

SEPTEMBER
2023



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

The Stonebridge Story

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

Email: Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

Message from our Administrators

Dear Stonebridge Families,

We have embarked on the new 2023/2024 school year! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families to Stonebridge and welcome back all the returning families. You may notice some new faces at the school as we have welcomed some new staff here at Stonebridge. They look forward to getting to know our great families.

We look forward to a wonderful year of activities and learning. The staff have been working diligently on creating engaging programs for the students to enjoy. We have wonderful things planned for the year. Ms. Nemni has already called a meeting for students interested in joining the cross country team. Practices have begun to take place at lunch. We have quite a few excited students from grades 3 to 8. We also had interested students sign up for the volleyball teams. Let's go Silverwolves!

A few of our teachers are organizing events to support the Terry Fox foundation. Terry Fox is a Canadian hero who had cancer and ran across Canada to raise funds for cancer research. Our Terry Fox run will take place next week on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. We are also collecting 'toonies' to donate to the Terry Fox foundation to support cancer research. Our goal is to raise \$1000. Additional information will be sent home about this event in the upcoming days.

Thank you for entrusting our staff with your children. We pride ourselves on creating safe, inclusive spaces where children will thrive and strive to become the best version of themselves. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's academic goals as well as their social-emotional well-being. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the main office if you have any questions about the upcoming year!

David Williams
Principal

Elaine Ricketts
Vice-Principal

Message from Our Trustee, September 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many responsibilities, including making policy and budget decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our news-room, listen to our podcast and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our new Director of Education Bill Cober, who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the Multi-Year Strategic Plan that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Ron Lynn
Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

Safety Drills

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, building occupants and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 25 to 29, 2023) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to Board Policy #669.0 for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

Terry Fox Run

Stonebridge Public School is proud to be participating in the Terry Fox School Run. Please join us and continue the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes by donating at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/StonebridgePSMarkham>

Stonebridge PS

Terry Fox Run, Walk, and Roll Day

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023 – Day 3





Welcome back!

August 2023

The City of Markham Parking Enforcement Unit is reaching out to all Markham schools to make you aware of the many school zone parking complaints that we receive each year. We aim to reduce unsafe vehicular activity in school zones by communicating to you the common school zone parking violations.

The City of Markham has over 90 schools and Public safety is important to us. We continue to do everything we can to address all of the complaints received. Despite posted signage, education, and enforcement, residents are continuing to park their vehicles in violation of the City of Markham Parking By-law. Schools within the City of Markham are patrolled regularly and we continue to work closely with York Regional Police and Fire and Emergency Services throughout the year to attend schools requiring additional assistance. Verbal and/or physical threats against a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer will not be tolerated. Officers are expected to report all of these incidents to York Regional Police.

The City of Markham has implemented the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS). AMPS is a more efficient way for municipalities to enforce parking bylaws. It allows for parking tickets to be served in a variety of different methods; for example, they may now be served through mail if a vehicle is found in violation. In particular, traffic congestion during school drop off/pick up times present unique challenges for enforcement. Mailing parking tickets allows officers to address most of the illegally parked vehicles and not just one or two vehicles.

General inquiries and parking complaints, including on street parking should be directed to the Contact Centre at 905 477 7000 ext. 2050. For all general information regarding parking, please feel free to visit the City of Markham website at <https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/about/city-hall/bylaws/bylaw>.

Please aid us in keeping school zones safe!

"The real penalty for not obeying parking regulations is that you may risk the safety of children!"

Sincerely,

Jeff Rahim
Municipal Law Enforcement Supervisor | Parking Operations
City of Markham

Common School Zone Parking Violations

The City's Parking Enforcement Unit has implemented some new penalties for vehicles parked or stopped in violation within a school zone to help address those safety issues. Vehicles that are parked within a school zone will be subject to increased fines.

Drivers should be reminded to park in **permitted** areas only, which may include:

1. The school parking lot in accordance with signs posted; or,
2. Streets that **do not** have prohibited parking or prohibited stopping signs posted.

