

# THE STONEHAVEN STAR

Inspire Learning!

Stonehaven Elementary School,  
875 Stonehaven Avenue,  
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Phone: (905) 898-2077 Fax: (905) 898-3762



Principal: Mr. Neil Gunathunge Vice-Principal: Ms. Susan Wansbrough

September 11, 2015

## MESSAGE FROM :

### MR. GUNATHUNGE AND MS. WANSBROUGH

Welcome to an exciting new school year at Stonehaven! We would like to welcome all our new and returning families. We are thrilled to see all of our students ready for learning as they embark on a new year of exciting opportunities.

We would like to thank our caretaking team, support staff, office admin staff, and teachers for all of their work to make our school a great place to learn! The classrooms are inviting and ready for learning.

We have many new staff members joining us this year that we would like to welcome: **Ms Wansbrough** our new Vice-Principal, **Mrs. Cunningham** teaching 1/2B, **Ms Aggarwal** teaching 7A, **Ms Allen** teaching 7/8A, **Mr. Testa** teaching Music and **Mrs. Houle** our Intermediate SSC teacher. We would also like to welcome back our returning teachers: **Mrs. Townsend** teaching 3B, **Mrs. Snoddon** teaching 5B, **Ms Shannon** teaching 1A, **Mrs. Hollefriend** teaching 4B, **Mrs. Almeida** teaching 1/2A, **Mrs. Meyers** and **Mrs. Robinson** teaching 3A and **Mrs. Valley** and **Mrs. Seal** teaching our Community Classes. We also welcome **Mrs. Minor** our DECE in Mrs. Marleau's class and our Educational Assistants: **Mrs. Carroll**, **Mrs. Buck** and **Ms Prentice**.

During the coming school year we will continue to engage students in reaching their full academic achievement, support them in developing a strong sense of personal well-being, and encouraging innovation in their thinking and learning. We know that parents play a crucial role in their child's education. The success of students cannot be accomplished without the support and partnership of our parents. We welcome your participation in your child's learning, whether at home or at school. There are many opportunities for parents, grandparents and guardians to partner with us (volunteering, attending School Council meetings and initiatives, assisting with homework, checking agendas and school websites, reading the newsletters and correspondence from the classroom, and working with your child's teachers to enhance learning and develop good learning skills). We are partners with you in the education of "our" children.

## HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is key in supporting student achievement and well-being. At Stonehaven, we do our best to communicate effectively with parents/guardians so that you are well informed. As part of our Eco-Schools initiative, we do our best to look for paperless ways to communicate where possible. Our **school newsletter** is available at the start of each month on our school website, ([www.stonehaven.es.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.stonehaven.es.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)). Parents/Guardians will receive an email reminder when the newsletter is posted. A hard copy is also available in the Office. Should your family require a paper copy please let your child's teacher know. Many **important reminders** are also sent via email from the Office so please ensure that we have a current email address on file. Please note that, on occasion, hard copies of some correspondence will still be sent home.

Please feel free to **write a note or leave a voice mail** should you wish to contact a staff member. It is often difficult for staff to speak with parents at the beginning or end of a day unless an appointment has been made. **In order to ensure that you will have the time to speak with staff it is best to call and make an appointment.** In order to leave voice mail, please call the main office (905-898-2077) and you will be directed to staff voicemail. Staff will always do their best to respond to you within 24 hours. Should you have **any concerns please first contact the staff member involved** and then if further assistance is needed please do not hesitate to contact other staff who may be able to assist.

## SIGNING IN AND SAFE WELCOME PROGRAM

All visitors must sign in at the office and must use a visitor or volunteer badge when walking in the halls. Please don't be offended if a staff member politely stops you if you don't have a badge. They will kindly direct you back to the office so that you can sign in and get a badge. This is also part of The York Region District School Board's Safe School policy. If you have questions or concerns about this, please see the office staff.

Trustee: Martin VanBeek: (905) 830-6776

Superintendent: Drew McNaughton: (905) 895-5155

**FROM OUR TRUSTEE, Mr. Martin VanBeek**

Welcome back to another school year.

I am happy to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and families and those who are new to our Board. I am the trustee for your child's school and your representative on the York Region District School Board of Trustees.

I am looking forward to continuing my work to ensure that all YRDSB students receive a high-quality education within safe, caring and inclusive learning environments.

In the coming year, trustees will continue to focus on the priorities that we set out in our Multi-Year Plan: student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

We know that partnerships with families are essential to achieving this goal. Good schools become better schools when they are connected to parents and families.

I hope that you will find positive and meaningful ways to engage with your child's school over the course of the year. There will be many events and activities to look forward to throughout the year and many opportunities across the Region that support parent engagement.

2015-16 promises to be an exciting year. All the best for the upcoming school year!

**LIBRARY NEWS****Library Orientation:**

Our library orientation and book exchange will begin the end of the first week of school and continue into the second week of school.

**Library Open Book Exchange times:**

All students in Grades 1-8 will be able to sign out two books/magazines at a time. Students in **grades 1, 2 and 3** will be able to sign out/return library books **period 4**. Students in grades **4, 5 and 6** will be able to sign out/return library books **period 1**. Students in grades **7 and 8** will be able to sign out/return library books **period 7**. Kindergarten students will be able to sign out one book at a time and they will exchange their books once a week on a scheduled library visit. The date for each kindergarten class will be on the classroom newsletter sent home by the homeroom teacher.

**CUSTODY ISSUES**

If there are custody or other specific "security" issues pertaining to your child, please ensure the office and teacher(s) are informed at the beginning of each school year. Situations change from year to year. Current custody papers are required in the office for custody issues.

**SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

A clearly defined procedure is in place to ensure the safe arrival of students. Your support and encouragement are essential in order for this system to work effectively. If your child is going to be away, **please inform the school by calling the office.** The answering service is on outside of office hours to report a student absence. If you have not contacted us, we will have to call you at home, cell or work for verification. If a child is legitimately in danger, any delay in contacting parents, due to making unnecessary calls, becomes extremely important. Please ensure that your emergency contact information is up to date and accurate as we may need to contact them should we not be able to get hold of you.



**Also, a reminder that it is policy that you sign your child(ren) out in the office any time they leave school property, such as going home for lunch or an appointment.** Thank you for your cooperation. If we work together we can make Stonehaven a safe and happy school.

**School Hours:**

AM Entry 8:25 a.m.

Recess 10:05am-10:35am

Lunch 12:15pm-1:15pm

Dismissal 2:55 p.m.

**Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

**SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS & ROLLER BLADES**

Students are discouraged from bringing scooters, skateboards and roller blades to school, as storage is not available. Scooters must be locked on the bike rack if they are brought to school. These may not be left in the office. Although the paved bus loop and parking lot seem like a "skateboarders' dream" we ask that students not use these areas (even after hours) as they can be dangerous. In addition, we do not want any damage to the area.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome back! September is always such an exciting and busy month as we get back to school, back to routines and back to activities. School Council is gearing up for exciting activities and events this school year. Here are a few important upcoming event dates:

Tues., Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Wed., Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> during day & evening

School Council Meeting in Library (please attend)  
Errol Lee's Caring Kids' Concerts

Stonehaven School Council will continue to focus on fundraising in order to support curriculum-based initiatives, student and family events, grade 8 grad, technology in the classrooms, music programs, literacy programs, sports programs, in-school Angel Fund and community outreach programs. We will also work with school staff to ensure that all of our students have an opportunity to try to new things, to have access to different learning materials, and to have a fantastic school year with their peers. We are very proud of our accomplishments, contributions and school spirit!

Here is a preliminary list of School Council fundraisers for the 2015-2016 school year:

September through June	Lunch Program (coming soon at <a href="http://www.healthyhunger.ca">www.healthyhunger.ca</a> )
September through June	Popcorn Program (order form coming home soon)
Mon., Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6 – 9 p.m.	Chapters Newmarket FUNdraiser (save the date)
Fri., Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 9 am to 1 pm	White Elephant Sale (please save your garage sale items)
Fri., Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 all day	Much Music Video Dance-a-Thon (get ready for fun!)

We welcome parent volunteers! Please join us at School Council meetings, volunteer for ongoing initiatives and events, and keep communicating with us. We also welcome high school students who would like to complete volunteer hours by helping at events. Please contact us at [info@stonehavencouncil.com](mailto:info@stonehavencouncil.com) and checkout the School Council website at [www.stonehavencouncil.com](http://www.stonehavencouncil.com) for more information. Looking forward to another great year at Stonehaven E.S.!

## TRAFFIC FLOW AT STONEHAVEN

Students who walk to school from the eastern part of our community are expected to use the sidewalk on the east side of the parking lot as the route onto school property.

Students who walk from the western part of the community are expected to enter along the sidewalk on the west side of the property.

Students who arrive from the south are expected to cross Stonehaven with the crossing guard. Once on school property, students will proceed along the west side of the parking lot (sidewalk nearest our main entrance) to the back of the school. Parents who drive/pick up students from school must enter the main parking lot entrance following the one way route to the Kiss'n'Ride drop-off point. **Simply drop off your child(ren) then proceed to exit the parking lot. Students are to use the entry doors from the playground NOT the main doors.**

**Outside Supervision of Students Begins at 8:10 a.m. Daily.** Please do not send students to school before this time.

## MEDICATION

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, please obtain the necessary forms for the administration of medication, from the office. For legal and safety reasons, written permission is required for ALL medication, including **Inhalers, Benadryl, Advil and Tylenol**. We request that medication be kept in the office. Please ensure that the medication is brought directly to the office. We strongly advise that you do not send medication to school with younger students.



## PUNCTUALITY

Teachers will meet students at their assigned door at 8:25 a.m. and escort them into school. Students are expected to organize themselves for the morning and be in class promptly after that.



**ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL**

There are children and staff in our school with severe to life-threatening allergies. We are doing everything possible to ensure a safe environment for all students.



There are members of our school community at Stonehaven who have allergies to **peanuts/nuts, perfume and animal fur**. These children may have a fatal reaction if exposed to even the residue or aroma of peanuts. To prevent serious injury, these children have an Epi-pen at school, should a reaction occur. Please support us by refraining from introducing these materials to the school environment.

1. Because all students use several rooms in the school beyond their homeroom classroom, we are asking for everyone’s cooperation in making Stonehaven “PEANUT SAFE”. Please choose items for lunch, snacks, and school treats that do not contain peanuts or peanut by-products. With your help, we can make Stonehaven safe for all our students.
2. If your child has a severe allergy such as this, or another medical condition, we ask that you fill in a medical form which is included in the package of forms being sent home, or can be obtained from our office. The forms will be posted in the office and classroom to enable staff to respond quickly to an emergency. **A new form must be completed for each school year.**
3. Please remember that we do not accept any food or loot bags into classrooms for birthdays. **Please do not send any cakes, cupcakes, donuts, etc. If a teacher decides to organize a class celebration that includes food they may ask for a donation from parents/guardians and then purchase peanut free snacks.** Thank you for your understanding with regards to this very important issue.

**PERFUMES/SCENTS**

Please remember that we have several people who suffer asthma attacks from exposure to certain fragrances. If sending products to school with your child, i.e. hand sanitizer, or deodorant please make sure it is **unscented**. Thank you for your consideration.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIPOP)**

If you do NOT want your child/ren’s work displayed in the classroom or halls, or their picture to appear outside the school, please inform the principal in writing.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

The area cross country meet will take place on October 8th at George Richardson Park, and all students who are interesting in running as part of the school running club are welcome to join. (Grades 4-8 and any grade 3 who can run 1200 M). Practices will take place during lunch 2 times a week and will also be supported in the gym program. This is a healthy way to get more involved with the school, so come on out and join the team!



**CHARACTER MATTERS!**

At Stonehaven E.S., character education is embedded in the day-to-day functioning of every aspect of our school life. Students and staff are expected to model each of the character attributes when interacting with each other and people within the community. This year we will be encouraging and acknowledging students who demonstrate “Character in Action”. Activities will include assemblies, classroom discussion and activities and character quotes read over the announcements. Parents are encouraged to discuss these character traits with their child(ren) at home.

Our **Character Traits** this year are as follows:

- Respect (Sept)
- Responsibility (Oct)
- Honesty (Nov)
- Empathy (Dec)
- Fairness (Jan)
- Initiative (Feb)
- Perseverance (Mar)
- Courage (Apr)
- Integrity (May)
- Optimism (June)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sept. 8 First day of school
- Sept 25 Safety week begins
- Sept. 28 PA Day (NO SCHOOL)
- Sept. 29 School Council at 6:30 pm
- Oct. 8 Area Cross Country
- Oct. 7 Errol Lee’s Caring kids Concerts Evening Performance 6:30-7:30pm
- Oct. 8&9 Picture Day

# Attendance Tips

## Why does Attendance Matter?

Getting to school - every day and on time is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the start of class. By establishing patterns early on (i.e. by being punctual and responsible) children acquire positive habits about school attendance.

If children are late arriving to school, they miss important social time with their peers before school begins. The bell goes at 8:25 a.m. at Stonehaven E.S.

Students who are late often feel embarrassed or self-conscious about walking in and disrupting the learning environment. Late arrivals disrupt the routine of the classroom and the concentration of other students.

A last-minute rush can be stressful and result in the wrong frame of mind. Missing even five or ten minutes of the day can make it harder for a student to understand the material being taught. The start of the lesson is crucial to the following activities taught throughout the period.

Frequent absenteeism leads to gaps in a child's skills and knowledge base and can cause the child to fall behind peers and decrease self-esteem. Too many missed school days can increase isolation as the child stands out from his/her classmates and misses opportunities to develop socially.

Absenteeism makes it more difficult for the child to develop a good rapport with the teachers.

The morning can be a very hectic time. Here are some effective tips for getting your child up and out the door on time.

- Get your child to bed at a reasonable hour.
- TV's and computers should not be in the bedroom.
- Set realistic and consistent schedules and rules at home. Getting ready for school should be part of the child's overall routine: something that's expected of him/her every day.
- Do whatever is necessary the night before to save time in the morning, such as setting out clothes, packing lunches, and setting backpacks at the door.
- Create a set morning routine that your child can easily follow (showering, going to the bathroom, dressing, making the bed, brushing teeth, and eating a healthy breakfast).
- Avoid any distractions that can slow your child down, like TV or games.
- Set your alarm to get up earlier if you're running late regularly.
- Check your child's agenda planner at night and know what is going on in school.
- If attendance becomes an issue, the school will be in contact with you to develop a plan that can assist you and your child.

