

## Week of September 12, 2022

Upcoming Dates	
Sept. 23	PA Day
Sept. 28	School Council Meeting
Sept. 29	VDPS Terry Fox Run
Oct. 12	Curriculum Night

### **First Week of School**

Thanks to our school community for helping to make the first week of school run smoothly. We had a great transition from outdoors into the classrooms on Wednesday and students have been spending time getting to know their teachers, classmates and our building.

This week we had our first in-person assembly with the Board's Caring and Safe School presentation where we talked about being safe and kind at school.

We look forward to a successful year with all of our students!

### **Bus Transportation**

If your child takes the bus to or from school, please go to the [School Bus City website](#) to confirm your bus stop, and for updates regarding bus delays.

### **A Message from our School Council Co-Chairs**

Dear VDPS families,

We hope you all had an enjoyable and fun filled summer! It's great to have our kids safely back at school and we thank all the teaching staff for a smooth transition to the new school year.

We would like to make you aware that our first school council meet will be on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th. (More details will be shared in the coming weeks)

We hope you can attend the meeting to learn about what the school council does, offer your help, or even meet other school families. At this first meeting of

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the year we will hold elections for the coming year and also be filling committee roles e.g., fundraising and lunch programs.

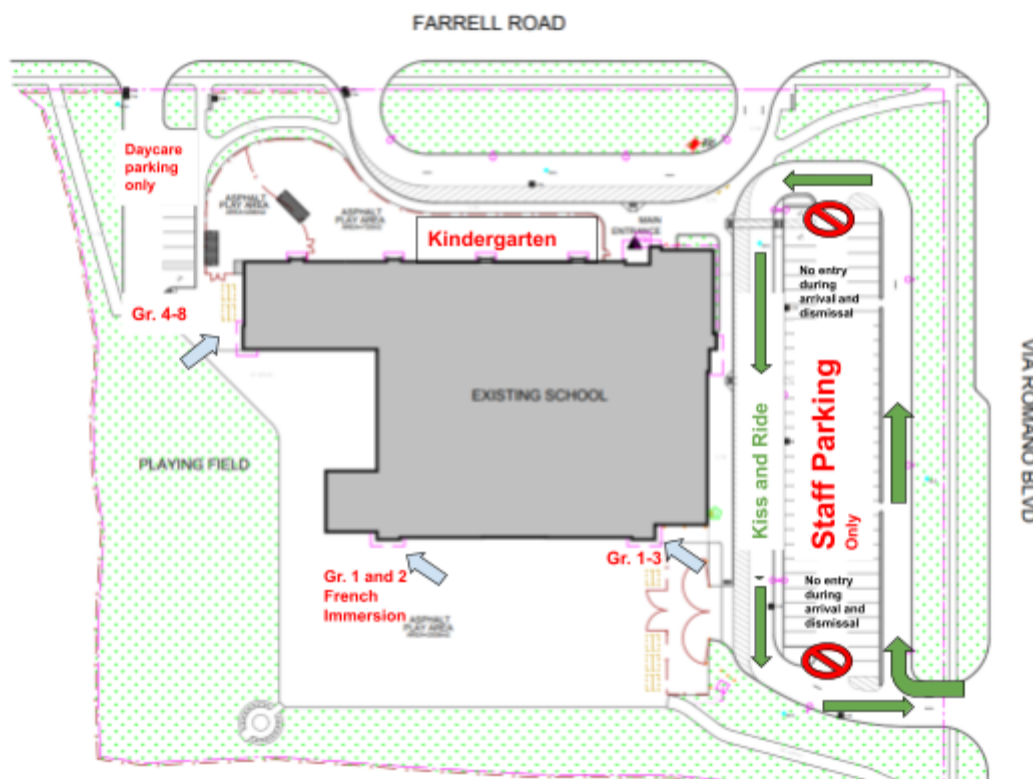
Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings even if you do not wish to take on a role.

Our school council is committed to nurturing and supporting our whole school body. We look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting and please reach out if you have any ideas or suggestions for making our school year a great one!

