



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 community has raised \$3300 on our fun fair and dance-a thon and \$18,000 on pizza. That council money provided us with a Drumming workshop for students, resources for our Math Studio and our Lego Makerspace. The funds have subsidised Scientist in the School for all students and supported Graduation and has paid for Agendas for all students for next year. 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 **October 2nd**.

We offer our big CONGRATULATIONS to our grade 8 graduates. Our Gr 8 graduation was Tuesday night and send 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 and Trish Yeates

A Message from our Trustee

As we near the end of the school year, I want to thank you for all that you do to strengthen our schools and communities. This is a good time to celebrate your child's achievements over the past year.

One of our goals in the [Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning." That includes a culture that emphasizes engagement and positive relationships among all the members of the school community – students, staff members, families and community members.

You, as parents/guardians, are our most important partners when it comes to education. The support you have provided to your child throughout this past school year will help to strengthen our schools and make a difference to your child's learning.

I encourage you to continue engaging your child in learning throughout the summer, and to help them to see the connections between what they are learning in school and the world around them. There are so many opportunities to do this over the summer, whether that's planning a budget with your child, enjoying the natural beauty in York Region, reading a book or visiting local sites. Whatever your plans are this summer, I wish you all a successful end to the school year, and a safe and enjoyable summer.

Trustee 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 2017/2018

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 2017

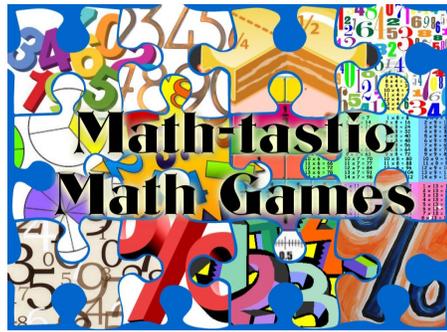
Kindergarten	Grade 5
Kindergarten	Grade 5
Kindergarten	Grade 6
Kindergarten	Grade 6
Grade 1	Grade 6/7
Grade 1/2	Grade 7
Grade 2	Grade 7\8
Grade 2/3	Grade 8
Grade 3	Grade 8
Grade 3 /4	Autism Spectrum Community Class
Grade 4	
Grade 4	

SCHOOL BUS for 2017/2018

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.





Looking for some fun, easy games to play with a preschooler? Try math.

“Playing math games with children—even ones that we adults perceive to be simple—can help spark important mathematical ideas,” says EDC’s Paul Goldenberg. “Even better, children love them.” But playing games isn’t just all about fun. Research has shown that informal math puzzles and games can help prepare students for the mathematical tasks they will face in kindergarten and beyond. So, what are some simple games that can pique young mathematicians’ interest? Educators from EDC’s [Games for Young Mathematicians](#) project pick five favorites.

1. ANIMAL PUZZLES

Creating designs out of pattern blocks—those multicolored trapezoids, hexagons, and triangles that are a mainstay in most preschool classrooms—is a great way for children to build geometric thinking. While playing [Animal Puzzles](#), a pattern block game, children also explore rotations and reflections, thus building their spatial skills.

“Building with pattern blocks is all about putting things together and then taking them apart,” says Goldenberg. “These activities help children see the world as being made up of shapes and also prepares them for later mathematical ideas.”

The best part about this activity? It is designed with a wide range of students in mind, from children who are just practicing placing the blocks to those who can complete a challenging puzzle on their own.

Skills practiced: geometric reasoning, building patterns, naming shapes

2. WHAT’S MY PATTERN?

[What’s My Pattern?](#) is another engaging game involving pattern blocks. To play, work with a child to build a pattern, and then ask the child to continue the series.

“Children are naturally drawn to patterns, and pattern recognition is a key component of algebraic reasoning,” says EDC’s Kristen Reed. “This is a fun game that children can easily play with each other.”

Building simple patterns—even as basic as *rhombus, square, rhombus, square*—is appropriate for even the youngest children. Teachers can vary the complexity of the pattern by adding more blocks or even repeating some of the blocks in the series.

Skills practiced: algebraic thinking, naming shapes, building patterns

3. HOW MANY ARE HIDING?

[How Many Are Hiding?](#) is a quick game that helps children practice identifying how many items are in a collection without needing to count every item singly—math educators call this *subitizing*. This game is especially appropriate for preschool students who already know how to count.

To play, lay out a small assortment of coins on a flat surface. Ask children to count the assortment, and then cover some up with your hand. Now ask: How many are hiding?

A fun variant of this game is to play it on your hands: “Put up a few fingers on each hand, and then ask the child to figure out how many fingers you are *not* raising,” says EDC’s Jessica Young. “You can really play this game anywhere.”

Skills practiced: subitizing, composing and decomposing number, comparing numbers

4. JUMPING ON THE LILY PADS

Young children might enjoy a game that helps them develop a mental number line: [Jumping on the Lily Pads](#). In this game, children take turns rolling a number cube and moving a “frog” along the game board. The goal is to be the first whose frog reaches its lily pad.

There is advanced mathematics hiding within this game, making it a great way for children to stretch their math muscles. And parents can play an important role by asking questions, such as, “Who is further ahead?” and “How many more spaces does the frog have to jump?”

“Children have to build the idea that whole numbers are spaced equally along the number line,” says Young. “The more that children develop a mental number line, the more prepared they are for the math tasks that await them in kindergarten.”

Skills practiced: recognizing written numerals, using one-to-one correspondence when counting, subitizing, counting on

5. TWO NUMBERS

Games that build fluency with numbers are also important in the early years. One such game is [Two Numbers](#), in which children learn to recognize written numerals, place them in the correct order, and practice addition skills.

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

It is always bittersweet to say good bye to the wonderful people we work with. We are sad to see a member of our Silver Pines family leave but we are also excited for them and their new opportunities that they have to look forward to.

We say goodbye and offer congratulations to our illustrious Vice Principal, Trish Yeates, who is being promoted to Principal of Silver Stream Public School. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her the last two years. We will be welcoming Lisa Hascal who is an experienced Vice Principal and who I had the pleasure of working with for 5 years at my previous school. We are lucky to have her join us here at the Pines.

We have a few teachers and Educational Assistants who will be moving on the other positions as well. Ms Leppington will be going to Regency Acres PS, Ms DeLuca will be going to Crosby Heights, Ms Ages will be joining the Central Students Services team, Ms Hassell will be moving to Lake Wilcox PS and Mrs Laco will be moving to a position at another school. We also say goodbye to Mrs Cooper and Mrs Dowdall, Ms Matthews and Miss Kines, Ms Fassell, Ms Gonsalves and Ms Sunderland. We will miss the dedication and care that all of these professionals took every day to support our students.

Finally Ms Caruso will be retiring after 25 years at Silver Pines. We figured over the years she has been the organizer for raising well over \$100,000 in funds for Silver Pines. We wish her the best with her new plans.

We will be welcoming a few new staff members and look forward to having them join our family



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