

DECEMBER
2021



PRINCIPAL

David Williams

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Sumir Bansal

SUPERINTENDENT

Laura Leesti

TRUSTEE

Ron Lynn

School Day Schedule

8:45 am Entry

8:55-10:35

Learning Block

10:35 - 11:05

Recess

11:05– 12:45

Learning Block

12:45-1:45

Lunch

1:45-3:25

Learning Block

3:25

Dismissal

The Stonebridge Story

Website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/stonebridge.ps>

Email: Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

Message from our Administrators

Welcome to December! The cooler weather is here and we are eagerly waiting for more snow! Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather. Snow pants, winter boots, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarfs are required to keep fingers and toes warm when we learn and play outside. Your child should arrive at school every day dressed and ready to go outside. Our decision to send students outside depends upon the temperature and the wind chill. These two factors considered together determine whether we are outside for the full recess, whether we go outside for a shortened recess, or remain inside due to severe cold. If you search for [The Weather Network/Stonebridge PS](#) they will show you what you need to wear in the morning, lunch time and end of day to dress for the weather!

Inclement Weather Days

As we approach colder weather, there may be Inclement Weather days declared by our school board. On these days, all schools will be closed, **please do not send your child to school**. This information will be posted on our [board's twitter account](#) and [website](#) by 6am.

On inclement weather days, there will be **no synchronous instruction** (e.g. no live google meet). Instead, asynchronous instruction will be available to all students. Asynchronous learning opportunities [can be found here](#) as well as on your child's google classroom.

Retirement Announcement!

Maria Haron is retiring! We would like to thank Maria for her many years of service here at Stonebridge, but also at the other schools and communities she has served. Maria will be retiring at the end of December and plans to spend time with her family. We wish her all the best in the next step in her journey! Congratulations Maria!

Return to School Face to Face

With the recent provincial announcement of vaccines being available for children 5-11, we have heard that many families/students are planning on switching models from virtual to face to face. If this applies to your child (ren), please send us an email at stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca with your child's name, grade and current teacher. We will then arrange for a return to face to face schooling date for your child. **Please note that after your initial request, it may take a few weeks for your child to return face to face. Please wait for a confirmation from the school.**

Continued on next page ...

Traveling Over the Break?

If you are travelling outside of Canada over the break and are subject to a following quarantine period, please note that your child will only be able to access asynchronous learning if their class is fully F2F. They will not have access to synchronous learning (e.g. google meets).

Please note that if your child is going to miss less than 14 days of school, please report your child's absence via EDSBY or Inform. If your child is going to miss more than 14 days of school, please email the school (stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca) so that we can send you the extended absence form for you to fill out.

Walking Wednesday – Kiss and Ride Closed Every Wednesday

As an Active Travel school, we will continue to have our Kiss and Ride closed every Wednesday! We hope to see more of our students and families being active and walking to and from school! Thank you for supporting this important well-being initiative.

School Council

Our next virtual School Council meeting will be on January 3rd from 6:00 to 7:00pm via [zoom](#). All are welcome to attend!

The last day of school before the Winter Break is December 17th, 2021. School will resume on Monday January 3rd, 2022. Please take the time over the holidays to relax and unwind with your families.

Your partners in education,

Mr. Williams and Mr. Bansal

Message From Our Trustee—December 2021

With case counts remaining relatively stable, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff members for continuing to adhere to health and safety protocols. Your efforts are appreciated and important to protecting the health and safety of our school community members. As we have since the start of the pandemic, the school board continues to meet regularly with public health and follow their guidance. Families looking for more information or resources on COVID-19 and our schools, including health and safety guidelines, frequently asked questions and mental health resources, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening or York Region's www.york.ca/safeatschool.

In November, we held the school council forums. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in shared learning with school council representatives on priority topics including the ABCs of mental health and actioning anti-racism practices. Thank you to all of the participants and to all school council members for your partnership. There are so many valuable [ways families help to strengthen our schools and support student learning and achievement](#). We value the partnership that we have with families, and thank you for your ongoing support.

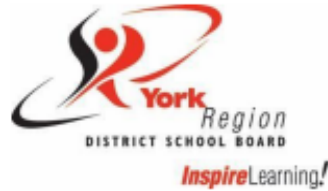
As partners, we want to support you in supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. The Family Resources page on the Board website provides quick access to online tools such as Google Classroom, School Cash Online, Edsby and more. It also provides links to information to support you in engaging in your child's learning - resources like translation tools, IT support for families and tips on protecting your child's privacy online. It also includes links to other information you may find helpful. Find it at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or from the link on the homepage.

Over the past few months, York Region District School Board has been conducting a review of its Trustee Areas. The boundaries of the areas that school board trustees represent change over time. The goal of the Trustee Determination and Distribution Study is to ensure fair and equitable representation of all public school supporters. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on the proposed options. The final report will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 8. You can find more [information about the study and the recommendations on the Board website](#).

