



Silver Pines Parent **POST**

Silver Pines Public School
112 Stave Cres. Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9J2
Phone: 905-508-7303 Fax: 905-508-7351
InspireLearning!

September 2014 – October 2014

Calendar Events – Important Dates

Sept. 2	First Day of School
Sept. 22	PA day
Oct. 9/Nov 28/	Gr 7 Hep B Immunization
Apr.22	Gr 8 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) female immunization
Sept.	Safety Week Begins
Oct.	BBQ/Curriculum Evening

School Council 2014-2015 Meeting Dates:

Principal's Message

A big hello to the Silver Pines community!! I am very excited to have been placed at Silver Pines. Over the summer I have met an amazing staff and wonderful welcoming families. I look forward to getting to know the students and parents that will be such a big part of my life in the coming years.

A little bit about me....I live in Stouffville with my husband and 15 year old daughter, Hannah, and my dog Rosie. I come from a family of educators. Both my parents and my sister (who taught at Silver Pines many years ago) work or have worked for the York Region District School Board. (the family business I guess)

I was a teacher in YRDSB for 16 years in 4 different schools and in 4 very different communities. I was a vice principal for 4 years in Markham and Thornhill and a principal for 3.5 years at Westminster As an educator my passion has been discovering the best of good teaching practice. Building a community of learners who find passion in trying new and effective practices has been my goal, for me, my staff and most importantly our students.

I wish all of you a wonderful, safe and success filled school year. Let's get started!

Lindsey Diakiw
Principal

FOOD POLICY @ SILVER PINES P.S.

All students and staff are entitled to safe and healthy learning environments in YRDSB schools. This position constitutes a major challenge in those cases where a student has a life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis). There are three key categories to consider in providing a safe environment for anaphylactic students:

- information and awareness for the entire school community;
- avoidance of the allergen that causes anaphylactic reactions;
- an emergency response procedure in case of accidental exposure.

We have many anaphylactic students at Silver Pines P.S. We have confirmed the following foods are banned and may **NOT** be brought to Silver Pines. Please assist us with avoiding these foods being sent to school in snacks and lunches.

1. Peanuts and peanut products
2. All Tree Nuts and nut products

REMINDER:

FOOD ITEMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR SHARING - EVEN FOR BIRTHDAYS! PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING A BOOK TO THE CLASS IN HONOUR OF THE CHILD'S BIRTHDAY INSTEAD.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation and your Ability to Receive Information via Email from the School

When you subscribe to commercial electronic messages, the information is saved in our Board systems. Under privacy law, we are not allowed to share your email addresses with any third party without your consent. Schools will share information on behalf of school councils and may, from time to time, share messages from our community partners.

If you are not subscribed you may still receive non-commercial emails from the school or the Board. You will not receive commercial electronic information from school. Information regarding school fundraisers, lunch programs, field trips, the sale of yearbooks, purchasing of student photos, books etc. are frequently in our newsletter and other emails and would not sent to you if you are not subscribed.

Commercial electronic messages do not usually contain private information but are still connected to our students. As a result, when you subscribe online, the system will verify that your email address is already in the system and if it is it, will allow you to subscribe. If your email is not already on file, you will be asked to contact your school to update your child's information card. Please make sure you go to our school website to subscribe. www.yrdsb.ca/schools/silverpines.ps

Dress Code

School is a place of learning, and to be successful, students must focus their attention and energy on school-related matters. For this reason, it is important that students dress and groom themselves appropriately for the task of learning. Our dress code defines the standard of dress for all students and provides clear guidelines to ensure a safe and respectful environment for teaching and learning. It is in effect while at school, on field trips and during any other school related activities or events. **Compliance to the Appropriate Dress Policy is mandatory.**

Specifically:

- ◆ Language or graphics on clothing will not display provocative, obscene, sexist or racist slogans, or refer to drugs, alcohol, smoking or sex. Clothing which contravenes the Human Rights Code in any way is unacceptable.
- ◆ Students will not wear clothing to school that is revealing or provocative. Midriffs and undergarments will remain covered at all times and shorts will be “fist” length. Tube tops, halter tops, and other tops with narrow shoulder straps or “spaghetti” straps are unacceptable.
- ◆ Clothing and accessories/paraphernalia depicting violence or death or that identify or promote cults or gangs are unacceptable.
- ◆ Head coverings of any description will not be worn inside the school. (Exceptions will be made for religious or medical reasons.)
- ◆ Pajamas, or clothing which look like pajamas, are not to be worn at school.
- ◆ Students will wear appropriate clothing for gym. (shorts, t-shirt, socks, running shoes).

