

MARCH 2023

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

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 Stonebridge Families,

March is here and it has come in like a lion! We have a lot going on here at Stonebridge and our staff and students are busy with exciting events. On Feb. 17th we welcomed Canadian author and storyteller, Nadia Hohn to our school. We have some of the books she authored in our library and students should be familiar with them as teachers introduced them. She inspired Stonebridge with her identity affirming stories and presentation that celebrated Black history. Stonebridge was a captive audience who enjoyed coming together as a school. This is something that we haven't been able to do too often, but we hope to do more of in the coming months.

All of our Grade 3 students will be attending the Swim to Survive program, one class at a time. This is a wonderful program that teaches students the basic skills should they happen to fall into deep water. The students travel to Angus Glen Community Centre on Wednesdays to participate in the program. Despite the cold weather, they were excited to get into the water and learn the safety techniques.

Basketball is in full swing at Stonebridge! Our intermediate girls and boys practiced regularly in preparation for the area tournament. The students were very happy to be part of a team again and demonstrated commitment by showing up to all the practices and working hard. At the tournaments, the students played their best and demonstrated good sportsmanship. We are proud of their efforts. Tryouts are underway for our junior girls and boys basketball team and we wish them every success as they prepare for their upcoming area tournaments.

March 28th, 2023 is our next School Council meeting. All parents are invited to attend. You have the option of coming into the school for the meeting in person or joining us online via Google Meet.

We hope the month of March treats you well and let's hope that it goes out like a lamb!

Partners in Education,

Mr. Williams and Ms. Ricketts

Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing

As part of our commitment to dismantling anti-Black racism, YRDSB is launching the Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List.

Family members subscribed the mailing list will receive information about:

- Updates and programs from the [Centre for Black Student Excellence](#)
- Information about Board programs that would benefit Black students, families with Black children
- Community flyers and programs that would benefit Black students and families with Black children

Families can sign up for the mailing list using this [subscription form](#), available at www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence, and can unsubscribe at any time.

The mailing list is one of the key commitments outlined in our [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#). For more information please visit the [Centre for Black Student Excellence](#).

Reminder: Catchup payment application closing

Hello Residents and Stakeholders of Markham-Unionville,

The provincial government is firmly committed to keeping kids in class, following two years of disruption and learning loss felt around the world. A new catch up payment, amounting to \$200 or \$250, was announced last October for every school aged child in Ontario, so that students can keep learning and striving.

As a parent or guardian, you can use this one-time funding for things that best suit your child's needs such as tutoring services, supplies and equipment during the 2022-23 school year.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. To apply: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/catch-up-payments>

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at billy.pang@pc.ola.org.

Best wishes,

Billy Pang, MPP
Markham-Unionville

Vacation and Other Plans

If families are planning to:

- move to a new address in the future
- go on vacation (prior to school year-end)

Please email stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca as soon as possible.

YRDSB Podcast

YRDSB Podcast

Did you know that YRDSB has a podcast? From in-depth discussions on issues affecting education to practical conversations for families, Tune In YRDSB helps you stay connected to what's happening in education.

Check out some of our latest episodes, available on most podcast platforms. Don't miss our monthly wrap-up episodes sharing the latest news and upcoming events each month.

- [Shine episodes](#) featuring Black voices and celebrating Black excellence in its many forms.
- [Introduction to Special Education](#). Learn more about how students are identified, what to expect, how we work with families to support students and more. We also invited students to tell us how their IEP helps them.
- [Adult Learning](#). Two students sit down with adult learning educators to share their stories and talk about the benefits of adult learning. Find out how it works, what to expect, and why students feel "at home" here.
- [Tamil Heritage Month](#). Staff, students and family members speak about Tamil Heritage Month, Tamil identity and how we can create learning and working spaces that affirm Tamil identity.
- [Yad Vashem](#). Join YRDSB educators as they sit down with staff from Yad Vashem to discuss the importance of Holocaust education in Canada.

News, Tips and Resources for Families

Looking for the latest news, tips and resources for families? Some of our departments put out monthly newsletters that provide helpful updates and resources for families.

Visit our [newsletters page](#) to see them all, or check out the latest from:

- [Centre for Black Student Excellence](#)
- [Math](#) and [Math Problems of the Month](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Parent, Family and Community Engagement](#)
- ["The Special Edition"](#) Exceptional Learning Strengths and Needs Newsletter

BLACK MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023 LAUNCH

BE YOU, BE WELL.

