

SEPTEMBER  
2024



**PRINCIPAL**

David Williams

**VICE-PRINCIPAL**

Elaine Ricketts

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Kandeehan  
Ganeshalingam

**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 pm

Dismissal

# The Stonebridge Story

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

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

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

## Message from our Administrators

We are delighted to see all of our returning students and a warm welcome to the new students and families to the community. We have had a smooth start up to the school year and students are getting to know their teachers and fellow students. We are looking forward to a wonderful year, full of learning and developing academically, socially and emotionally. We have a wonderful staff who are dedicated to supporting and enhancing your child's skills so they can grow to reach their full potential. We are your partners in education so please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Stonebridge team if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding your child. We are here to support you!

Sports have already begun at Stonebridge! Cross country runners have been practicing at lunch time in preparation for the big race in early October. Intermediate volleyball is also underway. Students have been practicing to boost their skills in preparation for exhibition games and the area tournament. We thank the staff members who have volunteered to coach the students and we wish the teams every success.

This is just a reminder that we are asking parents and caregivers not to park their cars in the school parking lot in the mornings. Please park on the street and walk your child to school. Our parking spaces are limited and we need the parking spaces for our staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

We already have quite a few items in our lost and found. If your child does not come home with all their belongings, please encourage them to check the lost and found on the first floor, around the corner from the main office. Students often take clothing off when they go outside for recess, leave it on the ground to go play and forget to take it when recess is over. We would prefer if lost items were returned to the students to whom they belong.

Please hold the date of September 26<sup>th</sup> as School Council is hosting a movie night in the school gym and the first School Council meeting of the year will be on October 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to come.

Our annual Terry Fox run is being held on Oct. 2, 2024. We will provide more details as the date approaches.

Enjoy the rest of September!

David Williams

Principal

Elaine Ricketts

Vice-Principal

# Message from Our Trustee

September 2024

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

## How Trustees Help

As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

## Our Priorities as a School Board

One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

## A New School Year

The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available.

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

## Partnerships with Families

We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please

make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Ron Lynn

Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

# Life Skills Consultation

## Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation

On May 30, 2024, the Ministry of Education announced that it would be launching consultations in fall 2024 with students, parents, job creators, educators and other stakeholders on the practical life skills students need to build a strong foundation for future success through modernized home economics education. To learn more visit [Province Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma](#).

The Ministry has asked school boards to assist in the promotion and collection of feedback on the practical life skills that parents, students and educators think could be included or strengthened.

The anonymous [Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation](#), designed by the Ministry, will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until September 24, 2024.

# Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentation

Dear Families,

As the new school year is beginning, students will be attending Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline;
- Personal mobile devices such as cell phones, smart watches, and tablets;
- Vaping for grades 7 & 8; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

## **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In the Start-Up Presentation, students are learning about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

## **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;



- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



### **Mental Health**

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

### **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

### **Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices

when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

**For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

# Safety Week

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) 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.

## General Supports for Emotional Well-Being

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- [KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- [York Hills Help Phone Line](#): 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [Naseeha Helpline/](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+ Youthline](#)





Peter Gilgan  
Foundation



# Sep - Dec 2024

## YRES Youth Workshop Calendar



### September

**SEP 14** | Discovering Volunteering Opportunities (G9-12)

**SEP 28** | Financial Literacy 101 (Grade 10 -12)

### November

**NOV 9** | Resumes, Cover Letters and Interview Preparations (G6-12)

**NOV 23** | Find your Calling and Passion (G9-12)

### October

**OCT 19** | Clear and Compelling Communication (G6-12)

**OCT 26** | Course Selections and University Applications (G9-12)

### December

**DEC 7** | Essential Study Skills for High School Success (G9-12)



Aaniin Community  
Centre



Zoom Option Available



FREE Workshops

SCAN ME



[YORKEDUCATION.ORG/YOUTH-WORKSHOPS/](https://YORKEDUCATION.ORG/YOUTH-WORKSHOPS/)

York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization.

# YRES Program Offerings

## 2024 - Language



### English

- English Reading and Writing Club (Ages 5-8) | 4:00 PM
- English Reading and Writing Club (Ages 9-12) | 4:30 PM
- English Reading and Writing Club (Ages 13-15) | 5:00 PM
- Toastmasters Public Speaking (Ages 8-12) | 6:30 PM
- Toastmasters Public Speaking (Ages 13-18) | 7:30 PM

#### Sunday

Sept 22, 2024  
Oct 20, 2024  
Nov 24, 2024  
Dec 15, 2024

### French

- French Reading and Speaking Club (Ages 4-8) | 4:00 PM
- French Reading and Speaking Club (Ages 9-15) | 4:30 PM
- French Writing Club (Ages 9-12) | 5:00 PM
- French Writing Club (Ages 13-15) | 5:30 PM

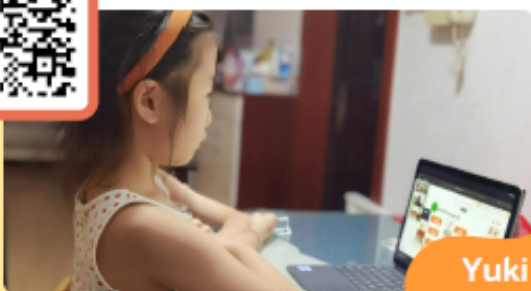
**Wednesdays**  
Sept 18, 2024  
Oct 16, 2024  
Nov 20, 2024  
Dec 18, 2024

### East Asian Languages

- Japanese Fundamentals (Ages 5-12) | 5:00 PM
- Mandarin Reading and Writing (Ages 5-12) | 5:30 PM

**Wednesdays**  
Sept 18, 2024  
Oct 16, 2024  
Nov 20, 2024  
Dec 18, 2024

SCAN ME



Yuki



Zoom Meetings



FREE Programs



EST Timezone



Scan the QR code to register.