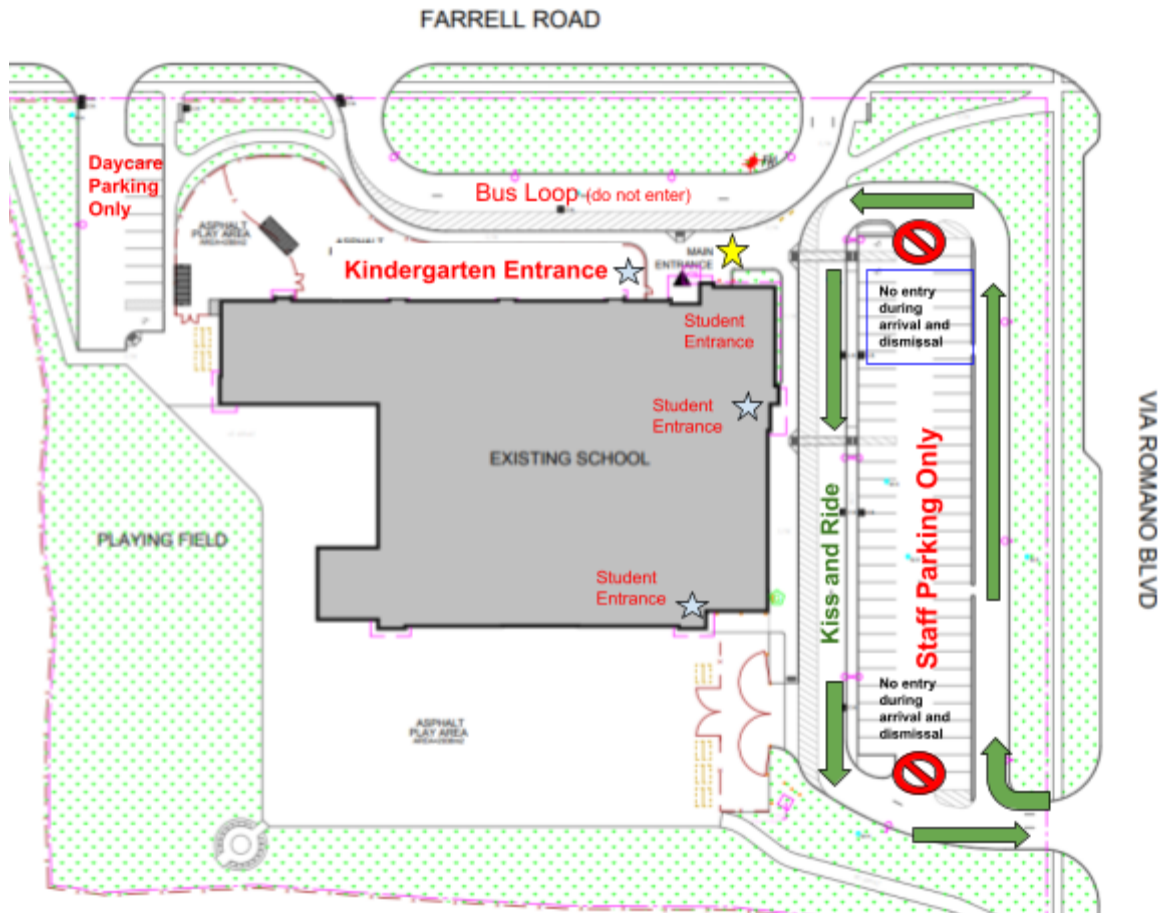
Kind regards,

Pam and Sarah (Council chairs and moms!)

## **Dismissal and Recess Doors**



## Arrival Doors



**\*Please note that the staff parking lot is not available during arrival and dismissal. \***

## Toys

Please **do not** send Pokemon cards or other special toys to school.

## **Active School Travel Pilot Program**



September 2022

### **Promoting school zone safety and supporting our school's health and well-being through Active School Travel – Pilot Project Participation –**

Dear Families,

In May 2022, our school began participating in the **Vaughan Active School Travel Pilot Program**. The goal of this program is to improve traffic safety in our school zone and support our school community's health and well-being by encouraging active school travel.

The active school travel pilot program is relaunching starting Wednesday, September 7, 2022 which will be our first Walking Wednesday and will end in June 2023. The program is a partnership between the York Region District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, City of Vaughan, Region of York and York Regional Police.

To support this program we are encouraging all families and students to choose active modes of transportation (walk, cycle and scooter) or take the school bus (where eligible and possible) when travelling to and from school as often as possible. Active school travel has many benefits including:

- Improves student academic performance by making students more alert and better prepared to learn.
- Improves both physical and mental health.
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones and around our school community.
- Improves air quality.
- Encourages social interaction and improves social skills.
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future.

As part of this program, a number of programs and tools will be coming to your school:

#### **Education and Marketing**

- assembly for students on benefits of active school travel and safety skills
- mobile signs and school banners with active school travel messaging
- school-led programs and initiatives (look out for more information)

#### **Walking Wednesdays**

This program will restart on **September 7** and continue for the entire school year. All students and families are encouraged to walk and cycle every Wednesday for the entire school year.



