

MARCH 2022

The Stonebridge Story

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

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PRINCIPAL

David Williams

VICE-PRINCIPAL

Sumir Bansal

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

Dismissal

Message from our Administrators

Hello Silver Wolf Families,

As you are probably aware of by now, the Government of Ontario has decided to lift many of the COVID-19 health and safety measures in schools. Effective Monday March 21, 2022, students and staff will no longer be required to wear a mask. As we are learning and working in an inclusive environment, staff, students and community members will be treated with kindness and respect regardless of their decision to wear or not wear a mask. We will continue to promote personal hygiene routines and have a safe environment for your children to learn. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we move through different protocols and procedures.

Over the March Break, we ask that you and your children take a few minutes to reflect on the school year so far. What have been the successes for your family that you can build on? What are some areas that you can improve? Remembering that the relationship between home and school is critical to a successful learning community, what communication systems have been the most successful for you, your child and your child's teacher? What is the form of communication that best suits? Writing in the agenda, email, phone calls and video meetings are all acceptable methods of contact. Please make sure that you know which to use to maintain communication with your child's teacher. This communication is not only to relay information but to come up with plans and strategies to try and create a more successful learning environment for your children. Please let us know if there is an alternate form of communication that you need from the school in order to help maintain a clear flow of information. We thank you for all that you do to support and advocate for your children!

David Williams

Principal

Stonebridge Public School

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168 Stonebridge Drive

Markham, Ontario L6C 2Z8

InspireLearning!

International Women's Day 2022

The York Region District School Board is committed to maintaining a deep and continuous focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The board proudly recognizes the significance of International Women's Day (IWD) as a key moment to elevate and amplify female empowerment worldwide and to celebrate women's social, economic, cultural, academic, and political achievements locally and globally.

International Women's Day has been recognized for over a century, with the first IWD gathering of over a million people in 1911. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and gender parity. Following the United Nations' lead, Canada declared March 8 as International Women's Day. To achieve a gender equal world, it is essential to notice and name the existing inequality and examine and challenge unconscious biases and harmful gender-based stereotypes. The International Women's Day 2022 campaign exemplifies this commitment through the theme of #BreakTheBias.

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.

(IWD 2022 campaign theme: ##BreakTheBias. (2022). from <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>)





Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

March 2022

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

March Break: Taking Time to Pause

Dear families and caregivers,

The past two school years have been school years like no other. "Something none of us prepared for," [School Mental Health Ontario](#). March 12th, 2022, marks two years since the first Ontario school closure announcement due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The school closure followed March break, and for some, this was referred to as the "[March break that never ends](#)." We have faced many Covid-19 related challenges over the past two years. Ontario students, families, and caregivers have displayed hope, resilience, growth, and triumph despite the many ongoing challenges.

Check out [A YRDSB Story: Brian Park, Noah Bryan](#), and many more in the [YRDSB Newsroom](#) to view some positive past and present highlights that display the triumphs, growth and excellence of YRDSB students.

This newsletter edition shares ways to take a "pause" and maintain mental wellness during the March break and beyond.

March break signifies an opportunity to break from academic expectations and school-related commitments for many students, families, and caregivers. The time off permits students to focus on things outside of the day-to-day school routines. However, this is not true for all students, families, and caregivers. The reality is March break can look different for each student/household.

We recognize that not all households will be "taking a break." Some students, caregivers, and families are simply trying to figure out how to get through the March break and manage the shift in routine and predictability of the school day. [Children's](#)



[Mental Health Ontario](#) offers helpful tips on creating routine and predictability as well as supporting mental wellness over the March break.

No matter what your March break entails, finding time to pause can be helpful. "A pause is an opening; it acts as a portal to other options and choices." —Robert Poynton.

A pause can be a few minutes, hours or even days. Taking time to pause and reflect can help us develop an awareness of our physical and mental states. For some, a pause can be connected to faith/religion, culture and or an individual/family or group's unique way of being (existing) in the world. Each person's way of pausing may look different. Taking a pause can help us rest, reset, reflect and simply catch our breath. Pausing can help us avoid becoming overwhelmed in stressful situations; it aids us in slowing down in times when we feel rushed or under pressure.

Over the March break, we invite parents and caregivers to consider pausing. Pause to rest, pause to play, pause to listen, pause to paint, pause to reflect, pause to read, pause to engage in identity-affirming activities, pause to nourish, pause to connect.

A pause may feel unattainable and unrealistic, which is understandable, given the many realities of parents & caregivers. Yet, recognizing the benefits of pausing, we encourage you to consider what a "pause" may look like for you and your family. Even a few minutes a day can be helpful and restoring.

School Mental Health Ontario offers some helpful ways to [Pause and reflect](#). These resources can help you, and your child(ren) make time to pause.

