



# SILVER PINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

112 Stave Cr.  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4C 9J2

Tel: 905 508-7303  
Fax: 905 508-7351

## *A message from Administration....*

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to all our new and returning families! We hope you had a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer. Our caring, professional and dedicated school team has been working hard to prepare to welcome your children back to school. We recognize that the pandemic and school closures affected students and families in different ways, and will prioritize the health, safety and well-being of your child as we support them in transitioning back to school.

Our first two weeks back have gone relatively smoothly due of all the hard work on the part of our staff and due to the flexibility and cooperation from all of our students and families. We are getting into the groove for what promises to be a successful school year for all.

We scheduled our staff to organize our school bus students to get to their right buses. In the first week we faces some challenges with transportation scheduling but we hope that the issues have been resolved. If there are any continued concerns, please reach out to the office.

We continue to promote students and families to walk to and from school. For those that choose to drive, please use the **Kiss and Ride driveway** at the side of the school to drop off or pick up your child. Staff are here to support the transition of your child from the car to the building. Parents should stay in their car at all times.

**PARKING IN THE FIRE ROUTE IS PROHIBITED** at all times. If you do need to park at the school, please park in the parking spaces at the side of the school. Spaces at the front of the school are limited and reserved for our YMCA Day Care provider and school staff. Spots are also available on the street. Please observe and follow traffic signs.

In order to maintain physical distancing requirements and safety for all, please remind your children to always use their designated doors to enter and exit the building. Students are to go directly to class as they arrive in the morning after 8:15 am. Ideally, students should be in their rooms ready to learn at 8:30 a.m. In order to create a set of routines for your child(ren) please always use the same designated door for your child (ren) entering and exiting the school building. If you are on property to support your child's transition into the building, please make sure you wear your mask at all times when on school property and support your child to have their's on as well as they enter the school environment (i.e yards, building).

### **Daily reminders: Daily Screening and Required Completion of Forms**

Please complete an [online self-assessment COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) (please click on Check for Symptoms Daily) prior to entering the school on a daily basis. The link can be accessed by computer, tablet or smartphone. Please be mindful of NEW and CHANGED protocols to the Public Health self-screening tool. Upon completion of the self-assessment, every day before you come in the building, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the [Confirmation Form](#).



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In the event your child shows symptoms while at school, a family member will be contacted for pick-up and the student will remain in our Isolation Room under supervision of a staff member until the family member arrives. If there are any questions, please way on the side of caution and contact the school or Public Health for direction.

Thank you to our families for remembering to pack lunches and snacks each day, as parents/guardians are not permitted to drop off lunches throughout the day.

## **Hybrid Learning:**

In this year we prepared our classrooms for Hybrid Learning. The hybrid model provides flexibility for students to move to remote learning if needed, for example, if they need to isolate as a result of a COVID-19 exposure. To ensure access and continuity of learning for students, our teachers set up their google classroom for students to access. We shared the Class Placement and Digital Learning Platform Information with Families prior to September 9<sup>th</sup> to supportively welcome our in-person and remote learners on the first day. An option to change your child's Learning Platform came through a survey this week. Deadline to complete is Friday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. After this deadline, if there are any requests to change the Learning Platform for your child, it will be reviewed under the guidelines for exceptional circumstances by the school administration. Contact the school for more details. Our school staff will continue to reach out to families with specific information about their classes if it's needed by the parents. For more information on Public Health guidelines, please click on the following link: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/2021-2022-school-year>

## **Remote/Hybrid Learning Tech Support:**

We are aware that sometimes setting up technology can be frustrating for many parents on a good day. If you are experiencing issues with your Board-provided Chromebook or connecting, please check out our [Tech Support](#) pages. If you can't find the information you need, and require support with your Board-issued device or account, please complete the [Student Tech Help Form](#). You can also click on the following link for more information.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/departments/information-technology-services/remotehybrid-learning-tech-support>

**Just in case if you won't be able to resolve the issue please call the school office for support or email your child's teacher.**

## **Supporting Mental Health and Wellness**

Going back to school after a summer break can be an adjustment, even under normal circumstances. This year brings additional challenges and stress because of COVID-19. Please see these [Tips for Families to Support Mental Health and Wellness During the Return to School](#).



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## Trustee Greetings

Please see attached for a message from our school Trustee, Simon Cui.

## YRDSB Re-Opening Plan

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19>

## Mental Health & Well-Being

Your mental health of your child(ren) is our top priorities. Therefore, all of our teachers started teaching about The ABCs of Mental Health Lesson Series from the beginning of the year. All of our homeroom teachers will facilitate this learning with their homeroom class by the end of September. For more details, you may want to contact your child's homeroom teacher.

## Start- UP Package

This start-up package includes important information about our school, and we encourage you to review it. Families will receive the Guide to the School Year which includes important Board information. A booklet will be sent home to face-to-face learners and a digital copy is also available on our school or school board website.

If you have not had an opportunity to review the school reopening information on the Board website, we encourage you to do so.

We know many families have questions about what to expect this school year, and information and resources, including frequently asked questions are available and continue to be updated at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

## Cellphone Use at School

In 2019 the Province passed a Directive that has put restrictions on the use of cellphones in public schools. Based on this Directive our Board Code of Conduct limits the use of cellphones in schools. Parents are asked to review the following information with their children and ensure that students abide by these policies.

**Cellphones are ONLY to be used in class under the supervision of their teacher as a learning tool.  
Cellphones are not allowed at recess, lunch or anytime in hallways or washrooms.**

**If students need to contact parents they are expected to do so through the office with the permission of their teacher. Students should not be texting at school. Cellphones should be turned off and stored in a safe place during the school day when not in use.**

If students are found to be misusing their technology or using it without consent, they will be asked to store it in the office until the end of the day. If a student has been warned on multiple occasions their cellphone may be sent to the office to be picked up by a parent and they may lose their privilege of having their cellphones with them at school.



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We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this Board protocol.

## Student Registration Verification

Yellow

Please verify the information and make any required changes

We don't require health card or doctor

All forms (even those with no changes) must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher by Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## Online Resources:

### Online Resources to Support Students with Special Education Needs

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/student-support/special-education/online-resources-support-students-special-education-needs>

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Jewish staff and students a very happy newyear as they begin their holiday season with their New Year celebration of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this weekend.

Every year on September 30th, Canadians observe Every Child Matters, Orange Shirt Day. It is a day to learn about Residential Schools and how these institutions caused trauma, suffering and genocide for Indigenous People. The Resident Schools wanted to assimilate Indigenous children and to eliminate Indigenous culture. Students learn about Residential Schools starting in Grade 6 (Social Studies and History & Geography). But because of the observance of Orange Shirt Day, many other educators from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will teach about this topic, too. In July, 2021, the federal government passed a law to make Sept. 30 a holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. **We encourage students to wear an orange shirt on September 30, 2021, to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.**

Best Regards,

*Jeff Laughlin*  
Principal

*Afrouz Sarmadi*  
Vice Principal