PROTECTING STUDENT PRIVACY UNDER THE MUNICIPAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

At times throughout the school year, your child's first name and last initial, image or other information may be shared beyond the classroom and the school. This may happen, for example, during special events that attract media attention. Class and school newsletters, website and displays for events such as assemblies and seasonal celebrations are other occasions.

Parents, if you wish to exclude your child, please contact Ms. Diakiw immediately in writing so that alternate arrangements can be made.

*****NOTE:** Parents/Guardians personally recording school events and then publicly posting them on YouTube or Facebook, does not respect the privacy rights of all parents, staff and particularly students whose images they share without their knowledge or permission. These photographs and video clips cannot be controlled by the York Region District School Board nor can it prevent their further distribution or use.

From Your School Council

Welcome to the 2014/2015 school year at Silver Pines! I hope you all had a wonderful summer vacation full of fond memories, great experiences and loads of fun! It is going to be a fabulous year here at Silver Pines! Our illustrious administrative team, Ms. Diakiw & Mrs. Zarif, has been working with our Silver Pine's team of teachers & staff over the summer to create exciting learning opportunities for you! You will see some familiar faces around school and you will see some new faces! It is a year of change at Silver Pines and *change is good*. It is an opportunity to meet new people, learn about different world views and experience something from a different perspective. Change is a good opportunity for all of us.

At Silver Pines, we have a group of parent volunteers and staff that make up our School Council. The School Council is similar to the “old school PTA”. Our School Council today works together to bring opportunities to our students such as dance-a-thons and our annual fun fair, which also serve to raise funds for our students. We also provide lunch options for our students to enjoy. This year, we will be offering Little Caesar's Pizza lunches and Extreme Pita lunches - order forms will be sent out over the coming days. Over the last few years, we have used the proceeds from our fundraisers to purchase enhancements for our students such as SmartBoards, iPads, and other technology that is imperative for students to learn and use in this technically advanced time. Our School Council also reviews policies created by the York Region District School Board, organizes events to engage parents (last year we partnered with O.M. MacKillop and Pleasantville and hosted parenting expert Joe Rich for an evening for parents...stay tuned for details about this year's parent engagement evening!), and we discuss and work to resolve school issues (for example: playground safety, winter ice safety, kiss and ride loop).

Joining our School Council is an excellent way to get involved, have your voice heard, get to know our wonderful Silver Pine's Team, and share your skills with our school and students. In the booklet of forms you will be receiving this week, you will see a nomination form to join our School Council. I strongly encourage you to review it and nominate yourself or someone you believe would be an asset to our School Council. The more volunteers we have, the more opportunities we can give to our students. Parent engagement and volunteering are both integral parts of our children's educations and our children's success! Should you have any questions about joining School Council or would like to discuss the opportunity further, please call me at 647-618-8317 or email me at amandaginsberg@rogers.com. I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know you over the coming school year!

I hope you all have a wonderfully exciting first week of school!

Amanda Ginsberg
Chair of School Council

Lunch Arrangements & Parent Decisions

While most of our students eat lunch at school, some of our students prefer to go home for lunch every day. While we are able to monitor the behaviour and safety of students who remain for lunch, it is impossible to do so for those students who leave the property. We encourage parents to carefully consider any decision to allow a child to leave the school grounds for lunch daily, especially if direct adult supervision is not available.