## Wayfinding Signage

Within your school community, signs encouraging active school travel have been installed along various routes. These signs indicate five, 10 and 15-minute distance points from the school. See map and poster attached.

## Traffic Calming Tools

A number of traffic calming tools have been installed to improve school zone safety including:

- radar message boards (Spring 2022)
- "Slow Down Vaughan" signs around the perimeter of the school
- refreshed edge lines and bike lanes
- flexi signs (flexible posts are a traffic calming tool typically used to create a narrowing effect on roads with the goal of slowing down traffic) installation on Via Romano Blvd
- Edge line pavement refreshed
- all crosswalks to be painted with ladder crosswalks
- warning signs near playgrounds installed
- study in progress for 4 ways stop at Ilan Ramon and Horse Rake
- 40 km/hr school zone signs are in place on Via Romano Blvd

We understand that some families live far or have limited time in the mornings. If you have to drive, you are encouraged to please consider parking your car a few blocks away and walking the rest of the way. If you drive, remember to obey all street signage, obey rules of the road and watch for children who are walking/cycling.

**School Zone Safety is a shared responsibility. If we all work together we can create an environment that is pedestrian friendly for all. We all have a part to play!**



Sincerely,

Tamar Swerling, Principal  
YRDSB Active School Travel Team

## We support active school travel



### Promoting any form of human-powered travel to get to and from school.

As you travel throughout the city of Vaughan this school year, you may notice some new traffic-calming measures in place to keep school zones safe, such as:



**Wayfinding signage** guides students by providing the distance to walk or bike to school.



**School zone pavement markings** let drivers know when they are entering a school zone.



**Ladder crosswalks** enhance visibility of people crossing the road.



**Supervised crossing signs** identify locations where a crossing guard is available to assist pedestrians with crossing the street.



