

A Message from Administration...

Dear Families,

We hope everyone is well and you are able to take some time for your own mental health by enjoying a relaxing walk outside. Our staff has been very busy these past four months providing activities that were missing during the past few years.

School on the move

After the past 2 plus years of “**no we can’t**” our staff and supporters of the school are making sure your children have some excellent experiences, and we can say “**yes we can**”.

Activities as follows:

Cross Country

Boys Int. Volleyball

Girls Int. Volleyball

Overnight school trip for Grade 8s at Lake St. George

Our school GSA (Gender Spectrum Alliance) a.k.a. the Silver Pines Pride Pack meets on Mondays at 12:20. All students in Grades 4-8 welcome

The Primary School musical "Go Fish" will be holding auditions towards the end of January

Library- reviewing all the books against cultural responsive books

Book Fair

Terry Fox Run

Grade 6 Field Trip to Tommy Thompson Park

Social Justice League

Resumption of Junior Kindergarten parent visits

Senior students help with Kindergarten Helpers

Senior students help with Morning Announcements

The Running Club on Monday's where we practice setting goals, moving our bodies and working on endurance!

Running/Walking Club- Every Day 5 (morning recess for Gr. 3-8)

Remembrance Day Assembly

Badminton Club

Library Helpers

Spirit Days

Donation the Richmond Hill Food Bank

Mitten and Hat Donation initiative

Halloween Dance and Snack Bar

Cookie Sales

Grade 8's visit to High School
Take your kids to school day
Int. Boy's basketball
Int. Girl's basketball
Jr. Boy's Volleyball
IJr. Girl's Volleyball
Curriculum Night / Meet the teacher night
Grade 7 and 8 immunization
Shrek the Musical for grade 8
Grade 3's Pioneer Village

Upcoming Events:

Door Decoration
Festival of Lights
Winter Assembly
Poetry Slam for grade 8
Grade 6's: Taking Charge of Me

Teachers' Trainings:

DE- Streaming (MLL)
Multilingual Language Learners (MLL)
Speech Language Pathology SLP
CRRP Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy
Kindergarten K-Step
Math Network workshops
Dismantling Anti-Black Racism

Lockers Are Being Opened for Use

With the winter upon us, we are opening lockers on the 2nd 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.



The Importance of Child(ren) Punctuality Give us 5 minutes more



We'd like to give you a friendly reminder about the importance of your children's punctuality at school. Please ensure that your children arrive at school on time. It has become apparent that we have a large number of lates in the morning. If each of these students would leave 5 to 10 minutes earlier in the morning, this would reduce our late arrivals by nearly 90 %. Therefore, we ask that parents help us make sure our students arrive at school between the first bell at 8:15 a.m. and the second bell at 8:30 in the morning. Arriving in between this time brings the students into the school in a timely fashion so they can properly prepare themselves for the day. This avoids late students who are disruptive to other classes, their class and themselves. **At 8:35 a.m. students should be sitting at their desk**, listening and watching the announcements and the Canada National Anthem. Morning announcements contain information about teams, practices, clubs and other important information for keeping your child safe and happy in our school. So, we are looking for your help in getting your children out the door 5 to 10 min. earlier and making sure we set them up for a successful day. Please give us 5 minutes more and have your children to school every morning before 8:30 a.m.



Inclement Weather (IW) Procedures

School bus and taxi transportation to schools is canceled for the day.

- All schools and workplaces are open.

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.

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>)

Please be advised that if the outside temperature is more than - 19 degrees Celsius, students are expected to go outside during recess, as there is no indoor class supervision during recess. Therefore, it's important your child wears appropriate clothing for winter (e.g. jacket, snow pants, snow boots, mittens hat etc.)

Let it Snow

With the winter season upon us, people of all ages are looking forward to the joys of snow. Most children rank snowballing high on the list of fun winter activities. We have instructed all of our students that for SAFETY REASONS **SNOW-BALLING IS FORBIDDEN**. There may be times where a teacher may supervise a snow activity such as snow/ice sculpture building if conditions are appropriate; however, with the exception of these activities, and the making of snowmen or snow forts, **SNOW MUST STAY OUT OF HANDS AND ON THE GROUND** at all times.

Students are aware of the following consequences:

- A) detention/no snowballing assignment, warning letter going home,
- B) possible removal from the playground during recess(es),
- C) removal from class for restorative group work and can lead to temporary removal from school.

We appreciate your support in all matters relating to your child(ren)'s safety. Please take time with your child to review this policy.

Parking & Sidewalks

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.

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, kindly drop them off either on the east side (school side) of the sidewalk, or near the crossing guards close to the school. 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.

Walk and Roll Wednesdays

We are excited to announce that on Wednesdays, we will be kicking off a school initiative to encourage active modes of transportation to and from school. This initiative will be called “Walk and Roll Wednesdays”.

Every Wednesday, for the remainder of the school year, we will be promoting the importance for students and staff to travel to school using a number of different outdoor travel methods. These could include walking, running, biking, scootering, rollerblading; you name it!!

Every other Wednesday there will be some promotional activity to celebrate healthier and environmentally-friendly alternative means of travel to come to school. You will find various people on your route to work providing prizes and incentives. We will continue having different activities related to the “Walk and Roll Wednesdays” program every Wednesday until the end of the school year.

Not only is this a healthier lifestyle choice, but it will also significantly reduce the vehicle traffic around the school at drop-off and pick-up. We are also encouraging our bussed students to choose their bus as their mode of transportation to and from school over being dropped off by car/vehicle. We can't wait to see everyone making an effort to choose a healthier and environmentally-friendly alternative way to come to school.