Additional Resources:

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

[SMHO Parent/Family Page](#)

Upcoming Workshops:

[Being a Parent](#) - Wed, Mar 16, 2022 12:00 PM EDT

For more additional workshops visit [York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families website](#). We look forward to creating pathways for caring connections and meaningful relationships with parents, caregivers, and families. Share your voice by using this [feedback form](#), and let's pave the path forward together.

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented issues and concerns for our community, our country and the world. As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well.

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health during this Pandemic. Resources for students, parents/guardians as well as community resources are listed. In addition, there are various links to YRDSB mental health support as well as community support. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the supports found on the [COVID-19 Mental Health Supports for Students and Families](#) webpage.

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts @YRDSB and @YRDSB_SS.

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Supports for Community Members with Family and Loved Ones Impacted by Events in Ukraine

In solidarity with all of those in our community with family and loved ones impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.

The following are some services currently available to families:

- [LifeWorks 24/7 Free Support Crisis Line for Those Impacted by the events in Ukraine](#): 1-844-751-2133
- [Ukrainian Enquiries Phone Line for Clients in Canada and Abroad](#): 613-321-4243 (Collect calls accepted)
More [information about Canadian immigration measures](#) for people affected by events in Ukraine are available online by [Canadian Immigration and Citizenship](#).
- [Jewish Immigrant Aid Services \(JIAS\) | ukraine@jiastoronto.org](#)
 - Services for newcomers of all faiths and cultural affiliations.
 - Currently supporting with family sponsorships.
- [Emergency Hotline for the Ukrainian Jewish Community](#)
Info, Guidance & Assistance (Hebrew, Ukrainian and Russian)
Provided by The Jewish Agency & The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews
 - From Ukraine: 0-800-504-504603 (Toll Free)
 - From Israel: 1-800-228055 x4 (Toll Free)
 - [Assistance Request Form](#)

150,000 - 300,000 Jewish people live in Ukraine. Ukraine is home to the 5th-largest Jewish community in Europe and one of the poorest Jewish communities in Europe. It is also home to the largest Chabad Centre and Jewish complex in the world.

- In-School Settlement Worker, Olga Joukova
Supporting Newcomer Families in York Region (Ukrainian, Russian & Hebrew)
ojoukova@ccsyrr.org | 416-616-6789
Provided by [Settlement Education Partnership in York Region \(SEPYR\)](#),
[Catholic Community Services of York Region \(CCSYR\)](#)
*Services for newcomers of all faith affiliations.

To assist Canadians concerned about their loved ones in Ukraine, effective immediately, the following phone providers will be waiving all Home Phone and consumer Mobility Postpaid Long Distance charges for calls from Canada to Ukraine until Mar. 31, 2022:

- Bell Canada
- Fido - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Freedom Mobile - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Rogers - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Telus - waiving all additional charges for long-distance calls and texts to Ukraine until [March 12th](#)
- Virgin Plus

These changes will be applied automatically during the month of March. No action is required by customers.