The upcoming winter season is a time of celebration for many, and I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope that over the winter break, you find time to rest, relax and rejuvenate and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Ron Lynn

Trustee – Markham Wards 2, 3 and 6



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

The ABCs of Mental Health: A focus upon Bridge & Connection

In this Newsletter, we continue our focus on the [ABCs of Mental Health framework](#) with a closer look at **B-Bridge** and **C-Connect** both at school and at home.

Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect are interrelated and work one with the other. *Acknowledge* helps us center and validate the lived experiences and realities of students, staff and families. In our previous [Newsletter](#), we noted that acknowledging lived experiences and realities is the beginning, but is not enough. In this effort, *Bridge* and *Connection* aid us in creating learning environments where growth and healing can occur. As we continue to navigate COVID-19, these are important now more than ever.

B- Bridge

Bridging centers on the fact that your children/our students, staff and families possess personal, cultural and community assets and strengths. When we all learn about these assets and strengths, we can better build meaningful and affirming connections and enhance growth, healing, and shape student/family support opportunities. When we Bridge, we honour and value varying ways of knowing, being and doing in the world. Children and families are seen as the experts in their lives. Their interests, assets, unique beliefs, traditions, experiences and strengths are valued, respected and reflected in the learning environment. Beyond this, when we Bridge, we affirm that families and communities are essential and valuable allies.

C- Connect

Connect encourages us to build connections based on the strengths, assets and interests shared by our students, staff and families. Establishing positive connections is vital and fundamental to the experience of mattering and belonging. This is equally important both at school and at home. Caring is at the core of forming positive

connections and relationships. We consider the difference between "caring for" and "caring about." [Geneva Gay](#) invites us to consider, "while 'caring about' conveys feelings of concern for one's state of being, 'caring for' is active engagement in doing something to positively affect it." Caring *for* encompasses a combination of concern, compassion, commitment, responsibility, and action. When we engage in the action of caring *for* one another, the outcome is a sense of mattering and belonging. It tells our children /students, staff and families that:

I belong here
I matter here
I am valued here
I am cared for here

Connection and relationships must be cultivated, and care must be actioned. By this, we mean relationships require attention, intention, and ongoing effort. Care must be seen and felt.

We invite you to consider and do One Small Thing that demonstrates **caring for someone**.

"A simple call to a friend brightens someone's day - it's a small thing."

-YRDSB Student.

YRDSB Mental Health acknowledges the importance of cultivating positive relationships and building community not only with students and staff but with families and community members. We understand that to best support students and strengthen our school board's mental health supports; we must listen, learn from, and collaborate with families and community members. In this effort, we have created a [feedback form](#) as a starting point to hear your voice as parents and caregivers and learn how we can shape and improve supports and resources that enhance students' mental health and wellbeing.

We look forward to creating pathways for caring connections and meaningful relationships with parents, caregivers, and families. Share your voice by using this [feedback form](#), and let's pave the path forward together.

What are students saying about the ABCs of Mental Health? Have a look at this [Video](#) To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series, please visit [YRDSB ABCs](#)

We invite you to consider the following **free seminar** focused on Connection:

Getting Teenagers Connected - Help your teenager develop good, supportive friendships. You'll learn ways to build their confidence, encourage social skills, help them to plan and meet commitments and encourage them to take care of others. [Click here to register.](#)

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health. Resources for students, parents/guardians, and community resources are listed. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts [@YRDSB](#) and [@YRDSB_SS](#).

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.

Mental Health Lead

patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca

Hoshana Calliste, MSW, RSW

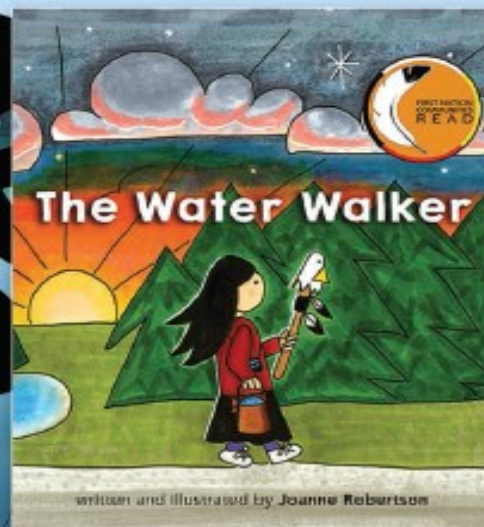
Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca

Meet Joanne Robertson

Author of *The Water Walker*

Part of the Ancestral Voices Author Series



Thursday, December 2, 2021 10:30 a.m.

- Join Joanne Robertson, author of the acclaimed children's books *The Water Walker* and *Nibi Is Water*

AnishinaabeKwe author Joanne Robertson wrote and illustrated the *The Water Walker*, which won the Indigenous Literature Award. Joanne will share her work for the water walks beginning with Grandmother Josephine-ba Mandamin. We will learn why water walkers walk and who they walk for. She will share stories and images that inspired *The Water Walker*.

