

## *Silver Pines PS Contact Information*

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Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Recine Secretary: Dina Plainos

Principal: Sherry Zarif Vice-Principal: Georgia Petinarelis



February 26 – Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament

February 28 – **Pink Shirt Day**

February 29 – Intermediate Girls Basketball Tournament

March 7 – Silver Pines Talent Show

March 11 – 15 – March Break

## **Morning and End of Day Procedures**

Thank you to our families who continue to follow our guidelines around morning drop off and end of day pick up. We want to remind parents you **cannot park** in the Kiss'n'Rid or in front of the school. **If you need to exit the driver's seat of your car to help your child, you should not be using the Kiss'n'Ride.** If you need to help your child, please ensure you park your car in a designated parking space. Please give yourself sufficient time in the morning. Our doors open at **8:15am** and there is usually no traffic at this time. Our staff continue to support Kiss'n'Ride each and every morning and end of day, and we appreciate your cooperation as they help give directions to cars. We thank you for your help in keeping our students and staff safe by always abiding by the **speed limit, driving slowly** and being **mindful of pedestrians!** Thank you for doing your part in helping us keep our school safe for all students and staff.

## **End of Day - Early Pick-Ups – We are asking for your help with this**

Though we encourage families to make appointments and other engagements outside of our school hours, we understand that sometimes this is not possible. To limit disruptions to end of day routines in classrooms, we ask that any early pick-ups be **completed by 2:30pm**. The last 30min of the school day is a busy time for students and staff who are engaged in many end of day activities, and we would like to limit any additional disruptions to the learning of all of our students during this time. As always, please try to inform the office **and** your child's teacher by email/Edsby ahead of time.



## **Term 1 Report Cards**

Research shows that students need to learn more than just facts if they want to succeed in post-secondary education and the world of work. Ontario's students are also learning to take initiative, work independently, be self-reliant and work in a team. Schools are teaching critical thinking and problem solving skills in order to give your child the ability to seize every opportunity for jobs and growth in the changing economy.

The report card reflects this and emphasizes the importance of learning skills and work habits in your child's progress. When evaluating subject areas, as always, teachers look at assignments, tests, presentations, and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum. This learning means more than just knowing the facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are studying by communicating and applying what they have learned. Teachers do not simply calculate averages. As well as looking at tests or assignments, they also talk to and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information as possible before making a decision on the final grade.

A report card is a checkpoint in your child's learning and should be understood as just that. There is always room to grow and opportunity to learn. The communication of achievement, next steps, and learning for your child is always a partnership between school and home. Set goals together and always ensure that your child is part of the conversation. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher at any time throughout the year when there are questions or concerns.

## **Revised Language Curriculum**

There is new information for families who would like to know more about the revised language curriculum for Grade 1-8 students and Early Reading Screening for year one and two Kindergarten students. You can find this information on the [school board website](#). The information posted on the website is available in multiple languages using the translation tool drop down menu on the top right corner of the webpage. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

## **Reporting on the Revised Language Curriculum (Grade 1-8)**

Starting September 2023, schools across Ontario began implementing the new Language curriculum. A [Parent's Guide to Language, Grade 1-8 \(2023\)](#) has been developed by the Ontario Ministry of Education to support families in learning more about the revised curriculum.

Student achievement in Language will now be reported as **one overall grade or mark** with supporting comments. In the past, the report card reflected a grade or mark in each of the four strands of Language (Oral Communication, Reading, Writing, and Media Literacy). Now, this revised report card grade or mark represents a student's achievement of the overall curriculum expectations, and considers the student's integrated learning across all four strands of the new Language curriculum:

- Literacy Connections and Applications
- Foundations of Language
- Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

Student achievement in individual strands is reflected in comments related to their learning, strengths, and next steps.

### *Early Reading Screening (ERS)*

A screening measure is a quick and informal evidence-based test that provides information about possible reading difficulties (Ontario Human Rights Commission, Right to Read Report). As outlined by the Ministry of Education, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the Kindergarten Communication of Learning and the Elementary Provincial Report Card, Grades 1-6 will include a new section titled "Early Reading Screening" (ERS).

On the report, there are checkboxes where results of early reading screening are recorded, along with the date of screening. Report cards will indicate if the student has completed the early reading screening and if the student has met the screening benchmark.

As implementation is voluntary at this time, for the 2023-2024 Term 1 and 2 reporting period, all students will have the NA box selected for ERS. In the coming months, training on a Ministry-approved screening tool will be offered to primary educators in advance of mandatory implementation in the fall.

