

MARCH 2017



# The Stonebridge Story

168 Stonebridge Dr., Markham L6C 2Z8

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

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



Follow us on twitter: @stonebridgePS

## A Message from the Administration

- **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

As school leaders, we always are looking for ways to make the school safer, learning more engaging and students more included and happy to be learning at Stonebridge. The teachers and school employees at Stonebridge are also very dedicated to this continuous improvement. This year, our learning has been on the Comprehensive Math Program outlined by the York Region District School Board. Our learning during the month of February has been on utilizing puzzles and games in math instruction. Our teachers have begun to introduce puzzles and games that inspire students to ask questions, estimate, think critically, share their thinking and defend their ideas. You might want to talk to your child about activities such as estimation180, 101qs, the rekenrek, dot plates or Splat!

On March 30th, we will be hosting an evening for parents to help develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Curriculum: Mathematics. In designing lessons to help students achieve the curriculum expectations, teachers use a balanced variety of instructional strategies including problem solving, direct instruction, investigation, assessment and practice. An important goal of the curriculum is that students be able to apply their math learning in a real world situation. We invite you to join us to experience math lessons that demonstrate this balanced approach to mathematics. A letter of invitation will be coming home soon.

You can also find out more about the Ontario Mathematics curriculum by going to [www.mathies.ca](http://www.mathies.ca). This site is hosted by the Ontario Association for Math Educators (OAME), and is designed for students and parents. This website includes games, learning tools, and activities for students to explore, build and enhance their mathematical thinking. There is a parents page that will provide more information on how you can help your child to succeed in math.

As a school, we are also learning about ways to gain understanding and be inclusive of all the people we may encounter in our lives. In March, we will be learning about Cerebral Palsy (CP) and Epilepsy. March is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month. During the month, there will be announcements giving students facts about CP. On March 22nd, students are encouraged to wear green to demonstrate their growing awareness about Cerebral Palsy. March 26th is Purple Day—an international day dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy. Cassidy Megan Scotia created the idea of Purple Day in 2008, to help myths and let those with seizures know that they are not alone. On March 27th, all students are encouraged to wear



from Nova  
eliminate  
not alone.  
Purple.

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 second session of pizza lunch started Thursday, February 23rd, 2017. It is in full-swing.

Our direct donation fundraiser needs more support from our students and parents.

**Volunteers are needed for our upcoming Fun Fair event which will be held on May 18th, 2017.**

**Please email [stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.on.ca](mailto:stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.on.ca) if you can volunteer.**

From fundraising dollars we were able to purchase 18 chrome books, 2 note book, 2 LCD projectors, and 7 Doc Cameras for the school.

### Upcoming Events

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

Family Mental Health Night on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Understanding Math Instruction on March 30, 2017

Fun Fair on May 18th 2017. More Volunteers are needed.

As always, the council can be contacted via our email address

[stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.on.ca](mailto:stonebridge.ps@sc.yrdsb.on.ca)

Thank you for your support,

The School Council

## 2017 EQAO DATES

This year, our students in grades 3 and 6 will write the EQAO assessment between **May 23rd to June 5th**. We do not yet know exactly which days each grade will write the assessment and more information will be sent home in April. At this time, we ask that all families with children in grades 3 and 6 avoid medical and dental appointments during these dates. We also ask that you do not schedule travel or holidays during this time.

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



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# Snack Program at Stonebridge

## VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We have started our Grab and Go Snack Program. This program is partially funded by York Region Food for Learning. We have a bin at the office with apples, carrots and granola bars. Students who **need** a snack can come and take a snack.

Successful programs require a community effort of many volunteers and donations from the 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."

