

## *A Message from Administration...*

Dear Families,

We hope that all of you are well and healthy. It has been almost two weeks since schools re-opened. We have been busy at school adjusting to the changes of the pandemic in our community and Region; including accommodating many students and families to remain online for a brief period of time. Staff at the school have worked diligently to support all of our learners as they have transitioned back from the winter break. We are happy to see all of our students return. We sincerely appreciate the partnership we have with you in supporting your children. As you know, the mental health and well-being of all of our students, is our top priority. Please click on the following links for more information and resources available to you.

Mental Health resources: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/>

Community Resources:

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/covid-community-resources-behaviour-mental-health-and-financial-supports>

Programs: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/programs-children-youth-and-families>

Online Learning Resources

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/online-learning-resources-parents-families-and-students>

Our virtual morning announcements continue to celebrate the diversity and inclusion in our community. This month, one example of that was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was honored in many classrooms with the screening of a short video about the Holocaust. There were activities such as an award-winning 21-minute animated film for children in grades 4-8, based on the book, The Tattooed Torah. Another celebration that students will participate in is the upcoming Lunar New year and we would like to wish all staff, students and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration in the company of family and friends.

Finally, the winter thus far has brought some cold weather and a lot of snow. Be mindful that students will be going outside to play during recess and for exercise and outdoor learning during Daily Physical Activity in the mornings if the temperature is below -20 C. Please ensure to send your child to school with warm clothes (Hat, mitts, scarves, snow pants, warm jacket) and a change of footwear and clothes as needed.

Have a wonderful weekend and please stay safe!



Kindergarten registration for the  
2022/20223 school year started on Friday,  
January 14th 2021.

Families can register using the following options:

1. Online Edsby by using this link: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/elementary-school/kindergarten/kindergarten-registration>
2. Fillable PDF [Elementary School Registration](#) Form on the YRDSB website. Families need to email the completed registration form to the school's email address found on the school website.

### **Community Information Sessions - Transition to Grade 9**

Parents and families of students in grade 8 are invited to participate in a Pathway Planning and Secondary Course Selection Information Evening. The virtual sessions will be held in the evening as per the dates provided in the attached memorandum. For more information please refer to the following link:

[Pathway Planning and Secondary Course Selection](#)

### **SPPS SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE**

The Silver Pines School Council had our second meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Below is a brief summary of decisions made to support the school and enhance programming. A full record of our meeting notes are available on the school website on the Parent page.

- 1) **In-school Field Trip financial support:**  
School Council supported financing a reduced cost for one in-school field trip per class to a cost of \$10/student. Additional funding was provided for families who may require additional financial support.
- 2) **Approved Leveled Readers in Primary classrooms:**  
School Council supported upgrading and topping up the Primary division leveled reading books.

## Reporting timelines

This is the time that our teachers are busy writing reports for their students. If you have any questions or concerns in regarding your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher. Report cards will be available to parents virtually February 24, 2022.

If you are looking for more information about the key elements of the report cards in your native language, please refer to the following links.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reportCard.html>

## Inclement Weather (IW) Procedures During the Pandemic

When an inclement weather day is decided by our school board, transportation to schools is cancelled due to unsafe road conditions. Due to staffing shortages within our system, YRDSB has determined that schools will be closed on Inclement Weather days as appropriate supervision cannot be maintained with current public health restrictions in the building. In these instances, families are notified the morning of and learning will take place remotely.

- All elementary and secondary schools will be closed to students
- Office staff will mark all students using the attendance code of BC (Bad Weather / Bus Cancellation. Edsby and Trillium Quick Tips.
- Before and After (B&A) Care programs will **not** run.
- Child Care Centres may remain open at the discretion of the operator

In the event of a school closure, this information will be communicated to local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.

- Make sure you have alternate child care arrangements planned for IW days (e.g. – a heavy snowstorm) when schools are closed to students.

### Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our [values](#) as an organization and the goals set out in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

On the website, you can also find information about the [Board of Trustees](#), including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board

meetings. Following [a review](#) completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to [committee structures](#) and [delegation process](#) to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year [schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared](#). This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the **student trustee elections**. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees).

Throughout February, we recognize **Black History Month**. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to [read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone](#). You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our [TuneIn YRDSB podcast](#), exploring Black History Month and beyond.

Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge **Pink Shirt Day** and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to [prevent and address bullying](#) and create [equitable and inclusive learning environments](#).

**Family Day** and **March Break** are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break.

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what **graduation ceremonies** will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

Simon Cui  
Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

## Diversity Is Our Strength!

Lunar New Year is on Feb.1, 2022. Lunar New Year is a joyous cultural for many Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian communities. For some people, this occasion has religious significance. At this time of the year, families come together to spend time with one another. Many customs are associated with this festive occasion. They include cleaning houses, paying off debts, settling old arguments, and other means of making a "fresh start". In some places of the world, people light firecrackers and watch lion dances to celebrate Lunar New Year.

For most families, they enjoy a feast and exchange red envelopes filled with money.

We wish all staff, students and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration in the company of family and friends.



**TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH 2022**  
தமிழ் மரபுத் திங்கள் 2022

**HER STORIES**

**Tamil Women Excellence**  
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

WOMEN OF CELEBRITY: HEMALATA, ANITA, RANI VELLU SACHIDARAN, KANAKA MARUDU, BODHA SUDHA, KESAVASUBRAMANIAM

Tamil Heritage Month 2022 revolves around the theme of Tamil Women Excellence, with the aim to showcase the strength and resilience of Tamil Women who continue to contribute to our history and society. This poster is a collection of few works by three Tamil women and a depiction of the legacy of Tamil Women throughout history. It celebrates and acknowledges change makers and the long lasting impact of Tamil Women Excellence throughout the years.

Tamil Women in our society continue to persevere and work tirelessly to break barriers, while building new identities for themselves and every Tamil Women around the world. The work done by Tamil Heritage Month Council and Tamil Civic Action throughout the month of January will focus on sharing their stories and motivating our future generations of Tamil Women to continue on the path of excellence.

Presented by public libraries from Durham and York Region —

**Black Excellence in STEM Careers and Research**

Featuring Black Excellence in the field of STEM. Margaret Ikape, PhD candidate at University of Toronto, shares her passion for science, her journey, and research interests in the fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Session is hosted live on Zoom.

**Monday, Feb 7 | 7 pm**

Join us for this free online program.  
Register at <https://bit.ly/nplblackSTEM>