

## *Silver Pines PS Contact Information*

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Administrative Assistant: Susie Morra Secretary: Shelli Gould

Principal: Sherry Zarif Vice-Principal: Georgia Petinarelis



## Upcoming Dates

June 12 – School Council Meeting 6:45pm

June 14 – Junior/Intermediate Soccer Tournament

June 19 – Regional Track and Field Day

June 19 – McMichael Art Gallery – Grade 7

June 20 – Grade 8 Graduation

June 22 – Kindergarten Celebration

June 22 – School Community Walk 9-10am (June Pride Month)

June 23 – Movement X – Grade 2 & 3

June 23 – Imagine Cinemas – Grade 4 to 6

June 27 – Primary Play Day

June 28 – End of Year Assembly

June 30 – Grade 8 Graduate Clap out 11:20am

June 30 – Last Day of School – half day - 11:30am



June brings a very busy time but also a wonderful time for special events, celebrations, and learning opportunities. We're looking forward to this final month of the 2022/23 school year and all the wonderful events planned. We had so much fun at the **BBQ** on Wednesday, June 7. It was wonderful seeing all of our students and families. A big thank you again to all those who helped organize and support the event. Today we had our **Volunteer Tea**. It was so nice to see all of our volunteers. We are so grateful for your commitment to our school. Please note the many key dates that are coming up in June, there are many! We are also very pleased to honour our Grade 8 graduates with our Grade 8 Graduation on June 20, 2023.

Within the classrooms, teachers are busy preparing and finalizing lessons and assessments. Our students are working hard and putting their best efforts forward in this final month. We're extremely proud of all these efforts. Term 2 report cards will be distributed electronically during the last week of school. We continue to encourage open communication and dialogue between teachers and parents/guardians in this final month of the school year.

Looking forward to a wonderful month.



June 29 – Last day to claim any lost items  
June 30 – All items will be donated to charity

### Early Release – June 30<sup>th</sup>

All schools in the York Region District School Board are committed to improving student achievement and well-being. On **Friday, June 30, 2023**, an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to take part in meetings during the afternoon of that day. These meetings will allow for school staff to engage in culminating activities regarding the review and revision of the School's Improvement Plan as well as year-end and transition activities that support student success.

As has been our practice in the past, students will attend school during the morning of Friday, June 30, 2023 only. Students will be dismissed early that day at **11:30AM**. Arrangements will be made to ensure that students who are normally bused to and from school will receive transportation at this time. Parents/guardians whose children attend after school child care should make appropriate arrangements to address this change in schedule.

# Message from Our Trustee

June 2023

Dear families,

As we approach the end of the school year and the start of the summer break, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make this school year a positive one. This is our first school year since 2018-2019 that has not been interrupted by closures as a result of COVID-19, and it has been such a pleasure to visit schools and school events over the past few months and see students, staff and families connecting and learning together.

I think it's important to acknowledge the effect the pandemic has had on students; and we have made it a priority to put supports in place for student learning, achievement, mental health and well-being. We also continue to work hard to create safe, inclusive and caring learning environments where our students know and feel that they matter and belong.

June is also a time when we look ahead to transitions - students moving ahead to new grades, new schools and new adventures. Thank you to the school staff who support students through these transitions. Congratulations to all of our graduating students moving on to secondary school or post-secondary pathways. We are so proud of all that you have achieved, class of 2023, and wish you all the very best in what comes next.

I also want to acknowledge all that you have done, as family members, to support your child and our schools - whether that's asking your child about their learning, communicating with their educators, attending school events, reading the information that comes home from the school, sharing feedback, completing surveys, tracking down library books, volunteering on field trips and in the classroom, participating in school councils, and so much more. We are grateful for all of the ways you support your child's learning and our public education system.

Communicating with families remains an important priority for us. I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many families throughout the school year and appreciate how important it is that we remain connected to you. In addition to communication from your child's school, there are also many ways you can stay connected with what is happening in the Board, including our [newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [award-winning podcast](#). We were also very pleased to launch this year the [Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List](#) for families looking to receive information directly related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

As we approach the summer, we look forward to welcoming students who will be participating in our variety of [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) summer learning programs. I wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer break.

Crystal Yu

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

## Indigenous Trustee Greeting

June 2023

Aaniin (Hello), I am Indigenous Trustee for the York Region District School Board and a member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, the only First Nation in York Region and one you may recognize YRDSB acknowledging as their “partner in education” when providing land acknowledgements.