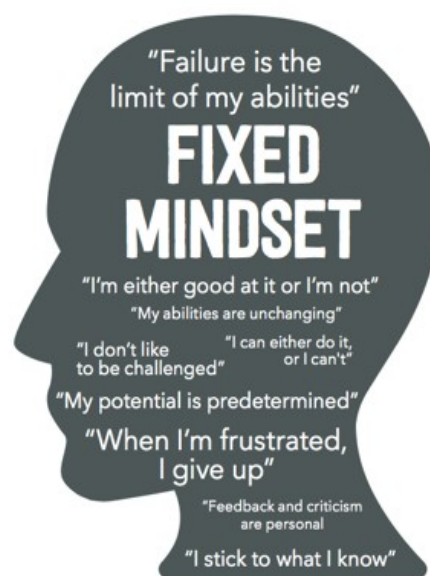
**If you are interested in volunteering**, please send an email to the Vice Principal, Shelley Jones at [shelley.jones@yrdsb.ca](mailto:shelley.jones@yrdsb.ca).



## Growth Mindset in Math

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and 'smartness' can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. In math, that translates into "some people are good at math, and some are not." Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child's ability to persevere in challenges? The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity. Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than those with fixed mindsets. How can you help? Some simple ways:

- Adding "yet" when they claim they are "not good at this" (Respond: "You are not good at this yet.")
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g. *What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?*)
- Model this yourself as you share about your day



# The Annual Polar Bear Walk – Bring a Toonie!

Did you know that by 2050, the polar bear population will decline by 30% due to loss of habitat? You can make a difference! Stonebridge P.S. is participating in the annual Polar Bear walk **on Friday, March 3rd, 2017** with WWF-Canada. All students are welcomed to walk and fundraise for this arctic wildlife. Bring a \$2 donation and walk with us.

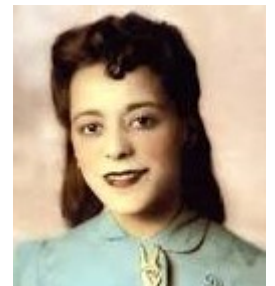
Each year, polar bears in Hudson Bay walk up to 5000 kilometers across the Arctic sea ice in search of food and to raise their cubs. Most polar bears spend their entire lives on sea ice, and have evolved to thrive there. Now climate change is threatening the livelihood of this mighty species. The sea ice under their paws is melting at a rapid rate and this presents a long term threat to the species – less ice means fewer bears!



## Black History Month

Stonebridge students learned more about Black History during the month of February. On Thursday, February 16th, Duane Gibson, a motivational speaker, performed for our students in grades 1-8. He used music and rapping to engage our students in an fun and interactive event that included information about Black Canadians who made a difference in Canada's history and culture including Josiah Henson, Viola Desmond, and Oscar Peterson. The students could be heard singing these lyrics of resiliency along with D.O (Defy the Odds) Gibson "I Stand Up, I Stand Tall, I Stay Driven and if I Fall, I Stand Up!"

At the end of the month were treated to a presentation by the Back History Month committee. The committee brought the story of Viola Desmond, who challenged Nova Scotia's racial segregation laws to life, for our students. Viola Desmond has been chosen to be the first woman on our ten dollar bill in 2018. Ms. Feng's grade 7 class dramatized Rosa Parks story. Rosa Parks was the American woman who would not move to the back of the bus and her resistance and arrest started the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The committee was dedicated to educating all Stonebridge students with messages about important Black Canadians by making announcements every morning in February. We would like to thank them for all of their work and dedication.







## Battle of the Books is Happening!



Boys and girls in Grade 4 to 6 are gathering in the Learning Commons on Tuesdays and Thursdays after lunch to read books geared to their age level. These students are taking part both in these in person gatherings and in our online component of our reading club via a moodle.

A moodle is a safe online forum where Mrs. Miyata has allowed access only to students within this club. Children are reading and sharing information about the title, author and story of 40 books with their peers; you could say that a moodle is kind of like an electronic bulletin board where students may collaborate with fellow readers.

