



Silver Pines Public School

A Message from Administration...

It is our pleasure to welcome all students and families back to Silver Pines P.S. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer vacation. We would like to extend a special welcome to all the new families who are joining our school community. We would also like to welcome the Viola Desmond community to our building as they join us until October 18th, when their building is ready for them. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff as well.

This year we welcome Clare Gregory in our 5/6, Erin Whaling who is teaching the 2/3, Melissa Saccucci in Kindergarten and Jessica Ho, our primary prep teacher. We also would like to welcome Shauna Small as our Vice Principal.

Our school looks wonderful!! A special thank you to our amazing caretaking staff, Mr. Toffelmire, Ms. Flynn, Mr. Ivanovski and Mr. Raymer who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure the classrooms and school grounds were ready for us. Also, thank you to Ms. Gould and Ms. Morra who have worked so hard in the office to organize and get things ready for the start of the school year.

We would also like to extend a special appreciation to last year's School Council who supported many of our events and activities last year and purchased student agendas for this year. Thanks!! Our first School Council Meeting will take place on Monday, October 7th at 7 p.m. All parents are welcome.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Curriculum Night and BBQ on Wednesday, October 23rd at 5:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to come and see the school and meet friends, neighbors and your children's new teachers.

We are grateful your support and we are eager to work with you throughout the year. Have a fantastic year!
Best Regards,

Lindsey Diakiw

Principal

Shauna Small

Vice Principal



Follow us on Twitter for updates and school news.
@Pines_ps

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>



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.

A Letter From Your Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Corrie McBain

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol Fair Notice

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting fall 2019.

Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive. The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide.

In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice. Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, refer to the print version of the **YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol** on the on the board website.

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided.

Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you and a copy will be created and stored in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained until the student turns 31 years of age. As per the protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over) consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol please contact your school principal.

Safe Arrival: Calling the School Regarding Student Absences

Safe Arrival:

The safe arrival of students to school every day is critical and of utmost importance. Please be aware of how important it is for students to be on time and in class at the beginning of the school day. Missed school days should be avoided as it leads to gaps in student learning from grade to grade.

If your child will be late or absent, parents must call the school at 905-508-7303 to report your child's absence or late **before 8:30am**. You may also leave a message between 4:00pm and 8:00am. If your child's absence is not reported and the office is unable to reach you in order to confirm your child's absence then we will continue to follow the safe arrival protocol and contact York Regional Police. We will be closely monitoring student lates and student absenteeism and we will contact you directly if either is extensive.

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.

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.



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 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 obscene, discriminatory, or refer to drugs, alcohol, smoking or sex. Clothing which contravenes the Human Rights Code in any way is unacceptable.
- ◆ Clothing and accessories/paraphernalia depicting violence or death or that identify or promote cults or gangs are unacceptable.
- ◆ Students will wear appropriate clothing for gym. (shorts, t-shirt, socks, running shoes).



School Council

Join us at our next meeting on Monday, October 7th @ 7pm

Meetings are open to all parents.

We hope to see you there!



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 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. **There is a “Kiss’N Ride at the front of the school that is for parents to drop off children. Parents should only drop off in the curbside lane (next to school), not the middle lane. This will avoid dangerous situations of students walking among moving cars.** The parking at the front of the school is reserved for visitors and office staff.

On the north side of the school (side entrance) there is also a “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 only. 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.

Student Entry and Exit Important Information for Parents

All School doors will be open at 8:15 a.m. and then be locked again at 8:30 a.m. after the bell rings. Students can enter the building after 8:15 a.m. and there will be supervision inside the school. **There is no supervision outside from 8:15 a.m. -8:30 a.m. and no supervision prior to 8:15 a.m..** At 8:28 AM, the first bell rings.

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

- Grade 1, 2, 3 - Primary Doors (downstairs hallway)
- Grade 3/4, 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 up 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.





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 HEALTH PLANS

If your child has any serious health concerns such as anaphylaxis, epilepsy, diabetes, and asthma please ensure that we have a completed health care plan on file and the appropriate medication at the school. **Students who are anaphylaxis are expected to wear an epipen on their person at all times and an extra epipen should be provided to the school to keep in the 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 Student Verification Form, being sent home this month, is reviewed, signed and returned the next day. Any changes should be made on this form so that the office is aware.

