

FEBRUARY
2024



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 pm

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

Dear Stonebridge Families,

Welcome to February! The students at school are enjoying the mild start to the month. The climate is bittersweet. Those who enjoy warmer weather appreciate it but those who enjoy the cold and winter sports wish the temperatures would get a little colder with some snow. Let's see what the month brings.

Recently our junior girls and boys volleyball teams competed at their area tournaments. Their dedication and hard work in practice in the previous weeks was put to the test. Both teams demonstrated good sportsmanship and had a lot of fun. They tried their very best. A special congratulations goes out to the girls team who placed third in the area.

Two students under the guidance of Ms. Leung are hosting a chess club for students from grades 3 to 5. Students can sign up during their library time and the first meeting is on February 12, 2024.

This is just a reminder that we have our upcoming Arts Night on February 15, 2024. Students are busy preparing to showcase their talent for the community. We hope you are able to come and join us. It runs from 6:30 to 8:00pm. We will also be accepting non-perishable food items in the evening to support our local food bank.

Term 1 has ended and reports will be sent out electronically the week of February 20th. Term 2 began February 5th. Please feel free to contact the teacher if you would like information about your child's progress or if you have questions about your child's report card. We look forward to a successful term 2!

David Williams

Principal

Elaine Ricketts

Vice-Principal

Message from Our Trustee

February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder winter weather this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion](#) registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at course selection in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area, or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) to guide system direction for a four-year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community

members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Ron Lynn, Markham Wards 2 and 6

Reminders

Chatime (one time only) - last day to order from School Cash Online will be on Friday, February 9.

Arts Night will be on Thursday, February 15 from 6:30—8:00 pm. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to support Markham Food Bank.

Grade 8 Grad picture day will be on Thursday, February 22.

Lunar New Year—Year of the Dragon

Lunar New Year is on February 10, 2024 and it is the Year of the Dragon. It is a significant and meaningful cultural celebration for many people of East and South-east Asian heritage including but not limited to Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Indonesian communities. It is celebrated across the Asia-Pacific and diaspora communities around the world. This holiday commemorates the first day of the Lunar Calendar. The date is determined by the appearance of the moon and usually takes place between late January to early February. For some, this occasion has religious significance as well.

Lunar New Year, also referred to as the Spring Festival to some, is celebrated where families and communities come together, and enjoy traditional foods and activities. Many cultures also have their own unique ways of celebrating the event. These could include families and individuals coming together to spend time with one another, sharing of traditional meals, and engaging in traditional activities such as cleaning the house and performing ceremonial rituals to elders and ancestors.



Lunarfest at the Varley

Free Family Activities Celebrating Lunar New Year.

Free Family Activities at Varley Art Gallery

February 10 to 11 and 17 to 18

Lunarfest at the Varley

Saturdays and Sundays, February 10 to 11, and 17 to 18 | 10 AM to 5 PM | Free

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at Varley Art Gallery! Drop-in on February 10 and 11 for free family activities, and continue the celebration on February 17 and 18 with LunarFest, a community festival in partnership with the ACSEA. Don't miss the Lunar Lanterns in the courtyard from January to March, created in partnership with Indigenous artists. Experience a 2024 Lunar New Year celebration only at Varley!

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/arts/varley-art-gallery/public-programs>



LET'S WALK!