During the in person sessions, boys and girls have time to read books or quiz each other about books in a fun way. Mrs. Miyata loves to give clues about books to see if she can stump the children; the students in turn love to stump Mrs. Miyata with clues, too. Its not too late for your child in grade 4, 5 or 6 to join us! A

At the end of April, we will be holding our own Battle of the Books competition at Stonebridge and in May, we will be choosing a team of 6 students to represent our school at the Area Battle of the Books event. Stay tuned for more news in upcoming newsletters.

Happy Reading, all!



## Stonebridge Students Proudly Celebrate Canada's 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our Flag!



Stonebridge continues to promote Canada 150 by recognizing the importance of February 15, 2017 to Canadians.

On February 15, 2017 our entire school of students from kindergarten to Grade 8 celebrated Canada's 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of our beautiful red and white flag.

On February 15, Canada's current red and white flag was launched. Prior to this date, Canada had made use of the Red Ensign and a number of other flags to represent our country. Half a century ago when Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson was in power, he saw that the fabric of Canada was changing so he decided that it was time for Canada to have its own flag to bring Canada into the future and reflect our multicultural tapestry.

On Canada's flag day, many Stonebridge students and teachers shared their patriotism by wearing red and white clothes and clothes with Canada logos. In preparation for this day, students had made their own Canadian flag to hold while gathering in the hallways to sing our national anthem in English or French. After jubilantly singing O Canada, the children enthusiastically cheered "Yeah Canada!" and "Happy Flag Day, Canada" while waving their flags with glee. Neighbouring classes looked on with bright eyes and huge smiles while celebrating our flag.

The excitement continues as we count down the days until Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday that is coming up on July 1, 2017. I urge parents to keep watching the newspapers for information about how Markham will be celebrating this special day. Until then, here are a couple of websites that may be of interest to you.

Canada 150 <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1468262573081>

Participation 150 Play list <https://www.participaction.com/en-ca/programs/participaction-150-play-list>

## French Concert—Beebo!



On Thursday, March 9th, 2017, the French department at Stonebridge Public School has organized an exciting and engaging learning opportunity for students in Grades 4 to 7.

The name of the concert is “The Beebo Music Show” that will be performed by Roland (Beebo) Bibeau who has been writing and performing music for the past 20 years. Beebo will be performing songs in French.

This concert is a learning experience for the student in Grades 4 to 7.

## Kindergarten Registration

### Kindergarten Registration 2017—2018

Stonebridge PS is still accepting registration for Kindergarten 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.

Thank you

Stonebridge Public School

# Stonebridge School Council News

## March 2017 Trustee Greetings

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With spring approaching and the hours of daylight increasing, now is a good time to enjoy the outdoors and our natural environment. Did you know that our Board has five [outdoor education centres](#), and students have opportunities to visit them and other outdoor learning spaces throughout their schooling? This is part of our commitment to giving students an opportunity to learn in and about the natural world. This learning supports students in gaining a deeper appreciation for nature and the importance of environmental sustainability.

“Modelling continuous environmental sustainability” is one of the goals outlined in our [Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Plan](#). We believe that we all have a role to play in reducing waste and protecting our environment. Our students, staff members and families continue to show leadership when it comes to supporting student learning and initiatives to reduce our ecological footprint.

Spending time outside as a family also provides a great opportunity to support and enhance your child’s learning outside of school. Whether visiting a park or museum, reading with your child in your home language or asking questions about their day at school - know that there are many ways you can support their education and that you are making a difference.

I hope you all have a happy and safe March Break and enjoy the warmer weather ahead.

*Bill Pang*

Trustee

647-461-9965

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



# MARCH 2017

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 	3	4
5	6 School Council Meeting 6:30	7 	8	9  The Beebo Music Show	10 <i>Spirit Day:</i> <i>Pajama Day</i>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>MARCH BREAK</b>						
19	20	21  <i>Grade 8 Grad Picture Day</i>	22 <i>Wear Green Today for CP!</i>	23 	24	25
26	27 <i>Wear Purple for Epilepsy Awareness!</i>	28 	29 <i>Regional Parent Symposium</i>	30  Understanding Math Instruction for Parents	31	