

## Thornhill PS Email Information: Monday, September 9, 2024

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 8 –

- **LAST DAY TO ORDER ITEMS AT WELCOME BACK BBQ/CURRICULUM NIGHT- FOOD WILL NOT BE SOLD AFTER THIS DATE AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE BBQ-** Don't delay – order today 😊

Monday, September 9

- Please complete the online Start Up Packages (available in your child's GAPPS account)
- Pizza and Subs available to order on School Cash Online

Tuesday, September 10

- Fire Drill #1

Wednesday, September 11

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

Thursday, September 12

- Welcome back BBQ and Curriculum Night – 5 -7:30 p.m. (see below for details)

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 16

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

### WELCOME BACK BBQ AND CURRICULUM NIGHT

Enjoy a BBQ at the school with your children and other school families followed by an opportunity to meet our staff; see the classrooms; and learn about our school! Orders will be available on School Cash Online beginning on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. **BBQ food items MUST be pre-ordered by Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!** The BBQ will run from 5-6 p.m. A full school presentation will take place in the gym at 6:15, following by an opportunity to visit your child's classroom(s) 6:30-7:30. This is a great opportunity for our families to get to know one another

and for our staff to learn more about each and every one of you too! Please [see this flyer](#) for more details (including instructions to set up School Cash Online).

### 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.

### HOT LUNCH PROGRAMS

As a part of our fundraising efforts to support school-based initiatives, TPS is pleased to offer Pizza Pizza, individually boxed cheese pizza slices and Subway sandwiches for sale. Yesterday will receive a message from School Cash Online for Pizza and Subway Lunches. Please see [this attached flyer](#) for more information. If you need to set up School Cash Online, please see [instructions here](#). The deadline to order is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### NEW EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES

As you may know, in 2024, the Ontario Ministry of Education introduced a directive modifying the use of personal mobile devices in classrooms. YRDSB already has [Policy and Procedure 194.0 Appropriate Use of Technology](#) and many measures around personal mobile devices are already in place. The changes you may see in September will bring alignment with the new Ministry Directive. The following expectations for students' use of personal mobile devices are outlined in the revised [Provincial Code of Conduct \(PPM 128\)](#), and the York Region District School Board's Policy #668 Caring and Safe Schools.

A personal mobile device is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

### **Expectations**

Students are responsible for their personal mobile device, how they use it and the consequences of not following the provincial or school board policy.

Students' personal mobile devices must be powered off or set to silent mode, except under the circumstances outlined below:

- for educational purposes, as directed by an educator
- for health and medical purposes
- to support special education needs

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 can bring a personal mobile device to school, but will only be able to use it before and after school. They may not use personal mobile devices at school during the school day, including recess and lunchtime, unless students leave school property for lunch.

### **New Practices at School**

If your child is in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not turned off or set to silent mode, the student may be required to bring their personal mobile device to the school administrator for the school day. The personal mobile device will be placed by the student in a storage area in a location designated by the school administrator.

If your child is in Grade 7 or 8 and an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not turned off or set to silent mode, the student may be required to place their personal mobile device in a storage area designated by the educator for the class or period.

If your child uses their personal mobile device inappropriately, progressive discipline may apply and families may be notified.

### **Resources**

Families play an important role in teaching children about finding a healthy balance in using technology. You may wish to access the following resources:

- Media Smarts - [Four Tips for Managing Your Kids' Screen Time](#)
- School Mental Health Ontario - [Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology](#)

- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health - [Problem Gambling and Technology Use Treatment Services](#)

For additional information regarding Policy/Program (PPM) 128, please visit the Ministry of Education's [Cellphones and other mobile devices in schools](#) site or the York Region District School Board's website.

### 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](http://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

#### MORNING DROP OFF/AFTERNOON DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

#### **Kiss-N-Ride Procedures:**

For all parents/guardians accessing our Kiss-N-Ride, please ensure that you review our drop off and pick- up procedures, which have been implemented in order to increase efficiency and to ensure the safety of all.

#### **Drop-Off:**

1. Vehicles dropping students off are to pull up to the **middle lane** of the loop.
2. When unloading, students are to **only get out when their car is the first car in the line-up** \*a staff member will be there to watch them as they safely exit the vehicle.
3. Parents are not to park their car in the Kiss-N-Ride and get out of their cars. Vehicles cannot be left unattended.
4. Students are to be ready to get out when their car is the first car in the line-up in order to be able to move cars through as quickly and safely as possible.

5. NO ONE IS TO PARK IN THE BUS LOOP (INCLUDING THE SPOTS ON THE LEFT)

**Pick-Up/Dismissal:**

As has been past practice, during pick up time, parents/guardians are asked **not to enter the bus loop/Kiss-N-Ride**. Vehicles are asked to park alongside Arnold Avenue and to have your child/children meet you in a designated spot. This will ensure the safe loading of our students onto the bus. We thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe.

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 Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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).

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

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.

Estelle Cohen

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 4 and 5