

JANUARY 2025

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,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

The staff at Stonebridge hope you had a nice, restful and enjoyable winter break and we wish you all the best for 2025. We hope the new year brings you peace, good health and prosperity!

Now that the students are back in school, they will be working hard to finish up the term. Student achievement is one of our school's goals and one of the priorities of the board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Teachers have become familiar with the ways in which their students learn and are able to differentiate instruction to meet the varying needs of the class. If you have any questions about what your child is learning in class or would like an update on how your child is progressing, please contact your child's teacher(s).

At Stonebridge we are still very busy with our sports. Our junior girls and boys' volleyball teams are formed and they are diligently practicing weekly to improve their skills and prepare for the area tournaments. Our intermediate girl's basketball team is also on the go. As Silverwolves, we pride ourselves in demonstrating good sportsmanship whether we win or lose and show support to our fellow teammates before, during and after play. We are also very appreciative to our staff coaches who are dedicating their time to lead these teams.

Thank you to all our students and families who came out to support our Scholastic Book Fair. Each class got the opportunity to visit the book fair during their normally scheduled library time and the book fair was also open after school each day for an hour. We sold \$12,000 worth of books and other items. The school portion of the proceeds will go towards books and learning materials for each division. We also want to thank our teacher librarian Mrs. Leung and her team of parent volunteers for hosting the engaging event to promote literacy in our school community.

Our next School Council meeting will be held this month on January 14, 2025 at 6:00pm in the staff room. Everyone in our school community is invited to attend. We look forward to hearing our parent voices to help form decisions regarding plans for the school. We value you as our partners in education and being engaged in your child's learning is one of the contributing factors to student achievement. We hope to see you on the 14th!

Stay warm during this chilly month!

David Williams

Principal

Elaine Ricketts

Vice-Principal

Tamil Heritage Month - January 2025

On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed by the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming January as Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the diversity of the Tamil language and its literature, and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant traditions, history, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.

One community-based theme for 2025 is Tamil Heritage Month: Celebrating Tamil Arts and Artists. Also, of significance is January 14, 2025. According to the Tamil calendar, January 14, 2025, begins the month of "Thai." On this day, people of Tamil heritage celebrate Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year's blessings and a time to look forward to the new year.

Lunar New Year—Year of the Snake

Lunar New Year falls on January 29, 2025 and it is the Year of the Snake. It is a significant and meaningful cultural celebration for many people of East and Southeast 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.



French Immersion Information Session

Dear Parents of SK families,

This is a reminder of the French Immersion Information session that will be held at Victoria Square P.S. on Thursday January 16th.

Who can attend: Parents of SK students looking to register for grade 1 French Immersion beginning in September 2025.

Date/Time: January 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 50 Prince of Wales Drive, Markham. The presentation will be held in the school gym.

Please be reminded that if you are interested in registering for French immersion, the only entry point into the program is at the beginning of grade 1.

Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you on January 16!

Debbie Wong

EOAA

Victoria Square Public School

50 Prince of Wales Drive

Markham, ON L6C 0K2

Wellbeing & Mindfulness Workshop

We are delighted to invite you to an engaging Wellbeing and Mindfulness Workshop designed to help students and families nurture balance, build resilience, and practice self-care in today's fast-paced world.

Date: January 23, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Poplar Bank Public School
400 Woodspring Ave, Newmarket, ON L3X 2X1

Dinner will be provided.

During this interactive session, you will learn practical mindfulness techniques, explore strategies to support mental health, and participate in activities aimed at fostering connection and relaxation. This workshop is a great opportunity to prioritize your wellbeing as a family while gaining tools to thrive both academically and personally.

We look forward to seeing you there!



To Register

Please [register](#) by January 14, 2025. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to respond early to secure your spot!



Educators for Tamil Student Success
Inclusive School and Community Services
Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action
Tamil Youth Organization

Presents:

Our Heritage, Our Roots
Elementary Student Conference for Tamil Heritage Month 2025

Workshops:

Each student delegate from grades 5 to 8 may attend 4 workshops:

1. Our identities
2. Ancient Art of Parai
3. Let's Get Cooking
4. Kilithattu

Venue: Milliken Mills High School
7522 Kennedy Rd, Markham, ON L3R 9S5

Date: February 1, 2025

Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Grades: 5 to 8

Pizza Lunch Provided

For additional information contact:

Sujeetha Thillaiampalam, D.W.G Williams, 905 (905) 727-3131 sujeetha.thillaiampalam@yrdsb.ca
Dooshiv Thuraiarajasingham, Wismer PS / 905 471 5526 dooshiv.thuraiarajasingham@yrdsb.ca
Nageswary Srikumaraguru, ISCS 905 884 2046 ext 321 nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca

[Electronic Registration Link Click Here](#)

Hard copy registration, please scan and email the consent forms to the above mentioned staff

Please return this section to student's school before January 27, 2025.

