

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

School Email
sixteenth.avenue.ps@yrdsb.ca

School Web Site
www.sixteenthavenue.ps@yrdsb.ca

School Telephone Number
905-884-5598

Principal
Tim Gervais

Vice-Principal
Nicole Ricketts

Administrative Assistants
Lezlie Hood
Cathy Williamson

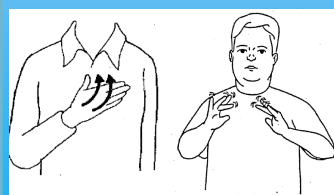
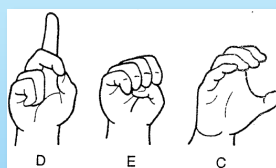
Superintendent of Schools
Lois Agard
905-884-4477

Trustee
Simon Cui

School Council Chair
Sue Arabanian

Character Trait EMPATHY

Signs of the Month



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sixteenth Avenue Star

Administrator's Message

December 2021

Another year is almost upon us. It has been an eventful school year. The most exciting event was the return of all our students to our Sixteenth Avenue learning community. Whether remote or in-person, we, as a staff here at Sixteenth Avenue P.S., are very happy to have your continued partnership. 2021 brought us challenges, yet our families' ongoing support has been very much appreciated. Upon continued reflection, we continue to be grateful that we are in this work of education together as a community.

Here are a few November happenings:

Grade 8 Take Your Kids to Work virtual presentation: Grade 8 students experienced "a taste of what awaits them when they begin Grade 9. During this virtual event, students "visited" various classes, had presentations with guidance, administration and Student Council. Our students had opportunities to ask questions about high school life.

Remembrance Day: We took time to honour the sacrifices made by our soldiers and veterans, past and present. At 11:00 am, we had a commemorative announcement on the PA system. Each class learned about the significance of the day and paid tribute in many ways.

Progress Report Cards and Interviews: The progress reports provided parents with information about learning during the first part of the term and an opportunity to meet with the teachers virtually. This year, reintegration into the school environment has taken additional time, like mental health, well-being and the development of a safe, inviting, and inclusive learning community are as important to curriculum delivery. We encourage ongoing conversation with your child's teacher(s) throughout the school year.

Fall School Council Forum: Our school council members participated in the annual virtual Fall school Council forum. We heard greetings from the Director of our YRDSB, Trustees and Members of Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC)

Picture Day: We finally had picture day! Boy, we sure missed having our pictures taken! Even though health and safety protocols prevent class pictures, it was wonderful to see all our students (and staff!) dress up for the occasion. Please watch your inboxes for details on ordering.

These are just a few of the highlights from our busy, busy month of November. A well-deserved break is on the horizon. Please note that the break runs from Monday, December 20th, 2021, through Friday, December 31st, 2021. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday, January 3rd, 2022.** As we head into the winter holiday season, we wish you health, rest and moments of calm. We hope that our families here at Sixteenth find times and ways to enjoy time spent with loved ones. To those who celebrate at this time of year, we may the joys and sentiments of the season bless your Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's celebrations.

On behalf of the staff at Sixteenth Avenue Public School, stay safe, and we wish you all again a wonderful holiday season!

Tim Gervais
Principal

Nicole Ricketts
Vice-Principal



December 2021

- 3 - Conclusion of gifted testing
- 6 - Hanukkah ends
- 6 - Virtual School Council Meeting
- 13 to 15 - Swan Lake Outdoor Centre Visit
- 20 to 31 - Christmas Break
- 25 - Christmas (Western)

January 2022

- Tamil Heritage Month
- 3 - Return to School
- 5 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji
- 7 - Christmas (Eastern)
- 10 - Virtual School Council Meeting
- 14 - PA Day

A FEW REMINDERS

HOLIDAY HEROES CAMPAIGN



Our Holiday Heroes campaign has started and we are starting to collect many items.

This year's school campaign will run from November 29 to December 15, 2021. All of the donations go directly to support the children from our community who are in need.

Here are some ways that we would encourage you to participate:

Toy Drive: Contribute new unwrapped toys for all ages

Children's Clothing Drive: donate new warm clothing, pajamas, coats, hats & mitts

Gift Card Drive: Collect grocery & department store cards

Please bring in any new toys, non-perishable food items or gift cards to the front foyer or office before December 15. Thank you for your contribution.

RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KITS



The Ministry of Education has announced that all students will receive a Rapid Antigen Test kit before the winter break. These kits will include five tests with instructions for students to voluntarily complete the testing before returning to the school. We will provide more information on this initiative as it is received. Families choosing to travel over the winter break are reminded to consult federal and provincial government requirements for testing, quarantine and

other appropriate protocols required upon arrival and before returning to school. We gratefully appreciate everyone's cooperation with these regulations to ensure a safe return from the winter break on January 3.