In addition to the most common parking violations listed below, drivers should ensure that they do not violate other parking regulations such as, parking too close or obstructing a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway, pathway, crosswalk, super mailbox, sidewalk etc.

Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a Fire Route. Fire Routes are classified as roads, laneways, or driveways that provide access to a building and may also include areas within a parking lot. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they are stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the vehicle.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to **immediately** drop off/pick up passengers – there cannot be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting; if the child is not at the curb, the parent should move and return when the child is present.**

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or
2. Leave their vehicle for any reason (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Certain schools may have designated kiss-and-rides. These designated areas may or may not also be part of a fire route. It is important to note that the fire route restrictions take precedence over such kiss-and-rides and that the parking of vehicles in such areas are permitted only for the **immediate** pick-up and drop-off of passengers.

If passengers are not immediately picked up then the vehicle must not park in the fire route – for any length of time and even if the fire route is designated as a kiss-and-ride.

Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that stopping is prohibited. They are often posted on the surrounding streets of a school and may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to stop their vehicle - drivers must continue to drive with the flow of traffic.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. Stop their vehicle to let passengers in or out of their vehicle; or
2. Stop and wait for their child to get into the vehicle.

Prohibited stopping areas are far more restrictive on what vehicular activity a person may be engaged in. A vehicle should not be stopped in a no stopping zone at any time, even for the purposes of loading/unloading goods and/or passengers.

Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that parking is prohibited within the vicinity of the sign. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they have stopped the vehicle within the posted area. The vehicle is considered parked even if the engine is running, the hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car. Additionally, these signs may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to park their vehicle within the signed area.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – there must not be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and then the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting; if the child is not at the curb, the parent should move and return when the child is present.**

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or,
2. Leave their vehicle for any reason (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City of Markham's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188.

"Fire Route" means any roadway, driveway, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a designated building which is designated as a fire access route by the City's Fire Department and shall include any part of a parking lot set aside by visible markings or markers for the purpose of vehicular movement.

"Park" or "Parking" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when halting temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading goods or passengers.

"Stop" or "Stopping" means the halting or leaving of a motor vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal.

"Highway" includes a common or public highway, street, avenue, boulevard, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct, laneway, court, or trestle, designated and intended for, or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles; and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof; after "for the passage of vehicles.

How can parents help?

- Observe and obey all traffic/parking signs
- Do not leave your car unattended
- Do not make U-turns in a school zone
- Give yourself extra time so that you are not rushed
- Respect other drivers. Be patient.
- Do not use private driveways in the area as alternate pick up/drop off points. Please respect other homeowners/private business properties.
- If you must drive, park legally - even if this means walking some distance.
- Recognize that safety takes precedent over convenience.
- Encourage alternative transportation (biking, walking, and taking the bus).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How close to the curb should drivers park?

Drivers should not park more than 15cm (6 inches) from a curb.

2. How close to an intersection may drivers park?

A vehicle should not be parked within 9m (30 ft.) of an intersection on any road. This includes the portion of an intersection where two roads intersect to form a 'T'-shaped zone. In addition to the above, a vehicle should not be parked within 15m (49 ft.) of any signalized intersection.

3. How far should drivers park away from a fire hydrant?

Drivers should maintain a distance of 3m (10 ft.) from the fire hydrant. This includes areas where a fire hydrant may be located a substantial distance from the curb and/or street. Vehicles must park at least 3m (10 ft.) clear of the curb that lines up with a fire hydrant provided there are no other parking restrictions.

4. What do I do when I receive a parking ticket?

Individuals that receive a parking ticket either in person, on the vehicle, or by mail, are advised to follow the directions provided on the back of the parking ticket. It is the responsibility of the driver to respond in a timely manner.



Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12.

Elementary Language Classes

Elementary classes are extra-curricular language learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM).

Register by Monday, September 11, 2023 to attend the full language program in its entirety.