I, _____ (Parent/Guardian Name) give permission for _____ (Student Name)

to participate in the Tamil Student Conference at Milliken Mills High School, on February 1, 2025

School: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Dietary Needs and/or Food Allergies: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-waste, Batteries and Dried Marker Collection

We are excited to announce a new initiative at Stonebridge to promote sustainability and to teach our students the importance of caring for the environment. As part of this effort, we are organizing a collection drive for e-waste and dried markers and pens.

What are we collecting?

E-waste - small non-functional electronic items such as old cell phones, chargers, headphones and batteries.

Dried markers and pens - used markers or pens of any brand that are no longer usable.

When– all school year.

Where– the drop off bin will be available in the front of the office in a plastic storage bin.

Why to participate?

Recycling e-waste prevents harmful chemicals from polluting the environment and allows for valuable materials to be reused.

Recycling dried markers and pens turn waste into energy reducing landfill overflow.

We encourage all families to gather any items they may have at home and send them with your child or drop them off during the school hours. Together we can make a meaningful impact on our planet.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Thank you for your support in teaching our students about the importance of sustainability and responsible recycling.

Best regards,

Stonebridge Eco Team

Mrs. Sanzo (EA) and Mr. Crowley (Teacher)

YRDSB ARTS CAMP 2025

Join us for an immersive program in visual, studio, and performance arts. Explore your identity through creative expression, supported risk-taking, and collaboration with peers and staff. Fosters self-confidence, individuality, and the discovery of new talents.

Memories that last a
Lifetime

Students. Educators. Community Artists
CREATING TOGETHER



Applications open Fri. Dec 13 - Fri. Feb. 7

- ✓ Campers (gr. 7-12)
- ✓ Counsellors-In-Training (gr. 9-11)
- ✓ Counsellors (gr. 11 & 12)



FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TO APPLY, VISIT:

bit.ly/YRDSBac25info



Sat. May 24 - Sat. May 31, 2025



Questions? Email:
arts.camp@yrdsb.ca



Find us on Instagram
[@YRDSBArtsCamp](https://www.instagram.com/YRDSBArtsCamp)

Integrated Elementary Arts @ Baythorn!



At YRDSB, we are committed to continuous improvement, and we continue to focus on **Student Achievement**, promoting and supporting high expectations for all, **Health and Well-Being**, building healthy environments and positive relationships, and **Human Rights and Inclusive Education**, learning and growing together, and affirming our diverse identities.



There are 4 Regional High School Arts Programs and 1 Regional Arts Elementary Arts Program in YRDSB. The Arts@Baythorn invites students to explore Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music integrated into learning each and every day in a collaborative and cooperative learning environment.

Applications are open on [Edsby](#) from January 13 - 26, 2025.

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Collaborative workshops are being held February 18 - 20, 2025.

These dates are firm.

To apply or for more information

Please visit the [Baythorn Arts webpage](#).

*The [Edsby application link](#) will open on January 13, 2025.

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





*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](#)



19th Annual

STEP@UT
YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DANCE COMPETITION

OUR GOAL: To create a forum for students to get together, perform, compete, share and grow from and with each other.

DATE: Friday May 23, 2025

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Venue: Langstaff Secondary School

Address: 106 Garden Ave,

Richmond Hill, ON

**Open to Step Teams &
Dance Troupes
from Grades 6 to 12**

**Levels of Competition:
Intermediate and
Senior Divisions**

**The competition encourages
student choreography**

Registration Deadline:

April 3, 2025

Payment Deadline: March 1, 2025 (to secure your spot)

**Suggested music selections:
Hip Hop, Pop, R&B, Soul,
South Asian, Latin, Soca and
Reggae styles**

For more registration information,
please contact Charlene Miller (Beckett Farm P.S.)
charlene.miller@yrdsb.ca



Kindergarten Registration 2025–2026



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2025

Kindergarten registration for the 2025/2026 school year begins on Friday, January 17, 2025 from 8:30 am. 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 > 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](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.

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.