



SILVER PINES PUBLIC SCHOOL

112 Stave Cr. Tel: 905 508-7303
Richmond Hill, Ontario Fax: 905 508-7351
L4C 9J2

September 2022 Newsletter

Our first two weeks back have gone very smoothly due to all the hard work on the part of our staff and the interest 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 with more of our routines and activities returning to normal.

Families should be aware that after a review of the changes that have taken place between June and September in our school's enrolment, and in order to comply with the Ministry of Education's Class Size Compliance requirements, as well as acceptable class sizes in the junior and intermediate classrooms, we do not need to make any modifications to our current classroom organizations.

Rest assured that in all of our classrooms, our teachers differentiate the instruction, assessment, and expectations based on each student's individual strengths, needs and interests. Our school team works closely together to ensure each student is well supported and experiences success as we begin a new school year. We encourage parents to establish positive communication with each child's teacher and invite you to join us for the **Silver Pines School Open House next Wednesday, September 28, 2022 (6:30 - 7:30)**.

DAILY Routines

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.

Walk & Roll on Wednesdays

We are excited to announce that we will continue with our school Walk & Roll program this year. This program helps us get more students walking or cycling to/from school. This program is requesting all families to walk or roll (cycle, scooter, skateboard) every Wednesday for the rest of the school year! You might even consider stopping a few blocks away and allowing your child to walk the rest.

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.

TRAFFIC BYLAWS

Parking across the road on Waterhouse Way is not permitted. This area is being monitored by York Region Police. Please observe all street parking bylaws and follow the neighbourhood traffic signs as well as the directions in our Kiss and Ride drop off loop.



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Daily Screening Check

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 into the building. 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 the supervision of a staff member until the family member arrives. If there are any questions, please take all the necessary precautions and contact the school or Public Health for direction.

Healthy Lunch/Snack

It is still good practice to pack healthy lunches and snacks each day to avoid interruptions to our daily routines. However, parents/guardians may choose to drop off lunches during the day. We ask that you drop these lunches off between 11:30 and 12:20. Lunches should be labeled with the student's name and left on the table in the front hall. Students may then come down to pick up their lunch. The office staff will not be calling classrooms to deliver lunches.

Mental Health & Well-Being

We know that while many students and families are eager to return to a “more normal” school experience, some will be worried about starting back, and what this new school year will look like for them. Remember as parents/caregivers you know your child best! Please see the attached file for more information. The mental health of your child(ren) is our top priority. Therefore our teachers were given the opportunity to explore and understand the newly revised YRDSB Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy, a Holistic Approach to Mental Health, Within us Between us and Around us on September 6, 22. All of our homeroom teachers will facilitate this learning with their homeroom class. 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. If you have not had an opportunity to review the [school reopening information](#) on the Board website, we encourage you to do so.

School Council

School Councils play an important role in building school, family, and community partnerships by providing input into relevant Board and school-level decisions and by working with members of our staff and school community to support student learning, achievement, well-being and mental health. Each year we invite parents to become active members of our School Council. This would involve attending several meetings throughout the year with a possible commitment to a role on our executive or a member of one of several committees, such as fundraising, or the healthy schools committee. **Please consider participating on the 2022-2023 Silver Pines School Council.** A nomination form has already been shared with you. Please return to the school before September 26th. **Our first meeting will be held on Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 pm.**



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Cell phone 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. Cell phones 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. Cell phones should be turned off and stored in a safe place during the school day when not in use. Lockers are available to all Junior and Intermediate students, and they should provide their own locks. 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 cell phone may be sent to the office to be picked up by a parent and they may lose their privilege of having their cell phones with them at school. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this Board protocol.

Dress Code

The school dress code was discussed and established last year as part of the School Council meetings. Students will: ● Observe reasonable standards of dress and wear **clothing that is not offensive** (i.e. rude or disrespectful graphics or phrases) ● **Short shorts, short tops, low riding pants, see-through clothing are best left at home** ● Refrain from wearing hats, caps, hoods in the school building ● During Physical Education class, wear appropriate clothing that is suitable for exercise and clean, as well as non-marking running shoes ● Flip flop sandals, are not allowed for safety reasons.

Upcoming Events

Terry Fox Run

We are proud to announce our school will be hosting a Terry Fox School Run on Thursday September 22nd from 1:30pm-2:20pm. Here is a short video for you and your family to watch together to learn more about Terry Fox:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXAF7nrXTjA&ab_channel=terryfoxcanada.

Our goal this school year is to encourage every student to bring in a toonie for the Terry Fox Foundation and to also be part of the "Try like Terry" challenge by trying their best when they are running or walking. Each division of students will have a different route and be supervised by staff while participating in this event. Grade 7 and 8 students will be participating in a neighbourhood walk/run, so please be sure to have completed your school start up forms to allow your child(ren) permission to leave the property. If there are community members that would like to join our walk or volunteer to help out during this event, then please email the school and let them know you are attending. Here is the link to our school donation page: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/10273>

Thank you for being part of Terry's Marathon of Hope!



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Orange Shirt Day

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 Residential 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 30th to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.**

Ken Arnott
Principal

Afrouz Sarmadi
Vice Principal