**Beginning in Fall 2024, students in Year Two Kindergarten to Grade Two will participate in Early Reading Screening.**

## **SEAS Family Engagement Evening**

### Understanding the Ontario Education System

Welcome to our first "Family Engagement Evening" supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System. In this first session, we will provide an overview of the K-12 Ontario Education System with an emphasis on **transitions, pathway planning, the OSSD** and the **course selection process**.

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

This event is brought to you in partnership with Community and Partnership Developer for East Asian Families, YRDSB Inclusive School and Community Services, CCSYR Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region, NEKS (Network of Educators for Korean Students) and Curriculum and Instructional Services of YRDSB.

**Date:** Wednesday, **February 28**, 2024

**Time:** 6:30pm - 8:00pm

**Location:** Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham  
Please [register](https://bit.ly/3Ot1p0X) by Monday, February 26, 2024 <https://bit.ly/3Ot1p0X>

For additional inquiries, please  
contact: [pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca) or [bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca](mailto:bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca)

**Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS)** is a group of YRDSB educators and supporters who are committed to responding to the lived experiences of East Asian students by advocating for their improved achievement and well-being through equitable practices. Building relationships with students, families, educators, community members and partners are also a focus of our work.

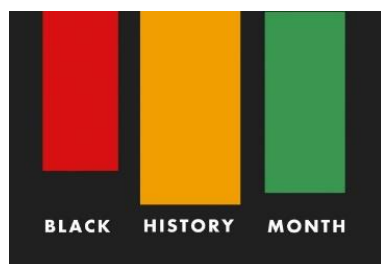
### **Tips for Secondary School Course Selection**

Grade 8 and secondary school students select courses in February for the following September.

Here are some tips and reminders for students and families planning their course selection.

1. **You do not need to make decisions alone.** Consult with your family. Teachers, [guidance counselors](#), student success teachers, graduation coaches and other school staff are there to help you.
2. **Plan.** You can use [My Pathway Planner](#) to track your courses, find post-secondary pathway options and look up course descriptions and prerequisites. Learn [how to create your plan](#).
3. **Explore your options.** There are many courses, programs and opportunities available at all YRDSB secondary schools that let you gain skills, experience, credits and certifications in the fields that interest you. You can now [search for these opportunities by sector](#). There are also [other ways to earn credits](#), including summer school, night school, online learning, Indigenous and International languages and more.
4. **Review [graduation requirements](#).** You are responsible for ensuring you select courses that meet diploma requirements.
5. **Review course types.** Selecting courses that meet your needs is the first step to experiencing success in secondary school. Your guidance counselor will help you to choose appropriate courses throughout secondary school as students plan for their initial post-secondary destination.
6. **Be aware of course prerequisites.** This is a course that must be successfully completed before taking the course that follows. You can use My Pathway Planner to look up course descriptions and prerequisites.
7. **Know where to go if you have questions.** Speak with your guidance counselor or other staff members at the school. Talk to your family members. Learn more about [course selection](#), [graduation requirements](#) and options available to you in [secondary school on the Board website](#).

## Black History Month



Black History Month and beyond aims to celebrate the richness and excellence of Black Canadians as well as to highlight their vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures and their significant contributions to Canada and the world.

Silver Pines PS will be learning about the richness of Black history and significant individuals by attending workshops and participating in a school wide trivia challenge to build our knowledge of Black History. Please see community engagement events below:

## Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024

\* Dates and Events subject to change

### Student Events and Family Engagement

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of <b>Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families.</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>	<b>Dr.Bette Stephenson</b> Cafeteria
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - <b>Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff</b> with Presenters <b>Dr.Joi Spencer</b> and <b>Dr.Kerri Ullucci</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>	<b>Online</b> <b>Register to Receive Link</b>
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - <b>Open to All: Student &amp; Families</b> <b>Light refreshments will be served.</b> <b>Register In person Experience</b> <b>Details to be shared upon registration.</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Dr Bette Rm 113



**February & March**  
YRES Youth Workshop Calendar

**February**

FEB 10	Study Skills for High School Success (G9-12)
FEB 17	Level Up Your Middle School Game - Study Tips Workshop! (G6-8)
FEB 24	Purposeful Extracurricular Involvement (G9-12)

**March**

MAR 2	A Balancing Act: Avoiding Burnout (G9-10)
MAR 9	March Break Camp Volunteering Training (G9-12)
MAR 16	A Balancing Act: Avoiding Burnout (G11-12)
MAR 23	Level Up Your Middle School Game - Leadership Skills Workshop! (G6-8)
MAR 30	Skills and Qualities of Leaders (G11-12)

**SCAN ME**



**Aaniin Community Centre**  
5665 14th Ave, Markham  
or Zoom Meeting

**\$ FREE Workshops**

YORKEDUCATION.ORG

York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization.

