

FEBRUARY  
2025



**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

# The Stonebridge Story

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

Email: [Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca)

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

## Message from our Administrators

Dear Stonebridge Families,

Welcome to February! We are in the midst of winter and our students are loving playing in the snow at recess time. Please remember to send extra clothes with your children in case they get wet during the day.

Swiss Chalet is hosting a fundraiser for Stonebridge on February 20th. It would be greatly appreciated if you attend and have dinner at the Major Mackenzie and Woodbine location as a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to Stonebridge. We will allocate the funds to enhance opportunities and resources for our students. Please see the flyer in the newsletter.

At the end of January, both our girls and boys volleyball teams participated in the area tournaments. They were very excited to play and executed many of the skills they learned during their numerous practices leading up to the tournament. They demonstrated poise, perseverance and good sportsmanship. We are proud of their achievement! Thank you to our wonderful coaches who volunteered their time to lead these teams.

Term 1 report cards will begin to be sent home electronically starting on February 18th. You should receive them that week or the following week. You can access them through the new Family Dashboard or through your child's GAPPs account. You are able to meet with your child's teacher at anytime during the year. If you would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact the teacher to arrange a time that is convenient for both of you.

We have had a very busy term 1 with lots of fun activities, sports and clubs keeping the students occupied. Thank you for trusting your children with us. We value our partnership in helping your child grow and thrive through education. Term 2 starts Monday, February 3rd. We are halfway through the year. We look forward to another productive term where we will help your child reach their full potential!

David Williams

Principal

Elaine Ricketts

Vice-Principal

# Message from Our Trustee

February 2025

Welcome to the start of the second half of the school year.

Congratulations to secondary school students who have completed exams and culminating activities and are ready to start a new semester, and to elementary school students for all their hard work in the first term. I want to remind families that when report cards are available, you can now access your child's report card through the [Family Dashboard](#).

For students looking at [course selection](#) for next year, the [Experience YRDSB pages](#) on our website will let you explore the areas that interest you and learn more about the courses, programs and opportunities available in your secondary school.

At the end of January, we recognized [Lunar New Year](#), commemorating the first day of the Lunar calendar. Throughout the month, we also recognized [Tamil Heritage Month](#). In February, we recognize Black History Month, I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#) for upcoming events to celebrate Black excellence and recognize the contributions made by Black Canadians. You can also find information about other upcoming significant dates and events for families.

The [Student Trustee election process](#) is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Student Trustees play an essential role in our system, representing student voices at the Board table when we are making important decisions, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to our discussions. I would like to congratulate all of the students who put their names forward for the position and encourage all students in Grades 5-12 to take the time to vote.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank current Student Trustees Hayden Lai and Mitusaan Kugathasan and Indigenous Student Trustee Natalie Pitawanakwat for their hard work, leadership and commitment to student voice.

As a Board of Trustees, we have several important roles that affect the daily life in our schools and Board.

One of those responsibilities is to set the [policies](#) that govern the operation of schools in YRDSB. Policies cover important topics, such as [assessment and evaluation](#), [field trips](#), [homework](#), [dress code](#), [caring and safe schools](#), [health supports](#), [student leadership](#) and more.

We regularly review Board policies to ensure they are updated and reflect the current context, [priorities](#) and needs of our community and system. An important part of this process is inviting feedback from the community, including families. You can find a [list of all policies and those currently out for comment](#) on our Board website and I encourage you to take a look.

Trustees are also responsible for setting the Board [budget](#). As we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 school year budget, we will be once again reaching out to families and inviting you to share your input and feedback. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it; your voice is an important part of the process.

We are also working through the District Action Plan to reflect and align with the new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan outlines how we will achieve the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan and focus on serving all students.

I wish everyone all the best as we go into the second half of the school year.

Ron Lynn

Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

# BUILDING HEALTHY KIDS

## This winter reboot your family's routine!

A new year is here, and it's a great time to think about your family's routines!

As you start to think about your family's goals for 2025 be realistic. Make sure to incorporate things you already enjoy, build upon on what's already working well, and be patient with yourself and your kids.



Help your family to continue building healthy habits for 2025 through daily movement, nutritious meals, and mental health promotion strategies you can use with your children all year round! During the winter months, try foods to keep you warm including soups, stews, casseroles, curries, and chili. Enjoy some family meals together and cooking with your children – it's a great way to connect, spend time together, and learn new skills.