**Flexible posts** reduce vehicular speed for pedestrian safety.



**#SlowDownVaughan** is a City initiative to encourage drivers to slow down.

### Active School Travel encourages:

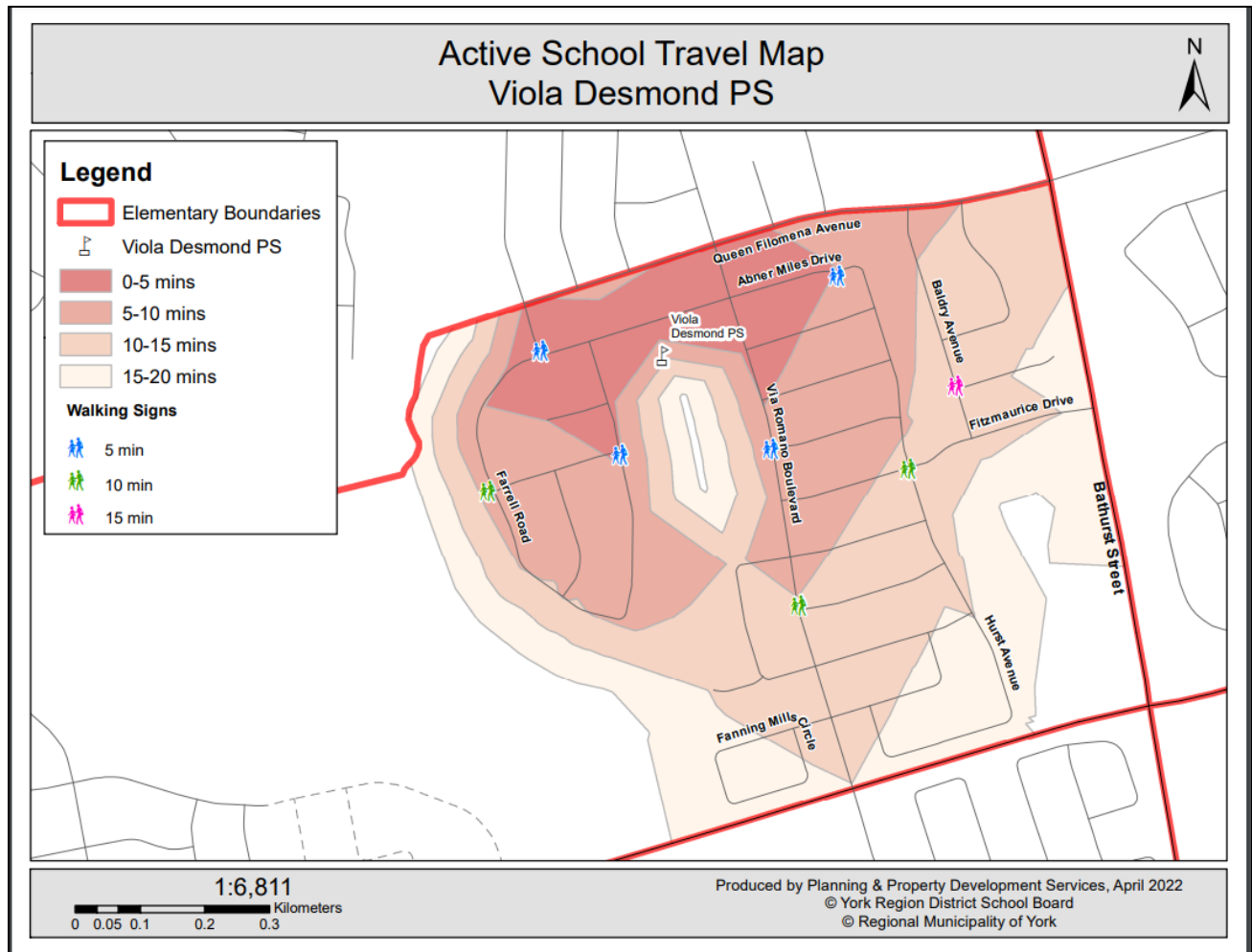


- enhanced road safety and helps manage vehicle congestion around school zones.
- increased awareness about the benefits of active and sustainable travel.
- improved air quality in school zones by reducing pollution and greenhouse gases made by vehicles.
- improving students' physical and mental health, social development and academic performance.
- building lifelong habits of active and independent mobility.
- raising awareness of road safety being a shared value and responsibility.
- students to reap the benefits of Active School Travel while having fun.

# VDPS Weekly



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## Hot Lunch Programs

We will be resuming hot lunch programs this year starting with *Kid's Kitchen* on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please see the flyer below for more information.

Proud to be serving lunch every Tuesday & Friday at

## VIOLA DESMOND P.S.

Starting Tuesday, September 13, 2022

**SAFETY**  
CONTACTLESS  
SERVING

**GRAB & GO**  
INDIVIDUALLY  
LABELLED

**READY TO SERVE YOU**

Kids Kitchen is prepared and ready to assist with the safe implementation of your school's hot lunch program.

### Entrees

- Macaroni & cheese
- Beef soft taco
- Bean soft taco
- Pancakes with turkey sausage
- Pasta with meat sauce (GF)
- Pasta with tomato sauce (GF)
- Buttery pasta
- Tuna salad sandwich on a Kaiser
- Chicken fingers with rice (GF)
- Beef burger (H)
- Chicken burger (H)
- Veggie burger

### Side Items

- Chicken fingers (2 pcs) (GF)
- Baked potato with sour cream
- Garden salad with ranch dressing
- Steamed veggies
- Edamame (shelled)
- Cucumber slices
- Veggies & dip
- Perogies (4 pcs)
- Garlic bread
- 2% or chocolate milk
- Chocolate soy milk
- Various fruit juices (100% juice)
- Bottled water

### Snacks & Deserts

- Fresh apple
- Fresh pear
- Fresh orange wedges
- Diced fruit
- Yogurt cup
- Chocolate chip cookie
- Kettle Popcorn
- Fresh fruit of the season
- Fudgy Brownie
- Banana or Carrot Muffin

(GF) Gluten-friendly also available  
(H) Halal also available

Not all options are available in all locations, please check online to see your school's options.

### DELIVERING GOOD, REAL FOOD TO KIDS AT SCHOOL

Our commitment is to provide nutritious, delicious, "home-cooked" meals with simple ingredients that you'd find in your own kitchen.

### SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

No problem! We're here for you. Speak with us on how we can accommodate your child.

### ORDER ONLINE

Visit [www.kidskitchen.ca](http://www.kidskitchen.ca) to see your school's menu, specials and for fast, secure online ordering.

## Sample Menu

### MORE OPTIONS ONLINE

EASY, SECURE ONLINE ORDERING AT  
**kidskitchen.ca**  
Valid credit card required

**www.kidskitchen.ca**  
905.944.0210 | [information@kidskitchen.ca](mailto:information@kidskitchen.ca)  
Serving hot lunches to GTA schools since 2001!

**PPM-150 COMPLIANT**

## Kid's Kitchen Co.