## Parent/caregiver series supporting learning about mental health

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the ***Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)***. The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The first session is “**Anxiety in School-Aged Youth, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers**” and will occur virtually on February 28 from 6 - 7 p.m. The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety.

These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages. If your preferred language is not offered, we recommend watching with a friend or family member who is able to translate.

To register please visit [this link](#).

**Please Register by February 27, 2024**



# Silver Pines PS is looking for Lunch Assistants



- Enjoy supervising children indoors and outdoors
- Promoting safety, kindness and wellness
- Monday-Friday, 12:20-1:20pm
- Must have Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Training is provided

**\*\*Those interested please call the school at 905-508-7303\***

## Technology Renewed Program – Apply for a computer

# Application Check-List

You can begin to apply for a computer on: February 1st, 2024  
Application deadline: March 15th, 2024



1. Open camera on phone
2. Hold camera up to QR code above
3. Click link that appears on your screen

**Group Name:** YRDSB | **Group Code:** G-YRDSB24

### How to fill out your application

Scan QR code OR access application using the link your organization provided

#### Section A

Group Name: YRDSB

Group Code: G-YRDSB24

Name of School: *Please enter the name of the student's school*

#### Section B

This section does not apply to you.

#### Section C

I would like to pick up my computer in Mississauga RCT Warehouse (\$0.00 Shipping fee)

OR

I would like to order a laptop, please ship my computer to my home (\$40.00 shipping fee)

OR

I would like to order a desktop, please ship my computer to my home (\$50.00 shipping fee)

OR

I am part of the York Region District School Board Group order (\$20.00)

#### Section D

Pick your computer package and method of payment.

Our partner organization will need proof of eligibility (one of the following) before you can apply for a computer.

#### Proof of Financial Status (one of the following)

- Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (most recent)
- Ontario Works Statement (Social Assistance)
- OSAP Statement of Funding
- Refugee Payment Received from government
- Letter from school supporting the application
- EI Benefit Statement
- ODSP (Disability Benefits)
- Second Career

#### Payment

You will have the following online payment options when completing your order:

- Credit/Debit Card
- Money Order or Certified Cheque
- A Third Party will be Paying (Ex. Ontario Works)

#### Certified Cheques should be made to: Renewed Computer Technology

The applicant's name must be added in the memo field. When you come to pick up your computer, please bring a government photo ID.



## York Region District School Board **UBUNTU HEALING CIRCLE** **Winter/Spring 2024**



A virtual healing circle for Black identified students across YRDSB to join together in an inclusive affinity space, focused on supporting emotional well-being. This space is one that has been created to promote healing, wellness and resilience for Black identified students.

The group will be facilitated by members of the School Social Work Team.  
Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend and participation will occur virtually.

**Grades Served:** Grade 7 to Grade 12 students from schools across YRDSB

**Modality:** Virtual offering

**Language of Service:** Services will be offered in English.

**Total sessions:** 8 sessions

**Date:** Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Weekly)

For more information, or to sign up: Please ask your Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, SERT, Student Success Teacher, Principal, or Vice Principal to contact either: Melanie Beckford, RSW or Tracy Thomas-Elleston, RSW at the following email address: [communitycareteam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:communitycareteam@yrdsb.ca)





# SKY Lantern

"MAKE YOURSELF SEEN AND HEARD."

## Chinese Heritage Student Support Group

"To foster genuine dialogues and enhance the school lives of Chinese Heritage youth by fostering civic participation and greater awareness in emotional well-being. This support group provides an opportunity for Chinese Heritage students to nurture their inner strengths and co-construct more inclusive, student-centered school environments."

**Grades Served:** Grade 6 to Grade 8 students from schools across YRDSB

**Consent:** Social Work Referral and Consent Required

**Modality:** Virtual offering

**Language of Service:** Services may be offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, and/or English. (TBD based on linguistic comfort or preferences of students)

**Total sessions:** 6 sessions\* (format can be adapted based on the needs of the students/school)

**Timing:** Groups will be run after school hours

**Date:** Group 1: Winter (January 2024 to March 2024)

Group 2: Spring (March 2024 to June 2024)

RSVP by emailing the Community Care Social Worker (Chinese Heritage) at [charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca](mailto:charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca)