It is the responsibility of the student to return to school prior to the 1:20 bell after the lunch recess. Students who return late must report to the office and parents will be contacted. Breakfast! Please ensure that your child eats breakfast and brings a nutritious snack to school each day. Getting into this habit is especially important considering our lunch hour starts at 12:20 p.m. Also, please try to send a litterless lunch. Plastic bags, juice boxes and wrappers end up in our playground and on lawns of our neighbours near the school. Reusable containers for sandwiches and drinks are environmentally friendly. We are a BRONZE ECO SCHOOL!

If a parent needs to drop off a lunch, please bring it to the emergency lunch drop off area outside the office and have it clearly labelled with your child's name and grade.

Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.

SCHOOL TENTATIVE ORGANIZATION

Please be aware that we have had a significant increase in enrollment over the summer and will very likely experience a significant reorganization for Sept 23rd. All current class placements are tentative. In consultation with staff and parents, we will continue to build balanced and appropriate classes that are effective learning environments for ALL students.

FDK-A	Elizabeth Jaja DECE: Linh Van
FDK-B	Leslie Jones-Lissack DECE: Menina Themelis
FDK-C	Sharon Karvat-Weintraub DECE: Sajeela Asif
FDK-D	Lily Tierney DECE: Cassandra Stevens
1A	Christine Peckhover
1B	Heather Greig
1/2A	Lolita Carinci
2A	Elizabeth Green
2/3A	Andrea Kirshenblatt
3A	Brett McLean
3B	Gabriella Horga / Jodi Panzer
3/4A	Michele Kashef
3/4B	Tania Sylver
4A	Andrew Forrest
4/5A	Sarah Laski
5A	Christina Sarich
5/6A	Maggie Yu
6A	Stephen Samuels
6B	Robin Cuddy
7A	Christian Scarlato
7B	Laura Kaduk
7C	Leila Zeraatkari
7/8A	Agnes Caruso
8A	Harry Pappas
8B	Bill Radia
8C	Claudia De Luca
CCSA	Beth Crew
SERT/Literacy	Elana Faberman
SERT-Primary	Kathy Laco
SERT-Junior	Nui Leuangthong
SERT-Intermediate	Rozmin Merchant
Phys. Ed/Prep	Vicky Paul
French	Agnes Caruso / Deanna Karametch / Maria Torres
Literacy	Carolyn Ages
Music	Jeff Densham
Library/ELL	Julie Leppington / Sandra Ciavatta
Prep	Julie Harper / Kathy Lobl
	Janice Deacon / Carolina Galbraith

STUDENT PICK-UP and DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Like you, we plan on your child arriving to and departing safely from the school. For this purpose, the Board has provided the school with three separate driveways. **On the west side of the school, is a "Kiss'N Ride" loop for parents.** The parking spaces in the "Kiss'N Ride" loop are for parents, visitors and the office staff. **On the north side of the school, is also the "Bus Loop" for school buses and taxis.** Parents are asked not to use the designated bus loop lane for student pick-up, drop-off or for parking. The parking spaces in the staff parking lot are reserved for staff. The south end parking spaces are for daycare use only. Visitors may park in the front designated parking spaces.

Some students are not eligible for bussing while others are, as they live within the Board mandated walking distances. **We strongly encourage you to walk your child to and from school.**

If you must drive your child to/from school, for the safety of all, we are asking drivers to adhere to these simple rules for drop-off and pick-up:

- DROP OFF:** When driving your child to school, before 8:30 AM, please follow the "Kiss 'N Ride" loop, have your child ready to INDEPENDENTLY exit the car, drop your child off and proceed around the loop and back onto Stave Cres.
- Do not double park, or stop longer than necessary in the "Kiss 'N Ride" loop, as it makes it impossible for other cars to pass by and safely drop-off passengers.
- At **PICK UP** time, the Kiss 'N Ride loop can be used for student pick up. However, you will have to park your car in a designated parking area or circulate around the loop a few times until you see your child ready for pick up.
- Do not make a three-point turn in front of school entrances. or anywhere in the school's "Kiss'N Ride" loop.

