

FEBRUARY 2017



- **PRINCIPAL**  
Yvonne Chan
- **VICE-PRINCIPAL**  
Shelley Jones
- **SUPERINTENDENT**  
Erik Kilji
- **TRUSTEE**  
Billy Pang

**Secretaries**

- Mrs. Fernandez
- Mrs. Khan
- Ms. Shum

**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

168 Stonebridge Dr., Markham L6C 2Z8

Website: [www.yrdsb.ca/schools/stonebridgeps](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/stonebridgeps)

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



Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

## A Message from the Administration

Last June, when the Board Improvement Plan was released it included 3 areas of focus for the York Region District School Board: Mathematics, Mental Health and Modern Learning. At Stonebridge we are exploring and learning more and implementing actions in all three areas. Over the past few years our focus has been to provide learning opportunities for students that promote critical thinking and give students the opportunity to communicate their thinking. This work on critical thinking aligns well with Modern Learning as well as Mathematics.

At Stonebridge Public School, we are just beginning our professional learning on effective math instruction, which will include the understanding of a Growth Mindset (a belief that you can learn math), the use of games/puzzles to support the understanding of concepts, teacher led mini-lessons (to build fluency with mental math strategies) and meaningful problem solving that are drawn from real life contexts. During our Professional Learning Day on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> our staff were engaged in this learning. We learned how to use rekenreks (arithmetic racks) and dot plates to help our youngest students learn number concepts, and how our older students use meaningful problems to develop a variety of strategies that are useful to them to understand, apply and communicate their thinking in mathematics. In March, we will have a parent's evening to further explain the Comprehensive Math Program to parents and we will also have a Family Math Night to provide mathematical experiences for families. Look for a flyer coming home about these two events by the end of February. You will find more information about doing math with your children on page 5 of this newsletter.

On Thursday, February 16th, your child will bring home his/her first term report card. Please find time to discuss the report card with your child. The provincial report card gives you information about your child in two different areas: the development of learning skills and work habits, and achievement of curriculum expectations for the subject areas such as Language, Math and Science. We encourage you to review both sections of the report card with your child looking for areas of strength and areas for improvement. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what your child is doing well and set goals for term 2 in the areas where improvement is needed. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card, please contact your child's teachers.

Sincerely,

*Yvonne Chan and Shelley Jones*

# Stonebridge School Council News

## School Council

### Members

2016-2017

### Co-chair

Garth Morris  
Siva Mylswamy

### Treasurer

Wendy Wei Sun

### Council Members

Sharon Seecharan

Hermeet Parmar

Micol Mihaila

Ting (Ken) Xu

Frank Liu

Virginea Ho

Betty Lum

Zahra Husain

## Greetings from the School Council.

Our pizza Thursday is in full-swing. Sign-up for the pizza day for the second half of the school year order form for next cycle due date will be February 10th

The direct donation fundraiser needs more support from our students, and parents. Volunteers are needed for our upcoming Fun Fair event which will be held in late May.

Set the date for our Family Mental Health Night on April 27th 2017, more information to come.

## Upcoming Events

School council meeting on Monday February 6th, 2017, All parents are invited.

The School Council is planning to organize our Fun Fair. Look for more information in later in the year.

As always, the council can be contacted via our email address [stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

**Thank you for your support,  
The School Council**



## Chess Club News

Chess club practice for all members have ended as of the end of January.

The last 5 months of practice had been fun and exciting with more than 40 students, and about 7 coaches and volunteers attending this year. Students who made the chess team had been notified and they will continue practicing in Mrs. Chow's room after school on Fridays.

Our first tournament will be held on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Thornhill/Bayview Community Center. We will be competing with many schools from the Markham and Thornhill areas at this event. The top three players in each grade will move forward to play at the Ontario Provincial Championships in April.



# Trustee Greetings

## *Message from our Trustee*

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning.”

