

MAY 2022

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

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

May is normally a very busy time of year. This year has been filled with changes, needing flexibility to adjust to what this pandemic has put in front of us. We are very proud of the work our staff have accomplished in their classrooms this year while working with all of our students. We also would like to thank you, our parents and guardians, for the partnership we continue to build to support student well-being and achievement.

Class Placements for Next Year

As we start planning for next year, if you have any specific requests for the placement of your child for next year, please send your request to Mr. Bansal via email (sumir.bansal@yrdsb.ca) by May 13th. If you wish to set up a time to speak over the phone or in person that can be arranged as well. Please keep in mind that families **should not be requesting specific teachers or particular grade arrangements (e.g. single/combined grades)** as teaching positions and school organizations change every year. Requests of this nature will not be considered. Please describe your child's learning profile and the type of teaching style that will support your child (e.g. My child requires a lot of structure, My child learns best through the Arts, my child is strong in Literacy but needs more support in Math, etc.). We do anticipate a number of combined/split grade classes next year.

School Council Update:

We had over 100 entries in our Student Art Contest! We have several winners from our school that will be announced soon! All student entries will be displayed in our front foyer and we are exceptionally proud of all of the student engagement and participation in this event. Thank you to our school council members for supporting this successful initiative!

Just a reminder that our next School Council will be meeting on Monday May 9th from 6 to 7pm virtually at: <https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/sumirbansal>. All are welcome to attend!

Walking Wednesday:

In partnership with Ontario Active School Travel we continue to participate in Walking Wednesday! A reminder that our school's kiss and ride will continue to be closed in the morning and afternoon every Wednesday!

Recess and Lunch Reminders:

A reminder to continue to dress for the weather (rain, show, sunshine etc) as students will be spending 60+ minutes a day outside. Due to field conditions, there are some days where we have recently had to keep our students on the pavement (pavement only recess). We hope to resume regular recesses as soon as we can.

Please note that students are expected to either stay at school for lunch or go home daily. If your child is seeking to occasionally leave school during lunch, they must bring in a written note each time, and sign out in the office at 12:45pm (we are discouraging phone calls home to seek permission on the day of). If your child has forgotten their lunch, we are able to provide extra food in the office. Please note the school has no responsibility for students who leave the school property.

Classroom Growing Gardens

In Partnership with [The Growing Connection](#), we are working to have a portable garden box in each classroom. We have purchased several garden containers, fertilizer and seed packages for our students/classrooms. We are excited to see the learning and growth in our classrooms! Thank you to our staff and caretaking team for their support! A special thank you to our families and staff that participated in our Spring has Sprung at Stonebridge Seed Fundraiser with Make it Sow. This allowed us to give back 50% of the purchase price back to the school to help subsidize the cost of our classroom gardens!

Upcoming Events:

- **EQAO:** Our Grade 3 students will be writing EQAO on May 17th and 18th and our Grade 6 students will be writing on May 31st and June 1st. More details will be shared with these families.
- **Track and Field:** Track and Field is back for our grade 4-8 students. Intermediate (Grade 7-8) Track and Field will be on May 19th and Junior (Grade 4-6) Track and Field will be on May 20th.
- **Discover Kindergarten:** If you have a child who is entering Junior Kindergarten next year, we will be having a Discover Kindergarten event in the evening of May 26th. More details will be shared shortly. If you have friends or neighbors that have not registered for JK next year, please let them know that we are now accepting new registrations.
- **PA Day:** Please note that **Thursday June 2nd** is a PA Day and schools will be closed to all students.
- **Report Cards:** Report Cards are set to go home electronically the week of June 27th. The last day of school is June 30th and dismissal will take place at 11:55am.
- **Grade 8 Graduation** is set to take place face to face on the evening of **June 27th** at Crystal Fountain. More information will follow for our graduating class.

We are looking forward to warmer spring weather and successful May and June months.

As always, thank you for your partnership!

Dave and Sumir

Asian and South Asian Heritage Month

YRDSB proudly recognizes May as Asian and South Asian Heritage Month. In May 2002, the Government of Canada signed an official declaration to designate May as Asian Heritage Month. At the provincial level, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario designated May as South Asian Heritage Month in 2001 and as Asian Heritage Month in 2005.

As we approach the month of May, communities across Canada will be coming together to understand, affirm and appreciate the vibrant heritages of Canadians of the Asian and South Asian diaspora. As part of a continuous commitment to creating inclusive learning and working environments, during this month and throughout the year, it is important to design meaningful opportunities to learn more about the social, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity and histories of Canadians of Asian descent and honour their ongoing contributions to Canada.

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month was given Royal Assent in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Jewish Heritage Month Act, 2012, S.O. 2012, c. 1 - Bill 17) on April 24, 2012 and in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. As we approach the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to engage in opportunities that celebrate and affirm Jewish histories and the achievements of the Jewish community.

Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world. There are close to 400,000 Jewish residents in Canada, and almost half of that number reside in Ontario. Jewish settlers in Canada can be traced as far back as 1760. Jewish Canadians have proudly contributed to Canadian heritage in all of its facets including the military, the arts, government, business, academia, law, medicine, culture, and sports. Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the contributions Jewish Canadians make in communities across the country.



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SCHOOL 54273

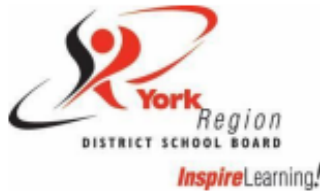
23 TREES PLANTED

Your tree planting will be directed to a site located in Thunder Bay, Ontario
area for the 2022 planting.

