



January 11, 2021

Upcoming Dates

Jan 15	PA Day (school closed for students) French Immersion and Kindergarten Registration Begin
Jan 25	School reopens for in person learning

Welcome Back!

Dear VDPS Families,

Yesterday we received notice from the Ministry of Education that the closure of all Ontario schools will be extended. Elementary schools are expected to reopen on January 25. During this time, students will continue to participate in online learning. If your child requires access to technology to participate in learning, please complete [this request for technology form](#). We will contact you next week to arrange a drive-through pick up of the technology.

We recognize that these are challenging times for our students, families and staff. Please see the Board's [COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#) page as well as the attached *Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter January 2021* for resources. You are also welcome to reach out to school staff for support.

Although we are not together in the building, we have welcomed students back to school this week. It has been a great joy to join Google meets, see students engaged in learning, and doing the best they can. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Your partners in education,

Tamar Swerling

Principal

Janis Castle-Jones

Vice Principal



School Logo - Viola Desmond Diamonds!

We are inviting all students (face to face and EVS) to submit an idea for our school logo to go along with our school name.

Criteria include:

- Reflects the **values** of our school and connects to our name (**Diamonds**)
- Graphic is **not too complex** (for scalability)
- Use only our school colours: **grey, blue and green**

Ideas may be scanned and emailed to viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca

Please submit by Friday, January 15.

Grade 1 French Immersion at VDPS

What is French Immersion?

- In French Immersion, students receive instruction in French in a variety of subjects from a teacher who speaks French fluently
- Begin in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French.
- In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, time is shared equally between French and English instruction.
- The French Immersion program continues in high school
- Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

Important Considerations

- The French Immersion program is inclusive and welcomes all students
- For the first few months of Grade 1, the children do not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.
- There may be certain lags in English Language skills in the first few years of the program, but by the end of the elementary grades, successful French Immersion students perform as well as their peers in a regular English program.
- Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.
- Reading to a child at home in a child's native language can strengthen literacy skills. Research studies confirm that children achieve greater academic success when parents read frequently (daily) to them.
- There is only one entry point into French immersion in YRDSB; grade 1



Information Sessions

This year our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place virtually on **January 14, 2021**. A link will be shared with you via email where you will be able to view a pre-recorded information session which includes commonly asked questions and answers.

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 15, 2021. Parents or guardians of **Viola Desmond Senior Kindergarten students** entering Grade 1 in 2021, and wishing to enrol in our FI Program are asked to **call our school office or email viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca to indicate your intention to enrol.** You are asked to register by February 5, 2021. Registration during this period is *not* first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 5, 2021. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Kindergarten Registration

Our Kindergarten programs are caring and welcoming where children learn through exploration, play and inquiry. You can learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration for September 2021 begins **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 - access the online Kindergarten registration information at www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten. It is recommended you use a laptop/ desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.

By email - download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten and email the completed form to viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca

By phone - request support from the school to complete the registration form. Please request an interpreter, if needed, during this phone conversation.

By mail or appointment - 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.



Ph: (905) 585-0033 & (647) 749-4316 Email: viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca

Twitter: @ViolaDesmondYR

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](#).

We look forward to welcoming our new students and families to our school.