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. Cell phones are NOT allowed to take their cell phone outside during morning and lunch recess. They are not allowed to use their cell phone inside the washrooms or at the end of the day when students are waiting to be picked up or waiting for their buses to arrive.

Students can use their cell phone during recess when they are inside waiting for the bell rings. In addition, they can play appropriate games or just listen to music which has been downloaded onto their devices. **Students should not be texting at school. Any access to social media such as Tiktok, YouTube, Instagram, Netflix, Facebook... is prohibited.** Cell phones should be turned off and stored in a safe place during the school day when not in use.

If students need to contact parents, they are expected to do so through the office with the permission of their teacher.

If students are found to be misusing their technology or using it without consent, they will be asked to store it in the office until the end of the day. If a student has been warned on multiple occasions, their cell phone may be sent to the office to be picked up by a parent and they may lose their privilege of having their cell phone with them at school.

Message From Our Trustee

December 2022

I am happy to serve as your trustee on the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, my role includes being an advocate for quality public education in York Region, and I want to assure you that I am committed to that work. Every one of our students deserves to be learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued and supported in learning and achieving success.

Part of our role as trustees includes making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and setting our priorities as an organization through a [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). Our board will work hard to keep students at the centre of our decision making, and to build collaborative relationships with the families and communities we serve. The education of our students, your children, is a partnership and the relationships we have with families is an essential one.

Communicating with families and members of the public is also an important part of our role, and I look forward to connecting with members of the school community in the coming weeks and months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will be sharing information with you throughout the school year, and letting you know more about our work and priorities as a school board. You can also visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca or follow on social media.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates in December for different faiths and cultures, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. You can find information about [significant dates and events for families](#) on the Board website, as well as information about [Board and committee meeting dates](#).

I hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and recharge, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Crystal Yu
Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

School Council Update

If you are interested in joining the School Council now is the time to get involved ! They are bouncing back from the Covid years and looking for more volunteers to attend monthly meetings. Currently we are looking for a Chair whose responsibilities would be to chair the monthly meetings, set the agenda with the school administrators, help set goals for the council each year, accept communications from the board and generally support the school. Please take this opportunity to get involved in your child's school. If you are interested please contact the office and we will give you more information. See you at the next meeting!

School Council Support:

new outside equipment for the school
30 new chess boards
Various indoor board games
Spark Reading Program

Book Fair Results

I want to thank the parent community for all their support for the Book Fair. We sold \$ 7,120.00 worth of books and materials! Mrs. Jones-Lissack and Mrs. Crew pulled \$2,500.00 worth of new books to process and place into circulation.

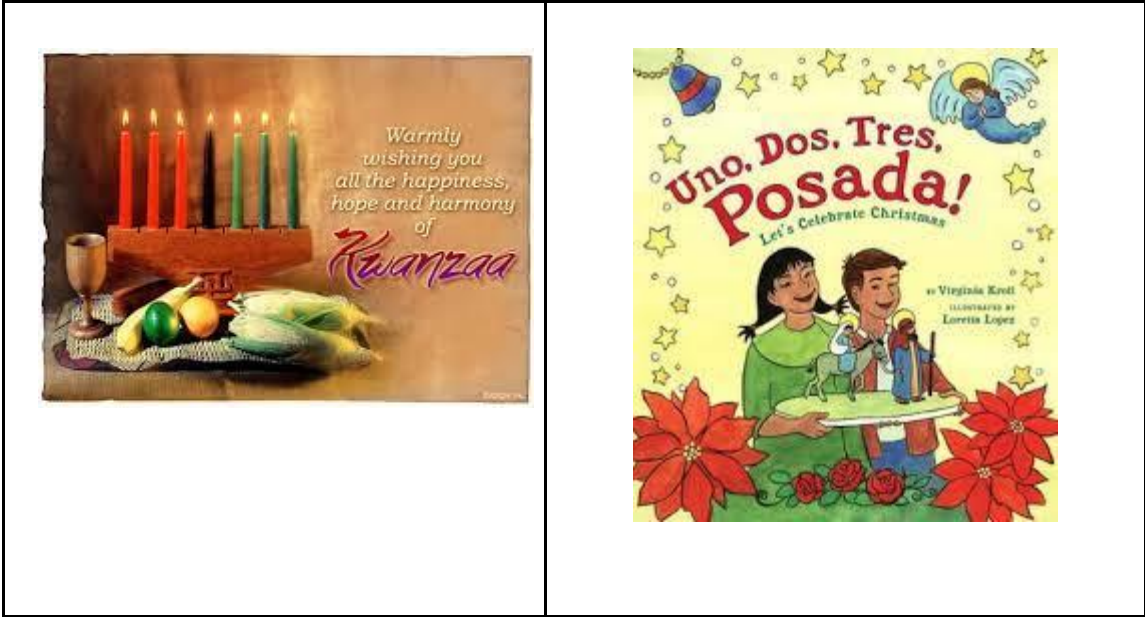
A special thanks to the following parents who came in to help and supervise, especially when we couldn't: Melanie Teitelman, Tamara Baker, Jennifer Caine, Claudia Chan, Silvia Mireles, Maryam Azim and Hong Xing Chen.

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, Yalda, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and so many more!





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

Principal

Vice- Principal

Bob Sandiford

Afrouz Sarmadi