

## *A Message from Administration...*

Dear Families,

**We hope that all of you are safe and well!**

Once again, we would like to thank you for all your support within our school. Thank you for donating to Silver Pines' Donation Drive. The money we raise allows us to purchase indoor games and outdoor equipment for our students, which they can use during their daily physical activities and during recess. This will help our school for this year and years' to come. After two weeks of the donation drive we have raised over \$2600.00! With one more week left, we are hoping to surpass our goal of raising \$3500.00 for school equipment.

We would also like to thank everyone for your ongoing flexibility and partnership as we work through ever-changing public health mandates and procedures. As information and procedures change in our province and York Region, we will continue to communicate. As we work under current mandates, we ask that you continue to screen your child each day prior to coming to school. If your child(ren) needs to stay at home to monitor systems or self-isolate due to exposure or infection, please let the office know as soon as possible. If students are isolating they are able to access remote learning temporarily and the office would record this absence accordingly.

We rely on your partnership in making sure that we have a safe school environment for everybody. All of the in-person students have been given **3 layer masks**. Your child doesn't need to wear this SPECIFIC mask, but they do need to wear a 3 layer mask. Some students have their own from home that they are welcome to use. If you need an additional 3-layer mask, please let the school know. We have limited quantities of masks in some sizes, but we will try our best to provide your child with the appropriate one. As well all of our in-person student families were provided Rapid Antigen tests to support the monitoring of Covid-19. We have additional tests to support staff and students. If there is a need for additional tests for your children at home, please let the office know as we may be able to support.

### **Parking & Sidewalks**

There is a lot of snow at our school. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused for you and your child. Our school caretakers are working hard to clear paths around the school to make it safe (e.g. doorways, sidewalks leading to the school, and around the school). The town of Richmond Hill has been working diligently in clearing snow and ensuring sidewalks are cleared and safe within our community leading to the school.

As we work to clear the snow around the school each day, please notice if sidewalks are blocked off with pylons or are otherwise inaccessible. Such sidewalks are not safe to use and may have been blocked off due to emergency situations where we accumulated a lot of snow in one night. We have two accessible sidewalks leading to the front of the school and at least one of these sidewalks will be safe to access. Please avoid walking on the driveways around the school as well, as these are not maintained nor safe for walking.

## **Vacations**

If you have upcoming travel plans that fall during school time, please let the office know departure and return times if possible. Unfortunately, your child won't be able access online learning during travel/vacation time as this is not the intent for remote learning in our system. However, when your child returns from his/her vacation, he/she can access online learning while she/he is completing her/his quarantine time. There are many activities your child can do asynchronously while on vacation (e.g. reading for pleasure, journaling, working on activities posted on his/her google classroom).

## **Report cards**

You should receive your child's report card through their google account in the last week of February. If you do not receive it by Feb. 28, please let your child's teacher know so that it can be resent.

## **Black History Month**

Our virtual morning announcements continue to celebrate the diversity of our face-to-face and online learners. This month, one example of this is the celebration of Black History Month. This has been celebrated in many classrooms by acknowledging Black excellence and their resiliency during their history. As part of this celebration and learning, we have arranged for a guest speaker on Black History Month (Duane Gibson), who will visiting all classrooms virtually on Feb.28 during school hours.

**Our School Council will also be inviting all the families to Duane Gibson's presentation on Feb. 28 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.** We'll be sharing the zoom link with the families later this week. Duane Gibson aka D.O. is a Guinness World Record-setting rapper and University graduate who has been inspiring hundreds of thousands of youth since 2001. D.O. is a fifth-generation Black Canadian and will be sharing stories of Black Canadian History. During COVID, Gibson has written a new book, performed alongside Disney CEO Bob Iger, and in February guest co-hosted Entertainment Tonight Canada Online. Duane Gibson's website: <http://www.blackcanadian365.com>

We would like to wish all staff, students and the community a happy and joyful family day!

Please stay safe and have a good week!

**Principal: Jeff Laughlin | 905.508.7303**  
**Superintendent: Erik Khilji**  
<http://www.silverpines.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>

**Vice Principal: Afrouz Sarmadi 905.508.7303**  
**Trustee : Simon Cui**



# *Diversity Is Our Strength!*

## **February is Black History Month!**

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the important contributions of Black Canadians to our society and culture. A time to expand our depth of knowledge of the history and diversity of people who helped shape our communities and our country, and most importantly, share what we have learned. Although we recognize Black History Month in February, as educators, we remain committed to eliminating anti-Black racism in our schools and deconstructing the systemic policies that perpetuate it all year long.

York Region District School Board is launching a new podcast production, **SHINE** that will feature voices from the Black community: [New Podcast Shines a Light on Black Excellence.](#)

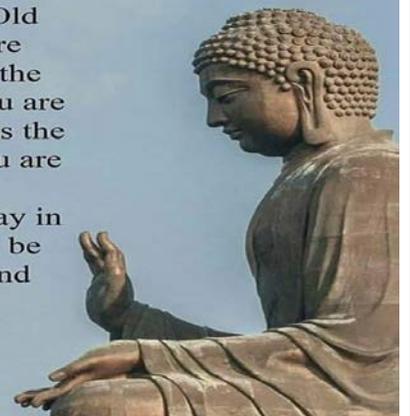


## **Buddhism**

Feb. 15- Nehan-e (Nirvana Day)  
Memorial of the historical Buddha passing away.  
(Mahāyāna) Japan, North America

Feb. 16- Nichiren Shonin's Birth date  
Anniversary of the birth of Nichiren Shonin,  
a Buddhist monk who lived during the Kamakura period (1222-1282)  
(Japan, North America, Europe)

Respect the Old  
when you are  
Young. Help the  
Weak when you are  
Strong. Confess the  
Fault when you are  
Wrong.  
Because one day in  
Life You will be  
Old, Weak and  
Wrong.



## **Full Moon**

Feb.16 -Full Moon

This full moon was known by early First Nations peoples / Native American tribes as the Full Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Full Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.



## **Family Day**

On the third Monday of February, Family Day is observed in BC, Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick. Manitoba observes Louis Riel Day, Nova Scotia observes NS Heritage Day, while Prince Edward Island celebrates Islander Day.