Information for Kindergarten Parents:

- Drop Off: Kindergarten parents/ caregivers need to park their car and walk their child to the kindergarten fenced play area at the back of the school. Supervision at the play area will begin at 8:15 a.m.
- Pick Up: Kindergarten parents/caregivers need to pick up their child from the kindergarten fenced play area at the side of the school. Children will be released to designated adults as per the dismissal forms filled out by parents on the first day of school. (See Book of Forms)

Your cooperation is appreciated. Only together can we maintain a safe pick-up and drop-off plan for your children. As always, your input is invaluable, please feel free to contact Ms Diakiw or Ms Zarif.

STUDENT ENTRY & EXIT IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

All School doors will be open at 8:15am and then be locked again at 8:30am after the bell. Students can enter the building after 8:15am and there will be supervision inside the school. **There will no longer be supervision outside from 8:15-8:30am.**

At 8:28am, the first bell rings.

At the end of the day students will exit from their appropriate doors:

- Grade 1, 2, 3, 3/4 - Primary Doors (**downstairs hallway**)
- Grade 4, 5 - Junior Entrance Doors at the back of the school (**to go upstairs**)
- Grade 6 - Grade 6 Doors at the side of the school
- Grade 7 / 8 — Intermediate Doors (**by the kindergarten play area—to go upstairs**) - Kindergarten—inside the kindergarten fenced play area

Entry and exit procedures from the designated doors are in effect for morning and lunch recesses. At the end of the day, **parents are asked that you please pick us your child from their appropriate entry/dismissal door.**

For the safety of all, parents/guardians are respectfully asked not to wait inside the school or go directly to classrooms when picking-up or dropping-off their child or children.

SAFE SCHOOLS

Silver Pines Public School is a welcoming school where we value the importance of a safe learning environment. Over the last few years there has been an increasing need in society to be alert within our schools. The following are some of the procedures that are in place to ensure the safety and security of the students, staff and visitors in our school.

- ◆ All visitors must enter the school through the front door.
- ◆ Parents and caregivers are invited to wait for their children dismissal outside the building. Please do not enter the classroom area of the school.
- ◆ All visitors and volunteers (including parents), must sign in at the office at the beginning of their visit.

Social Media Caveats

Facebook, Instagram and many other social media sites are a means that students and parents use to keep in touch. They can be a positive communication tool but can also be a dangerous place where bullying can proliferate. Please make sure you have a conversation with your children about what is acceptable and unacceptable to post and message. They must remember that a screen shot can be taken of any post or picture and much of what is written and posted remains there forever. Remind them to keep conflicts and disagreements personal and confidential and not "air" their grievances online but to address any concerns they have with their peers and teachers and parents privately.

10 Tips to help your child with math

Tips for kindergarten to grade 3

1. **Counting can be fun and entertaining.** Sing counting songs such as "One, Two Buckle My Shoe". Your local librarian can recommend fun counting books. Play Hopscotch – it's a counting game! There are lots of games where you count, such as *Snakes and Ladders*, *Dominoes*, *Crazy Eights* and *Candyland*®.
2. **Computers + math = fun.** There are great computer games available for math – ask your librarian or check out your local computer store. Make sure they are "parent approved". There are also super websites that have fun math games, such as [TVOKids](#), or do an Internet search for other sites.
3. **Start Easy and Work Up!** Once they have got the hang of counting by 1s, introduce skip counting, such as counting by 2s and 5s.
4. **Use household items for counting practice.** Practise adding and subtracting with objects found around your house like spoons or pots and pans. When they've become good at these skills, move on to simple multiplication.
5. **Tap into your child's curiosity.** Go on a number hunt together and discover places where numbers are used such as a clock, TV, computer keyboard, calendar, telephones and licence plates.
6. **Use everyday activities.** Your child's world is filled with everyday math problems that can be solved. For example, "There are four people in our family and we each need a knife and a fork to eat dinner. How many knives and forks do we need to set the table?"
7. **Kitchens can be math zones.** Bake some muffins or cookies and ask your child to help you measure out the ingredients. It may be a bit messy but it's fun family time and there's nothing like a fresh cookie as a reward. Have math fridge magnets available so children can start making number patterns and doing simple math problems.
8. **Predict and compare.** Start to measure and estimate things like how far it is from the driveway to the house or how long a trip will take and then measure and compare the actual time it takes.
9. **Talk about time.** The concept of time can be hard to grasp. Talk to your kids about minutes and hours. Then get them to try counting days and weeks – for example how many "sleeps" until the weekend or a visit to a friend or relative.
10. **Identify geometric shapes and sizes.** Play "I Spy". Instead of looking for words beginning with a letter, look for different colours or shapes and count the number you find in the room.

