

YEAR END  
2021



#### PRINCIPAL

Kevin Merkley

#### VICE-PRINCIPAL

Sumir Bansal

#### SUPERINTENDENT

Clelia Della-Rovere

#### 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](mailto:Stonebridge.ps@yrdsb.ca)

Follow us on twitter: @StonebridgePS

## Message from our Administrators 校长及副校长的話

We would like to start out by welcoming David Williams as our new Principal at Stonebridge.

“My name is David Williams, and I am lucky enough to be your new Principal starting in September! I am currently the Principal at Randall PS where I have been for the last 5 years and have also had additional terrific experiences at a number of other YRDSB schools.

My career as an educator has taken me through the Toronto District School Board as a teacher, a private school system in Mexico, and the YRDSB as a teacher and administrator.

I have two children and a new puppy named Bentley who keep me busy. My wife Leanne is a teacher in York Region as well. We are an active family that enjoys the outdoors.

I look forward to continuing a strong partnership between the school and the community in order to build upon the wonderful learning environment that exists at Stonebridge. I have heard amazing things about the Stonebridge Silver Wolves and am excited to join you in the fall!

Partners in Education,

David Williams”

David is fortunate to be working with Sumir Bansal our Vice Principal next year as we continue to strive to support all of our learners as we return as a community next year through the hybrid model of learning. We look forward to returning to school in the fall where all of our staff and students are returning to Stonebridge. We can't wait!

We need to say a few farewells to staff who are moving on to new opportunities and experiences in their lives. Mr. Liew who has been at Stonebridge for 18 years is moving to Glad Park PS in Stouffville. Mr. Liew started his career at Glad Park and is returning to this school. Ms. Hall is also moving to a school closer to home. She will be moving to Whitchurch-Highlands PS next year. We are also saying farewell to Ms. Lee our French teacher and wish her all the best as she moves forward in her career! Ms. Lung who has been with us for the last three years will be moving on to new opportunities. We want to thank her for her strong commitment to our students, social justice and to helping our students be active.

We would like to welcome the following staff to Stonebridge for next year. Ms. Bablani will be part of our Junior Team coming from William Berczy PS. Ms. Ing will be part of our Intermediate Team, coming from Greensborough PS. Ms. Horvath is joining us from Whitchurch-Highlands PS, and Ms. Sahdra is joining us from Fred Varley PS as a member of our Kindergarten Team.

We want to congratulate a few staff members who have been, or will be expanding their families! We wish all the best to Ms. Thompson, Ms. Janet Leung, Ms. Chenu and Ms. Wong. We wish you all the best.

We hope that you have a great summer filled with laughs, safety and a healthy dose of physical activity!

Can't wait for September!

Sumir, David and Kevin

Continued on next page ...

# A Message from the Administration continued

## Farewell Message from Mr. Merkley

As I move on to become the new Principal at Ellen Fairclough I would like to say thank you to the Stonebridge community. I am very proud of the ways that we as a school worked to engage our community by having a Town Hall to hear directly from you about your hopes and dreams for your children and their school experience, collaborating with elders, School Council and parent volunteers to honour Lunar New Year working with School Council and our students to create a Dual Language Library as well as a Diverse Identities Community Library with outstanding texts that can be borrowed by students at any time.

I am very proud of the work that our Student Government has achieved over the past three years. We have created a structure that has created strong leaders who want to make a difference in the world. We have heard from the high schools that our students are attending that it is the Stonebridge students who are leading the Equity work in their schools, taking up positions of leadership and working to change hearts and minds through their work. This does not happen by accident...it is because you have raised caring, responsible and thoughtful children who bring these beliefs and skills to our school!

The commitment and resilience of our staff this past year has been outstanding. In spite of the challenges of having some staff redeployed to the elementary virtual school, protocols that needed to be followed to keep us all safe, or having to pivot from teaching face-to-face to virtual learning, our staff have been deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students this year.

Thank you for your partnership!

Kevin Merkley

首先，我们很高兴迎 David Williams 先生为我们石橋学校的新校长。

“我是David Williams, 很幸运可在九月成为您们的新校长。过去五年我是Randall 学校的校长，另外我在其他约克区教育局的学校有各种出色的经验。

作为以教育为專業，我在多倫多教育局是一位老师，曾在墨西哥的私立学校系统任教，和现在约克区教育局是老师和行政人员。

我有两个孩子和刚养了一头小狗，它的名字是Bentley,这把我忙透了。我太太Leanne亦是约克区教育局的一名老师。我们是一个活跃的家庭和喜欢户外活动。

我期待在石橋继续能保持学校和社区的强大伙伴关系以建立已经有的美妙的学习环境。我已经聽到有关石橋银狼的精彩事情，能在秋季加入您们的社区十分兴奋！

Partners in Education,您的教育伙伴

David Williams 校长”

