

**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
RESPONSIBILITY

Signs
of the
Month

Sixteenth Avenue Star

Administrator's Message

September 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATORS

Welcome back! We are all excited to welcome our Sixteenth Avenue Stars back to school, face-to-face or online. We hope that everyone is safe, healthy, had a restful summer and had the opportunity to get vaccinated if eligible. Our aim is to continue supporting each other as we navigate through this school year together while we implement hybrid learning.



We would like to thank our families for their ongoing support and understanding. Although much of our start-up and day-to-day procedures will look similar to our last school year, COVID-19 continues to significantly impact our health and safety procedures and expectations. As a school, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff. We strive to provide the best possible learning environment for our children by following the Ministry of Education York Region Public Health guidelines and the York Region School Board.

Thank you to our dedicated educators who have worked endlessly to prepare for our 2021-2022 school year. Our dedicated teachers have been working hard to review health and safety protocols and engage in professional learning around the hybrid learning model and the 2021-2022 Caring and Learning Plan. Our wonderful office team have been hard at work in organizing numerous details around our school opening. Our custodial staff have worked diligently since the close of the last school year to ensure our building is safe and ready to receive your children.

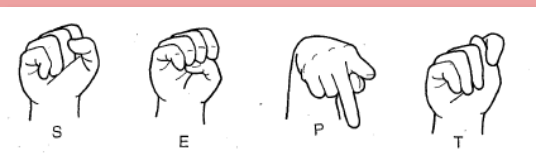
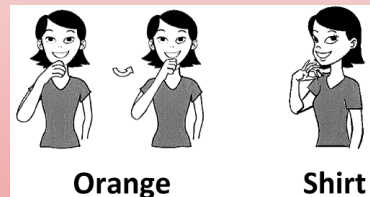
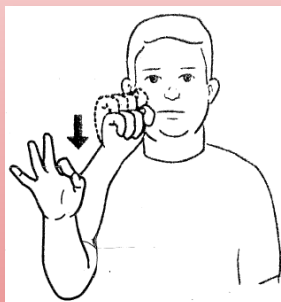
Please note that classes begin at 8:55 am, although staff supervision will start at 8:40 am to greet students as they arrive. Upon arrival, please have your child/ren enter the school and go directly to their assigned classroom (as shared earlier by the Board on Friday, Sept. 3rd, 2021). Please ensure that your child arrives promptly and is prepared for a full day of learning. The school day ends at 3:25 p.m. Please ensure that your child is picked up promptly. We will get bus students safely onto busses and child care students safely to their after-school care locations. Students who walk are expected to go home upon dismissal.

We look forward to our continued partnership with our community. Please take time to review the information in our handbook in order to prepare your child for this year.

In appreciation,

Tim Gervais
Principal

Nicole Ricketts
Vice-Principal



Terry Fox

Day

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE - HOW FAMILIES HELP

Families play a critical role in supporting health and safety in our school. The most important role families play to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 at Sixteenth Avenue is to [screen](#) their child daily for any COVID-19 symptoms. Parents/guardians **MUST** keep their child at home if they are sick, have ANY COVID symptoms, have members at home displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. If one covid symptom is displayed, a COVID test will be required.

Parents/Guardians:

- [Screen](#) your child(ren) every day
- Wear masks and not congregate when on the school property during pick-up and drop-off
- Remain 2-meters away from members of other households and staff at all times
- Remind your child(ren) to go straight home after school
- Lunch drop-offs will not be permitted. Please ensure that you pack a snack, lunch, utensils for your child.
- Students are expected to remain at school for lunch.

Please visit york.ca/safeatschool for up-to-date information on public health measures.

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE AT SCHOOL

- Students in Grade 1 to 8 are required to wear 3-layer masks; kindergarten students are *strongly encouraged* to wear masks.
- **New this year:** Masks are optional outdoors during recess as long as the 2-m physical distance can be maintained. Students must have access to their masks at all times.
- Students and staff perform hand hygiene throughout the day, either washing hands or using hand sanitizer.
- We follow physical distancing, i.e. remain 2-m apart, not touching others, directional and movement signage.
- Teachers will continue scheduling regular hand hygiene for their students.
- Non-scented, alcohol-based sanitizers will be available in each class and throughout the school and at designated entry and exit points.

Parents/guardians must have a plan in place to pick up their child(ren) immediately should they become ill or exhibit COVID 19 symptoms. If your child(ren) becomes unwell at school:

- The office will contact you to pick up your child immediately.
- Students will be supervised in an isolation room until a parent/guardian can pick them up.
- If we are not able to reach parent(s)/guardian(s) we will call the emergency contacts provided. Please ensure that the school has your most up-to-date contact and emergency information.



IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION OTHER

Student Health Needs

Fillable Health Care forms are now available for families who have children with asthma, seizure disorders, anaphylaxis, diabetes, and/or other prevalent medical conditions. This also applies to children who require the administration of medication at school. These forms can be accessed through the links below and from your child's teacher or school office. Please ensure that you complete these forms if needed. All medications must be kept in the office. Please call the office if you require additional information.

[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)

[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)

[Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)

[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)

[Self-administration of Medication Form](#)

BUSSING

Students must adhere to the following rules on the bus in order to ensure safety:

- Students are asked to thoroughly wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer prior to boarding a bus or school vehicle.
- Students must wear a face mask while riding the school bus.
- Students **MUST** sit in their assigned seats in order.

Waiting at a Bus Stop

- While waiting at bus stops, students, parents/guardians are encouraged to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing between family groupings. Social distancing of 2 metres must be maintained. Students are to arrive at their designated bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the posted pick-up time.
- Once the bus arrives, students should line up while maintaining social distancing. No more than one student should access the entry stairs of the bus at a time. Students should proceed to their assigned seat as quickly as possible.

Kiss-and-Ride

- 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.

ASSESSING GOOGLE CLASSROOM:

Please see the below link on how to log in to Google Classroom:

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/departments/information-technology-services/virtual-school-it-support/online-resources-2>



Message from Our Trustee, September 2021

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening. You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at www.york.ca/safeatschool.

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and successful.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision-making. The Board of Trustees makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Cindy Liang
Trustee – Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6