

## *A Message from Administration...*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a very busy start to the school year. We have had many new families registering to our school and thus had a major reorganization of our classes. We appreciate everyone's partnership and continued understanding as we make these adjustments.

### **COVID-19 Daily Screening - Changes beginning Monday, September 27**

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.

Daily screening continues to be an essential step in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19. **Please ensure you continue to review the [York Region Public Health screening tool](#) each day and confirm they are able to attend school. You can follow the detailed instructions outlined in the screening tool.** Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community and school safe.

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.

### **Safety rules at school:**

**Parents/ visitors must wear their mask when they are in 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.

## 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.

## 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 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.

## Events at school:



### Exploring Robotics

The young engineers in Room 101 in our school have been exploring robotics. These robots were purchased through an Ignite Grant. We worked with our area technology resource consultant to explore apps that will support learning STEM concepts, how to program, and how to design. We will be partnering with the primary SSC to share and to explore robotics together.



### Truth & Reconciliation Day- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> (Orange Shirt Day)

We were so fortunate this year to be able to commemorate **Truth & Reconciliation Day** by wearing orange to school. Many of our students also participated in a Google Live Streamed online ceremony and learn about Indigenous culture and the need for truth and reconciliation. This ceremony was also intended to educate and promote awareness of Residential Schools and their lasting legacies of trauma, suffering and genocide of Indigenous People.



### Terry Fox Run

The tradition of Terry Fox is strong here at Silver Pines. We have turned Terry Fox from just a simple school run into a celebration of a Canadian hero and an opportunity to support cancer research! This year has been no different. Despite the ongoing covid pandemic, the need for cancer support has never been stronger and the Grade 6 team along with the Students of Room 101 created a memorable Terry Fox event. For this event, the students did the following activities:

- \* designed the website for the event
- \* wrote and directed short films to promote The Terry Fox Run
- \* came up with the schedule for the run
  - \*did the announcements to promote the event
- \* designed the activities for the event such as a ring toss
- \* did fundraising for the event
- \* and so much more!

Thanks to the dedication of this remarkable team of students, we have raised \$2,136 for cancer research thus far.

**From their participation in the Terry Fox Run, the students can see real world results from their effort, which will inspire them to make and reach worthy goals in the future. And all of this would not have been possible without the active participation and support of the school community.**

**Thank you to you all.** If you haven't donated yet and are interested in doing so, please visit

<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?TeamID=944431>

## Care & Safety:

It is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. Administration will be visiting classrooms this coming week to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they learned and discussed. The school board's Code of Conduct will be reviewed, as well as these key foundations of our Caring & Safe schools presentation:

**ALL STUDENTS** have the right to learn in an environment where they feel safe, welcome and respected

**EVERYONE** has a role to play in creating our school environment

**A CARING AND SAFE SCHOOL** environment is based on the development of healthy, positive and respectful relationships

**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)

**For More Information** - For more details on the presentation, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools section](#) on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation. Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

## 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.

### **Support Your Child's Math Support Learning**

- Math is everywhere. You can help your children make connections between what they learn in school and everyday experiences at home and in the community, such as:
- buying something at the store
- cooking at home
- managing money
- You can make a difference and support your child's learning if you speak positively about math and model confidence. Learn more about how [to make math part of your day](#). **Link isn't working**  
**You can learn more about the new Ontario Math Curriculum by watching this short [video](https://vimeo.com/426386575):**
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*We wish all families who celebrate, a fantastic Thanksgiving weekend!*

Best Regards,

*Jeff Laughlin*  
*Principal*

*Afrouz Sarmadi*  
*Vice Principal*