

DECEMBER
2022



PRINCIPAL

David Williams

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Elaine Ricketts

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

It's hard to believe that we are in the month of December, the final month of the year. It's a good time to sit with our children and reflect on the last twelve months and set goals for the upcoming year. It has been an eventful year with many ups and downs due to the ongoing pandemic. Even though we are enjoying what seems to be a much more normal year than we have had in the past, we are still feeling the effects of the pandemic. Students continue to be absent due to illness. We want to remind families that if your child experiences COVID-19 symptoms or feels ill in any way, please keep them at home and do not send them to school. We appreciate your cooperation!

Our Scholastic book fair ended on December 7. We would like to thank all the families that made purchases to support our school. All generated funds will be used to purchase books and other resources for the school library. A special thank you goes out to Ms. Leung, our teacher librarian, who organized this worthwhile event and to our amazing community volunteers who helped bring it all together!

December is a festive time of year. There is an uplifting feeling to the month and many members of our community celebrate different holidays. We wish all the families who are celebrating a joyful holiday. Stonebridge will be closed for the winter break from December 26 to January 6. School will open again on January 9, 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Stonebridge families a wonderful, peaceful and restful winter break. Enjoy time spent with friends and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming all our students back in the new year. Happy Holidays!

Partners in Education,

Mr. Williams and Ms. Ricketts

Message From Our Trustee—December 2022

I am happy to serve as your trustee on the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, my role includes being an advocate for quality public education in York Region, and I want to assure you that I am committed to that work. Every one of our students deserves to be learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued and supported in learning and achieving success.

Part of our role as trustees includes making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and setting our priorities as an organization through a [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). Our board will work hard to keep students at the centre of our decision making, and to build collaborative relationships with the families and communities we serve. The education of our students, your children, is a partnership and the relationships we have with families is an essential one.

Communicating with families and members of the public is also an important part of our role, and I look forward to connecting with members of the school community in the coming weeks and months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will be sharing information with you throughout the school year, and letting you know more about our work and priorities as a school board. You can also visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca or follow on social media.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates in December for different faiths and cultures, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and recharge, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Ron Lynn

Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

Engagement Matters

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) is delighted to share the Fall 2022 edition of [Engagement Matters](#). This newsletter is designed to inspire, connect and inform families across our school board. This edition includes valuable information about building relationships, including:

- A spotlight on our community partner, Girls Inc. of York Region
- Information about attending a PEAC meeting
- How to join the Edsby School Council Hub
- Supporting policies under review

Hello Silver Wolves, Spirit Wear is here!!!



<http://stonebridgeps.entripyshops.com/>

Our Spirit Wear will be available for
order online through the above link.

Delivery to your home!

You have the ability to customize your
order with colour and lettering!

Order now!! Proceeds to support the school!!



**In collaboration with
York Region District School Board**

SAAAC Autism Centre Presents

Caregiver Orientation: New Autism Diagnosis

To be delivered in Tamil and English

Join us to chat about:

- Next steps after diagnosis
- Types of funding available
- Services and programs available in the community
- SAAAC Cares Program
- YRDSB Autism Supports
- Cultural perspectives on children with disabilities
- Your experiences as a caregiver of a child with Autism

December 13th 2022 | 6:30-8:30pm

**Markham District High School
89 Church St, Markham, ON L3P 2M3**

Register here on our [Google Form](#)

For questions or accommodation requests please
email: nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca



Community Building and Engagement Event

共建美好家庭座談會／共建美好家庭座谈会

Please join us at our 2022-2023 community building event! We are thrilled to build connections with the Chinese Heritage parents and students, and engage meaningful conversations that help students thrive at school.

我們渴望對話，了解學生的情況並分享有關家庭關係和情感健康的技巧。我們誠邀您加入對話，好讓華裔學生的情況能夠得到更多的支持。

我们渴望对话，了解学生的情况并分享有关家庭关系和情感健康的技巧。我们诚邀您加入对话，好让华裔学生的情况能够得到更多的支持。

To register for this Cantonese/ Mandarin session:

[点击这里报名讲座](#) or scan the QR code



[點擊這裡報名講座](#) or scan QR code



HONG FOOK
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Parents, Guardians, Caregiver and Students

Join us to learn and share with your community how the families are supported!

Date: **Wednesday, Dec 14th, 2022**

Time: **6-8:30pm**

Location: **Armada Community Centre**
2401 Denison Street, Markham, ON L3S 1E7

Presenters:

Charmaine Tong (M.S.W., R.S.W.)

