



Silver Pines
public school

January/February Calendar of Events

Extra Curricular at Silver Pines

Volleyball and Basketball for Boys & Girls is ongoing.

Important Dates



Professional Activity Day In January:

There will be no school for students on **Friday, January 17th**, It is a teacher assessment day for preparing report cards.

There is also another PA day for staff development on **Friday, January 31st**. There will be no school for students.

February 13th Report Cards go home.

February 18th is Family Day. There will be no school.



What a wonderful turn out by Silver Pines families at the Kindergarten to Grade 4 Winter Concert! Our students really shone and put on a fantastic show! Our band "The Howlers" were also fantastic!

Principal: Lindsey Diakiw | 905.508.7303
Vice Principal Shauna Small | 905.508.7303
Superintendent: Liz Davis | 905.884.4477
Trustee : Corrie McBain

<http://www.silverpines.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>



A Message from Administration...

Happy New Year to our Silver Pines Community!

Our students are engaging in many exciting activities! In December our music students performed beautifully at our winter concert. It was a beautiful way to go into the holiday season. Our Basketball and Volleyball teams have been playing regularly and demonstrating awesome team spirit. We are looking forward to many more opportunities in 2020, such as badminton, author visits and school-wide spirit initiatives. We will also be hosting a Talent Show on March 11th. Stay tuned for more details.

Our students are also working hard on culminating activities as Term One is coming to an end. First Term Report cards will be distributed on Thursday, February 13th. Please take the time to discuss the reports with your child/ren. Remember that the Learning Skills part of the report card is just as important, if not more so, as the subject area part of the report card. Learning skills are life skills. They are part of what makes a child grow up into an adult who's a responsible, collaborative and contributing member of society. Please review that section of the report card carefully with your child/ren and discuss next steps and plans ahead.

As a staff we continue to develop our understanding in *Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy* to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our diverse students and to learn more about how to develop an inclusive pedagogy that reduces barriers. We are also working as a team to create a positive school environment in which all students feel cared for and supported and all students can achieve to their full potential.

We are looking forward to all that 2020 has to offer and continuing to work with all of our Silver Pines staff, families and students.

Best Regards,

Lindsey Diakiw Shauna Small

Winter Weather Reminders



[Dress for the weather](#)

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

[Recess](#)

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

School Council

The funds raised from our pizza lunch program will be put towards school agendas, Scientists in School, Graduation, science manipulatives, online library programs and various technology such as chrome books, iPads and tech carts.

Our third School Council Meeting of the year will take place February 3rd at 7pm. All parents are invited to attend and we are looking for new School Council Members.

We hope to see you on February 3rd and at our other meetings scheduled for April 6th and June 8th.

Meetings are open to all parents. We hope to see you there!

A Message From Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.

- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.

Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Corrie McBain

Trustee, Richmond Hill, Wards 1, 2 and 4



What's Happening



A new tool is in use in many classrooms to promote collaborative learning and inquiry. These new Wipebooks have allowed our students to engage in vertical learning as they work together to problem solve.



Our Grade 8s enjoyed their overnight at **Lake St. George**. They really enjoyed living by the lake!

The Grade 8s also learned about public education 150 years ago during their visit to **Heritage School House**.

The grade 6s spread seasonal cheer to the elderly during their **Chatts Got Talent** event in which they visited local nursing homes to put on a show and engage the elderly in some crafts.

The Grade 7s, 4s and 2s all have the wonderful experience this year of **Swan Lake**. They learn about our relationship with nature here in Richmond Hill.



Jr. and Intermediate Basketball and Volleyball Try Outs are coming soon!

Role Playing Club has been saving the world from villainous dragons! We have 22 players and 5 Game Masters enjoying creating and building stories.

Board Game Club is coming to Silver Pines!!

Harry Poppins has been casted!! We have 41 student performers, 12 student prop and set crew, 22 stage techs, 18 piece orchestra.

Bus or School Cancellation Notice

When an **extreme cold** or **inclement weather** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

Since some bussing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions.

Please note the following:

- A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be **system wide** (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) **or municipality specific** (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is cancelled and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is operational, your child **will not** be transported to/from school.
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is operational and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is cancelled, your child **will not** be transported to/from school.
- **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM
1540 AM 1580 AM
88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM
95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM
101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV THE A-CHANNEL CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001. If you need to cancel a pickup for your child, kindly contact the bus company di-rectly to inform them of the change, you must state the Route # and address.

First Student—905-833-5351 Sinton Transportation - 905-967-9020 Sharp - 289-467-4998

The above procedure is not applicable to school charters. Please confirm the cancellation of these trips with school administration.

Thank you for your support as we focus on providing safe transportation for all of our students.