<https://yorkeducation.org/>



[Info@yorkeducation.ca](mailto:Info@yorkeducation.ca)



York Region Educational Services is a non-profit organization, committed to providing educational services to Ontario and beyond.

# YRES Program Offerings

## 2024 - STEAM



### Science

- Young Scientist (Grade 1-3) | 4:30 PM
- Young Scientist (Grade 4-6) | 5:00 PM
- Young Scientist (Grade 7-8) | 5:30 PM

**Tuesdays**  
Sept 17, 2024  
Oct 15, 2024  
Nov 19, 2024  
Dec 17, 2024

### Technology

- Fundamentals with Scratch (Beginner; Ages 5-8) | 4:30 PM
- Fun with Scratch (Intermediate; Ages 5-8) | 5:00 PM
- Introduction to Python (Ages 12+) | 5:30 PM
- Understanding ROBLOX Studio and Lua Coding (Ages 10+) | 7:00 PM
- Exploring Web Development and HTML (Ages 10+) | 7:30 PM

**Thursdays**  
Sept 19, 2024  
Oct 17, 2024  
Nov 21, 2024  
Dec 19, 2024

### Engineering

- Tips and Fun with Engineering (Ages 9-13) | 6:00 PM
- Tips and Fun with Engineering (Ages 14-18) | 6:30 PM

**Thursdays**  
Sept 19, 2024  
Oct 17, 2024  
Nov 21, 2024  
Dec 19, 2024

### Art

- Introduction to Canva Graphic Design (Ages 5+) | 4:30 PM
- Artist Fundamentals (Ages 5-12) | 5:00 PM
- DIY Craft Club (Ages 6+) | 5:30 PM
- Drama Club (Ages 6+) | 6:00 PM

**Fridays**  
Sept 20, 2024  
Oct 18, 2024  
Nov 22, 2024  
Dec 20, 2024

### Math

- Tips and Fun with Math (Grade 1-2) | 4:30 PM
- Tips and Fun with Math (Grade 3-4) | 5:00 PM
- Tips and Fun with Math (Grade 5-6) | 5:30 PM
- Math Clinic (Grade 5, 6) | 5:30 PM
- Math Clinic (Grade 7, 8) | 6:00 PM
- Math Clinic (Grade 9, 10) | 6:30 PM
- Math Clinic (Grade 11) | 7:00 PM

**Mondays**  
Sept 16, 2024  
Oct 21, 2024  
Nov 18, 2024



Zoom Meetings



FREE Programs



EST Timezone

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Scan the QR code to register.



<https://yorkeducation.org/>



[Info@yorkeducation.ca](mailto:Info@yorkeducation.ca)



York Region Educational Services is a non-profit organization, committed to providing educational services to Ontario and beyond.



# Student Accident Insurance

The Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school extracurricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, field trips). Injuries can result in substantial expenses not covered by provincial health care or employer group insurance plans. Families may purchase voluntary student accident insurance through [Insuremykids](#). Participation is voluntary but highly recommended, and the costs are to be paid by the parent/guardian.

## Family Engagement Evening: October 9th SEAS/ISCS/FSYR

Attention Stonebridge Families: YRDSB's SEAS (Supporting East Asian Students) is hosting an evening entitled Family Ties: Building Stronger Bonds with Your Child. Please follow the link below to access full details.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/supporting-east-asian-students-family-engagement-evening>

# School Parking



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

## Common Parking Violation Education

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 are not stopped or parked so as to block a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway, pathway, crosswalk, super mailbox or sidewalk as these are also violations.

## Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a **Fire Route**. Fire Routes are the 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 he/she is stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – 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. No waiting.

When 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 (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).



### Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **parking is prohibited**. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if he/she has stopped the vehicle but the engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car. These signs may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to park their vehicle.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **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. No waiting.

When 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 (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

### Accessible Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that a **parking spot is reserved for individuals with VALID Accessible Parking Permits only**. Vehicles are not permitted to park, stop or turn around in these spots unless a person with a **valid** Accessible Parking Permit is **IN THE VEHICLE**. In addition, the permit must be properly displayed. The permit **must** be used by the person it was issued to. (Drivers transporting persons with accessible parking permits are subject to a tag if the permit holder is no longer in the vehicle.)

### Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted to alert drivers that **stopping is prohibited**. They are often posted on surrounding streets from schools 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**.

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

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

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How close to the curb should drivers park?**

Drivers should park within 6 inches or 15 cm away from a curb

**2. How close to an intersection can drivers park?**

Drivers shall not park a motor vehicle: on a highway within 9 m (30ft) of any intersection including T intersections; on a highway within 15m (49 ft) of any signalized intersection

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

When parking their vehicle near a fire hydrant, drivers should maintain a distance of 10 feet or 3 metres away from the fire hydrant.



### Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188. The complete [Parking Control By-law](#) can be found online at the City's website, [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)

**"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.

### How can parents help?

In particular, traffic congestion during school drop off/pick up times present unique challenges for enforcement. Mailing penalty notices allows officers to address most of the illegally parked vehicles and not just the one or two vehicles "in the back".

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

Plan ahead-dress appropriately for the weather  
Rain, snow or shine!

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.

**Encourage active transportation (biking or walking).**

If you have to drive, park legally and walk a block or two!

**Recognize that safety precedes "convenience"**

### What to do when I receive a ticket?

It is important to note that Officers are encouraged to educate the public but are advised to avoid potentially confrontational situations.

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

Verbal and/or physical threats against a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer will not be tolerated. Furthermore, all officers are expected to report **ALL** of these incidents with York Regional Police.

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!!

Link: <https://stonebridgeps.entripyshops.com/>

# 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.