If you are thinking about getting more active, consider getting outdoors to play! When children and youth are outside, they move more, get curious, and find joy. Interacting with nature, even when it is cold outside, has many benefits. It helps restore our ability to concentrate and pay attention. It improves mood, focus and our stress response. Remember to dress for the weather, it's the first step to enjoying being outside and the best way to do this is to layer clothing you can remove easily when it is warmer or put back on when it becomes colder. Make sure gaps such as wrists, ankles, neck, back and waist are covered and even though it is winter - don't forget sunscreen and sunglasses!

If you find things are tough at the start of the new year for you or your family, you can try breathing, visualization, muscle relaxation, journalling, listening to music, practising gratitude to help you cope. Try a variety of activities to see what works best. As a parent or caregiver, it is essential to take care of yourself, so you can care and support others. Your self care will help improve your energy, focus, ability to cope with challenges and you will be a model to your children.

For more tips on how you can reboot your family's routine this winter routine visit [york.ca/HealthyKids](https://york.ca/HealthyKids).

Public Health  
1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/HealthyKids](https://york.ca/HealthyKids)



# Winter Walk Day

**Winter Walk Day** is celebrated by schools across Canada on the first Wednesday of February each year. This year, Winter Walk Day officially kicks off on **Wednesday February 5th, 2025**.

## Tips for Winter Walking

Walking to school in winter not only benefits student physical and mental health, well-being and academic performance, it's also fun!

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe and enjoy winter walks to school.

1. **Dress for the weather.** Wear layers. Don't forget your hat and mitts.
2. **Protect your feet.** Wear warm socks and winter boots. They will protect your feet from snow, rain and cold and have good grips.
3. **Be visible.** Wear bright clothes, stay on the sidewalks and make sure cars can see you when you cross the road.
4. **Allow a little more time.** Prepare your winter gear the night before and give yourself a little more time to walk to school.
5. **Try walking like a penguin. It's fun and practical.**
6. **Enjoy the snow.** Catch snowflakes, talk about what you love most about the winter.
7. **Obey road signs.** The seasons change but road safety rules remain. Stop at roads and crosswalks. Cross with a crossing guard where possible. Look out for cars.

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

Ontario Active  
School Travel



LET'S  
**WALK!**  
WINTER WALK DAY  
FEBRUARY





# Winter Walk Day

**Take some time and review winter dressing with your child.**

**If you are driving, please follow road rules.** Remember that our school zones are busy with students and families. It is important that we all follow the rules to ensure student safety.

- Use the kiss and ride. Do not use dedicated bus lanes.
- Consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules).
- Obey all speed limits and road traffic signs in school zones.
- Focus on the road and watch for crossing guards and students crossing the road.

**It's never too early to start to teach road safety.** Your child will become a safe, responsible and independent pedestrian by experience and practice. Starting them as young as kindergarten will equip them with the skills they need to walk on their own in all seasons at an earlier age. Working together, we can all help to keep students safe. For more information about how you can help to create a safe school transportation zone, please visit our [website](#).



# CSS Mid Year Presentations

Dear Families,

To support and promote positive student behaviour, students will attend the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations. These presentations underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussing school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- YRDSB and School Code of Conduct (including items that are not to be brought to school)
- Staying safe online
- Progressive discipline, and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

## **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

In the Mid-Year Presentation, students learn about following the YRDSB and the School Code of Conduct. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

## **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share

information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);

- o Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



### **Mental Health**

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

### **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

### **Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is



also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

**For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

# Stonebridge PS Event at Swiss Chalet



**STONEBRIDGE PS event at Swiss Chalet**  
**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**(4:00 to 9:00 p.m.)**

**SWISS  
(HALET.**

725 Markland Street, Markham ON L6C 0G6  
(Major Mackenzie/Woodbine Ave.)

Swiss Chalet has kindly offered to host a fundraiser for Stonebridge P.S. Please bring your families and come out to raise funds for our school. 20% of your purchase before tax, will go to Stonebridge P.S. Only dine-in option will apply to this fundraiser.