WINTER WALK DAY

FEBRUARY



**Celebrate,
don't hibernate!**
**Walk to school
this winter.**

Ontario Active
School Travel

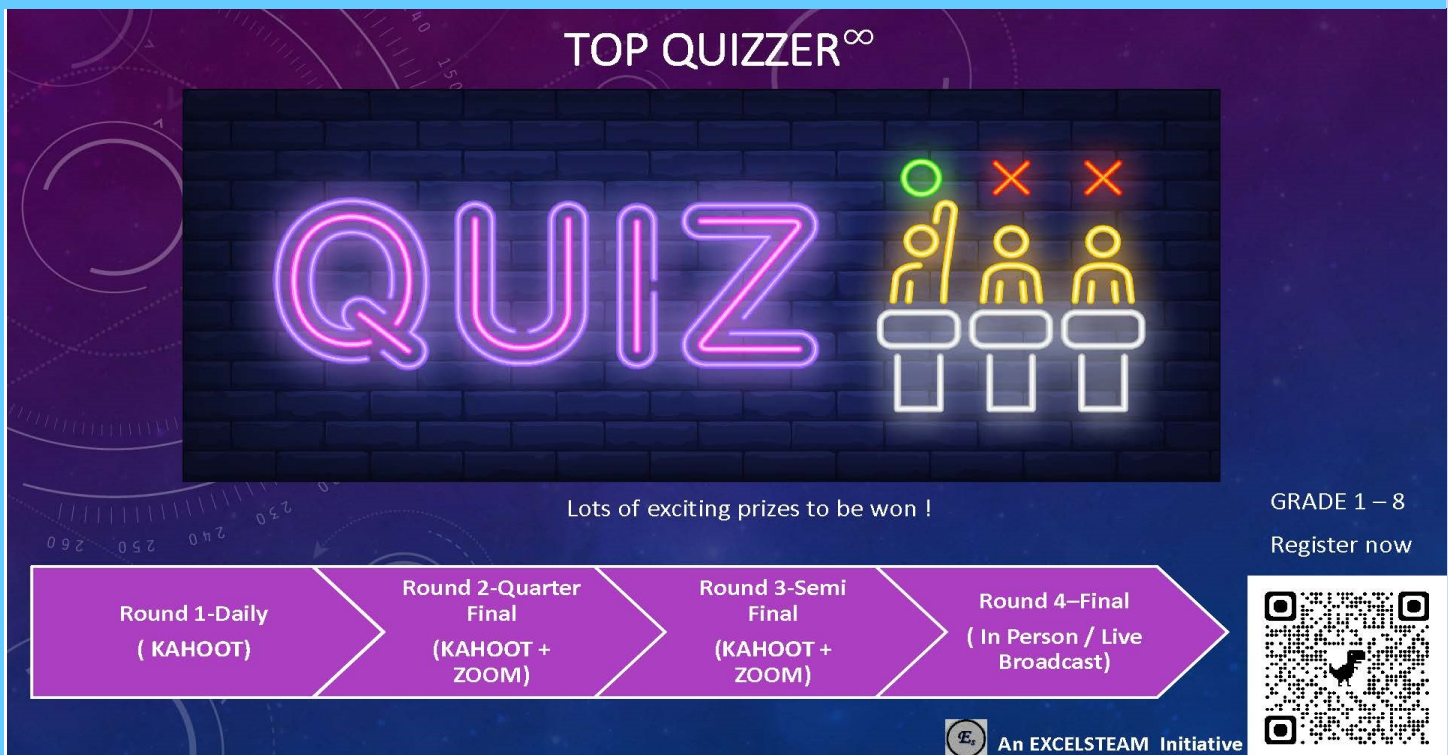


@GrnCommunities

Green
Communities
CANADA

www.ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca

STEAM Event - Top Quizzer (Grade 1-8)



TOP QUIZZER[∞]

QUIZ

Lots of exciting prizes to be won !

GRADE 1 – 8
Register now

Round 1-Daily
(KAHOOT)

Round 2-Quarter Final
(KAHOOT + ZOOM)

Round 3-Semi Final
(KAHOOT + ZOOM)

Round 4-Final
(In Person / Live Broadcast)

An EXCELSTEAM Initiative

QR code for registration

Health, Screening and Absence Reporting

Health Reminders

As winter is here, it is a good time to review how to [protect yourself from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses](#).

Screening: Students and staff who have symptoms of illness can [take the COVID-19 self-assessment here](#). Individuals can screen daily for signs of illness and stay home when sick.