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

*Bill Pang*

Trustee

647-461-9965

[billy.pang@yrdsb.ca](mailto:billy.pang@yrdsb.ca)

**Inspire** Learning!



# LEARNING COMMONS



From The Learning Commons  
Mrs. Miyata



Check out the cool reading initiatives and student displays that are happening in our very own Learning Com-



## Kindergarteners to Grade 2 Students to Soon Vote on their Favourite Blue Spruce Book



Blue Spruce Books are picture books geared **to students in grades K to 2**. These books belong to series called Forest of Reading. "Forest of Reading" is a reading initiative headed up by the Ontario Library Association. Each year a committee selects 10 titles of books geared to interest and levels of readers. This 'branch' of picture books is called the "Blue Spruce Set".

All across Canada, schools/libraries are promoting these titles. After we have read all 10 books to our students, the students will have a chance to vote on their favourite Blue Spruce book. Great discussions come



## Battle of the Books is Happening



Battle of the Books is a reading club geared to students in Grade 4 through Grade 6. Students read titles generated by librarians from the Markham Public Libraries in York Region and also from teacher-librarians from both the public and catholic school boards. The Battle of the Books Club is gaining momentum as more and more children read books from this year's Battle Booklist. The students find out information about Canadian authors and interesting characters while cultivating their joy of reading.

At Stonebridge, students in our club have opportunities to participate person in the library and also online in our Battle of the Books Moodle which will be launched in early February. Watch the school newspaper for more details.

Happy Reading, everyone!

# CANADA 150



**Canada** will be celebrating its **150<sup>th</sup> Birthday** this **July 1, 2017** and Stonebridge is gearing up for this historic date!

Students in **Mrs. Chow's Grade 6 Class** had been exploring the identity and meaning of being a Canadian, and how this identity is not a solid, but one that is in constant transition dating back to the First Nations. Students researched and presented on posters the immigration experiences of various ethnic communities, and how Canada and new immigrants continue to mutually benefits and shape the Canadian identity today. Thank you to **Mrs. Chow's Grade 6 Class** for sharing their learning about Canada with our school.

**Ms. McMillan's grade 6 Class** has been exploring different communities that exist within Canada. In groups, students researched the multiple diverse communities that exist within Canada and contribute to our mosaic of cultures that make Canada such a welcoming and special place to live. Some communities that were explored were Ukrainian, First Nation, Mennonite and Francophone and explored the different perspectives of all different cultures of Canadians. **Thank you, Ms. McMillan's Grade 6 Class** for allowing the Learning Commons display your work, too!

Stay tuned to more Cool Canadian Happenings @ Stonebridge in upcoming newsletters!

# Junior Co-Ed Volleyball team

Congratulations to our Junior Co-Ed Volleyball team players for a great season.

Our Junior Volleyball team consists of boys and girls from Grades 4-6 who have been diligently practising at least 2-3 times a week since December, in order to get ready for our tournament. On January 24, 2017, our Junior Volleyball team played in our area tournament at Markville S.S. Out of 12 participating schools, our Stonebridge team placed 4th overall! The team was undefeated in the first 7 games and showed great team work and leadership throughout the tournament. These students have dedicated numerous hours of practice in order to get ready for our tournament and should be congratulated for achieving great success!

Our team members are: Kayshav T., Jingling L., Andrea N., Valerie S., Chloe H., Kathryn H., Jamison H., Joey T., Timothy Z., Jayden L., Anna, L and Kevin S. All of this would not have happened without our amazing Grade 8 helpers who assisted us with preparing them for the tournament. An extended thank you to all who have assisted us behind the scenes in preparing our team. Mrs. Holmeshaw and Ms. Havard are extremely proud of our Junior Volleyball team!



