

DECEMBER
2024

The Stonebridge Story

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

Email: Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS



PRINCIPAL

David Williams

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Elaine Ricketts

SUPERINTENDENT

Kandeephan
Ganeshalingam

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 pm
Dismissal

Message from our Administrators

Dear Stonebridge Families,

It is hard to believe that it is December already; we are in the last month of the year. December is a festive season where various communities celebrate a variety of holidays including Christmas, Bodi Day, Chanukah/ Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, and Pancha Ganapati. We at Stonebridge wish all families who are celebrating a wonderful holiday with family and friends. We hope the season brings you good health and lots of joy!

Thanks to all of our families who have supported our Scholastic Book Fair. It is running until Wednesday, Dec. 4th and students really enjoy looking at all the new books available to them. During the book fair, the students have an opportunity to earn coupons through an engaging activity created by our teacher librarian Mrs. Leung. Students need to search the school for an adult who will be an explorer! During the library time, they discussed how to be an explorer in reading. i.e. Be adventurous; Try something new to read; Be open-minded ...

Mrs. Leung has secretly invited different people (teachers, parents, students, staff) to be the explorers and who will wear "Clifford" (Scholastic Book Fair Logo) around. When they are spotted, kids will go to them and ask "What do you have, Explorer?" The explorer will give them a scripted response. Students are having a great time trying to search for the explorers throughout the school. It is a fun way to motivate students to read.

This is just a reminder that School Council will be hosting our next movie night on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Thanks to all of the families who voted for one of the three options through the Google Form. The movie that got the most votes was The Wild Robot so that is the movie we will be showing! We hope you can come! Unlike previous movie nights, we will not be selling any food items the night of the event. All food purchases must be made in advance through School Cash Online. The deadline to do so is Sunday, December 15, 2024. Pizza, popcorn and YGO bubble tea will be available for purchase.

School will be closed for the winter break for two weeks. The last day of school will be Friday, December 20th and school will reopen on Monday, January 6th, 2025. We hope you have an enjoyable break and get to spend some quality time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year. Enjoy the break!

David Williams

Principal

Elaine Ricketts

Vice-Principal

Message from Our Trustee

December 2024

As we approach the winter break, I am happy to share a few updates from the Board of Trustees and to wish you all the very best for the approaching break and holiday season.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence. The plan sets out three priorities that will guide our direction and decision-making as a school board: student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education. It was developed by the Board of Trustees based on feedback received from the community, and we are grateful to everyone who shared their input. It was important to Trustees to ensure that this is a plan that serves the needs of our students and community. I invite you to [learn more about this plan](#).

Family Engagement

Earlier in the fall, we hosted a series of **school council forums**, bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all of the family members who are supporting the work of our school councils, volunteering in schools, attending events and meetings, sharing information and getting involved in any way to support and strengthen our schools and school communities.

Some families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.

As part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with families to support your child's education, we also recently introduced the **Family Dashboard**. The dashboard will offer you secure, one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).

Happy Holiday Season and Winter Break

For many in our community, this time of year includes significant dates and celebrations. For those who are celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. It is also a valuable time to connect with family and friends, as well as to rest and recharge. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Ron Lynn

Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Recently, York Region District School Board launched its new Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Developed by the Board of Trustees and based on feedback from staff, students and community, it lays out three priorities:

- Student Achievement
- Health and Well-Being
- Human Rights and Inclusive Education

The plan aims to build unity while helping students to achieve excellence by promoting and supporting high expectations for all, building healthy environments and positive relationships and learning and growing together while affirming our diverse identities.

This plan will guide the collective work of the board for the next 4-5 years and we look forward to sharing its success with you in the coming months.

To learn more about the Multi-Year Strategic Plan please visit www.yrdsb.ca/MYSP

Kwanzaa Celebration

Students, staff and families, please join us as we come together to celebrate Kwanzaa! This special event will honour African heritage, unity and culture and will be a time to reflect on the seven principles of Kwanzaa, enjoy cultural traditions and foster community spirit.

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Location: Dr. Bette Stephenson, 36 Regatta Avenue, Richmond Hill

Event Details:

- Storytelling on Kwanzaa's history and principles
- Music and performances celebrating African heritage and culture
- Crafts and activities for all ages
- A community feast

We look forward to celebrating this cultural holiday with you.

To Register

Please fill out a [registration form](#) by **December 2, 2024**.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca



School Council

One of the key roles we play as members on the School Council is to support Stonebridge Public school in fundraising through numerous fun, exciting and educational events that promote community and service. The value of fundraising supports schools through new programs, academic excellence, and facility improvements. There are positive highlights on students' performance through leadership skills, teamwork and community engagement. Without fundraising, the school might miss out on launching exciting new programs and initiatives to improve quality programming. The benefits of the community coming together between parents and teachers is critical to achieve overall success. Fundraising allows parents to play a more active role in their children's lives and additional funds allow schools to improve their facilities and programs.

Here are win-win stories.

- Lunch Program offering a variety of hot healthy lunches
- Movie Night
- Science Fair
- Art Competition
- Fun Fair
- Math Night
- Outdoor Classroom that was recently build
- Graduation Funds
- Divisional Funds for Presentations
- Cost Sharing Funds for the purchase of technology
- Family Assistance Fund
- Movie Night License
- Planting additional Trees
- Purchasing additional Music Instruments

School Council's initiative is to plan and execute the strategy with School for a win-win outcome.

Let's continue to support and boost our outreach!

French Immersion (FI) Information Sessions and Registrations

What is French Immersion?

- Provides opportunities for students to develop enhanced proficiency in French.
- Students receive instruction in French from teachers who are fluent in French.
- Begins in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French.
- In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, instructional time is shared equally between French and English.
- Program continues in secondary school.
- Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

Important Considerations

- Grade 1 is the only entry point into French immersion in YRDSB.
- Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.
- For the first few months of Grade 1, children may not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.
- During the first few years of the FI program, students may not develop the same level of English proficiency as their peers in an English program, however children should acquire these skills by the end of Grade 8. Families are encouraged to continue to read to their children in their first language.

FI Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program is offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program will take place in French Immersion schools on **January 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.** Program locations and additional information is available on our website. If families are unable to attend the information session, they can hear about the French Immersion program on the Tune In YRDSB: French Immersion Podcast.

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 17, 2025. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2024, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact families by phone or email to collect any necessary information. Families are asked to register by February 10, 2025. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 10, 2025. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



*YRDSB Learning about Mental Health
Presentation Series (LAMPS) for
Parents and Caregivers on*



SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH



What is the presentation about?

Some topics include:

- Defining social media
- Understanding the risks and benefits of social media use
- Strategies to help youth manage their social media use



When: January 15, 2025, 6-7 PM

Location: Online

Translation available in Farsi-Persian, Mandarin (simple Chinese written), Cantonese (traditional Chinese written), Turkish, Ukrainian, Korean

[Click here to register](#)

[Or Scan the QR Code to Register](#)



Kindergarten Registration 2025–2026



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2025

Kindergarten registration for September 2025 begins Friday, January 17 from 8:30 am for the 2025-2026 school year. Children who turn four or five years old during 2025, 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](#) 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.

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.

Winter Weather

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an extreme cold or inclement weather day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school websites and on X @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days is outlined in the Board's Severe Weather policy.

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!

Free shipping on orders over \$129 (before taxes).

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

Order now!! Proceeds to support the school!!

Link: <https://stonebridgeps.entripyshops.com/>

Student Lunch

We continue to encourage students to bring their lunch with them when they are coming to school in the morning.

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.