

A Message from Administration...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your children have settled into their new homeroom classes. This has shown their resilience. Here, at Silver Pines, we are grateful for the support and understanding of parents and the community during these unprecedented times. We know how difficult change can be. But regardless of the changes that the students have had to make in their routines, our students have been very understanding in adapting to the changes in their routines.

We all know that it can sometimes be easy to fall back into 'normal' routines and habits. But because of the ongoing pandemic, kindly continue to remind your children to maintain social distancing at school.

Parents/ visitors must wear their mask when they are on school property. Please make sure your child to have their mask on as they enter the school environment (i.e. the school yard, building).

While self-screening continues to be a daily requirement for all students, beginning Monday, September 27, parents/guardians and students are no longer required to submit the confirmation form each day through their child's GAPPs account. Screening confirmation and submission will only continue to be required for staff members and visitors. Please remember to use the [screening tool](#) on a daily basis to ensure your child can come at school. This tool was created to help all of us stay well and healthy. Additional information on [health and safety measures](#) can be found on the York Region Public Health website, as well as on our the [school board website](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

Practice for school safety:

As you know, the safety and security of your children are our top priority. To help keep the students safe, we regularly practice having fire drills and lockdowns at school. We recently had our first fire drill and lockdown drill at school. This was done to make sure that our students and staff know what they need to do in a case of a real emergency.

Fire drills are intended to ensure, by means of training and rehearsal, that people who may be in possible danger act in a calm and orderly manner. They also give staff and students practice at exiting the school from their assigned exit in the event of a real fire. These drills also help ensure that staff members carry out their assigned tasks to ensure the safety of all concerned.

A lockdown drill is somewhat similar to a fire drill, but it is practice for keeping us safe from other possible dangers that might be happening in our neighborhood or school. For example, there might be a person outside the school who we don't know, and the school needs to learn more about this person.

Virtual Meet the Teacher Night

On October 26, 2021 you are invited to join us for **Meet the Teacher Night**. Due to Health and Safety priorities, this year's event is being held virtually (online). Each family will be invited (via email) by their child's teacher(s) to a Google Meet where they will have an opportunity to meet the teacher, hear about the upcoming year, and take a peek into the school/ classroom.

In case you are new to Canada and would like to have a translator present at this virtual meeting, please let us know by clicking on the following link: <https://forms.gle/jFvtf4yck6EubnDZ8> This virtual meeting would also be a great way to learn more about our ESL programs and support for ESL learners.

The schedule for the evening is as follows:

Session #1 – 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Session #2 – 7:05 – 7:35 pm

You will receive an email from your child's teacher with information about how to join the virtual event. A stable internet connection is needed to join.

Once you join the meeting, please follow the meeting guidelines below:

- Please keep your audio on mute so all the participants can hear, and
- Please turn your camera off.

Please be aware that during the online session you must refrain from:

- recording any aspect of a Google Meet (including pictures, voices or video) using internal or external recording devices;
- taking photos or screenshots of anything other than when given explicit permission or direction by the teacher to do so (e.g., a visual used for instructional purposes that won't be reposted later); and
- distributing/posting any recorded, copied or distributed materials in any way, including to all social media platforms; and editing or manipulating the materials in any way.

Here are step-by-step instructions for logging into the [Google Meet](#) from a computer or Chromebook. If you are using a mobile device, use the [Google Meet guide for mobile devices](#). You will be using your child's YRDSB Gapps login.

More info: Google Meet Instructions and Rules

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1G_qURQ7pJGjiZu0Uha4OeDdOOHyeKZWnKO_ricFLE8M/edit#slide=id.p

We hope that you will be able to join us!

Halloween – October 29th

For some members of our community, Halloween brings memories of dress-up parades, costume competitions, and classroom parties whereas for others it bears a very different meaning. As with each of our traditions and ways of doing things, it is valuable to revisit our practices to ensure that we, “Demonstrate equity and inclusivity in all we do”. It is important for us to recognize that not all families celebrate and participate in Halloween. The reasons for not participating are varied, and they include cultural beliefs, faith, socioeconomic status, and personal reasons. Please take the time to review the most recent memo from our Board regarding Halloween celebrations as support to consider and reflect on our planned activities and programs using an equity lens.

<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/services/focus/equity/Documents/Religious%20Accommodations/SC-Halloween.pdf>

In regards to Public Health restrictions here are some additional guidelines for this day:

- No parades or celebrations within the class or the school;
- No costume masks (not a replacement to a face mask);
- No replica swords /knives allowed;
- Students are allowed to wear costumes except for inflatable costumes;
- Minimize complexity;
- For treats - students bring their own and eat them during lunch. Please No Sharing.

Safety rules at school:

Parents/ visitors must wear their mask when they are on school property. In order to maintain physical distancing requirements and safety for everybody, please remind your children to always use their designated doors for entering and exiting 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), parents should always use the same designated door as their child(ren) when 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 theirs on as well as they enter the school environment (i.e. the school yard, building).**

We continue to encourage students and families to walk to and from school. If you choose to drive, please use the **Kiss and Ride driveway** at the side of the school when dropping off or picking 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 and dropping off students:

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 providers and school staff. Spots are also available on the street. Please observe and follow the traffic signs.

Please note that if you are dropping off your child on the street, please do not to make a u-turn when coming on the street or in the entrance of our school parking lots. Making such a u-turn can create traffic congestion, block school buses and compromise everyone's safe arrival.