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.

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.

INDOOR SHOES

Please ensure that your children have appropriate footwear for school: an outdoor pair of shoes or boots as well as an indoor pair of shoes for classroom/school and physical education use. Indoor shoes help keep our hallways and classrooms clean and dry to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students.

Caring and Safe Schools

Greetings families of Silver Pines,

During the first week of school, our students and staff engaged in conversations around caring, safe and inclusive school environments. In a school assembly, we discussed the elements of a Caring and Safe School that would support the academic achievement and well-being of all students, including:

- Demonstrating positive character attributes (such as empathy, courage and respect for human rights and inclusivity)
- Items and behaviours that are not allowed on school property (such as e-cigarettes, cannabis and scented products)
- What happens in situations of discipline
- Standing up for each other in bullying situations, including methods of reporting incidents of bullying:
- Tell a caring adult
- Use the YRDSB's ["Report It Button"](#) (located on our school website)
- [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)

For more details on each of these items, please read the YRDSB Start-Up Package given to our students following the assembly (along with a sign-off sheet that must be returned by September 14, 2018).

You can also visit the [YRDSB's Caring and Safe Schools](#) website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

We hope that you have a wonderful week and thank you for supporting our safe, positive and inclusive school community.



Dear Families,

York Region District School Board's **Elementary International and Indigenous Languages Program** is pleased to offer over 20 languages at 35 different sites from Tuesday to Friday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Our Board has one of the largest International and Indigenous Languages programs in the province with approximately 15,000 students who register each year.

Classes run 2.5 hours once a week for 30 weeks for Elementary SK-8 students who want to learn a new language or maintain their heritage language. The cost for the entire program is \$20.00. Program brochures will also be sent home from your child(ren)'s school.

We would like to share with you our program information:

- New student registration (New registrants must submit a copy of the Birth Certificate) begins at the language location during the specified registration hours listed on our brochure or on our webpage.
- Please note online registration through EDSBY is now closed so families must register in person.
- First day of classes begin at the language location during the specified dates and times listed on our brochure or on our webpage.
- Students pre-registered online through EDSBY are to attend the first day of classes at the language location during the specified dates and times listed on our brochure.

Huron Heights Secondary School is a new language site opening for the 2019-2020 school year.

For elementary courses, registration times and locations, please see our [updated flyer](#).

For elementary program information, please visit:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/International-Languages-Elementary-Program.aspx>

If you require any further information, please contact us at:

international.languages@yrdsb.ca

Thank you,

International and Indigenous Languages Program

**JEWISH
FAMILY
&CHILD**

October, 2019

WIDOW/WIDOWERS under 68 BEREAVEMENT- A six session evening group for men and women **under 68 years of age** and who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Topics to be discussed may include: coping with grief, living with loneliness, changing relationships, and new beginnings. **Wednesdays October 30/19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St- Lipa Green Centre.**

As with all of our programs, registration is required. Our groups and workshops are open to all members of the community regardless of cultural, religious and/or racial background and we offer a sliding scale for those who require fee reductions. For more information or to register please call Shawna Sidney at 416-638-7800 Ext # 6215 or go to our website at www.jfandcs.com/groups

Islamic Heritage Month

Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) and the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS) invites our YRDSB school communities (families, staff, and students) to an exciting evening of learning and dialogue. Children will have an opportunity to listen to stories by Muslim authors, while families, staff, and community engage in learning and dialogue that celebrates diverse Islamic Heritages.

When: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Where: Highgate Public School Library – 35 Highgate Drive, Markham, ON L3R 3R5

Please register at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYQHi7wLp-uJS97u1ksqdapxNsmR1o3ptwANSaF6lAkv_oMA/viewform

LGBT History Month

The month of October commemorates the impact that gay, lesbian and transgender individuals have had in our local communities, nationally and internationally. It is an opportunity to build awareness of the contributions the 2SLGBTQ+ community has made in Canada and abroad.

Orange Shirt Day

The Orange Shirt Day movement started in 2013 to highlight the pain and suffering of generations of Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools across the country. The last residential schools closed less than 25 years ago, after operating for over a century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, BC, in 1973.