MASKS



Properly fitted masks are required for all students in Grades 1 to 12 and *strongly recommended* for students in Kindergarten. Parents/guardians must provide their child with at least three personal masks (non-medical) to wear at school. [Public Health Agency of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/covid-19/masks.html) recommends Canadians wear three-layer masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information about how to use face coverings properly, visit www.york.ca/covid19.

TRUSTEE'S NEWSLETTER: [Link](#) to December newsletter

YRDSB November Mental Health Newsletter: Link to [Newsletter](#)

WINTER WEATHER



With the colder weather approaching, please ensure that your child(ren) comes to school dressed appropriately (hats, mitts/gloves, boots, winter coats, snow pants, etc.). Also, ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes and a change of clothes, including extra pants or socks, which often get wet during outdoor recess play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside.

Please remember to label all clothing items or they will ultimately end up in the lost and found and 'never to be seen again'.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS



There is an updated Inclement Weather (IW) procedure being implemented for the 2021/2021 school year. When an IW day is declared, all elementary and secondary schools will be **closed to students**. All student learning (elementary and secondary) will be remote and asynchronous.

Please be reminded that for Inclement Weather Days:

- School cancellations will be communicated through:
 - local media outlines,
 - the [Student Transportation Services](#) website,
 - School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001,
 - the Board's website
 - [Twitter](#) account;
 - and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.

Please have alternate child care arrangements planned for IW days when schools are closed to students. These procedures will be in effect for the first IW Day of the school year, after which time these procedures will be reviewed.

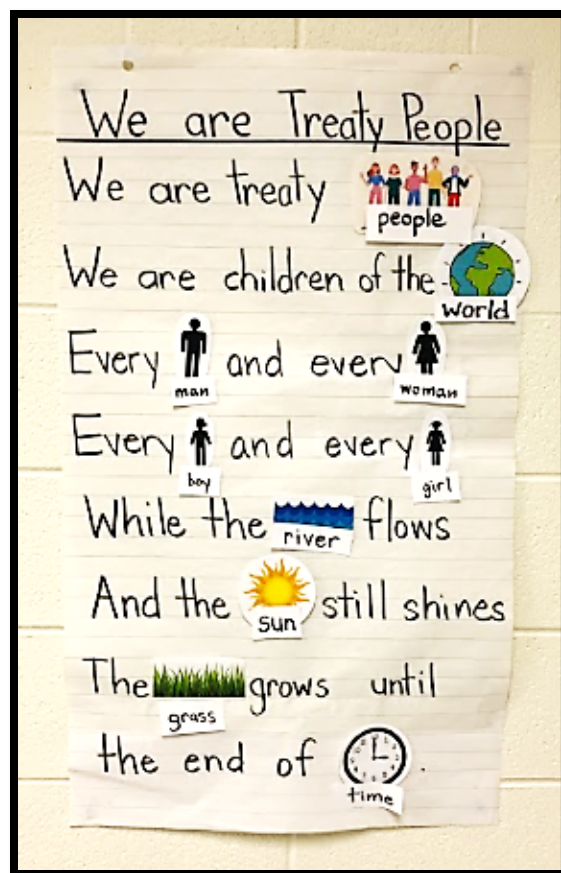


Treaties Recognition Week: ReconciliACTION #3

by Ms. Durant

ReconciliACTIONS are actions that seek to move us along on the path to reconciliation. Their goal is to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to create awareness, to share, and to learn. The hope is that these actions will bring about meaningful change, spark important conversations, and give each and every one of us the opportunity to make a difference.

During the week of November 1-7, Sixteenth Avenue Public School observed TREATY RECOGNITION WEEK as our ReconciliACTION #3. Each day on the morning announcements, we started with a reading of the Land Acknowledgement, followed by a tidbit of information about treaties, such as the importance of the wampum belt. Throughout the day, teachers had the opportunity to engage their students in grade levelled activities and virtual presentations, such as the puppet show *Rabbit and Bear Paws: Treaties, Environment and Land*. As a part of the week-long event, any classwork created was displayed in the hallway, allowing us to learn from each other. We are all Treaty People, after all! Treaty Recognition Week allowed teachers to continue the conversations they had begun with Orange Shirt Day in September and Secret Path Week in October. We will keep the momentum going in December with ResonciliACTION #4.



YRDSB Land Acknowledgement

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties, who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