当我们繼續努力支持我们所有学生们在來年回來在学校一起，通过那混合学习模式学习。David 很幸运地能跟 Sumir Bansal 副校长在新学年合作。有关信息我们已經在大約六月十七日在我们下一步回到学校的信上跟所有家庭分享。

我们期待在秋季回到学校，到时候所有我们的教职人员和学生可以一起回到石橋。我们感到急不及待！

我们需要向一些要轉到他们其他人生机会和經驗的教职人员道別。Liew老师在石橋十八年，而來年会轉到 Stouffville 的 Gladspark 学校。Liew老师其实在Gladspark 学校开始他的教学專業而現在是回到那学校。Hall 老师也是轉到接近她家的学校，她明年会到 Whitchurch-Highlands 学校。我们亦要向法语Lee老师道別，祝福她前程錦繡！

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我们要欢迎以下到校的教职人员。Bablani 老师会从 William Bercy 学校到我们的中年級的教育团队。Ing 老师会是我们高年級团队，从Greensborough 学校來的。Sahdra 老师从Fred Varley 学校來教导幼稚园队。

我们亦恭贺教职人员已經有或将有新增家庭成员！恭喜Thompson 女士，Janet Leung 女士，Chenu 女士，Wong 女士，祝福您们一切安好。

我们在此祝愿大家有个充滿欢笑，安全和滿载健康活力的假期！

热切期盼九月的來臨！

Sumir, David and Kevin

### **Merkley 校长的别话**

当我要离开并將成为 Ellen Fairclough 学校的校长，我在此衷心感謝石橋社区和引以为傲-作为一间学校能以一个社會区会议方式让社区参与，直接聆聽您们的期望，对您们的孩子和他们的学校體驗的夢想，和长者们的联系，学校家长委员会和家长义工一起通过家长委员会庆祝農曆新年和我们学生創作一个双語言圖書館，以及一个多元身份社区圖書館，学生们可隨時在那里借阅很多出色的書籍。

我们亦十分感到驕傲的是，本校的学生政府的成就。我們已經創立一架构培养志願为世界作出貢獻的年青領袖。我們已經从高中学校知悉，石橋学校毕业生到高中能领导有关平等机会的活动, 參予領袖职位和通过他們的參予影响其他同儕。这不是朝夕可以發生... 这是因为您们的教养，培育有关怀，有責任感和有思考力的孩子们，让他们把这些信念和技能到我们学校！我们教职人员的盡责任和坚忍一直是十分出色。虽然在调配到虚拟小学遇到一些挑战，但那是在遵守安全措施，或需要由面对面授课轉到虚拟学习，我们的教职人员一直努力不懈的保障我们学生的健康和安安全全。

谢谢您们的伙拍合作。

Kevin Merkley校长



## Parents and Families of our school community

### Summer Support

The Community Partnership Developer (CPD) will be available throughout the summer to provide direct support for students and families through partnerships with community organizations and social service agencies.

#### We support students and families with:

- community outreach and engagement
- nutrition and food supports
- parenting supports and education
- student and parent engagement
- early years and transition to high school
- locating services and/or community resources
- mental health
- basic needs (food, clothing, shelter:)

If at any time, you are facing difficulties, challenges or require information please directly contact:

**Yasmin Mawani, Community Partnership Developer, YRDSB**

**Phone: 416-727-8179**

**Email: [Yasmin.mawani@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Yasmin.mawani@yrdsb.ca)**

# Summer Programs and Resources

## Welcome to Summer!

Please visit 2021 [Online Summer Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families](#)

You will find a list of programs organized by category and age group. We encourage you to check the link regularly as the Community and Partnership Developer Team will be making regular updates to available programs and resources.

Also check out the [Community Resources](#) Page for other important information regarding mental health, financial, legal and other supports.

The following Community and Partnership Developer staff will be available throughout the summer to support families with information and resources they might need.

These staff members can be reached by email or phone:

Oksana Majaski [oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca) 416-568-2252

Yasmin Mawani [yasmin.mawani@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yasmin.mawani@yrdsb.ca) 416-727-8179

Yvonne Kelly [yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca) 416-697-4208

Patti O'Sullivan [patti.osullivan@yrdsb.ca](mailto:patti.osullivan@yrdsb.ca) 905-252-0597

Shani Blake [shani.blake@yrdsb.ca](mailto:shani.blake@yrdsb.ca) 416-554-0362





## Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter June 2021

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

### Hope for the Future: Beyond Academic Loss

For students, June usually marks a period of celebration and closure. It is when proms, graduations, capstone projects, final performances, and independent studies are completed. Each of these events serves as a [rite of passage](#), the conclusion of one period before commencing the next year. As we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, we have experienced a shift to virtual format, postponement, or cancellation of many of these events, leaving many students and their families experiencing a sense of grief and loss.