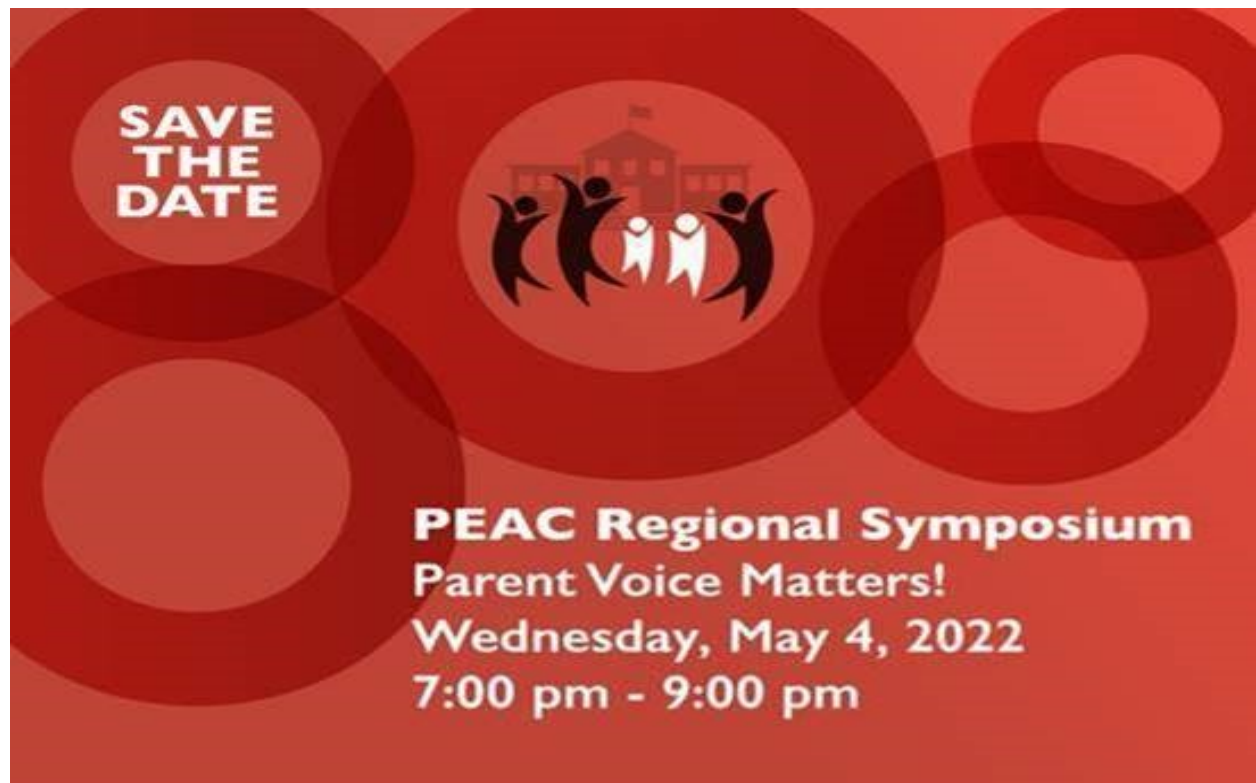
PEAC Regional Symposium

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) and Leadership Development and Engagement team are pleased to announce the return of the annual

PEAC Regional Symposium: Parent Voice Matters!
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The theme for 2022 will continue to focus on successful strategies for improved parent engagement. This year's PEAC Regional Symposium (previously called Regional Parent Symposium) will be guided by the [Director's Action Plan \(DAP\)](#) and its fourth goal which commits the YRDSB to *build trust and collaborative relationships with students, families and staff through respectful and responsive communication focused on shared solutions*.

This event will be virtual. Please visit the [PEAC Regional Symposium webpage](#) for more information on registration for this event and workshops in the upcoming weeks.



Information for New and Returning Students

For students new to our school and those returning to in-person learning, please note the following:

Regular school hours:

First bell	8:40 am
School starts	8:55 am
Recess/Snack break	10:35-11:05 am
Lunch time	12:45-1:45 pm
School ends	3:25 pm

Please send student to school with a snack, lunch, indoor shoes and a reusable water bottle. They should be dressed for the weather as they go out daily for recess and lunch breaks.

On the first day in person, please arrive at the main school doors around 8:30 am, ring the door bell and a staff member will come out to greet/guide you.

At the moment only staff and students are permitted in the school building.

Each morning before attending school, please ensure to do the Covid screening for your child.

Screening Tool:

<https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19/stayingsafeatschool/stayingsafeatschool/>

Once the above is done and if they are good to attend school, please complete this questionnaire using your child's GAPPS log in. We will provide to you as soon as it becomes available to us, or if you have not received it prior to school time, please call the office.

Self-Screening Confirmation:

<https://covidscreening.yrdsb.ca/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fHome%2fQuestionnaire>

Kindergarten Registration 2022–2023



Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year started on Friday, January 14, 2022. Children who turn four or five years old during 2021, live within the school boundary and whose parents/guardians are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for Kindergarten.

Families can register using the following options:

1. **Online using Edsby** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten > Registration;
2. **By email** - Families can download the fillable PDF [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten and email the completed registration form to the school's email address found on the [school website](#);
3. **By phone** - Families can request school support via telephone or video conference with the school administrator to complete the registration form, with translation or interpretation support as needed;
4. **By mail or appointment** - Call the home school to have a paper registration package (with relevant resources) mailed to them. Families can then complete the paper registration package, call the school to book an appointment to drop off the completed package. Please note that this process is by appointment only. Families must follow all school COVID-19 protocols while on site. All permitted visitors must wear a mask. This registration process is offered in extenuating circumstances.

Please note, at this time, under our [health and safety protocols](#), we cannot accept walk-in registrations.

Once you have completed your application, the school will contact you to make an appointment to review and verify the [required documents](#) when the school reopens.

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.

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** or email stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca

TO REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE/LATE:

LOGIN TO: **yrdsb.edsby.com** / CALL **905.887.2427**

Reminders

Please do not drop off any items for students such as water, snack, lunch, clothing, homework, etc. The same applies to special occasions like birthdays or other celebrations.

Please email or call the school if you are moving to a new address so that we can update our records. Be prepared to provide us with the proof of address.

If there are any other changes such as contact information, pickup, etc., please let us know.

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.