York Region District School Board
School Social Worker (Chinese Heritage Community)

Hannah Xu (MPH)

Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Youth Program Worker

For more information, please contact:

Community Care Team
School Social Worker
Charmaine Tong
charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca

Light refreshments will be provided

Registration will be closed after we have reached the maximum number of registrations for the event. This free session is brought to you in partnership with Hong Fook Mental Health Association and Community Care Team of York Region District School Board



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2022

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

Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy

A closer look at the concept of “Between and Around”

Dear Families,

In the [November edition of the Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) We took a closer look at the concept of **Within**. In this edition, we continue to focus on the [Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy \(SMHAS\): A Holistic Approach to Mental Health, Within Us, Between Us, Around Us](#) by taking a closer look at the concept of **“Between”** and **“Around”** and the associated priority actions.

More than words on paper, the SMHAS strategy is created to be action-oriented. With an understanding that actions, accountability and collaboration are needed to foster [identity-affirming](#) and [healing-centred](#) spaces that enhance mental health.

To uphold the collaborative process of our strategy development and honour the voices and contributions of students, families, communities, organizations and staff who shared their wisdom with us, we have co-created a multifaceted, holistic framework informed by many voices. This framework encompasses mental health and wellness that is inclusive of the whole person and the many intersections (intersectionality) and relationships that are encompassed within their social identities. This speaks to the key concepts of Between and Around.

Between:

Between can be explained as the social aspect of our relationships with other people, our families, and communities. This includes but is not limited to our connections and relationships with faith groups, elders and beyond. The Between action areas focus on building capacity, understanding and resources with people, families, and communities in YRDSB to address trauma, racial trauma and other forms of harm while supporting healing and growth. We approach the development of the Between priority actions with an understanding that we, as a school board,



are not the experts in the lives of our students and families. We are not the gatekeepers of knowledge and wisdom. As such, we will learn from, with and alongside students and families. With the ongoing exploration of how wellness is supported and affirmed across communities?

Some of the ways in which we hope to co-learn together are through the

Between Family/Community Priority Actions: [Action 2.7](#)

This includes but is not limited to

- *Collaborating with family and caregiver groups to learn how to best support culturally responsive gatherings and learning opportunities for families.*



Around:

Around can be explained as the families, communities, and learning/social environments that surround us. This can include connections to land, water, ancestors, and other meaningful relationships. The Around can also encompass many factors and experiences that can impact wellness, such as experiences of different life events and systemic factors such as oppression, colonialism and racism, discrimination and marginalization. The Around priority area is supported through priority actions that work towards building safe, mentally healthy, and inclusive learning environments where students feel they matter and belong and create Identity Specific collaboration and care and pathways that are responsive to students and families.

Around Family/Community Priority Actions: [Action 3.9](#)

This action focuses on building and supporting identity-affirming, [culturally responsive](#), mental health-focused partnerships with families.

This can include but is not limited to:

- *Continued partnership with community groups to develop and offer mental health promotion events and initiatives for families and caregivers that are culturally and linguistically relevant and responsive.*

Within Between Around

The concept of Within, Between and Around encourages us to honour the different ways of knowing, being, healing and growing. Along with understanding the many relationships, factors/experiences that may impact a person's mental health. Through healing-centred engagement and identity-affirming practices, we hope to create learning environments that center on student and community strengths, wisdom, and excellence, building and sustaining positive relationships and creating learning environments where children and families can bring their whole selves to school.



To learn more about the SMHAS and associated priority areas/actions, please visit [Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy \(SMHAS\): A Holistic Approach to Mental Health, Within Us, Between Us, Around Us](#).

A call to action:

As we work towards enhancing student mental health and well-being and creating spaces that honour, affirms and uplifts students for who they are, we invite you on the journey with us. Families are invited to use the prompts below to continue exploring the concept of **Between** and **Around** through conversations about relationships and experiences.

Inward reflection: What are the relationships and connections that are meaningful to me? How do these relationships and connections support my mental health and well-being?

Outward consideration: How might I support connections and relationships that strengthen and support positive mental health for my child or someone I care about?



Actions we can take that foster positive relationships Around us:

"Everything you do and say is a little clue to the people around you as to how approachable and trustworthy you are..... Being inclusive, compassionate, helpful, and a good listener in your daily interactions signals to others that you care about people and you're a safe person to reach out to...." [Be There resource](#)

How might we show care in our interactions with those around us and those we encounter? A little care and compassion goes a long way.

