a new adventure.

January is Tamil Heritage Month



The YRDSB is offering an **Elementary Tamil Student Conference** for grades 5 to 8 students on **February 4, 2023 at Middlefield CI** . Please see the link below to register:

[TamilHeritageworkshop](https://www.yrdsb.on.ca/education/tamil-heritage-workshop)

Dr. ABC Visits Rouge Park!

We have been very fortunate to book Dr. Andrew Campbell (commonly known as Dr. ABC) for two student presentations on February 1st. Dr. ABC is an educator, workshop facilitator, motivational speaker, storyteller and author. You can read Dr. ABC's biography and learn more about him at <https://drabc.ca> . Dr. ABC will be hosting two interactive sessions that speak to students about ways to put our identity, inclusion and anti-racism learning into action. He will teach students about the tools they need to erase racism and hate in schools along with their role as an ally and friend. The cost of these presentations will be covered by fundraising initiatives but families are welcome to send a donation into school if they are able.

Winter Walk Day- February 1

Rouge Park PS will be participating in the Winter Walk Day on February 1st. This is an annual event promoted by Ontario Active Schools to encourage students to be active throughout the winter months. We are asking all students who do not come on a bus to walk to school. If you usually drive, park a few blocks away and walk the rest of the way.



Primary Winter Play Day

The K-3 teachers at Rouge Park are watching the forecast carefully, waiting for a good snowy day to run our first Primary Winter Play Day! Hopefully, during the week of February 6th, our grade 1-3 students will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, on multi-grade teams, to have some active fun and make some special memories. Our Kindergarten students will also participate, but on their own day (hopefully during the same week), to ensure there is enough snow for all! Like any winter day, students will need to be bundled up with gloves, hats, scarves, snowpants, boots, and winter coats to help make the seasonal experience enjoyable for everyone. Students will get to sip on some delicious hot chocolate as well! **Any parent who does not want their child receiving hot chocolate, please send a written letter or email to your child's teacher to inform her of this preference.**

Grade 8 Save the Dates!

Our grade 8 team has been busy planning for graduation events for 2023! If you are a parent of a grade 8 student, please save the following dates:

Feb. 1 @ 6:00 pm - information session for the grade 8 trip

May 15-17 - trip to Camp Pine Crest

June 27 - Graduation @ Rouge Park!

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration for September 2022 will begin on Friday, January 20th. If you have a child who will turn 4 years old before the end of 2023, they are eligible to begin school in September. There are several ways you can register for kindergarten on or after January 20, 2022:

Families can register using the following options:

- Online - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten > Registration. 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](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten) at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten and email the completed form to their school email address.
- By phone - Families can request support to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone. Families can request an interpreter, if needed, during this phone conversation.
- In-person at the school - Families may visit the school office to drop off or complete a registration form.

Registration Verification Process

Following submission of a registration package, schools will contact families to schedule an appointment for Document Verification.

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.

Illness and Covid Guidelines Families are asked to screen their children using

<https://www.ontario.ca/school-screening/> Please note that if a student arrives back after testing positive for covid, they must wear a mask for **10 days**. Siblings who live in the same household should also wear a mask while at school. We ask that students only return when they are feeling better. If your child has the flu, they should also stay home until they have fully recovered so that they do not spread the illness to classmates. Thank you for doing your part to keep the students and staff at Rouge Park safe and healthy.

Prayer Room

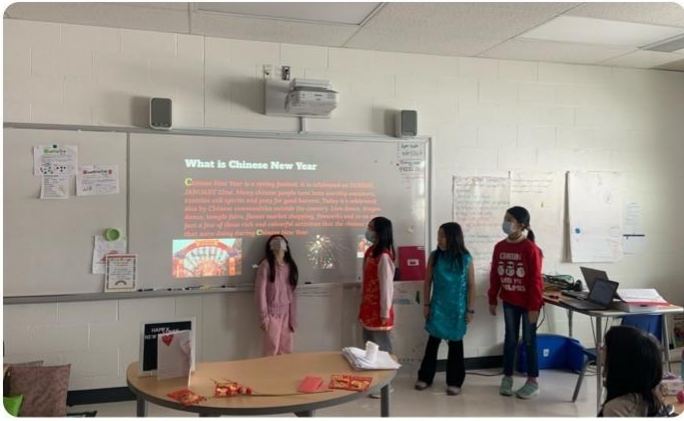
Our prayer room is in room 117 (Ms. Ahmed's room) and is available to students and staff who wish to pray during the school day. Please let your child's teacher know if they need help finding and accessing the prayer room.

School Council

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 7 from 6:30-7:30 pm. All are welcome to join us for this face to face meeting at Rouge Park.