If you choose to drop your child on the street, could you kindly drop them off either on the east side (school side) of the sidewalk, or near the crossing guards close to the school. Please avoid dropping your child off in an area that may lead them to cross the road without supervision.

PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING INCIDENTS OF HATE AND/OR DISCRIMINATION STAFF EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT INCIDENTS
Stopping, Interrupting, and Addressing the Behaviour
Naming the Behaviour
Reporting the Behaviour
Documenting the Behaviour
Supporting the Targeted Student or Employee
Conducting an Investigation
Education
Ensuring Accountability

Anti-Hate or Oppressive Behaviour

We, here at Silver Pines, seek to make all students feel welcome at our school, regardless of ethnic, cultural or religious background.

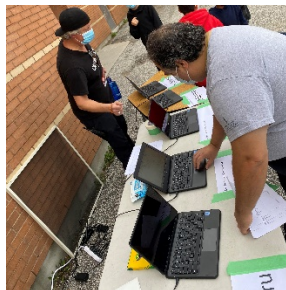
To that end, **please be aware that the use of any racial slurs such as the N-word is strictly prohibited by the York District School Board. If a student uses any racial slur in the school, there is a policy of zero tolerance for this action. The use of a racial slur by a student will be recorded on their OSR. Such racist language may possibly lead to the suspension or expulsion of the student who committed this act.**

At Silver Pines, we are committed to engagement with the school community and cooperation with parents. Please ask your children to report any racial slurs they may possibly hear at school to a staff member. And kindly inform them of the possible consequences of such hateful language. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We really appreciate it.

Positive Behaviour - Students are encouraged to demonstrate positive character attributes (such as empathy, courage and respect for human rights and inclusivity). We recently also discussed standing up for each other in bullying situations and the importance of reporting incidents of bullying, including:

- Telling a caring adult
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (located on our school website)
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)

Events at school:



Terry Fox Run

Thank you to Mr. Scarlato and Mr. Forrest, along with their classes for putting together another wonderful Terry Fox event for our school. On October 7th, all the students at Silver Pines participated in the Marathon of Hope to celebrate and honour Terry Fox. By actively participating in the run, you showed that you care and that you are interested in helping to find a cure for cancer. We did it and we are proud of it!! Way to go Silver Pines!



Cell phones (personal electronic devices):

In 2019 the Province passed a directive that has put restrictions on the use of cell phones in public schools. Based on this directive our Board Code of Conduct limits the use of cell phones in schools. In schools, students may be asked to use their personal electronic devices as a learning tool in class. Staff at Silver Pines work hard to educate when/how to use them appropriately in a 'working' environment. Parents are asked to review with their children the messaging below that we use at school which is taken from our Code of Conduct and Ministry policies.

Cell phones are ONLY to be used in class under the supervision of their teacher as a learning tool. Cell phones are not allowed outside 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, taking photos of any kind, or going on social media. When not in use in classrooms, cell phones should be turned off and stored in a safe place.

Thank you for your support and partnership in educating our children on the appropriate time and place to use their personal electronic devices.

School Council

School councils provide advice on school matters and help to strengthen the important relationship between schools, parents/guardians and their communities.

All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings. Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council. Getting involved gives you the opportunity to be part of a team working to ensure a high quality of education. School councils are supported in their work through various resources available online or through the school administrator.

If you are interested in being a member of our School Council, please complete the nomination form attached and send into the office through your child. A member would be required to attend meetings regularly which are 1-2 hours in length and can be once a month or every other month. Currently our meetings are virtual. Any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH!


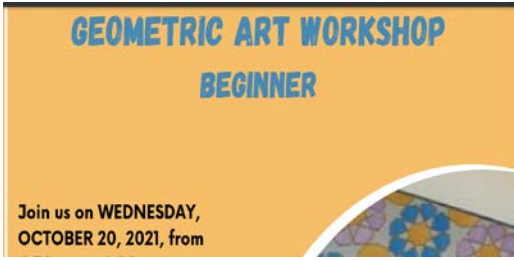
In October, we will be recognizing 2SLGBTQ+ History month, Islamic Heritage Month, as well as Latin Heritage Month



2SLGBTQ+ History Month

The month of October commemorates the impact that Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, queer, questioning, and individuals with related identities have had in our local communities, nationally and internationally. It is an opportunity to build awareness of the contributions the 2SLGBTQ+ community has made in Canada and abroad. The affirmation of sexual and gender diversity in our learning and working environments means that we recognize the diversity within our 2SLGBTQ+ communities and acknowledge the presence of Indigenous, racialized, disabled and other diverse identities among our students and staff. Likewise, knowledge about 2SLGBTQ+ history helps to address

Islamic Heritage Month

 <p>ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH HERITAGE & HEALING October 2021 Register for Educator and Student Events at tinyurl.com/aemsihm</p> <p>Info attached</p>	 <p>GEOMETRIC ART WORKSHOP BEGINNER</p> <p>Join us on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021, from</p> <p>Info attached</p>
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Latin Heritage Month

Latinx Heritage month is known by many as Hispanic Heritage Month -- a commemoration from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 that is linked to the independence anniversaries of several Latin American nations and uplifts the cultural legacy of a group deeply-rooted in rich traditions.

The term "Latinx" rather than Hispanic or Latino represents the identities of non-binary, gender non-conforming and gender-expansive people. "Latinx" also centers the lives of indigenous, Brazilian and other non-Spanish speaking people in this celebration.

Best Regards,

Jeff Laughlin
Principal

Afrouz Sarmadi
Vice Principal