10 Tips to help your child with math

Tips for grades 4 to 6

1. **Connect math to daily life.** Let your kids know the importance of math in day-to-day living. Talk about the ways you use math in your job and around the house. Show them a tax form or how you pay the bills. Ask them how they used math during the day.
2. **Practise mental math using coins.** For example, show that a certain item costs a certain amount and ask what coins are needed to pay for it.
3. **Play games together.** Show them math can be fun and exciting. Play family games to add excitement to math activities, like chess or checkers or games in the car such as math bingo or adding licence plate numbers. Lots of board games need math such as *Junior Monopoly*® or play card games such as *Uno*®.
4. **Cooking can be counting fun!** Get older children involved in helping out at dinner time and let them help measure ingredients for dishes or estimate the number of potatoes that are needed to feed everyone.
5. **Play the estimating game.** Ask your kids to estimate measurements, distances, time and grocery bills. Be sure to compare the estimate with actual. Or get them to guess how much the apples you are going to buy will weigh and then take them to the scale in the grocery store and find out.
6. **Perform time calculations.** For example, make up a sentence and ask your child to recite it as many times as possible in 15 seconds. Then ask how many times it could be repeated in 1 minute, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, etc.
7. **Use common toys to understand math concepts.** Build a tower from blocks. Count the blocks. Then talk about the need for a base of the right size and the stability it creates.
8. **Sports and math.** There is a lot of math used in sports: batting averages, points per game, save percentages – these are math terms that a sports enthusiast will love. If you watch a game with your child, read the newspaper report together sometime the next day and talk about the math concepts.
9. **Computers + math = fun.** There are great computer games available for math—ask your librarian or check out your local computer store. Make sure they are "parent approved". There are also super websites that have fun math games, so do an Internet search for sites and bookmark them for future use.
10. **Measuring made easy.** Estimate and measure the area of different shapes. For example, use small square objects (plastic tiles, dice, etc.) to estimate then measure how many are needed to fill the area of various flat surfaces such as a magazine cover.

STUDENT MEDICATION

If your child requires medication in school, please bring the original container to the office labelled with your child's name and the correct dosage. Medication can be administered by school staff once a parent completes a Board form, "Administration of Medication". These can be obtained through the school office.

STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION / EMERGENCY FORMS

It is very important that the office has up-to-date information in the case of an emergency. Please ensure that the Emergency Information Form, being sent home this month, is completed and returned the next day. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the office of any changes.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Board Policy requires all visitors (including parents) report to the office upon arrival. The "Sign-In" binder, in the office, is to ensure the safety of your children.

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Should an emergency arise which necessitates that staff and students be moved away from the school premises, our alternate location is Father Henri Nouwen Elementary School. A minimum of 6 fire drills are held in the fall and in the spring.

CHILD ABSENT OR LATE?

Please call the school.

If your child is going to be away from school for any reason, please give the office a call and leave a message between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. On a busy day with many absences, confirming the whereabouts of every absent child can take quite awhile and could result in a child missing for some time.

The York Region District School Board has been advised by the police that if a student has not arrived at school and after all steps have been taken, by the school, to contact parents, emergency contacts etc., the police wish to be informed immediately. *Therefore, we will contact the police if we cannot reach the family or the emergency contacts. We will be closely monitoring student lates and student absenteeism and we will contact you directly if either is extensive.*

Bringing Toys and Valuables to School

It is tempting to bring a new toy or device to school to share with friends. We have found that sometimes students can become pre-occupied with their items and lose focus on their learning. We are also concerned about the safety of the student's items and cannot guarantee their safety. The School is not responsible for replacing missing or stolen items.

We ask for your cooperation in keeping toys and other valuable items at home.

CONTACT US

Silver Pines PS

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