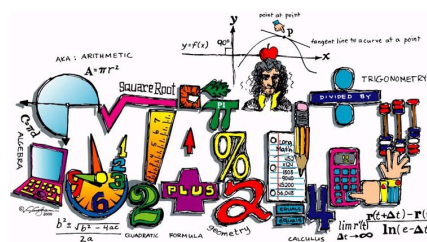
## Doing Mathematics with your Children (from Edugains)

### Doing Mathematics with Your Child (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools. “*Doing Mathematics with Your Child*” is a guide available for parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. This guide offers ways to engage their child in thinking and talking about mathematics around the four strands: number sense and numeration, measurement, patterning and algebra, and data management and probability.

Please use the link below to access the guide in English and 13 other languages:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>



### Homework Help for Students Grade 7 to 10

Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in Grades 7-10. Homework Help provides free, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers Sunday to Thursday from 5:30pm – 9:30pm ET. The program is funded by the Ontario government and administered by TVO's Independent Learning Centre. To log



# Chef a l'ecole Workshop

This January, the Grade 8 students with Mme. Bushra got to put their chef hats on and participate in a cooking workshop called “Le Chef à l’école. Students prepared a pastry called “Les langues de chat” (shaped like a cat’s tongue). The entire workshop was conducted in French, where students followed a French recipe and worked together to bake, clean, and finally serve their creations! C’était délicieux! What a fun way to practice French and enjoy some baked goodies with friends!



# Kindergarten Registration

## Kindergarten Registration 2017—2018



Kindergarten registration will commence on January 20th at 10:00am, 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, live within the school boundary are eligible to register for kindergarten.

Stonebridge kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for May 25, 2017. More information will be provided at registration.

# French Immersion Registration

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Sir John A. McDonald Public School, 45 Murison Drive, Markham, on January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.

FI registration will begin January 20, 2017. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten Stonebridge students entering Grade 1 in 2017, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the Stonebridge school office and request an Office Index Card - short version. The Office Index Card must be signed by Ms. Chan, our school Principal.

Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Sir John A. McDonald Public School to register between January 20 and February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrolment information or to pre-register.

# Snack Program at Stonebridge

We are beginning a snack program at Stonebridge Public School in February. We will start with a grab and go system that will be available to all students free of charge. If a student does not have a snack or is feeling extra hungry on a day, they can go to the office and get something from the bin. At first, we will be providing such snacks as apples, bananas and granola bars. All snacks will be nut free and meet the requirements of the guidelines in the Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act.

Successful programs require a community effort of many volunteers and donations from our school community. If you would like to contribute to the snack program, please send a cheque made payable to Stonebridge Public School in an envelope marked "Snack Program Donation." If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to the Vice Principal, Shelley Jones at [shelley.jones@yrdsb.ca](mailto:shelley.jones@yrdsb.ca).



10/3/2007

# Inclement Weather—School Bus Cancellation



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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

## School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

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 weather 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 may not be 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.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- 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.

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	106.9	107.1 FM

### TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [School Bus City](http://School Bus City) and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following @YRDSB and @YCDSB on twitter.



# Canada Day Challenge



**The Canada Day Challenge is now accepting entries from January 3 to March 31, 2017.**

## **Participate and Celebrate Your Future!**

Young Canadians are encouraged to get inspired and show us their vision of Canada's next 150 years by submitting an entry in the following categories: *Draw it!* (drawing or painting), *Snap it!* (photography) or *Write it!* (creative writing).

2017 will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada Day Challenge, an art, photography and creative writing contest. Participants could **win an all-expenses paid grand prize trip for two to Ottawa** to celebrate **Canada Day** and take part in activities for the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation**.



Young aspiring filmmakers can check out the **Canada Day Video Challenge**, part of Historica Canada's *Here's My Canada* contest. [www.heresmycanada.ca](http://www.heresmycanada.ca)

Should you require more information, please email us at:

# February 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3 <i>PA</i>	4
5	6	7 	8	9  	10	11
12	13	14 	15 <i>Flag Day</i> 	16   <i>Black History Presentation for Students</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Family Day</i>	21 	22	23  	24	25
26	27	28 				