Ancestral Voices is an author series presented by NPL, in collaboration with Maxine Gordon Palomino and Kim Wheatley. It features Canadian authors of Indigenous, Caribbean and African ancestry and descent.

Join us for this free online program. For more information 905-953-5110 Ext. 4770. Register at <http://bit.ly/nprobertson>

NACCA





Parent Engagement Panel Discussion (In Tamil Session)

தமிழில் பெற்றோருடன் ஓர் கலந்துரையாடல்

- **Course Selection for Grade 9**
9 ஆம் வகுப்புக்கான பாடத் தேர்வு
- **Destreaming of Grade 9 Math**
புதிய Academic, Applied நீக்கப்பட்ட தரம் 9க்கான கணிதம்

Hosted by

Educators for Tamil Student Success
and
Inclusive School and Community Services

யோக் பிராந்திய பாடசாலை வாரியத்தின் தமிழ் மாணவர்கள்
வெற்றிக்கான அமைப்பும்,
யோக் பிராந்திய பாடசாலை சமூக சேவைகளுடன் இணைந்து நடாத்தும்
பயிற்சிப் பட்டறை

Date / திகதி: December 8, 2021

Time / மாலை: 6:30 - 8:00 pm வரை

[Registration பதிவு செய்ய இணைப்பு இங்கே](#)

If you have any questions please contact:
உங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது கேள்விகள் இருந்தால்

Nageswary Srikumaraguru/ Community Partnership Developer,
Inclusive School and Community Services (YRDSB)
nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca

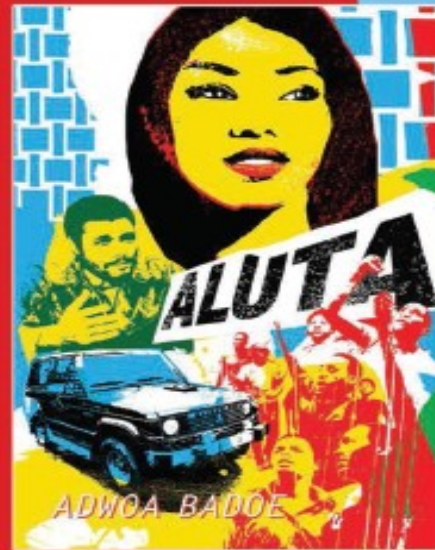
Meet Adwoa Badoe

author of *Aluta* & *Between Sisters*

Part of the Ancestral Voices Author Series



Photo: John Wood



Thursday, December 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.

- Join Adwoa Badoe, author of acclaimed Young Adult novels *Aluta* and *Between Sisters* for an engaging author event for ages 14 and up

Adwoa Badoe is a storyteller who has published young adult novels, as well as the collection, *The Pot of Wisdom: Ananse Stories*, and several picture books for young children. She is an oral storyteller, specializing in the folktales and legends of Africa. Adwoa has also taught and performed African Dance and practiced medicine. Adwoa will be showcasing her book *Aluta*.

Ancestral Voices is an author series presented by NPL, in collaboration with Maxine Gordon Palomino and Kim Wheatley. It features Canadian authors of Indigenous, Caribbean and African ancestry and descent.

Join us for this free online program. For more information
905-953-5110 Ext. 4770. Register at <http://bit.ly/nplbadoe>

NACCA





UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Reach Ahead to Kinesiology

March Break Program for Black Youth

March 14-18, 2022 • FREE

Experience student life at the University of Toronto and explore the field of kinesiology, where health and physical activity intersect!

- ✓ Interactive workshops and activities
- ✓ Connect with professors and staff in the Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education
- ✓ Mentorship opportunities with currently enrolled Black and racialized students
- ✓ 20 funded spots, including meals and stay in a local hotel

Learn more at
uoft.me/kpereachahead



KPE
@
UofT

Announcements

Changes—Moving, Contact Information

Please let the office know your new address if you are moving so that we can update our records. Be prepared to provide us with the proof of address.

If there are any other changes such as contact information, pickup, etc., please let us know.

Lost and Found

We do not have a Lost and Found at this time due to COVID-19. Students who have lost things like jackets outside the school will be left there for the rest of the day. After that, they will be removed and thrown away.

Others

For younger students, please have a change of clothes kept at school especially over the winter months.

We are asking for donations for our Snack Program. Please contact school office on how to donate.

Please do not drop off any food or other items for students in the class for birthdays or other celebrations.

Report Absences or Late

If your child is going to be absent / late, please report via Edsby before the bell time.

If you do not have an Edsby account or need help with setting it up, please contact the office @ **905-887-2427**.

TO REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE/LATE:

LOGIN TO: **yrdsb.edsby.com** / CALL **905.887.2427**

Nut & Scent Free Environment

This is a reminder that many students and staff have life threatening allergies to nuts. As a result, we ask that all snacks and lunches are nut free. Please take the time to read the labels on snacks to ensure they are nut safe. We also ask that you do not use peanut butter substitutes such as Wow Butter. **Nutella is a nut product and must not come to school.**



The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. To help keep the air healthy for everyone, our school has a scent-free policy.