Presented: **March 30, 2022.**

Don Gayford President/ Owner

www.makeitsow.com info@makeitsow.com 519-632-7247



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

May 2022

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

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Every year in Ontario, the first week in May is acknowledged as [Children's Mental Health Awareness Week](#); this year it will fall on May 2-6, 2022. In recognition of this important week, at YRDSB, we are planning a variety of classroom daily activities, increasing awareness through our social media platforms as well as working with our community partners to build awareness about children and youth mental wellness through [webinars and workshops](#). Over the course of the pandemic the need to support children's mental health has been amplified. There are several definitions to Mental Health; the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum highlights the holistic ways of understanding mental health and wellness. A balance of the mental, physical and emotional enriches one's daily lives, their hope for the future which in turn provides a sense of unity to themselves, families and communities. In addition, [School Mental Health Ontario](#) (SMHO) explains mental health as a dual continuum. Similar to our physical health, there are days where we might not feel mentally well. This can include our children, families and communities. SMHO reports that 70% of people indicated their first mental health concerns emerged when they were a child or an adolescent. Each year, one in five Canadian children and youth experience significant mental health challenges. Think of your average class size, this may mean many students can have mental health impacts in which support can be beneficial.

We continue to strive towards foundations laid out in the [Director's Annual Plan](#), which highlights the goal of building safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments where all feel they matter and belong. We strive to build on the notion of Acknowledging, Bridging and Connecting ([ABCs of mental health](#)) and create actions to support this framework.

In this edition of our Newsletter, we would like to share a video by [Strong Minds Strong Kids Psychology Canada](#) titled ["Supporting Teen Resilience: What Adults Need to Know"](#). This video showcases an open panel discussion with high school students and registered psychologists, Dr. Chantal Regis with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Guelph, and Dr. Michael Saxton who maintains a practice working with children and youth in Ontario. They discuss the resiliency, intensity of emotions, intersecting identities, vulnerability children and youth encounter as well as key strategies for adults to enhance young people's mental wellness. This video highlights some important factors to keep in mind:

- **Taking Time to Foster Strength** - Dr. Regis explains that caring adults can hold a safe space for youth by displaying listening skills, curiosity, and practicing open body language which symbolizes signs of caring adults. By doing so, caring adults can help facilitate dialogue with our children and youth to talk about their feelings, understanding that children's emotions and thoughts are amplified during brain development. For example, an adult may say to a child, "I see this is not making you happy, how are you feeling now?" Sometimes the use of colours can help children explain their emotions.
- **Creating a Care Plan** - Setting boundaries and taking time for YOU is essential as mental health is experienced across a dual continuum. Ask yourself, what does care look like for me? What one small thing do I need to feel cared about? Who is my support system that is identity affirming? What motivates me to care for myself? Who can I trust to share this care plan with? For some, this can include journaling, going on a walk, mindfulness, deep breathing, connecting with their roots and identities, being in identity affirming spaces, connecting with their loved ones and so on. Check out: [My Circle of Support Pocketbook-Student Help Seeking Resource](#) by School Mental Health Ontario.

Additional Resources:

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

[SMHO Parent/Family Page](#)

Upcoming Workshops:

[CMHA 2022 Mindful Compassion](#) - Wed, May 2nd , 2022 6:30 pm - 8:30 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

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 account [@MH_YRDSB](#).

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2022 Summer Learning Programs Available

During the summer, YRDSB continues to offer credit and non-credit summer school program opportunities for elementary, secondary and adult students. Registration is now open for the following programs:

Elementary Credit and Non-Credit Programs:

- [Elementary Summer School](#) (Grades 6 - 8 non-credit reinforcement)
- [Grade 8 Reach Ahead](#) – Students in Grade 8
- [Summer Institute](#) - Kindergarten to Grade 8

Secondary Credit Programs:

- In-Person Learning
- Online Learning

Adult Learning Programs:

- Adult Literacy and Basic Skills
- English as a Second Language
- Citizenship Classes

For more information about summer learning programs and registration please visit www.yrdsb.ca and follow us on Twitter @YRDSB.



Navigating Secondary School and Beyond

Summer Program 2022

Program Overview

The Come Up is a unique identity-affirming summer experience. Students will engage in meaningful discussions and activities that will empower them to pursue excellence in high school and beyond. Students will also earn a credit upon successful completion of the program.

Eligibility

- Are you entering Grade 9 or 10 in September 2022?
- Do you self-identify as Black?
- Are you a YRDSB Student?
- Are you interested in earning a high school credit?

Register by May 31st

Swag Bags, Prizes, Giveaways Included!

Date: July 6 - July 29, 2022 (Monday-Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Choice of Tommy Douglas SS or Milliken Mills HS

For more information email: TheComeUP@yrdsb.ca





Virtual Black Parent/Guardian Workshop Series

Summer Program 2022

- Is your child a YRDSB student?
- Is your child transitioning to Grade 9 or 10?
- Is your child registered in the Come Up Program?
- Does your child self-identify as Black?

Join us for a workshop series on navigating the secondary school system.

Session # 1 - Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Understanding the Secondary System (Structure, Rights, Policies, Attendance, Credit Recovery, IEPs and more)

Session # 2 - Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting your Child (Mental Health Supports, Tips and Strategies)

Session # 3 - Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

School/Community Resources (Accessing Supports)

Families of all students for the summer school program will receive registration information for the Black Parent/ Guardian Workshop Series via email once student registration is complete.



For more information email: TheComeUP@yrdsb.ca

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://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

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.