Student Transportation Services of York Region 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3G8 905-713-2535, FAX: 905-713-2533 Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

There may be rare instances when **emergency weather events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school website and on twitter @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.



Kindergarten Registration for September 2019



Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. New this year to Silver Pines PS is Online registration. Learn more about how to register bit.ly/KindergartenYRDSB. Children who turn 4 or 5 years old during 2020, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring.

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on January 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2020 <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 17, 2020. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2020, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. This Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register, between January 17 and February 7, 2020. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 7, 2020. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Encouraging Financial Sense

With the winter break approaching, there are many opportunities to discuss money and financial literacy with your child. Financial literacy involves all aspects of money such as budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, retirement planning, insurance and taxes.

“Children need to be financially literate to make informed choices in a complex and fast-changing financial world. With an understanding of the implications of their decisions and with the necessary problem-solving and critical thinking skills, students will be better equipped to function in today’s financial environment.” (The Ontario Working Group on Financial Literacy, 2010)

Did you know?

- Although 95% of teenagers in 2008 understood what a budget is, only 21% of them used one and were able to stick to it.
- 54% of teenagers indicated that they would not pay their credit card off in full each month.
- 39% of teenagers ranked “how to save money” as the most important topic to learn about. The topic that ranked second (for 20% of students) was “how to use a bank account”.
- Teenagers said they wanted to learn about money through interactive means.

Source: Credit Canada, National survey of parents and teenagers about financial education, 2008. Released in conjunction with Credit Education Week 2008: Teens Talk About Money. Sponsored in part by the Ontario Association for Credit Counselling Services.

For more information to support financial literacy at home, please check out *A Parent’s Guide Financial Literacy in Ontario Schools, Grades 4 to 12* (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_literacy_parent_guide_en.pdf)

Other resources you may find interesting:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/teaching-children-money.html>

https://talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com/resource_type/home-resources/

<https://readyforyou.td.com/en/teach-my-child>

To find out what your child will learn in math this year or to find other fun activities that you can do together as a family, please visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Pages/default.aspx>. Be sure to also try our [Problem of the Month](#)

Executive Functioning Skills

When we support our children with math, we tend to focus on helping them with specific content areas - for example knowing their facts, measuring distances, how to calculate volume - but did you know that there are other ways we can support them in math? Recent research suggests that executive function skills play a critical role in the development of mathematical proficiency and by helping our children develop these skills, we will help them improve their math.

Executive function skills are a set of cognitive skills that help us manage behaviour, pay attention, remember and follow instructions and think flexibly. They include:

- Planning
- Organizing
- Task initiation
- Self-monitoring
- Emotional control
- Impulse control
- Sustained attention
- Working memory
- Cognitive flexibility (ability to shift flexibly from one situation or activity or aspect of a problem to another)

Here are some ideas about how to support the development of these executive function skills at home:

- When building with blocks or Lego - before building, have your child plan what pieces they are going to use, have them sort pieces based on different attributes
- When starting a puzzle - ask how they plan to organize the pieces to help finish the puzzle (e.g., organize the pieces by colour, separate the border pieces from the inside pieces)
- When playing, encourage your child to make comparisons, look at things from a different perspective or approach the activity in different ways
- When reading a book, ask questions that will encourage your child to see things from different characters' points of view
- Practice taking turns when playing
- Play games like Simon Says

- Play concentration card games
- Help your child get started on tasks by asking questions
- Support your child to come up with a plan on how to achieve a goal and break it down into smaller pieces

For more information about the cognitive processing areas, how they affect math learning and ways to support them, please check out: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Documents/2017-Math-LearningDisabilities-Waterfall.pdf>

To find out what your child will learn in math this year or to find other fun activities that you can do together as a family, please visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Pages/default.aspx>. Be sure to also try our [Problem of the Month](#)

Safe Arrival: Calling the School Regarding Student Absences

Just a reminder to Parents that when your child will be late or absent, it must be reported to the Safe Arrival line prior to 8:30am at 905-508-7303 Option 1

Message from the Music Club:

Music Club will meeting on Tuesdays during lunch recess at 12:40pm for students in Grades 1 to 5

Talent Night Live!

Coming March 6th. Students in Grades 4-8 are invited to audition for our annual talent show. Auditions will start soon. Listen out for dates and times during morning announcements.

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival



Richmond Hill Winter Carnival will be held February 1st and 2nd, 2020
For more information visit www.wintercarnival.net/

January 2020 - Active School Travel Newsletter

Welcome back! For January, we have some tips for how to get outside and still have fun in the cold, including while you're walking or wheeling to school or the bus stop.

