

School Email  
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School Web Site  
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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

**OCTOBER Upcoming Dates**

**Cyber Awareness Month**

- 4 - School Council at 6 p.m.
- 7 - Curriculum Night
- 11 - Thanksgiving
- 15 - Asynchronous Learning/  
Hybrid Learning for Staff

**Character Trait**  
**RESPECT**



# Sixteenth Avenue Star

## Administrator's Message

October 2021

### MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATORS

**Happy Fall!** It's hard to believe that we have already begun October! Our first month of school is now complete and we are impressed with how seamlessly the students' return to school has been. From their arrival in the morning until dismissal time, our students have shown great respect for the protocols that continued from last year. Through their smiles and laughter, online and in person, we as staff can see how much the students have missed interacting with their friends and are happy to be together again. As a staff, we are happy to have our students return.

Learning is underway, as are co-curricular activities, including recognition of our nation's for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the annual Terry Fox run. Please continue reading for additional information on these events and other important information.

We would like to remind all of our families that our goal is to work together to support the well-being of all our students. Please feel free to contact Mr. Gervais or Ms. Ricketts if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your continued partnership with our Sixteenth Avenue Community.

In appreciation,

Tim Gervais  
Principal

Nicole Ricketts  
Vice-Principal

### COVID-19 Daily Screening – Changes from 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 complete the confirmation form each day.

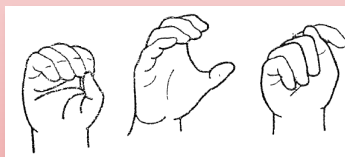
All our students are still required to review and complete the [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) on a daily basis before entering the school. Please be reminded that families will no longer be required to complete the self-screening confirmation form. The Ministry of Education required families to complete confirmation for the first two weeks of school only. Screening confirmation will continue to be required for staff members and visitors only.

Additional information on [health and safety measures](#), as well as additional information and resources on the 2021-22 school year can be found on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

### A few other considerations:

**Remote learning** is only accessible for students who have requested online learning or are at home for isolation mandates. Families cannot transition back and forth.

### Signs of the Month



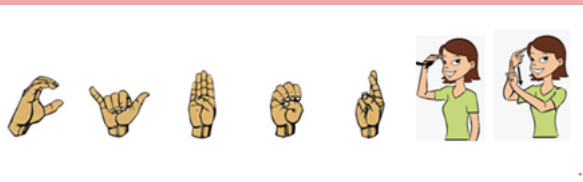
October



Happy Halloween



Happy Thanksgiving



Cyber Awareness Month

## School Startup Forms

Parents/ guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start- up forms to complete. It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions.

The forms can be found at [https:// startupformsyrdsb.ca/](https://startupformsyrdsb.ca/) . Additional information is available on the Board [website](#).

## **Safety Week**

On Monday, September 27, we had our mandatory lockdown drill, as well as a fire and hold and secure drills. Each year safety week provides an opportunity to practice proper safety protocols and draw attention to our roles in providing a safe learning and working environment. These are important procedures that we rehearse throughout the school year.

Parents/ Guardian play important roles in our students' safety. Please remember:

- Call the office before 3:00 pm if your child will not be riding the bus
- Before school: Park at the Elvis Stoiko arena and walk over to our school with your child(ren)
- After school: please park at the arena and walk over to the school meet your child(ren) at their dismissal door

Report absences or lates through Edsby or on the school phone line: 90 5 884 5598 (select option 1)

## Social Media and Recent TikTok Trends

At our school, we recognize that some students may have social media accounts (e.g., Instagram, TikTok). Social media has many benefits including helping us to stay connected. Unfortunately, it also can be used in ways that spread hurt, misinformation, and dangerous trends. While we have engaged in lessons about online safety, we suggest that families support this learning and have ongoing discussions about social media presence and how to act online. To help support these discussions we encourage families to look at Media Smarts Social Media Tip Sheet and Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada 12 Quick Privacy Tips for Parents.

## TikTok Challenge

We have become aware of a challenge on TikTok that encourages students to do certain activities at school which includes damaging school property, physical assault, sexual assault, among others. None of these activities is acceptable in our school.

Activities that happen online and social media trends may have a negative impact on our school climate. As each student and staff member has the right to learn in a safe, positive, respectful and inclusive environment, we will address all incidents that have a negative impact on our school. This will include the administration using progressive discipline and depending on the situation, may also include involving police.

## ABCs of Mental Health

YRDSB has developed a series of lessons for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 that will be delivered by the end of October. The lessons focus upon and support student mental health, well- being and learning.