Please make sure to show this flyer OR mention you are from Stonebridge P.S.  
**BEFORE** you place your order.

Thank you in advance for your participation

Stonebridge P.S. office

## Lunch Program

Below are the Lunches being offered each day:

Monday — Kid's Kitchen (kidskitchen.ca), [Flyer](#)

Tuesday — Pizza Day - orders closed until the end of March

Wednesday — Tasty Ya ([www.tastyya.com](http://www.tastyya.com))

Thursday — barBURRITO - order through the Lunchbox Program on School Cash Online ([yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com](http://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com))

Friday — Kid's Kitchen ([Flyer](#))

Another option: Mealbets ([www.mealbets.com](http://www.mealbets.com)), [Flyer](#)

Please make a note of the cut-off date/time for placing your orders.

If you have ordered lunch and your child is away and you would like to pick up their lunch, you must notify the school by 12:00 pm.

If you need more information, please email [stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca)



# make happy tummies

(Formerly called "Toonies for Tummies")

## JANUARY 23 – APRIL 17, 2025

Different grocery stores participate on different days, and there are matching days (most important!). Customers give a toonie at the cash register during the stores' campaign dates and ALL funds go to Student Nutrition Programs. The funds stay local, so we want York Region grocers to earn as much as they can!

**January 30 – February 13**

**Food Basics**

**Galati**

**Galleria**

**Highland Farms**

**Rabba**

**January 23 – February 6**

**Longos**

**March 20 – April 3**

**Farm Boy**

**Foodland**

**Fresheo**

**Sobeys**



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Mar 20 – Apr 3  
Ontario

Match Days:  
Mar 20 – Apr 3

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

Match Days:  
Feb 1, Feb 8

[View Locations](#)



Mar 20 – Apr 3  
Ontario

Match Days:  
Mar 20 – Apr 3

[View Locations](#)



Mar 20 – Apr 3  
Western Canada,  
Ontario

Match Days:  
Mar 20 – Apr 3

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 23 – Feb 6  
Ontario

Match Days:  
Jan 25, Feb 1  
[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Mar 20 – Apr 3  
Western Canada,  
Ontario, Atlantic  
Canada

Match Days:  
Mar 20 – Apr 3  
[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



Jan 30 – Feb 13  
Ontario

[View Locations](#)



TM

make  
happy  
tummies

[makehappytummies.ca](http://makehappytummies.ca)





# G.I.V.E!

## Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

### 2025 Winter Session

Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience!

#### You will learn more about:

- The role of a volunteer
- Transferable skills
- Equity and Inclusive education
- Self care and well-being
- Human Rights
- Employment readiness
- School information and community resources

#### We will help you:

- Expand your network
- Effectively communicate with school staff
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in schools
- Build healthy communities
- Boost Professionalism

**Location:** Ellen Fairclough Public School, 33 Brando Ave, Markham, ON L3S 4K9

**Dates:** February 24 to 28, 2025 (Monday to Friday)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All parents, guardians, caregivers are welcome to join this free training program!

Space is limited, please scan the QR code or visit the [Registration Link](#) to sign up.



This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information, please contact Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) at [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca) or Victoria Chung [vchung@ccsyrr.org](mailto:vchung@ccsyrr.org) 416-568-2252 or Eman Hasan [ehasan@ccsyrr.org](mailto:ehasan@ccsyrr.org) 905-884-3434 #322.





# MARCH BREAK CAMP

## Active and Fun Camp

with many sports and team-building activities



**DONCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
124 BLACKMORE AVE,  
RICHMOND HILL ON L4B 2B1

**Pricing:**  
**\$195/week**

**FOR AGES 5 - 12**

**SCAN &  
REGISTER:**



**March 10-14, 2025**



**Starts From Ends At**  
**08:30 am - 04:00 pm**

**Extra care and meal  
plans are not available**

**York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered non-profit organization.**



**(416)-475-6622**



**info@yorkeducation.ca**



**yorkeducation.org/marchbreakcamp**

# Kindergarten Registration 2025–2026



## Kindergarten Registration started on January 17, 2025

Kindergarten registration for the 2025/2026 school year started on Friday, January 17, 2025. 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](http://www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten) > Registration. It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop computer rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.

**By email** - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://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](http://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/>

# 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.