The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that **every child matters**.

We will be recognizing **Orange Shirt Day** on Friday October 4th with an educational assembly for all students. We are asking all students to wear an **ORANGE** shirt on that day in recognition of this movement.



Make A Commitment TO WALK, CYCLE OR RIDE THE BUS This School Year!

It's the start of 2019/2020 school year! We want all of our students and families to take a positive step and encourage all families to incorporate active school travel in their children's daily routines.

There are many benefits to walking and cycling and riding the bus to and from school including:

- Improved physical and mental health;
- Greater social development and higher academic performance,
- Reduced traffic congestion on school site and in the neighbourhood; and
- Reduced air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Will your children walk /wheel or ride the bus to and from school? York Region District School Board is committed to encouraging Active School Travel in all of our school communities and providing education and information on initiatives for schools to participate in. If Active School Travel every day is a challenge, choose two or three days a week to try and make a change. If you are interested in championing Active School Travel initiatives at your Children's school or would like more information please contact the Active School Travel Team at activeschooltravel@yrdsb.ca.

October Is International Walk to School Month (IWALK) - IWALK DAY IS October 2, 2019

International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual event that takes place in October to raise awareness about the benefits of walking and other types of active transportation to get to and from school. It is a great opportunity for students, families and the school community to be part of a global event to celebrate the benefits of active transportation.

Organize an IWALK celebration at your school. Visit [Ontario Active School Travel](#) for resources and ideas to help you plan and promote International Walk to School Day and Month in your school community. Register your school's activities and be entered into draws for prizes. Your school will also receive a Certificate of Recognition.



Dear Families:

EQAO has released the results to the Grade 3 and 6 testing from May of 2019. Silver Pines has shown improvement in the last several years overall in Reading, Writing, particularly in Grade 6. In the last couple of years, along with the province, we have seen a decline in Math scores. In response to the decline in scores we have developed a school plan for improvement that has a focus on improving math instruction across the grades. We have a math lead teacher and weekly meetings in small teams to learn and perfect our practice in math instruction. We have spent significant time looking at the achievement of our students with special needs in the area of math and have implemented targeted interventions to support their individual learning needs. As a school we participate in a area wide Math Network learning and will continue to analyze our EQAO results to develop specific plans for our students moving forward.

The following pages highlight the results. These results reflect all students, including the 38 students who were exempt from participation. When looking at the results of just our participating students the results range from 5% to 8% higher than reflected below.

Lindsey Diakiw
Principal



Contextual Data

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Number of students	45	57
English language learners	38%	32%
Students with special education needs (excluding gifted)	13%	16%
First language learned at home was other than English	58%	51%
Students' time in Canada		
Born in Canada	69%	61%
In Canada less than one year	2%	0%
In Canada one year or more but less than three years	16%	12%
In Canada three years or more	7%	25%

Attitudes and Behaviour Data

Grade 3

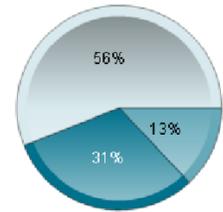
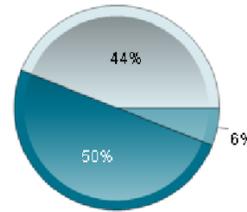
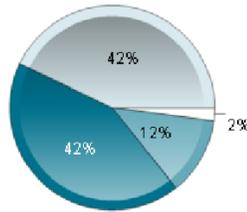
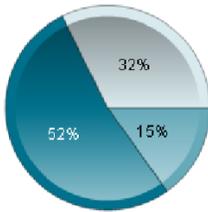
Grade 6

I like to read.

I like mathematics.

I like to read.

I like mathematics.



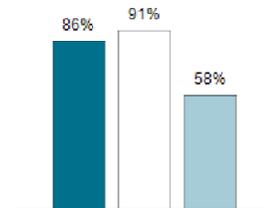
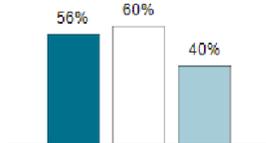
Blank or ambiguous
 Never
 Sometimes
 Most of the time

Achievement Data

Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)

Grade 3

Grade 6



Reading
 Writing
 Mathematics