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School Telephone Number
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Principal
Tim Gervais

Vice-Principal
Nicole Ricketts

Administrative Assistants
Lezlie Hood
Rebecca Wang

Superintendent of Schools
Lois Agard
905-884-4477

Trustee
Cindy Liang

School Council Chair
Sue Arabanian

**Character Trait
INITIATIVE**

FEBRUARY 2022

Black History Month

- 1 Lunar New Year
- 4 PA Day
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Family Day
- 23 Electronic Distribution of Report Cards & IEP's

MARCH 2022

- 14-18 Mid-Winter Break
- 20-21 Passover Begins
- 29 Holi

Sixteenth Avenue Star

Administrator's Message

February 2022

We can't overstate how appreciative we are of your ongoing support during these times.

We thank the parents and guardians of our school community for your understanding and support as we transitioned back to hybrid learning. The school has been extremely busy as we adjusted all our classrooms to accommodate learning model choices. Please note that students in families learning online will have an opportunity to select face-to-face learning and have their child return on Feb 22nd as directed by the board.

Many people have been instrumental in supporting our learnings:

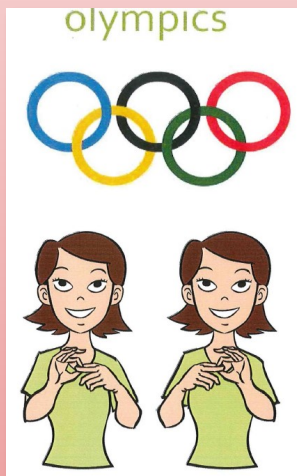
- Our dedicated teaching staff who have been adjusting and shifting their environments to create engaging learning - Thank you!
- Our office staff who have worked endless hours to ensure a smooth operational transition back - Thank you!
- Our caretaking staff, who have worked behind the scenes to ensure that the inside and outside of our school building are safe and welcoming for our students and staff - Thank you!
- Our parents and guardians for your diligence with daily COVID screening, keeping your children home when they are sick and letting the school know, all while continuing to support learning- Thank you!
- Our students who show resilience with the changes and a joy of learning - Thank you!

We are sincerely grateful to be working with caring, wonderful people. Thank you for all your support

Tim Gervais Nicole Ricketts
Principal Vice-Principal



February

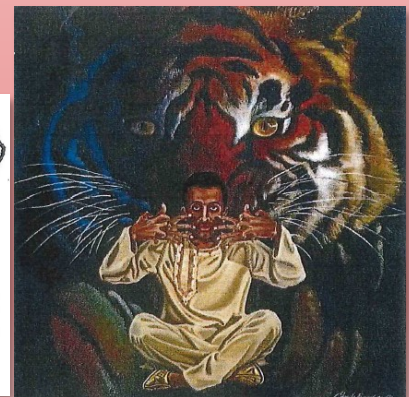


olympics



February is Black History Month

Year of the Tiger



**Signs
of the
Month**

Well-being and Mental Health Supports for Families

We know: things are challenging for many of us. We also know how our community supports one another: check-ins on friends, helping neighbours with shovelling, grocery pick-ups for isolating families - the list is endless. We don't know all the ways but we thank you for what you do to help one another as it has an impact on our students.

If you are looking for additional support, please consider these resources from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO):

- [Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology](#): Children and “screentime”
- [Grab and Go Flash Cards](#): Supporting younger children with naming emotions
- [Take Action](#): Talking to your child about mental health concerns

SMHO has created a variety of resources for educators, parents and families, and students regarding supporting student mental health during this time. Please click here to access [SMHO Parent and Family Resources](#).

Other board-vetted resources:

[Anxiety Canada](#)

[PFlag Canada](#)

[SickKids About Kids Health](#)

None of these resources are intended to diagnose or treat. Please speak with a health care provider to further support.



Return of Technology

If your child borrowed technology for remote learning, please have them return it to school immediately. The Chromebook that you received is from your child's class and is needed to continue student learning in class. If your child is remaining online you may keep the Chromebook until your child returns to face-to-face learning. Thank you to the families who have already returned the devices.

A Drop-off and Pick-up Reminder:

- Please enter and exit via the arena parking. Please refrain from using the bus loop or entering at the traffic light. This is the route of the school busses. We want to avoid delaying the drivers and eliminate any non-school bus traffic.
- When in the arena lot, please pull up alongside the arena building and have your child(ren) exit the vehicle onto the walkway.
- Once your child exits the car, please leave the kiss and ride area immediately.

We want to thank you for your continued cooperation and support in keeping all of our children safe.

Kindergarten Registration 2022



Children born in 2018 or 2017 can register for the 2022-2023 school year. Please click [kindergarten registration](#), for full details, required documents and a listing of all elementary schools. You can visit the [York Region District School Board website](#). Register [online](#), by email, phone or mail. Families may also request an appointment to drop off completed forms at their child's school.

French Immersion 2022

[French Immersion registration](#) takes place until Friday, February 4, 2022. Please view this [pre-recorded information session](#) if you are considering enrolling your child(ren). A [list](#) of French Immersion schools, [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) and registration information are available, in addition to the information shared by Adrienne Clarkson Public School earlier this month.

2022	2023
	

2022-2023

If you are planning on moving or if your child will be attending a French Immersion program for the upcoming school year 2022-2023, please inform the office at sixteenth.avenue.ps@yrdsb.ca in order to support us with our planning.

Inclement Weather Reminders



When an inclement weather day is declared, all elementary and secondary schools will be closed to students. Please have alternate childcare arrangements planned for inclement weather days. All student learning will be remote and asynchronous. School closures will be announced by 6:00 a.m. and information will be communicated through:

- Local radio and TV media outlets
- The [Student Transportation Services](#) website
- The School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- The YRDSB [website](#) and [Twitter](#) account
- The school's voicemail recording

LANGSTAFF SS - GRADE 8 COURSE SELECTION

Please read this [link](#) for information about Grade 9-course selection at Langstaff.

February 2022 Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our [values](#) as an organization and the goals set out in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

On the website, you can also find information about the [Board of Trustees](#), including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board meetings. Following [a review](#) completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to [committee structures](#) and [delegation process](#) to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year [schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared](#). This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the **student trustee elections**. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

Throughout February, we recognize **Black History Month**. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate

Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to [read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone](#). You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our [TuneIn YRDSB podcast](#), exploring Black History Month and beyond.

Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge **Pink Shirt Day** and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to [prevent and address bullying](#) and create [equitable and inclusive learning environments](#).

Family Day and **March Break** are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break.

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what **graduation ceremonies** will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

Cindy Liang

Trustee, Richmond Hill, Wards 3, 5 and 6