

## *A Message from Administration...*

Dear Families,

We hope that everyone has had an opportunity to connect with their child's teacher and hear about the amazing learning opportunities that are happening in our classrooms. Our staff worked hard organizing Curriculum Night and Parent Teacher Interview Night, which were both delivered virtually again this year. Your children are all being supported by a wonderful team of professionals.

We hope everyone is well and you are able to take some time for your own mental health during these challenging times by enjoying a relaxing walk outside and time with family. To continue to ensure our schools are safe and healthy spaces to enter, please be sure to do the Covid screening daily, which requires families to review any possible symptoms to make sure they are NOT Covid-related. As a reminder for mild symptoms (i.e. sneezing, running nose):

- These are not related to Covid and do not require compliance to Covid protocols.
- Recommendation from the Public Health department is that at the onset of these symptoms, the child is to be kept home from school and be monitored (**i.e. - new symptoms, symptom improvement) for 24 hours or longer if needed.**
- Once there are no new symptoms or the symptoms are not getting worse, they can attend school.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

Please read this [message from York Region Public Health](#) regarding voluntary community-based COVID-19 testing for schools and child care centres.

### **Reminders**

We urge parents to discuss the importance of **physical distancing** with your children. Although we make regular announcements and remind students to distance while outside for recess, it continues to be a challenge for students. Please remind them to wear masks all the time when they are inside the school and when they are outside not able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from each other. Please remind your children that they must not be in physical contact with others and they **MUST** keep 2 metres apart.

### **The Importance of Your Child's Punctuality**

A reminder about the importance of your children's punctuality at school. Please ensure that your children arrive at school on time. It has come to our attention that, on some occasions, some students arrive late and also some of these students' parents come to the school front door with their children's forgotten items. Late arrivals and bringing forgotten some items will interrupt the lesson being taught in the classroom. Kindly ensure that your children come to school on time with whatever items they will need for the day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on these matters.

### **Lockers Are Being Opened for Use**

With the winter upon us, we are opening lockers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to allow for extra clothing and winter wear to be stored in a locker (as opposed to the classroom). This will also allow our classrooms to stay dry and clean.

Please note that there are many public health restrictions to adhere to when using lockers including: physical distancing at all times, supervising and disinfecting the lockers twice daily. To support these guidelines, students will NOT be using locks. This will allow for easier cleaning/disinfecting as well as reduce the time at the lockers as we rotate students through. Given that we will not be using locks, please ensure valuables stay at home and are not brought to the school as we cannot be responsible for them.

### **Inclement Weather (IW) Procedures During Pandemic**

In the event school bus transportation is cancelled, the following Inclement Weather Days Interim Procedures for Elementary school will be in effect for the first Inclement Weather Day of the school year after which time these procedures will be reviewed.

- All elementary and secondary schools will be closed to students.
- All student learning (elementary and secondary) will be remote and asynchronous.
- Office staff will mark all students using the attendance code of BC (Bad Weather/Bus Cancellation).
- Before and After (B&A) Care programs will **not** run.
- Child Care Centres may remain open at the discretion of the operator.

This decision, different to most school years, has been made due to the particular Public Health Guidelines for schools to operate given Covid-19. (i.e. class cohorting, staff supervision requirements). On these days, it's not guaranteed which/how many staff will be available to be at the school for it to operate safely under the guidelines provide.

In the event of a school closure, this information will be communicated to local media outlets the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.

Families are encouraged to plan and make sure you have alternate child care arrangements planned for IW days (e.g. – a heavy snowstorm) when schools are closed to students.

Naturally, in such an event, school buses will not operate, and information about school bus cancellations will be sent out to local media by 6 am. In addition, notification of school bus cancellations will be posted on the [Student Transportation Services website \(https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/student-transportation\)](https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/student-transportation)

## **School Arrival/Pick Up and Parking**

**PARKING IN THE FIRE ROUTE IS PROHIBITED** at all times. **If you do need to park at the school, please park in the parking spaces at the side of the school.** Spaces at the front of the school are limited and reserved for our YMCA Day Care providers and school staff. Spots are also available on the street. **Please observe and follow the traffic signs.**

Please remember that not following parking rules and improper parking etiquette can make it difficult for bus drivers and other parents to access some areas of the parking lot. In addition, importantly, improper parking behaviour can also potentially threaten student safety as some drivers may not be able to see students who are in the parking lot. By-Law Officers have been visiting our school more often and ticketing vehicles/drivers that are not following these laws. **Please note that if you are dropping off your child on the street, please do NOT to make a u-turn when entering the street or the entrance of our school parking lots. Making such a u-turn can create traffic congestion, block school buses and compromise everyone's safe arrival.**

If you choose to drop your child on the street, could you kindly drop them off either on the east side (school side) of the sidewalk, or near the crossing guards close to the school to ensure maximum safety. Please avoid dropping your child off in an area that may lead them to crossing the road without supervision. Thank you so much in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

## **Cell phone Use at School**

In 2019 the Province passed a Directive that has put restrictions on the use of cell phones in public schools. Based on this Directive our Board Code of Conduct limits the use of cell phones in schools. Parents are asked to review the following information with their children and ensure that students abide by these policies.

