



Silver Pines
Public School

Message from Administration,

Another year at Silver Pines has come to a close. We have had teams, and plays and show-cases and lots and lots of learning.

Our School council has raised close to \$5000 on our Big Box of Cards fundraiser and \$21,600 on Pizza. That council money provided us with a new scoreboard, carpets for classrooms, our makerspace and green screen room materials, our agendas for next school year, Raz kids online for primaries, musical instruments for our primary program next year, grad, document cameras, ipads and laptops, and new gym equipment. Wow. What an amazing contribution to our school community.

We have continued our work on improving our teaching and learning of mathematics and will be looking at our school data in September to refine our work based on evidence of student achievement and well-being.

We welcome new parents to our **school council** and hope to see new faces at our first meeting **September 12th**.

We have had our Gr 8 graduation and saw off another outstanding group of young adults who have been with us for years. You will be missed. Thank you all again for your support as partners in learning. Have a wonderful, safe, restful summer.

Lindsey Diakiw & Trish Yeates

A Message from our Trustee

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for all that you have done to help make this school year a successful one for our students.

We share a common goal - to give our young people every opportunity to reach their full potential, and we all have a role to play in supporting that goal. However you choose to get involved, your engagement and support make a difference. We know that good schools become better schools when they are connected with families.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our students, families, staff members and community partners, we are creating a welcoming, caring and inclusive learning environment that fosters student achievement and well-being.

As we move into summer, I encourage you to seek out opportunities to continue and complement the learning that takes place throughout the school year. That could mean taking a nature walk, visiting a museum or reading a book. Whatever your plans are over the next few months, I hope you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Corrie McBain

Principal: Lindsey Diakiw | 905.508.7303
Vice Principal Trish Yeates | 905.508.7303
Superintendent: Rita Russo | 905.884.4477
Trustee : Corrie McBain

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



Tentative Organization for 2016/2017

The Board continues to respond to the Ministry of Education's mandated requirements related to primary class size. In doing so, this has allowed us to make great gains in creating primary classes that maximize teacher time with students in support of their learning.

As an administrator I have worked with our Superintendents and Board staff to plan for the upcoming school year. Each school board in the province will have to meet Ministry expectations. In general, on a board-wide basis, 90% of primary classes must have 20 or fewer students, and only 10% may have up to 23. In addition, while classes in grades 4-8 will not have a hard cap, each school board will be required to demonstrate regional averages.

This is our tentative classroom organization for September 2016:

Kindergarten	Grade 4/5A
Kindergarten	Grade 5A
Kindergarten	Grade 5B
Grade 1A	Grade 6A
Grade 1/2A	Grade 6B
Grade 1/2B	Grade 7A
Grade 2/3A	Grade 7B
Grade 2/3B	Grade 7/8A
Grade 3A	Grade 8A
Grade 3/4A	Grade 8B
Grade 4A	Autism Spectrum Community Class

SCHOOL BUS for 2016/2017

Please visit www.schoolbuscity.com for information in August regarding school bus pick up and drop off times.

ONLY students who qualify to ride the bus may get on the bus. Students who are in grade 4 and who may have taken the bus last year are not eligible to ride the school bus if they live within 1.6kms of the school.



Reminders for September:

- 1st day of school is Tuesday, September 6th, 2016
- JK students will attend for the afternoon only from 1:20-3:15 on Sept 6th
- Students will find out who their teacher is on the first day of school.
- If your child will be absent, please report the absence on the safe arrival # 1-855-203-2994 or online at yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com before 8:30am on the day of the absence or late arrival.



Build a Tower

Use Lego, pennies, wooden blocks, popsicle sticks or any basic building material you can find. Have players roll a pair of dice and add the two numbers. The player gets that number in building materials if the dice are added correctly and uses them to build a tower. Go through 10 or 15 rounds. The player with the tallest or most creative tower at the end wins. Instead of rolling dice, you may create a general math board and include a problem on each square.

Yahtzee - This affordable classic dice game from Milton Bradley combines luck and strategy. Players practice sequencing, critical thinking skills, addition and multiplication facts. The game retails for approximately \$10; score pads can be purchased separately for around \$4.

Bunco - A game entirely based on chance, rather than strategy, Bunco can provide a lot of educational fun for even very small children. The object of the game is to collect points for rolling certain combinations of dice. Keeping score can help to practice basic addition, and regularly calculating how many points are needed to reach the goal of 21 can be encouraged as a way to practice subtraction facts. Bunco rules can be found easily in an online search, or the boxed game including dice, score cards and complete rules can be purchased at many large retail stores for around \$15

Learn Multiplication and Addition Math Facts With Going to Boston

Also known as Yankee Grab and Newmarket, *Going to Boston* is a well known and easy to play math game that can help kids learn addition and multiplication skills. It can be modified to provide easier or more challenging versions, based on the skill level and age of the players.

Skills Learned

- Less than and greater than
- Addition
- Multiplication

Materials Needed:

- 3 dice
- Paper and pen for scoring

How to Play Going to Boston

Have each player roll one die. The player with the highest number goes first. Each player in turn rolls all three of the dice. After the first throw, remove the die with the highest number and put it aside. Roll the two remaining dice and again put the highest number aside. Roll the last die and add up the numbers on all three dice to get the player's score for that round. Record the score on a pad of paper. Continue taking turns moving clockwise around the table until all players have had a turn. The highest score for the round wins. Play a number of rounds and either add up a combined score at the end or tally winning rounds to come up with a game champion.

