

## *A Message from Administration...*

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you found time to enjoy the break, spending time to rest, relax and reconnect with family and friends, even if only virtually given the pandemic. As you know, we have received notice from the Government of Ontario that beginning January 5, schools will be closed and move to remote learning for at least two weeks until January 14, 2022. This is in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to prepare schools to enact new guidelines and restrictions from Public Health for the return of in-person learning.

We understand that this may present various challenges for families, students and staff. We are here to assist and support. We are all dedicated to your child's health, safety, and academic achievement. Please connect with your child's teacher or our office staff if you have any concerns or questions.

As well, there is a list of **Resources** below that families can access if they are concerned about their child's emotional well-being or need some additional technology support. We remain grateful for your ongoing support of your children's learning while learning online and the safety of our school community.

Also, we received a nice letter from the Richmond Hill Food Bank, showing their appreciation for all the donations prior to the winter break. We have shared this letter and some pictures at the end of this communication. Finally, we will be having our second School Council Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending the information is below.

In partnership,

Jeff Laughlin  
Principal

Afrouz Sarmadi  
Vice Principal

### **Resources – Well-Being**

You may be concerned about your child's emotional well-being. You can find mental health resources on our website to support your child: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/covid-19-mental-health-resources-students-and-families>

### **Learning Platform Change Requests– Continuing with Remote Learning**

At this point, the direction from the Government of Ontario is that schools will open for in-person learning starting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Further announcements from the Government may be released next week and we will stay in communication in regards to any changes.

Given the state of the pandemic in our Region, families can change their learning platform at this moment by informing the office. There will not be a survey sent out by the school board.

For example, if your child is currently an in-person learner and you would like to have them remain learning remotely after Jan.17<sup>th</sup>, then please contact the school and we will change their learning platform from in-person to remote. Any questions please feel free to contact the office.

### **NEW! Public Health Measures**

In addition to current [health and safety measures](#), when schools reopen to students, York Region Public Health has directed these additional measures effective immediately.

### Screening Tool

Public Health is directing that all families screen themselves every day using the revised [screening tool](#). Given changes in the reporting process of Covid-19 this is the best preventative measure of transmission. The screening tool has been updated with new symptoms, isolation and testing requirements. Once in-person learning resumes, all children will be required to complete the self-assessment, read through the guidance after the assessment thoroughly and follow the guidelines from public health on the last page. Until you get used to the new guidelines, we recommend you read them through thoroughly as protocols have changed and there are varied nuances depending on your symptoms, vaccination status and potential exposures.

## Masks

- York Region Public Health (YRPH) is **requiring the use of masks for all Kindergarten students** attending York Region schools. All students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be required to wear masks.
- YRPH has recommended that students now wear a three-layer mask instead of the previous recommendation of two-layer masks. Parents/guardians are advised to provide their child with three-layer personal face coverings to wear at school to reduce the spread of their own respiratory droplets to protect others. **A three-layer face mask is now recommended for all students.** Three-layer student masks will also be delivered to schools prior to in-person learning resuming. Please note that they will most likely be 'child' size. Health Canada offers [instructions on how to easily convert](#) a two-layer cloth mask into a three-layer cloth mask. Adding a filter to your existing two-layer mask will help protect against COVID-19 by trapping smaller infectious particles. Plastic films or pieces of non-breathable plastic are not suitable filters. For more information about how to use a face mask properly, please visit [www.york.ca/covid19](http://www.york.ca/covid19)
- Staff have been provided N-95 masks as an option to wear along with ASTM rated medical masks that are currently provided. Either option has been deemed suitable by YRPH to be worn by staff. We have received and distributed the new N-95 masks to staff this past Monday.

## **Student Attendance**

Schools will continue to follow the usual procedures to ensure safe arrival. This includes reporting any absences of your child(ren) in Edsby. Attendance will be taken in the morning and afternoon and incidents will continue to be approved in Edsby. Ongoing communication with the school is essential. If families have concerns with their child's participation or attendance, please connect with their teacher and/or inform the office.

## **Technology**

If you require technology (chromebook and/or internet) to support remote learning at home, please let your child's teacher or the main office know. We will do our best to provide your child with the technology required.

## **Google Classroom**

Teachers will be using their google classrooms to support remote learning. Student passwords and google classroom codes will be the same as those used earlier this year. If you need assistance with your child's information to access google classroom, please get in touch with your child's teacher or the office.

## **Punctuality and Cameras**

Please remind your child of the importance of being on time in the class and turning their camera on while participating in class learning. If there are any issues with regard to internet connectivity, please let your child's teacher know.

## **Unfilled Absences**

In the event that there are unfilled assignments in our school during this period, the school will share the **Remote Learning Asynchronous Activities Google Site** with families of students who do not have an assigned teacher. This will allow the families to access division-specific asynchronous learning activities for their child/ren for that day.

**When the activities are shared with you, please begin with day one and use additional days if the unfilled assignment extends beyond the first day.**

## **What Families Want to Know About De-Streaming (Translations)**

*The goal of de-streaming is to eliminate identity-based disproportionalities in achievement, well-being, graduation and post-secondary acceptance in YRDSB. - Louise Sirisko*

The [de-streaming page](#) on the board's website includes information about updates to course offerings in Grades 9 and 10 as well as a document called [What Families Want to Know About De-Streaming](#). This document has been translated into Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. For families who would prefer a translation in another language, the Google Translate option is available on the webpage.



Kindergarten registration for the  
2022/2023 school year starts on Friday,  
January 14th 2021.

Families can register using the following options:

1. Online Edsby by using [this link](#) (which will become active on January 14<sup>th</sup>)
2. Fillable PDF [Elementary School Registration](#) Form on the YRDSB website. Families need to email the completed registration form to the school's email address found on the school website.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022

**Time:** 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/97908328894?pwd=WUpKSHdTV0RKUk8xTkZTYmZQTk9NQOT09>

Meeting ID: 979 0832 8894

Passcode: 387171

One tap mobile

+15873281099,,97908328894# Canada

+16473744685,,97908328894# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

Meeting ID: 979 0832 8894

Find your local number: <https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/97908328894>

# 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](mailto:Yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)

416-697-4208

Thank You from Richmond Hill Community Food Bank:

Silver Pines Public School  
112 Stave Crescent  
Richmond Hill, ON  
L4C 9J2

Dear Staff and Students at Silver Pines Public School

Thank you for your food donation made to our Food Bank. Your caring support of the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank is greatly appreciated. This donation is already being used to provide emergency relief to families and individuals who have recently found themselves in need, especially during this difficult time.

Our Food Bank currently serves over 1,400 persons each month and the demand to provide food and sundry products has become increasingly challenging. The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank would not be able to meet this urgent community need without the kind support of donors such the good people in our community.

Thank you again for your thoughtful donation to our Food Bank and for partnering with us to provide urgently needed assistance to the community.

Sincerely,

Lee Reynolds



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