**Cell phones are ONLY to be used in class under the supervision of their teacher as a learning tool.** Cellphones are **NOT** allowed to take their cellphone outside during morning and lunch recess or to use them to contact families. If students need to contact parents, they are expected to do so through the office with the permission of their teacher. Your cooperation in ensuring this policy and procedure is followed is required. If you need to contact your child, please call the school and the office will assist.

## Silver Pines P.S. is collecting items for the **Richmond Hill Food Bank**



MOST URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS as of December 2021:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● tea; instant coffee</li><li>● canned meat</li><li>● small bags of rice</li><li>● cake &amp; muffin mix</li><li>● jello and instant pudding</li><li>● flour</li><li>● boxes of salt</li><li>● juice boxes</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● honey, jam</li><li>● mustard, ketchup, bbq sauce</li><li>● salad dressings</li><li>● pudding &amp; fruit cups</li><li>● crackers</li><li>● size 4, 5 or 6 diapers</li><li>● shampoo</li><li>● toilet paper</li></ul> |
|--|--|

Students are asked to bring their donations to their classrooms. There will be a collection bin outside the school Mon-Fri from 8am-4pm for remote learners to drop off donations. Thank you!



**We are unable to donate items that:**

- are perishable 
- have reached their best before or expiry date
- have been opened or previously used

The last day to bring in items is **Thursday December 16th.**

The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank is a non-government, independently run non-profit agency, founded to provide temporary emergency food assistance to those in need. Food banks need volunteers and donations from the community in order to help people, so let's do our best to collect as many donations as we can at Silver Pines!

## Message From Our Trustee – December 2021

With case counts remaining relatively stable, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff members for continuing to adhere to health and safety protocols. Your efforts are appreciated and are important in protecting the health and safety of our school community members. As we have done since the start of the pandemic, the school board continues to meet regularly with Public Health and we will follow their guidance. If you are looking for more information or resources on COVID-19 and our schools, including health and safety guidelines, frequently asked questions and mental health resources, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening) or York Region's [www.york.ca/safeatschool](http://www.york.ca/safeatschool).

In November, we held the **school council forums**. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in shared learning with school council representatives on priority topics including the ABCs of mental health and using anti-racism practices. Thank you to all of the participants and to all school council members for your partnership. There are so many valuable [ways families help to strengthen our schools and support student learning and achievement](#). We value the partnership that we have with families, and thank you for your ongoing support.

As partners, we want to support you in supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. The **Family Resources** page on the Board website provides quick access to online tools such as Google Classroom, School Cash Online, Edsby and more. It also provides links to information to support you in engaging in your child's learning - resources like translation tools, IT support for families and tips on protecting your child's privacy online. It also includes links to other information you may find helpful. You may find these at [www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources](http://www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources) or from the links on the homepage.

Over the past few months, the York Region District School Board has been conducting a review of its Trustee Areas. The boundaries of the areas that school board trustees represent change over time. The goal of the **Trustee Determination and Distribution Study** is to ensure fair and equitable representation of all public school supporters. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on the proposed options. The final report will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 8. You can find more [information about the study and the recommendations on the Board website](#). The upcoming winter season is a time of celebration for many, and I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope that over the winter break, you find time to rest, relax and rejuvenate and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Simon Cui  
Trustee – Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

***Diversity is Our Strength!***

**Upcoming winter celebrations- *Happy Festival of Lights!***

Winter Break will be upon us soon! We are looking forward to having a safe and enjoyable break for everyone! We continue to teach our students about different celebrations during different times of the year and this time our focus is on celebrations that take place during the winter such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and so many more!

Happy Hanukkah!



Happy Winter solstice / HappyYalda Night!



Happy Las Posadas!



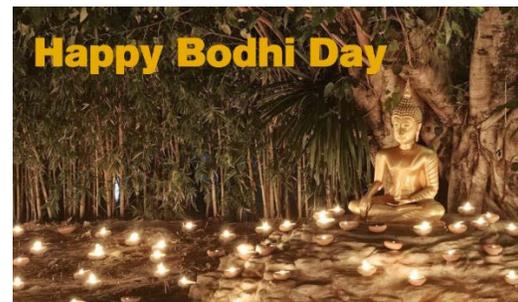
Merry Christmas!



Happy Kwanza!



Happy Bodhi!



We wish you and your loved ones a weekend filled with wonder.

Jeff Laughlin  
Principal

Afrouz Sarmadi  
Vice Principal