Hand Washing

The single most important thing you can do to control infections is to keep your hands clean and those of the children in your care. [Correct handwashing techniques](#) are taught and encouraged in schools.

Essential Health and Safety Message

If your child is sick with Covid-19 or flu-like symptoms, you need to keep them at home until their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours if they had nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) and they do not have a fever. The health and safety of our students, staff and families remain our priority, and we will continue to follow the direction and guidance of the Government of Ontario and York Region Public Health.

Report an Absence/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



Coffee with Tamil Social Worker

*Service in English and Tamil

**Join our Social Worker for the
Tamil Diaspora, Nijatha Subramaniam
virtually to chat about:**



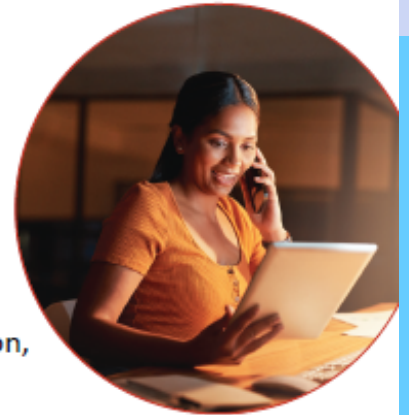
- Tips to engage and connect with your child
- Ways to support your child's well-being and emotional ups and downs
- How to request and navigate getting support for your child at school
- Guidance for current challenges and concerns experienced by your child
- Resources in the York Region community to support your child's needs

Consultation sessions are offered by
video conference or telephone.

For more information and/or to book a consultation,
please contact Nijatha Subramaniam at

nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca

or 905-727-0022 ext. 4138 (voicemail only).



தமிழ் சமூக சேவகருடன் உரையாடுதல்

*இது தமிழிலும் ஆங்கிலத்திலும் வழங்கப்படும்



புலம்பெயர்ந்த தமிழருக்கான எங்கள் சமூக சேவகர் நிஜாதா
சுப்ரமணியத்துடன் பின்வருவன பற்றி
பேசுவதற்கு இணையத்தளத்தில் இணைந்து கொள்ளவும்:



- உங்கள் பிள்ளையுடன் இணைந்து
செயற்படுவதற்குரிய உதவிக்குறிப்புகள்
- உங்கள் பிள்ளையின் நல்வாழ்வு மற்றும் உணர்ச்சிரீதியான
ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுகளில் உதவுவதற்கான வழிமுறைகள்
- பாடசாலை அமைப்பிலுள்ள விடயங்களைத் தேடிக்
கண்டுபிடிப்பதுடன் கிடைக்கக்கூடிய ஆதரவுகள்
குறித்தும் தொடர்பில் இருப்பது எவ்வாறு என்பதையும்
கற்றுக்கொள்ளல்
- உங்கள் பிள்ளை எதிர்கொள்ளும் தற்போதைய
சவால்கள் மற்றும் கரிசனைகளுக்கான வழிகாட்டுதல்
- உங்கள் பிள்ளையின் தேவைகளுக்கு உதவுவதற்கு
யோர்ட் பிராந்திய சமூகத்தில் உள்ள வளங்கள்



வீடியோச் சந்திப்பு அல்லது தொலைபேசி மூலம்
ஆலோசனை அமர்வுகள் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன.
மேலதிகத் தகவல்களுக்கு மற்றும்/அல்லது
ஆலோசனைக்கு முன்பதிவு செய்ய,
நிஜாதா சுப்ரமணியத்தை nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca
அல்லது 905-727-0022 இணைப்பு 4138
இல் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும் (குரல் அஞ்சல் மட்டும்)



Kindergarten Registration 2024–2025



Kindergarten registration for September 2024 has begun for the 2024-2025 school year. Children who turn four or five years old during 2024, 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.

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!!

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

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](#) X(formerlyTwitter) 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.