



Silver Pines  
Public School

## March\April Calendar of Events

### March

6th—Talent Night  
12th to 16th - March Break  
29th - Character Assembly

### April

5th - Graduation Photos  
- Council Meeting (7pm)  
10th - Arts & Film Festival  
12th - Spring Photos  
19th - Good Friday  
21st /22nd - Easter



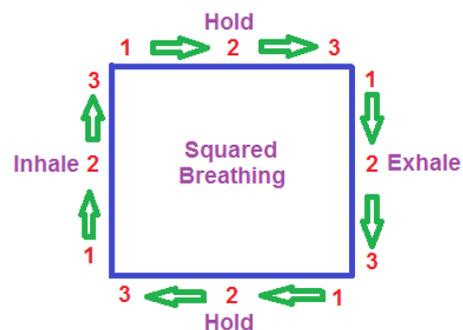
## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

March 11th –15th is the March Break. Enjoy some time with your families and take some well deserved time to have fun and relax. Spring is around the corner. April 19th is Good Friday and April 22nd is Easter Monday. There will be no school on these days.

Please remember that if your child is going to be late or absent, you must report it before 8:30 am on the day of the absence by calling 905-508-7303 Option 1

## Mindfulness Moment

Mindfulness is also good for our kids. There is an emerging body of re-search that indicates that mindfulness can help our children improve their abilities to pay attention, to calm down when they are upset, and to make better decisions. In short, it helps with emotional regulation and cognitive focus. Do I even need to ask if you want that for our kids? So where do we start? How can we teach these important skills to our children. Try squared breathing for stress and anxiety.



Principal: Lindsey Diakiw | 905.508.7303

Vice Principal Lisa Hascal | 905.508.7303

Superintendent: Liz Davis | 905.884.4477

Trustee : Corrie McBain

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



## *A Message from Administration...*

As we await signs of Spring, we would like to reflect on the incredible events and activities experienced at Silver Pines P.S. over the winter. Our students have been working hard to protect our environment by reducing waste in the school. The first step has been to sort waste correctly and now we will move into the next phase of reducing our overall amount of waste. Please see the suggestions shared in this newsletter to help us in this endeavour. Congratulations to Ms. Green's class for making the least number of errors when sorting their waste. Well done!

Our basketball teams have been involved in a number of events and demonstrated great teamwork and have represented Silver Pines very well. We are also very proud of our Robotics teams who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Area competition and made it to the Regional competition. Congratulations! Our students have also been actively involved in a number of clubs such as The Writer's Guild, Social Justice League, Play Leaders, Unity and Diversity and Eco Club to name a few. It has been a fulfilling winter and we look forward to more in the Spring.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for Talent Night Live! Our students are ready to entertain and amaze you!

Our Staff has been hard at work developing clear and specific strategies to support all our learners. We continue to develop culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy and programming that supports Indigenous Education. The development of improved practice is executed in collaborative groups where teachers can learn with and from each other.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable March Break!

Best wishes,

*Lindsey Diakiw*  
Principal

*Lisa Hascal*  
Vice Principal



### ***Message From Our Trustee***

I hope everyone has had a great start to the second half of the school year. Over the past few months, I have had an opportunity to connect with families, students, staff members and with our broader community. I have seen a lot of exciting opportunities for students to explore their interests, celebrate their identities, and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Many students are participating in [skills competitions](#) or other events where they problem-solve, innovate, collaborate and further develop their technical skills. Students compete in robotics, construction, hairdressing, transportation, 3D animation and much more. These events are among the many options available to help students explore different careers and [pathways](#), and gain valuable experience. We are grateful for the support of community partners in helping to provide these great learning opportunities to our students.

I also want to express my appreciation to our broader school community. One of the priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to build collaborative relationships. The relationships that our schools have with families is so important. There are many different ways you can be involved - talking to your child's teacher, asking your child about homework, or volunteering on a field trip or the school council. Your contributions make a difference to your child's success and to the success of our schools.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable March Break.

Corrie McBain  
Trustee



## Planning on Moving??

Each year at this time we begin to plan our staffing and classes for the upcoming school year. It is important for us to know how many students to expect for September at Silver Pines grades JK to 8. If your children (grades JK to 7) will not be returning to our school in the fall, please inform the office as soon as possible .



This year Earth Hour will take place on Sat., March 30th from 8:30 pm – 9:30pm. In support of Earth Hour, we will participate in our own Earth Hour/ Power Hour (Annual Lights Off/ Monitors Off Hour) on Friday, March 29th from 2pm to 3pm.

## **School Council**

Our next School Council Meeting will take place April 1st at 7pm All parents are invited to attend and we are looking for new School Council Members.

### A reminder to parents/guardians who walk their pets to school:

All dogs must be on a leash and kept outside the school. Excrement must be removed by pet owners. Please help keep our property clean and healthy.



# Why Pack A Litterless Lunch?

A litterless lunch is simply that. It is a lunch that creates no waste! It involves the elimination of disposable products and encourages use of reusable containers. The goal of a litterless lunch is to reduce waste production, and therefore help to reduce our impact on the Earth.

## What Does a LITTERLESS Lunch Look Like?

### A Wasteful Lunch (DISPOSABLE)

- Sandwiches sealed in plastic bags
- Fruits and vegetables in plastic bags
- Prepackaged chips, cookies, fruit bars, granola bars, cheeses, and fruit leathers
- Crackers, pretzels, chips, and other snack foods sealed in plastic bags
- Disposable juice boxes, juice pouchs, soda cans, water bottles and milk cartons
- Plastic forks and spoons
- Paper napkins
- Reusable lunchboxes and disposable paper and plastic bags

### A Litterless Lunch (REUSABLE)

- Sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and treats in a reusable lunch container
- Cloth napkins
- Stainless-steel forks and spoons
- Reusable drink containers
- Reusable lunchboxes

\*With this type of lunch, lunch food items can be bought in larger quantities, in bulk. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well.



Pack a **Litterless Lunch!**

## Spring Math - Math is Outside Too!

Spring and nice weather make for a great time to get outdoors and connect with math. Whether you are taking a walk, filling compost bags with leaves or starting to build that garden shed, there are many opportunities to engage in rich mathematical discussions with your child.

Here are some questions you can pose to your child as you engage with nature:

- What shapes do you see in that house?
- How tall do you think that tree is?
- How far do you think we walked today?
- How many piles of leaves do you think will fit into this bag?
- How many \_\_\_ did you see on our walk?
- How many windows do you think are in that building?
- How long do you think it will take us to walk one kilometer?

If we double our pace how long do you think it will take us to get home?

So the next time you spend some time outdoors with your child, take some time to engage in some math talk!

## Money

There are many opportunities to engage your children in conversations about money. From a very young age children are interested in learning about money and leveraging these conversations can have lifelong benefits. From learning the value of coins and dollars, to budgeting and finances, talking about money supports many different mathematical concepts (e.g., adding, subtracting, percentages and estimation).

Here is a parent guide with more information about supporting financial literacy at home:

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial\\_literacy\\_parent\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_literacy_parent_guide_en.pdf)

You may also be interested in reading a new article for parents written by Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University.

[Developing Mathematical Mindsets, The Need to Interact with Numbers Flexibly and Conceptually](#)

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](#)

## Wolf Wear is here!

It is great to see students and teachers show their school spirit! Sample sizes are available in the office.

*Prices are as follows:*

- Hoodies: \$25
- T-shirts: \$12 (in grey only)
- Pants: \$25
- Beanies: \$10

There are both Youth and Adult sizes available. Go Wolves!