Variations of Going to Boston

- Play with two dice for younger children to learn addition skills.
- Keep the lowest numbered die rather than highest for a slightly easier game that teaches

addition skills.

- Increase the number of dice in the game to 4+ to learn more complicated addition skills.
- Learn multiplication by taking the sum of the first two dice and multiplying it by the third

Teaching Math to Children with War Math Game Using Dice

Based on the card game by the same name, this is a fun and easy dice game that can be modified to teach addition, subtraction and multiplication skills.

Skills Learned

- Less than and greater than
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Place value

Materials Required

- 2 dice for each player
- Counters (beads, sticks, rocks, pennies, etc.) and/or paper and pen for scoring

How to Play War

Have each player roll one die. The player with the highest number goes first. Each player rolls their two dice. The numbers on both dice are added together to come up with an individual player's score. The player with the highest scoring combination wins the round. Winning rounds can be noted on a pad of paper with a tally mark under the winning player's name, or with counters such as beads, rocks, or pennies. Play a number of rounds and have players add up their counter or tally marks at the end to come up with a game champion.

Variations of the Game War

- Play with one die for younger children to practice basic less than/greater than sequencing.
- Learn subtraction skills by having players subtract the lower die from the higher die to come up with a number for each round.
- Increase the number of dice in the game to 3+ to teach more complicated addition skills.
- Practice place value skills by having players create a double-digit number from the rolled dice. For example, rolling a two and a five becomes either 25 or 52.
- Learn multiplication skills by multiplying the numbers on the two dice to determine the winning score.

Dice-based math games are a wonderful way for kids to learn addition, subtraction, and multiplication, as well as practice other mathematical skills. With some basic supplies and a little imagination, the possibilities for learning and fun are endless

Summer Family Learning Activities

There are many enjoyable and easy ways for parents to help their children continue learning during the summer. The best ways to support learning during the summer do not necessarily involve tutoring, textbooks, worksheets, and quizzes. Summer is an excellent time for informal education such as trips to museums, public libraries and parks. Children should use their vacation from school to discover the joy of learning, reading and writing about things that interest them.

During the school year, parents help their children succeed in school by checking their homework, reading them bedtime stories, and limiting the amount of time they watch television and play video games. Children need similar academic support during the summer.

Parents don't need college degrees or even the ability to read, write, or speak English to support learning during the summer. All parents can involve their children in fun, everyday activities such as cooking a new recipe or shopping at a local supermarket. These activities can help students practice their math skills during the summer. Here are a few specific ideas for summer activities parents can use to support learning.

Reading and Writing

Share the joy of books by reading aloud to your children every day and having them read aloud to you.

Let your children see you reading for pleasure.

Subscribe to magazines and newspapers and discuss current events with your children.

Praise your children for reading.

Make weekly visits to the local library and participate in special reading summer programs that most libraries offer.

Math and Science

Encourage your children to watch educational television programs about science and nature. Ask them questions about what they watch. Try the experiments at home.

Bake cookies to practice fractions and measuring ingredients and make homemade ice cream and other foods to show them about the properties of salt, liquids and solids and how to measure temperature.

Visit a local park and observe different types of rocks, animals, insects and leaves

Use an outdoor thermometer to track weather, make predictions, and observe patterns.

Plant a garden to show how seeds develop into plants and how fertilizer and weather can affect growth.

Participate in a local recycling program.

Check out books from your local library that contain ideas for science experiments.

Use events to explore the cultures and customs of other countries.

Make maps of your neighbourhood and places you visit with your children.

Interview older community members about their lives and the history of the neighbourhood.

Learn capitals, countries and continents by playing games and taking virtual trips online.

Take field trips to museums, botanical gardens, zoos and local history sites.

Write to local elected officials and newspaper editors about current issues.

Summer learning activities nurture children's natural curiosity to learn new concepts, skills and information. All parents can help their children succeed in school and life by providing fun enrichment opportunities during the summer and throughout the school year

GOODBYES AND WELCOMES

The end of the school year is always bitter–sweet when it comes to staff and students moving on to the new things. We will miss our grade 8s who move onto the next chapter in their lives. We wish them all the best with their new high school experiences.

We say goodbye to a number of staff members. Ms. Sousa will be leaving us to teach at Oak Ridges. Ms Harper will be moving to Beverly Acres Public School, Ms Merchant will be going to Aurora Grove Public School. Ms Zeraatkari will be moving to Northern Lights PS. We will say goodbye to Ms Themelis who will be leaving our kindergarten classroom and good bye to Mrs Schouten who will be leaving our ASD class and Ms Jafari who is becoming a school secretary. Thank you and goodbye to Ms Fassel, Mr. Johnson, Ms Ciavatta, Ms Strul, and Ms Rankel will be moving on to other positions and we wish them well.

A special goodbye and congratulations to Ms Paul, Mr. Densham, Mrs Kirshenblatt and Mrs Danson on their retirements this year. We wish you the best in the coming years.

We will welcome new EAs, Mrs Osbourne, Ms Wirsta and Ms Dowdall to our team. We also welcome Ms Hassell to our intermediate team and a new Instrumental music teacher (TBD)

We will be welcoming back staff who have been on leave. We look forward to working with all the new staff who will join us next year and will miss the ones we got to know and who became part of our lives and school community.



**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY SUMMER!!**