March 6, 2023, 2-4 pm

[Register](#)

Join us virtually
to kick off the start of
Black Mental Health Week 2023

Moderated by: **Liben Gebremikael**
CEO, TAIBU Community Health Centre
Debra Wiliamns
Stride Toronto



eventbrite
Register
for a free ticket

Presented in partnership with The City of Toronto's
Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit



#BlackMentalHealthWeek
#BeYouBeWell



BlackMentalHealthWeek.ca



Inclusive School and Community Services

Federal Housing Benefit for Renters Who Qualify

The Federal Government has introduced a one-time, \$500 tax-free benefit.

- **It is for low-income renters who:**
 - Have an Adjusted Family Net Income (AFNI) for 2021 of \$35,000 or less for families, or \$20,000 or less for individuals.
 - Spent at least 30% of their adjusted family net income on renting their principal residence in Canada in 2022

This is a one-time benefit administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

- To be eligible you do not need to already be receiving other housing benefits
- **Applications are open until Friday March 31, 2023.**

For eligibility and additional details please visit:

[One Time Canada Housing Benefit for Renters](#)

If you have any additional questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer,
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Administrators, please share this information below or the flyer above with the school community in your next weekly newsletter. Thank you.



Fostering Your Child's Emotional Resilience 培養孩子的情緒適應力/ 培養孩子的情緒適應力

This session in Cantonese and Mandarin will introduce key strategies of how parents can encourage their child to express their feelings.

這講座將讓大家學習如何有效的鼓勵你的子女表達他們的情緒

這講座將學習如何有效的鼓勵你的子女表達他們的情緒

To register for a Cantonese session:
[點擊這裡報名粵語講座](#) or scan the QR code



To register for a Mandarin session:
[点击这里报名普通话讲座](#) or scan QR code



Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Join us to learn and share with your community how the families are supported!

Cantonese Session

Date: **Monday, February 27th, 2023**

Time: **7:00-8:30 pm**

Mandarin Session

Date: **Monday, March 6th, 2023**

Time: **7:00-8:30 pm**

Location: Google meets link will be provided upon registration.

Presenters:

AJ Luo

Triple P Program Facilitator
Family Services of Ontario

Charmaine Tong

York Region District School Board
School Social Worker (Chinese Heritage Community)

For more information, please contact:

Community Care Team
School Social Worker
Charmaine Tong
charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca

This free information session is brought to you in partnership with Family Services of Ontario, and Community Care Team, Student Services of York Region District School Board



PARENTING SESSIONS

Let's talk about it!

Children do not come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

**We welcome all parents, guardians, caregivers and community members
to attend these virtual sessions!**

March 1, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Raising Resilient Children

For parents of children 0-12 years of age. This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children with strategies to recognize and accept feelings, express their feeling appropriately, build positive feelings, deal with negative feelings and deal with upsetting or stressful events.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

March 8, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Navigating through Negative Self-Talk

For parents of children 0-12 and tweens. This session will focus on strategies to understand and manage your child's emotions, apply reason and logic and to self-evaluate.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

March 22, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Nurturing Healthy Self-Esteem

For parents of children and teens. This session will focus on how to create a supportive and engaging environment that helps your child develop and maintain confidence and healthy self-esteem.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

March 28, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Raising Responsible Teens

For parents of tweens and teens. This session will focus on how to encourage responsible and independent behaviour and improve relationships with family and friends.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Facilitator: Uma Bhatt, R.S.W. York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families



These free virtual presentations for parents and caregivers are brought to you through a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families.

For more information contact, please contact Oksana Majaski,
YRDSB Community & Partnership Developer via email at Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca.

Invitation to March Break Queen's Park Tour

Dear Markham-Unionville families and friends,

March Break is fast approaching. MPP Billy Pang is excited to invite Markham-Unionville families to join a tour at Queen's Park Legislature Building during March Break.

Date: Thursday March 16

Time: 10:15 am – 12:30 pm

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the history and heritage of Ontario's Parliament, to explore the Legislative Chamber and more! This experience will be unique and worth your travel to downtown.

Spaces are limited – first come first serve.

(This event is designated to Markham-Unionville Residents ONLY, confirmation will be sent upon address verification).

For more information and RSVP, please visit www.bilypangmpp.ca/events

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at billy.pang@pc.ola.org.

