

Thornhill PS Email Information: Monday, September 11, 2023

We were so happy to see all of our students and families at school this week!

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, September 12

- *Fire Drill #1*

Wednesday, September 13

- *Caring and Safe Schools assemblies Primary 9:30-10 a.m., Junior/Intermediate 11:00-11:30 a.m.*

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 18

- *Please complete the online Start Up Packages (available in your child's GAPPs account)*

Thursday, September 21

- *Terry Fox Run*

Friday, September 22

- *PA Day – No school for students*

TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER

Last year, our community showed how much they care and how much they can give back by raising over \$1100 for the Terry Fox Foundation! This year, let's try to match or beat that goal. We will be participating in the Terry Fox run on Thursday, September 21st. Please make donations online

at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/40143>

STAFF MEETING SEPTEMBER 22ND

Our staff will be participating in professional activities on Friday, September 22nd. There will be no school for students that day. If you would like to learn more, please see the agenda for our meetings [linked here](#).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Within the first two weeks of school we will hold our first Fire Drill of the year (weather permitting). We are required to hold 3 fire drills in the Fall and 3 in the Spring, as outlined in the Ontario Fire Code. Teachers will review all safety procedures with our students within the first few weeks of school (Fire drills, Hold and Secure, Lockdown) to ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Please ensure that you let the school know if your child will be absent as well as the reason for the absence (i.e. illness, religious holy day, etc.). You can do this through Edsby – you can watch how here: www.bit.ly/edsbyabsence You may also use the automated iNFORM system by calling the school before 8:30 am to report an absence for the day. As part of our Safe Schools Protocol, the Front Office needs to know the whereabouts of each student (i.e. it is not enough to inform your child's teacher).

DROP OFF AND PICK UP SAFETY

Please be mindful that our bus loop is for buses only and that it is also closed to pedestrian traffic. If you are walking your children to school, please use designated walking paths to ensure the safety of you and your children.

Parents or guardians wishing to pick up their children before dismissal are required to come to the school office to sign-out their child/ren. Only parents or legal guardians can pick-up their children before school dismissal.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

FORMS: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornhill.ps/info/Pages/FAQs.aspx> (scroll down to "Medical Forms")

Don't forget to send in epi-pens and complete medical forms at the office as needed. Blank forms can be picked up from the office or printed from our website.

FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING is Wednesday, September 27th, 2023

All parents/guardians/community members are welcome to attend our first school council meeting. It is held from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in our school library. Elections for executive positions will be held that evening – nomination forms will be shared by the Board in the new electronic Start-Up package (information to come). If you have any questions or would like to learn more about School Council, please feel free to reach out to our current Chair, Sharon Kohl at Sharon.Kohl@yahoo.ca

CARING AND SAFE SCHOOLS ASSEMBLY

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; 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.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

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, including potential criminal charges. 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.