The lessons include activities and information that focus on the ABC's of Mental Health:

- **Acknowledging** our lived experiences as they relate to the Pandemic
- **Bridging** to our internal and community strengths and assists to help us heal and grow.
- **Connecting** our strengths and assets back to the community and those who care about us.

School administrators and educators received support in the content and delivery of the lessons. They are looking forward to sharing the learning and getting to know your child better as we explore these lessons. To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series please visit [YRDSB ABCs](#).

Here is the September 2021 edition of the school board's mental health newsletter: [MH September Newsletter](#)  
[Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee \(PEAC\) webpage and Newsletters](#)

In collaboration with members of last year's PEAC Communications Hub Sub- Committee, a new Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) webpage was added to the YRDSB website. To help support the work of school councils, Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) members have launched a quarterly newsletter to assist school councils, parents and caregivers in enhancing student experience with York Region District School Board. The newsletter was launched in June 2021. Today, we would like to share the September 2021 edition of the newsletter, Engagement Matters. The newsletter has also been posted on the newly- designed PEAC web page. Contents of the quarterly newsletter include:

- news and information about PEAC initiatives,
  - tips for school councils and,
  - feature articles highlighting the work of various school councils.

Here is the link to the September 2021 [newsletter](#).

[Indigenous Language and International Languages](#) (Previously shared via Inform)



A reminder that the 2021- 2022 Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) program will continue to take place online. Please note that the program delivery model may change from online to face- to- face during the school year depending on circumstances. All program updates will be made on our Board ILIL program homepage.

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### Orange Shirt Day by R. Durant and J Schaffer, teachers



On Thursday, September 30th, the school collectively commemorated *Orange Shirt Day*, also known as the first *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. Leading up to this event, the students engaged in meaningful discussions and activities surrounding the Indigenous Residential School system, its survivors, their families, and communities. For one of these activities, each student had the chance to design a paper orange shirt, using the theme "Every Child Matters". These were subsequently displayed in the main foyer of the school. On Orange Shirt Day, students had a moment of silent reflection at 2:15 to remember the initial 215 graves found at a residential school in British Columbia earlier this year. This work of learning, reflecting, and taking action, is anticipated to continue throughout the year as we move toward Truth and Reconciliation. Thank you to all who participated.





## **Congratulations on a GREAT Terry Fox Fundraiser for 2021!** by B. Sher, teacher

Last week, our school was proud to play an important role in keeping the legacy of Terry Fox going. Students had the opportunity to learn, discuss and reflect on the heroic efforts of Terry in class. On Friday, October 1, our students did a fantastic job running at school and participating at home in memory of Terry Fox and for those, they know who have been affected by cancer. This was an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from cancer as well as build school spirit. Terry said, "*anything is possible if you try*". We tried and set a goal of raising \$1000. Thanks to the very generous donations from families and staff, we *surpassed* our goal by over 50% **raising \$1520 – our highest amount ever!!!** This is truly amazing and all the money is going to an incredible cause so that one day we will hopefully find a cure for all types of cancer.

If you would still like to make an online donation of any amount, please go to:

[http:// www.terryfox.ca/ SixteenthAvenuePSRichmondHill](http://www.terryfox.ca/SixteenthAvenuePSRichmondHill)

## **TVO FREE LEARNING RESOURCES**

In support of Ontario families this school year, TVO has assembled free K- 12 learning resources and tools to complement learning. Along with tvompower.com, below is a list of learning resources:

● [TVO Learn \(Grades 1- 8\)](#) | TVO Learn has expanded to include new adult- guided Learning Activities for Grades 1 through 8 math, language, science and technology and social studies. More are coming soon.

● [TVO Mathify \(Grades 6- 11\)](#) | TVO Mathify offers free, 1:1 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers. From September 20 until August 2022, Ontario students in Grade 11 will also be able to use the platform

● [TVOkids \(K- Grade 6\)](#) | The TVOkids Power Hour of Learning will air weekdays at 1 pm on TVOkids until September 8, and anytime on TVOkids.com, TVOLearn.com and YouTube. There's also How Do You Feel, a series that helps young viewers work through their thoughts and emotions.

### **NOVEMBER**

**1** - School Council at 6 p.m.

**4** - Diwali

**7** - Daylight savings

**11** - Remembrance Day

**16** - Report Cards sent home electronically

**18 & 19** - Report Card Conferences

**19** - PA Day - Report Card Conference

**21 to 27** - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

**29** - Hanukkah begins