For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL [Elementary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Secondary Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Registration is now open until the third class.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL [Secondary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- Courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying visa students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
Farsi
Filipino
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Macedonian
Mandarin (Simplified)
Mandarin (Traditional)
Punjabi
Ojibwe
Russian
Sinhala
Spanish
Tamil
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese
Yoruba



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

September 2023

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

First Day of a New School Year!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are happy to see all of you.

At YRDSB, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where mental health is prioritized and nurtured. Together, let us create a school community that embraces mental wellness, celebrates diversity, and supports one another on this incredible journey of education and personal growth.

We acknowledge that many feelings and emotions accompany the start of a new school year for students, parents and educators. From excitement to nervousness, anxiety to joy and everything in between. Whatever feelings and emotions accompany your child(ren) or family, know they are valid, important and okay. Talking to your child(ren) about their first day feelings can be a great way to encourage conversation about experiences and emotions all year long!

In this edition we will focus on the firsts of the new year- new school, first drop-off, kindergarten or high school.

Creating a routine at the beginning of a new school year offers predictability and consistency and can be helpful to children, parents and teachers! Building skills to take care of our feelings as we go through the new year can happen at any time. Asking questions about your child(ren)'s day such as "What did you feel walking into your classroom?", "How do you know you're feeling happy when you see your



YRDSB Mental Health

friends?", "What made you feel excited/hopeful/worried about today?" can help normalise the feelings of each day.

We want to use the start of the year as a reminder to [take care of yourselves](#) throughout the year, and to know that if challenges arise we can [solve problems](#) together. We want all of our students to know that there are caring adults that will help them navigate all that this year may bring. When students feel supported and cared for by those around them, they are better able to engage in new learning and embrace new opportunities.

We are better together. Looking forward to a year of learning, discovery, and joy alongside you.

Supportive Resources:

[Mental Health Resources in York Region](#)

[YorkHills Here to Help Line](#) (905-503-9561)

The Here to Help Line is a free service available to children/youth (0-18 years) and their parents/caregiver/adult supporters. Monday to Thursday from 2:00pm-7:00p.m

[Family Services York Region](#) (905-895-2371)

Virtual walk in is operated on a first come, first serve basis, and can be accessed once per month. Virtual appointments can be 15 minutes to 1.5 hours long depending on your specific needs. Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#)

Follow YRDSB Mental Health on Twitter [@MH_YRDSB](#)

Free Community events:

Parents

York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

- September 11, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #1 – The Power of Positive Parenting](#)
- September 13, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Teen Triple P Seminar #2 – Raising](#)



YRDSB Mental Health

Competent Teenagers

- September 18, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #2 – Raising Confident Competent Children](#)
- September 19, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Understanding ASD Learning Styles and Effective Teaching Strategies](#)
- September 20, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Teen Triple P Seminar #3 – Getting Teenagers Connected](#)
- September 25, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Triple P Seminar #3 – Raising Resilient Children](#)
- September 27, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Promoting Resiliency in Teens- Triple P](#)

Students

York Services Support Network

- Single Session Counseling
 - [Tuesdays in September – 9:30 – 10:30 am](#)
 - [Tuesdays in September – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm](#)
 - [Thursdays in September 11:00 am– 12:00 pm](#)
 - [Thursdays in September 12:30 – 1:30 pm](#)
- To keep up with other offerings: [YSSN Events](#)

Families

PFlag

- [Coffee Night](#), held every second Monday of the month, is a safe space where members of the LGBTQ2 community, their friends, family or allies can come together.
- [Online Registration](#)

This edition of the Newsletter was written by the Student Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Implementation Team 2023–2024, inclusive of YRDSB School Social Workers Afsaneh Zafarani, Kate Phillips and Peter Reid.

Patricia Marra–Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.

Mental Health Lead

patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca

Hoshana Calliste, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca

Paula Vicente M.S.W., R.S.W.

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

paula.vicente@yrdsb.ca

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.