- Offer a smile, a wave, a hello
- Offer a helping hand and or words of encouragement if and when you can
- Take time to check in on someone
- The [Be There resource](#) offers many ways we can demonstrate care
- School Mental Health Ontario shares [Skills for students: Having healthy relationships with others](#)
- At home: Make time to connect in a way that is meaningful for your household, to listen, to eat, to play...
- Engage in conversations from a place of understanding
- Take time to build relationships and learn about others with care and curious

We continue to learn from and with students, families and YRDSB communities and continue to look forward to a year of learning, discovery, and joy alongside you.

Supportive Resources:



[YorkHills Here to Help Line](#) (905-503-9561)

The Here to Help Line is a free service available to children, youth (0-18) and their parents, caregiver or adult supporters.

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#)

Follow YRDSB Mental Health on Twitter [@MH_YRDSB](#)

[Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#)

[Indigenous Education And Equity Strategy](#)

Free YRDSB and community events:

Parent/caregiver series supporting students of Chinese Heritage.

Dec 14th, 2022 at 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Armada Community Centre 2401 Denison Street, Markham, ON L3S 1E7

[Registration for Cantonese](#)

[Registration for Mandarin](#)

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

Mental Health Lead

patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca

Hoshana Calliste, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca

Kindergarten Registration 2023–2024



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 20, 2023

Kindergarten registration for September 2023 begins Friday, January 20 from 8:30 am for the 2023-2024 school year. Children who turn four or five years old during 2021, live within the school boundary and whose parents/guardians are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for Kindergarten.

There are several ways you can register for Kindergarten:

- Online** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten. It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.
- By email** - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten) at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten and email the completed form to their school email address. Email addresses can be found on the [school website](#).
- By phone** - Families can request support from the school Principal/Vice-Principal to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone. Families can request an interpreter, if needed, during this phone conversation. Call your local school.
- By mail or appointment.** You can mail completed applications to the school, or request an appointment to drop-off your completed paper application form. Families are asked to follow all school COVID-19 protocols while on site.

Once you have completed your application, the school will contact you to make an appointment to review and verify the [required documents](#).

Our Kindergarten programs are caring and welcoming where children learn through exploration, play and inquiry. You can learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten. We look forward to welcoming our new students and families to the school.

Lunch Drop Off

We encourage families to send lunch with students when they come to school in the morning. If you need to drop off a lunch for your child, please bring it to the office and students can pick them up from there. Please do not wait to hand deliver lunches to the students in the yard. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Options

The following lunch options are offered at Stonebridge P.S. Please see below for more information:

Monday	Kid's Kitchen	Started Monday, October 24th. Orders ongoing and directly with Kid's Kitchen.
Tuesday	Pasta lunch	Order closed for Round 1. Started from October 18th to December 20th.
Wednesday	Tasty Ya	Orders ongoing. Orders take place online directly with Tasty Ya.
Thursday	Pizza Lunch	Order closed for Round 1. Started from November 3rd to January 26th.
Friday	Kid's Kitchen	Started Monday, October 24th. Orders ongoing and directly with Kid's Kitchen.

Please note: If you order Tasty Ya lunch for your child on Wednesdays, please remember to send cutlery with them as Tasty Ya does not provide cutlery with the lunches.

Inclement Weather and Special Lunches

We have received communication from our board. School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon. Any special or hot lunches will also be cancelled on these days.

Inclement Weather

School Transportation Cancellations

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon. Any special or hot lunch days and field trips will also be cancelled.

Families should use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on extreme cold or inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on those days. For safety reasons, please let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

School Closures

Emergency closures will be considered when conditions may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site (e.g., widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines).

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and aftercare programs will not operate if schools are closed.

Communication to Families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Transportation cancellations or school closures are communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services - www.schoolbuscity.com or 1-877-330-3001
- [Board](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.



Student Transportation Services of York Region
320 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
905-713-2535
FAX: 905-713-2533
Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

Inclement Weather Procedures

STSYR015 P. 1 of 2
Revised: Jan. 2013

School Bus Cancellation Notice

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and Environment Canada forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be region-wide meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.
- If regular home to school runs are cancelled, Charter trips will not operate.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM
1540 AM	1580 AM				
88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM	94.9 FM	
95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM	
101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	107.1 FM	

TELEVISION

CITY TV CFTO Barrie CFTO TV GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001.

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.