Best wishes,

Billy Pang, MPP
Markham-Unionville



Parenting Program for Farsi and Dari Speaking Families

Building healthy relationships with your children is a fundamental parenting skill. As a parent, we want to raise healthy individuals. This starts with knowing and practicing strategies that help us mitigate parenting challenges. Join us for a session full of helpful information and practical strategies. Some of these topics are:

Session 1: Fostering positive relationships with children with looking at self-esteem enhancement strategies

- Tips on fostering a healthy and secure attachment with your child
- Useful communication strategies such as emotional validation and normalization
- Learning how to strengthen your child's self-esteem

Session 2: Regulating Emotions

- Functionality of emotions: What can emotions do for you?
- Understanding and naming emotions
- Tips for addressing your child's emotions and strategizing healthy coping strategies to deal with challenging emotions

Session 3: Social Media and Parenting Concerns Q&A

- Social media and recommendations regarding healthy social media habits
- Age-appropriate screen time
- Peer pressure and interpersonal skills

Date: February 27, March 27 and April 24, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Zoom (Virtual) Held in Farsi / Dari

[Register Here](#)

For more information, please contact: **Maryam Jariani**
Community Partnership Developer (Iranian/Afghan Community)
maryam.jariani@yrdsb.ca; 905-727-0022 ext. 3512



Speaker: **Afsaneh Zafarani** School Social Worker

Speaker: **Mahsa Ghayoumi** Psychotherapist from (Family Service York Region)

* Northern KARATE

Stonebridge P.S.



We're Coming To Your School!

Wednesdays @ 1:05pm

- Mar 8
- Mar 22
- Mar 29
- Apr 5

Graduation Ceremony:

Saturday, April 15th @ 3pm
At Northern Karate Markham

Make-up classes are
available at our Northern
Karate Markham dojo.



Cost:

\$39^{+tax}

ALL profits get
donated back to your
school!

OPEN TO GRADES 1-6

Register Online Today!

www.nksmarkham.com/lunch

Northern Karate Markham

1405 Denison Street in Markham

905-475-0044

LEGO Challenges



Hello Everyone

We are putting out a request for any genuine LEGO building materials that you may not be using at home anymore. Of special need are the flat base plate building sheets that can be built upon.

We will have upcoming curriculum based LEGO Challenges, centred in the Library and additional LEGO supplies will be most helpful.

If you think you can help and have bags or containers of LEGO, would you please sort through to make sure there are no extra items such as puzzle pieces or other toy bits, label with the word LIBRARY and have your student drop them off in the office.

Thank you so much. We look forward to sharing pictures of the finished projects.

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!!

Kindergarten Registration 2023—2024



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for September 2023 begins Friday, January 20 from 8:30 am for the 2023-2024 school year. Children who turn four or five years old during 2023, 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.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2023

There are several ways you can register your child for Kindergarten:

Option 1: Online



Register online by visiting
www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten.

Option 2: Email



Complete a fillable PDF found on:
www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten
and email the form to the school
email address, found on the
school's website.

Option 3: Phone



Register by calling the school to
request support to complete
the registration over the phone.
Interpreters available upon
request.

Option 4: In Person



Visit the school office to drop off or
complete a registration form.

Register in just two easy steps:

1

Complete registration form
and submit to the school

2

The school will contact you
to make an appointment to
review and verify the
required documents

Lunch Drop Off

We encourage families to send lunch with students when they come to school in the morning. If you need to drop off a lunch for your child, please bring it to the office with the name and class and students can pick them up from there. Please do not wait to hand deliver lunches to the students in the yard. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Options

The following lunch options are offered at Stonebridge P.S. Please see below for more information:

Monday	Kid's Kitchen	Orders ongoing and directly with Kid's Kitchen.
Tuesday	Pasta lunch	Order closed for Round 3. Start from March 21st to June 27th.
Wednesday	Tasty Ya	Orders ongoing and directly with Tasty Ya.
Thursday	Pizza Lunch	Order closed for Round 2. Started from February 2nd to April 27nd.
Friday	Kid's Kitchen	Orders ongoing and directly with Kid's Kitchen.

Please note: If you order Tasty Ya lunch for your child on Wednesdays, please remember to send cutlery with them as Tasty Ya does not provide cutlery with the lunches.

Inclement Weather and Special Lunches

Lunch programs will NOT be cancelled on inclement weather days. The only time the lunch programs will be cancelled is if schools are closed to students.

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.