Scroll Down for Pictures

Lunar New Year

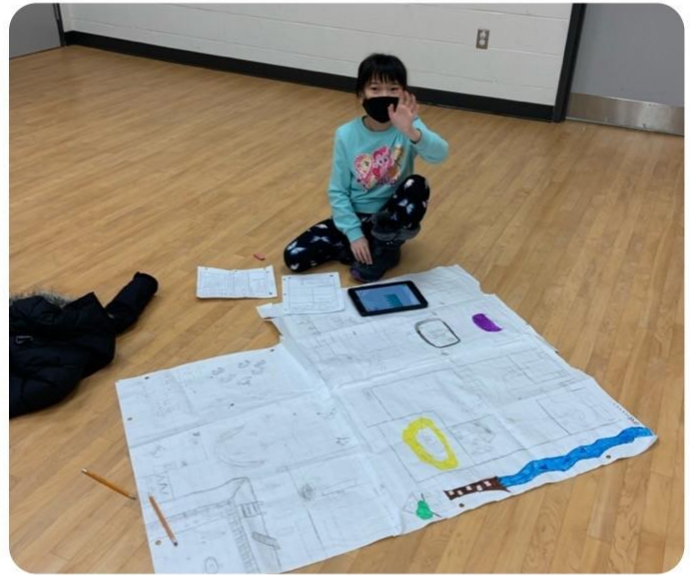


Primary Games Club



PIC-COLLAGE

Grade 5 Coding



Message from Our Trustee

February 2023

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is **communicating with the public**. I hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate my role as trustee and how I can support you, and to answer some of the questions I am often asked as a trustee.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families, but also ensuring I am available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. I am happy to assist you.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of 12 trustees elected during the municipal election process, and one Indigenous trustee appointed through a separate process. Eight of the 12 elected trustees are new this term, and we are all looking forward to connecting with families and fulfilling our roles to support student achievement and well-being.

What do Trustees Do?

In addition to communicating with the public, we are also responsible for:

Establishing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This [plan](#) sets out our priorities as a school board and guides our direction and decision making as a system.

Setting policy. [Policies](#) govern the operation of our schools and organization, including field trips, school transportation, homework, caring and safe schools and much more. You can find out which policies are up for review in our [meeting agendas](#), or which [policies are out for comment](#) on the website. Your participation in this process is important to ensuring our policies are serving our communities and align with our priorities.

Setting an annual budget. I look forward to sharing more information about this process with you in the coming months as we engage in [budget](#) consultations.

Participating on Board and Advisory Committees. You can find the dates and agendas for these meetings on the Board website. You are welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory and Board Committee meetings](#).

Hiring the Director of Education. This process is governed by the [Director of Education Selection Policy](#), and we will keep you updated as this process progresses. In the meantime, I am deeply grateful to Interim Director of Education Scott Yake for his commitment and service.

Advocating for quality public education. I became a school board trustee because I believe in public education. I believe in the potential of each and every one of our students and our

responsibility to nurture their learning, growth and achievement. Our decisions as a board are centred on our commitment to deliver the best for our students.

What's Happening in YRDSB

[Kindergarten](#) registration opened January 20 for families with children who will start Kindergarten in September 2023.

[French Immersion registration](#) is open from January 20-February 6 for students entering Grade 1 in September 2023.

[Student trustee elections](#) are currently underway. All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the student trustees who will represent them next school year.

In February, we recognize Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black people to the fabric of our society. I encourage you to visit the Board's [Centre for Black Student Excellence webpage](#) and [newsletter](#) to learn more about upcoming events during Black History Month and what's happening in the Board to celebrate Black excellence.

Family Day and the March Break are also approaching and we hope everyone enjoys the break.

There are a number of other events for families coming up and I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#).

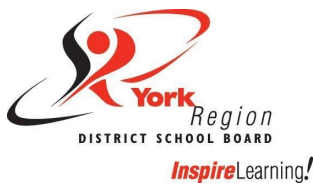
New Schools

One of the other questions I am asked, particularly in growing communities is about new schools or capital projects. I can let you know that in our municipality the following [capital projects](#) have received approval:

- [Markham Centre Elementary School](#), proposed to open September 2026

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in our school board. Visit the [newsroom](#) or website homepage at www.yrdsb.ca. Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow the Board on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#). Read your school newsletters and emails. I look forward to staying connected with you.

Michael Chen
Trustee, Markham Wards 5 and 7



Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Guardian/Parent Engagement Event

Advocacy and Allyship

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

1. Understanding and Challenging our Bias

Learn how to understand and challenge our biases. Challenge our Comfort Zones in order to change and grow in a positive direction. Connect with other parents and caregivers and share our ideas and experiences.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: January 31st 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2. Recognizing and Responding to Hate

Learn how to recognize and respond to hate and discrimination, through looking at data, talking through examples and further understanding bias.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: February 22nd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

3. Becoming an Ally

Learn how to become an ally through engaging and listening to lived experiences of discrimination and hate.

Presented by: Soha Mohammad from Working Women

When: March 22nd 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Registration at <http://bit.ly/3VZpttx>

Registration closes: January 27th, 2023

Please reach out to Harpinder Kaur or Kenzie Wass if you have any questions

Harpinder.kaur@yrdsb.ca, Kenzie.Wass@yrdsb.ca