Being dressed for the weather is the first step to enjoying the outdoors. Here are a few suggestions on how to stay warm:

- Wear a base layer
- Wear an insulating layer
- Wear an outer shell (windproof jacket with a hood and snow pants with elastic or velcro fastening at the cuff)
- Wear insulated, waterproof snow boots
- Wear a hat that covers the ears
- Add a neck warmer
- Finish with waterproof mittens

When outside in the cold, you should also:

- Keep moving
- Eat high-fat snacks to keep your body going
- Drink water (even though it is cold, the air is dry and your body can become dehydrated)



February 5th, 2020 is Winter Walk Day!

Winter Walk Day is celebrated by schools



Wednesday 5 February 2020

**Celebrate
Winter Walk Day
2020 in February.**

across Canada on the first Wednesday of February each year. Walking and wheeling to and from school is fun every day, so we encourage you to journey outside throughout the entire month of February!

You can visit <https://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/winter-walk-day/> for more information.

You can also print off an [I Spy Card](#) to play with your child as you make your way to school.



Parents for Children's
Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Monday, December 16th

PARENTS' Support Group-all are welcome!

Topic: Homework and Learning Disabilities How to help, cope and advocate at school Presentation & Parent Discussion

Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behaviour challenges make parenting difficult?

Future Meetings	Year 2020 meetings: Monday, January 20 topic to be announced Monday, February 24 our 4 th anniversary! Guest Speaker: Sleep – importance & how to get it Monday, March 23 topic to be announced Monday, April 20 topic to be announced Monday, May 18 topic to be announced Monday, June 15 topic to be announced
6:30 to 8:00 pm	No pre-registration is needed. All are welcome. Sorry no child minding available. Young children cannot safely be left unattended.
Where	*NEW*Aurora Kinark Office 218 Earl Stewart Drive, Unit 7, Aurora, ON L4G 6V7. One block south of St. John's Sideroad. One block west of Bayview Ave. Lots of free parking

Benefits of PCMH Support Group:

- meet other parents with children who have similar challenges
 - find encouragement and emotional support
- learn strategies to help your child or youth at home/school
 - learn how to access resources in the community

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centred principles of care. PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit www.pcmh.ca.

華人家長互助及交流小組(PEN)

講座: *「中學畢業後的不同出路及高校申請」* (語言: 普通話, 廣東話, 英語)

日期及時間: 星期三 2019 年 12 月 11 日 晚上 6 時至 8 時

地點: 南萬錦迎新中心, 7220 Kennedy Rd #8, Markham, ON L3R 7P2

此講座將由約克區教育局老師主講

由於名額有限, 有意參加者請儘早報名。網上報名: <http://bit.ly/PEN-WS>

電話報名: 王姑娘 416-662-5416, 電郵報名: 朱老師 AliceWan-ling.Chu@yrdsb.ca

未來活動:

「農曆新年聚餐及兒童/學生活動」

日期及時間: 2020 年 1 月 31 日 (星期五) 下午 1 時至 3 時

地點: 華諮處移民青年中心, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, Ontario, L3P 1B9

「如何閱讀學校成績單及支持孩子的學習講座」

日期及時間: 2020 年 2 月 13 日 (星期四) 晚上 6 時至 8 時

地點: 華諮處移民青年中心, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, Ontario, L3P 1B9

此講座將由約克區教育局老師主講

Parent Engagement and Network (PEN) for Chinese Families

Next Workshop! Pathway Planning and Post-Secondary Applications (Mandarin, Cantonese, English)

Date & Time: Wednesday December 11, 2019, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Markham South Welcome Centre, 7220 Kennedy Rd #8, Markham, ON L3R 7P2

This workshop will be presented by YRDSB educators

Space is limited. Please register online: <http://bit.ly/PEN-WS>

Phone registration: Jean Wang 416-662-5416, **email registration:** Alice W.L. Chu AliceWan-Ling.Chu@yrdsb.ca

Looking Ahead:

Lunar New Year Social (Potluck & Arts + Crafts for children/students)

Date & Time: Friday, Jan 31, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: CICS Immigrant Youth Centre, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, L3P 1B9

How to Read Your Child's Report Card & Supporting Your Child with Next Steps

Date & Time: Thursday, Feb 13, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: CICS Immigrant Youth Centre, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, L3P 1B9

This workshop will be presented by YRDSB educators

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WOULD YOU ENJOY **COLLABORATIVELY** LEARNING THE ONTARIO CURRICULUM THROUGH **THE ARTS?**

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at **Baythorn Public School**. If you are currently in grades **four or five** you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the **arts@baythorn** program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Thursday, January 16, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

Applications will be available at bit.ly/arts_application2020 online after the January 16th, 2020 info night.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7TH, 2020 AT 4:00 PM

If you require further information, please call us at
Baythorn Public School
(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Hema Parekh
Vice Principal