According to the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) (CAMH), grief is how we react to loss. Grief can affect our thoughts, emotions, behaviours, and how we function physically. Several types of loss are related to the pandemic, including but not limited to academic loss, loss of a loved one, loss of social connections, loss of rituals and routines. These losses can impact students' wellbeing and their sense of hope for the future. [Dr. Amy Cheung](#) youth psychiatrist at Sunnybrook, recommends that regardless of the type or size of an event, it is important to acknowledge the loss students might experience due to these events no longer coming to fruition because of the pandemic. Acknowledging the loss and validating the many thoughts and feelings students may be experiencing is vital. It is equally important to have conversations that are based on hope for the future. As difficult as this might be, given the uncertainty regarding how the pandemic will unfold.

The [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) states, healing from the losses of COVID-19 is not just about accepting everything that has changed; rather it means finding healthy ways to address the losses we have experienced. Included below are some recommendations from [CAMH](#):

- **Name your struggles:** When we name/externalize the challenges we face; we can begin to clarify why we feel stressed. **Action:** Identify five things you have found challenging and order them from least to most difficult. **Example:** 1) Eating healthy 2) getting active 3) completing homework projects 4) finishing a task you have been procrastinating 5) preparing for the move from elementary/secondary or secondary/post-secondary school. Select one issue to tackle first, break it down into smaller pieces to work on if necessary.
- **Taking things one day at a time:** The changes and loss that the pandemic brings can result in students and families feeling stressed, anxious, sad, and overwhelmed. Some may worry about when and if things will get better; this can affect mood and diminish an individual's sense of hope. **Action:** Focus on the things that are within your control. **Example:** Break down large tasks or projects into smaller manageable portions that can be undertaken each day.
- **Prioritizing self-care:** Self-care can look different for each individual and family. Prioritizing small and intentional actions throughout the day is essential to maintaining positive wellbeing. **Action:** Consider simple things you can incorporate into the day that add value and make you feel optimistic even in stressful situations. **Example:** Make an uplifting music playlist, incorporate YouTube wellness videos, listen to audiobooks, or read. If you cannot get outdoors, is it possible to sit by a window? It is important that the activity you choose fuels YOU!
- **Exercising and eating healthy:** Physical activity supports our physical and mental health, particularly when stressed. **Action:** Find an exercise routine that works for you, and select a balanced diet that provides the necessary nutrition to fuel your mind and body. **Example:** Beanbag or sock toss into a basket, light stretches or yoga, movement activities, and sports.
- **Talking to someone:** In previous newsletters, we addressed the importance of social connection and reaching out to talk to someone for support. **Action:** Let others know what you are experiencing. Learn how to identify

when a child or youth might need help. **Example:** Ask for help from someone you trust. Utilize, supports from faith based or community organizations if additional help is required.

## A Path Forward

We recognize that talking to a stranger or even someone you know may be difficult and uncomfortable. We encourage you to explore pathways of support that feel comfortable and safe to access. Consider supports such [Family Services York Region](#) which provides services in multiple languages included but not limited to Chinese, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Gujarati. These services are free and confidential. Additional [community supports](#) and mental health activities which can be done at home with children can be found [here](#)

As we conclude this month's newsletter, we wish to highlight that a path forward and healing from the losses attributed to the pandemic is possible. We can shape this path forward and our own healing with small and intentional actions each day by focusing on what is within our control and seeking help when things are beyond our control. We encourage you to find ways to acknowledge and celebrate the "small things" and the "big things." Perhaps it is celebrating by baking a cake or creating a celebration meal. Maybe you stage your very own graduation photoshoot or create a time capsule/memory box detailing the past year/years, which you can hide away or bury to open at a later date. Recognize that despite all that came your way over the 2020-2021 school year and the pandemic thus far, you pushed through, and you have everything within you to continue pushing through. Even on the days you may have felt otherwise.

## Mental Health COVID-19 Page

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 supports as well as community supports available during the school closure. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports During COVID](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts [@YRDSB](#) and [@YRDSB\\_SS](#).

### **Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.**

Mental Health Lead

[patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca](mailto:patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca)

### **Hoshana Calliste, MSW, RSW**

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

[hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca](mailto:hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca)



## HELP US WITH SOME VACCINE MATH – LET'S GET TO 80%

COVID-19 vaccines are paving the way to control the spread of the virus and a return to a more normal life.

To help schools safely open in September and operate as close to normal as possible, we need students aged 12 to 17 to get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine this June and July.