I would like to offer greetings for the month of June, the month when we recognize and celebrate the Indigenous People of Canada, our unique status as Canadians, our history on this land and our many significant contributions. In 1996, Governor General Romeo LeBlanc declared June 21 as National Aboriginal Peoples Day. He said, “On June 21<sup>st</sup>, this year and every year, Canada will honour the native peoples who first brought humanity to this great land.” In 2017, the name was formally changed, and we now recognize this day as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

June 21 was chosen because it is summer solstice, a time of spiritual significance for Indigenous people. It is a time when the sun is at the highest point in the sky and we experience the longest day of the year, and the most amount of daylight. This is considered powerful medicine and is a time for practicing ceremonies that honour our interconnection with the land and the cosmos.

The Anishinaabe also recognize June as the month of the Strawberry moon, Ode'min Giizis. The beautiful red heart shaped strawberry offers us the teaching of reconciliation and forgiveness. It is the first berry of the season that brings us that sweetness for life. June offers us many special gifts and much to be grateful for.

People ask what they can do to celebrate Indigenous People Day and as Canadians support Indigenous people in Canada?

We can build our awareness by reading Indigenous books, listening to Indigenous podcasts, and attending Indigenous events. We can create positive change and promote public awareness by lending our support to Indigenous issues. We can also offer land acknowledgements as we do at the beginning of meetings and events in the YRDSB.

However, I believe most importantly to Indigenous people across this planet is to recognize our right to reclaim and practice our Indigenous languages and the important significance of the earth under our feet. Our traditional knowledge and our cultures exist in our languages and without the opportunity to learn them in our schools and speak them in our communities much of our ancestral knowledge will be lost forever.

Further, recognizing Indigenous relationship with the land and taking the time to build land awareness and connection is imperative. We must practice environmental stewardship and protect our greenspaces. Walk in nature, plant, or hug a tree, help a turtle across the road, sing to the water, just be with the land. It does little to offer a land acknowledgement if we do not acknowledge the earth on which we live. The earth is our mother, this is why we call her “Mother Earth” in our Anishinaabe creation stories. We are extrinsically interconnected; without her we would not exist. As her children we must care for her and protect her. Stand with Indigenous people by honouring her, this is the most important land acknowledgement you can give. Chi-Miigwech and Happy Indigenous People’s Day!

Your Indigenous Trustee, Lauri Hoeg

This is a good [resource and activity guide for students](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf)  
[https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD\\_activity\\_guide\\_2018\\_1528380426091\\_eng.pdf](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf)

This year, Oscar Peterson's School Council PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant topic is related to **Supporting our Children & Youth in developing the critical Social, Emotional, and Learning (SEL) skills** needed to contribute to a positive quality of life and functioning well at home, in school and in the community.

We're excited to have Christina Furtado, MACP, RP (Qualifying), Mental Health and Wellness Specialist join us on **Monday, June 12 at 7:00pm at Oscar Peterson Public School, in Stouffville**. We think this seminar will be of great benefit to all parents, guardians and those who interact with children and youth.

We would like to extend an invitation to YOU and your school community on **Monday, June 12 at 7:00pm**. Please take a look at the flyer below for more information, as we do request pre-registration, simply to have an idea of how many people will be joining us.

The link for you to register is on the flyer and linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/OPspeaker> for ease.

***\*\*Childcare is provided as long as you pre-register with your child's information.***

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Oscar Peterson School Council

Parents & Caregivers of our school community are welcome to join us for our Oscar Peterson P.S. School Council Event:



**How to Support our Children & Youth to develop critical Social, Emotional & Learning Skills!**

~Presented by Christina Furtado, MACP, RP (Qualifying)  
Mental Health and Wellness Specialist

*"You can expect to feel challenged, empowered, and hopeful."*

When: Monday, June 12 at 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Where: Oscar Peterson Public School, 850 Hoover Park Drive, Stouffville in the Gym\*  
\*Child-minding available, Please indicate requirement when registering.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/OPspeaker>  
or use the QR Code.



Schools become a meeting place for cultures, containing children and adults who bring with them multiple facets of their identity, along with unique experiences and perspectives.

Wellness & Learning Initiatives

NYSED Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework