



Spartan Speaks - Stouffville District Secondary School

Sep 7, 2018

Message from Principal, Rose Walker

Hello parents/guardians. It has been a fantastic first week getting to know the students at Stouffville. I am incredibly excited to have been granted the opportunity to join the SDSS staff. As I meet and speak with teachers and support staff, I have learned that a number of us reside in Stouffville or the bordering towns. This local residency brings to the school a personal investment and interest in our school, our students, our town and our community.

Since the doors of Stouffville District Secondary School first opened over five decades ago, our town has experienced rapid growth. Significant growth is still occurring. An increase in the population of Stouffville has brought with it a richness of diversity. As such, our school must operate as primary learning center for the cultivation of inclusion, equity, wellbeing, unity and the fostering of a genuine care for each other. At SDSS, we endeavor to ensure that all students, parents and our community members feel welcome, and that all our students receive equitable access to everything we have to offer in support of their high school learning experience. Every Spartan (staff and student) is a valuable member of our school community.

We invite you follow us on our new Twitter account @StouffvilleDSS to receive timely SDSS news and see what our students are accomplishing. As well, I would invite you to attend our School Council Meetings the first of which is scheduled for Monday, September 17th at 6:30pm. I look forward to meeting you.

Thank you for partnering with us in support of your child's secondary school experience. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Rose Walker

Message From Our Trustee

I am pleased to welcome all of our students and families to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. This is an exciting time of year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the months ahead.

York Region District School Board is committed to advancing student achievement and well-being. The Trustees' new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), developed based on feedback from the community, outlines four priorities that will guide this work: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, Build Collaborative Relationships and Empower Ethical Leadership. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts.

Our schools are stronger when families are engaged. There are many different ways families can support their child's learning and get involved in life at the school, and I hope that you find opportunities to get engaged.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.
Loralea Carruthers

Co-creating a caring, safe and supportive school environment

This week, our students and staff engaged in conversations around caring, safe and inclusive school environments. In a school assembly, we discussed the elements of a Caring and Safe School that would support the academic achievement and well-being of all students, including:

- Demonstrating positive character attributes (such as empathy, courage and respect for human rights and inclusivity)
- Items and behaviours that are not allowed on school property (such as e-cigarettes, cannabis and scented products)
- What happens in situations of discipline
- Standing up for each other in bullying situations, including methods of reporting incidents of bullying:
 - Tell a caring adult
 - Use the YRDSB's ["Report It Button"](#) (located on our school website)
 - [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)

For more details on each of these items, please read the YRDSB Start-Up Guide and our school's Start-Up Package given to our students in homerooms (along with a sign-off sheet that must be returned by Friday September 14)

You can also visit the YRDSB's Caring and Safe Schools website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

We hope that you have a wonderful week and thank you for supporting our safe, positive and inclusive school community.

FOR ALL GRADE 9 STUDENTS:

THE SPARTAN GAMES-: A New Beginning of Tradition

To support transition into a life at S.D.S.S. and to help promote a greater sense of community amongst our grade 9's, we have planned the ultimate orientation experience: The Spartan Games. This special event will be held at the Robin Hood Leadership Centre in Markham on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH**.

Lunch will be provided at the facility (no need to bring your own)! The program is outside, so students should dress for the weather. Running shoes and comfortable clothing is recommended.

Permission forms and money are due by Monday September 10th. The fee can be paid online through School Cash Online, cash or by a cheque payable to S.D.S.S.

All Grade 9 students are expected to participate – please contact Ms Parris if you have any concerns. Students who do not return their permission forms by Monday will be grouped together to complete an alternate assignment at school based on the Careers curriculum.

If you have any questions please contact:

Laura Taccone in Student Success (laura.taccone@yrdsb.ca)

Karen Parris – Vice Principal (karen.parris@yrdsb.ca)

Grade 9 Music Students

A reminder to all Grade 9 Music students of the Welcome Lunch that will take place period 3 on Tuesday September 18th. Come down to the music room and meet the music council, the rest of the grade 9 band, the grade 9 vocal students, and have some pizza with us.

Also to ALL music students, please see the music cabinet in the atrium or see a music teacher to check out when your repertoire start-up dates are.

International Languages

Have you ever considered learning another language? one that your high school doesn't offer? And the great thing is you do not need to know how to speak the language to take the course.

Did you know that YRDSB offers 15 International Languages CREDIT courses at 4 different high schools? Did you know that learning another language can...

- strengthen your first language and second language skills,
- create pride in your own culture and a better understanding of other cultures, and also
- can potentially enhance your career options?!

So what are you waiting for?! Now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity. Visit your Guidance office today to get a registration form for September 2018 classes.

Report Card & Diploma Pickup

Grads may pick up their report cards and/or diplomas in the main office. The main office is open Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Students over the age of 18 must give written consent if they wish to have their report card/diploma picked up by a parent. Students can send written consent directly to our school email address Stouffville.dss@yrdsb.ca or on a hand written note.

Student Drop off Zone

Parents are reminded that the front of the school is reserved for bus drop offs. If you are driving your child to school, please use the designated drop off area at the east side of the school. Thank you.

No Parking / Designated Fire Routes

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN DESIGNATED FIRE ROUTES

Any designated Fire Route needs to be clear of vehicles and ready for use by emergency vehicles. In an emergency (fire, medical, lock down etc.) time is of the essence and emergency vehicles need access.

Fire Routes are signed “No Parking.” What does that mean?

1. This means that you cannot stop your vehicle and get out of the vehicle even for a short period of time.
2. You must obey the signs at all times regardless of the time of day or night.

In 2017, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will adopt a zero tolerance approach to vehicles parked in designated Fire Routes. By-law Officers, Parking Officers, and Fire Prevention Officers will be issuing tickets when infractions are witnessed, to ensure the safety of all those using our schools and other buildings within the Municipality.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact: Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services at **905-640-9595** OR By-Law Department at **905-640-1900 Ext. 2258**

Important bussing information sent from our Student Transportation Services of York Region

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students

attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM
1540 AM	1580 AM	88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM
94.9 FM	95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM
101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	105.9	107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following @YRDSB and @YCDSB on twitter.

Please check out the following web sites for current Board and school information:

- 1) York Region District School Board - www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- 2) Stouffville District Secondary School - <http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

SDSS Contact Information:

Rose Walker, Principal, 905-640-1433

Jeff Foran, Vice Principal, 905-640-1433

Karen Parris, Vice Principal, 905-640-1433

Loralea Carruthers, School Trustee- East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville,
905-953-0562



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September 5, 2018 Dear Families,

We wish to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning families. We hope that everyone is having a great start to the school year.

This time of year brings with it new beginnings, new routines and new opportunities for growth. As we kick off the 2018-19 school year, we are excited to share with you information regarding our Board's new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#).

Last year, we held Town Hall meetings throughout York Region. Over 2,000 responses were collected from students, families, staff and community members. Thank you to everyone who provided valuable insights and feedback that helped inform the new direction of our Board.

Based on your responses, the Board of Trustees developed a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan with four main priorities. The four priorities are:

- **Foster Well-Being and Mental Health**
 - We create safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments.
- **Champion Equity and Inclusivity**
 - We develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.
- **Build Collaborative Relationships**
 - We build trusting relationships based on respectful and responsive communication.
- **Empower Ethical Leadership**
 - We lead ethically by focusing on students and upholding our values.

These four priorities are designed to help all of our students succeed this upcoming year and enrich their learning experiences.

As parents, and our most important partners in education, we hope that you will join us in our work to support all students in reaching their full potential.

All the best for 2018-19! Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

Corrie McBain
Chair of the Board