Clinical trials conducted by Pfizer in the United States have found the vaccine to be 95% effective after the first dose and 100% effective after the second dose in youth ages 12 to 15.

All York Region vaccination sites are youth friendly. At a York Region clinic, you can:

- Find a time slot that works for you
- Get vaccinated as a family
- Access targeted mental health resources while you wait



Let's get at least 80% of students aged 12 to 17 a first dose of vaccine this June and July and be ready for a safe return this September!

Visit [york.ca/COVID19](https://york.ca/COVID19) for youth-friendly clinic locations, times and booking instructions.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/COVID19](https://york.ca/COVID19)





# International and Indigenous Languages Fall 2021-2022 Programs

**Indigenous Languages and International Languages Elementary and Credit Registration for Fall 2021 now open!**

## **Elementary School Programs (SK to Grade 8)**

Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 can learn to read, write and speak a new language or maintain their heritage language. More than 21 different language courses are available. Registration for the 2021-2021 school year is now available online through [Edbsy](#). For locations, times and dates, please see the list of [Elementary Courses](#),

Please check our [website](#) for the most up to date information on registration and program delivery. **Due to space limitations, registration will take place on a first come first served basis.**

**\*NEW elementary language added for the 2021-2022**

**Yoruba**

Site	Location	Address	Program Start Date	Class Time
Middlefield C.I.	Markham	525 Highglen Ave.	Thursday	6:00 to 8:30 PM

## **Secondary School Credit Programs (Grade 9 to 12)**

The Credit International and Indigenous Languages program, offering 15 different languages, is available to students from Grades 9 to 12. Registration is now open for the upcoming 2021-2020 year, please see course offerings [secondary course offerings](#). Online registration closes on September 13, 2021. Please visit our [website](#) for more information about our courses, program delivery and registration information.

**Did you know there are many benefits to taking credit language courses?**

Students can take one International Languages Course as a Group 1- Compulsory or as an Elective Credit towards their Ontario Secondary Diploma. Students can also earn up to three credits towards graduation. If students successfully complete the Level D - University course, it can be used as one of their top six (6) marks for post-secondary entry.

For more Information please do not hesitate to e-mail us if you have any questions at [international.languages@yrdsb.ca](mailto:international.languages@yrdsb.ca)

Thank you for your interest in our programs.

The YRDSB Psychology Department warmly invites  
you to participate in a series of

# Positive Parenting Webinars

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The webinar series is for parents and caregivers who:

- care for a child in JK-grade 3 or grade 4-8
- want to expand their toolbox of effective communication and positive parenting practices

Caregivers of students in JK-Grade 3: click [here](#) to register

Caregivers of students in Grade 4-8: click [here](#) to register

It is ideal for parents to attend all sessions of this 4-week series.

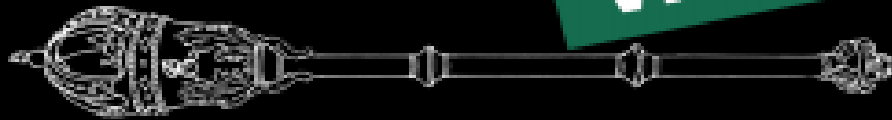
- Session 1: July 5, 7-8pm (8:15-9:15pm for grade 4-8)
- Session 2: July 12, 7-8pm (8:15-9:15pm)
- Session 3: July 19, 7-8pm (8:15-9:15pm)
- Session 4: July 26, 7-8pm (8:15-9:15pm)

*Please note that webinars have a maximum capacity of 1000 attendees.  
Entry will be first-come, first-serve on the day of each webinar.*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

# MODEL PARLIAMENT

**VIRTUAL**



## September to December 2021

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario is happy to announce the launch of a **NEW** Virtual Model Parliament Program. This program will culminate in a 2-day online debate on **December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

### Who can apply?

Ontario students who will be in grades 10–12 during the program dates with an interest in current affairs, provincial issues and government.

### Why apply?

This program offers civic minded students a unique opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding of Ontario's Legislature. Participants will get to workshop their own party's bill, participate in engaging virtual workshops with key figures in Parliament, and debate all party bills in a unique online experience.

**Visit our website for more information and to apply!**

[www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/programs](http://www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/programs)

**Online applications will be accepted from June 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**



# Kindergarten Registration 2021–2022



Kindergarten registration for September 2021 began on Friday, January 15 for the 2021-22 school year. 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.

There are several ways you can register for Kindergarten:

**Online** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://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 at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://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. All permitted visitors must wear a mask.

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. Our Kindergarten programs are caring and welcoming where children learn through exploration, play and inquiry. You can learn more at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten). We look forward to welcoming our new students and families to the school.