



Walter Scott Public School

500 Major Mackenzie Dr. E., Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C1J2

"A Place Where Everyone Belongs"

From Your Administrative Team!

JANUARY 2016

Happy New Year and welcome back! We trust that you had a lovely holiday time with family and friends and are looking forward to the coming year as much as we are! Don't forget to check our school website to stay current on school events and the latest news. You can now also follow us on Twitter - **"@WalterScottPS"** (case sensitive).

School Administrative Team

Principal: Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal: Deanna Durfy

Administrative Assistants

Gale McCarthy
Trish Adams

Superintendent of Schools

Michael Cohen
(905) 884-4477

Trustee

Corrie McBain
(416) 219-7426

Transportation

www.schoolbuscity.com

With the new year comes the opportunity for reflecting on past achievements, identifying areas for growth, setting new goals and working toward them. Progress Report Cards went home in December and Term 1 Report Cards will go home on February 17th. The Term 1 Report Card will provide information about your child's progress using letter grades in Grades 1 - 6 and percentage marks in Grades 7 - 8, with descriptive comments. There is not a formal interview day to accompany this report card yet, parents are always invited to contact your child's teachers with any questions.

While we had unusually mild December weather, the cold winter weather now seems here to stay. Please remind your child to wear warm winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens and hats to school every day so they can keep warm while playing at recess. At school, we will remind students to wear all the clothing sent from home when they go outside for recesses. During extreme cold weather, we regularly monitor weather conditions, consulting Environment Canada's Weather Service, and decide when it is appropriate for students and staff to be outdoors.

With the arrival of snow, we ask for your help at home in reminding students the snow can only be used to create and build (e.g. snow people, characters, houses). Due to the risk of injury and concussion, snow ball throwing and sliding on ice are not permitted. We will remind students of these expectations, as we strive to balance winter fun and student safety. Your support at home is much appreciated and will help to keep your child safe!

Please be aware that in the event of inclement weather, information about bus and school cancellations is available through the radio, television and at www.schoolbuscity.com. Remember when buses do not run in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon (even if weather improves) and parents must make arrangements for their child to get home or to be picked up on time at 3:00 p.m. the end of the school day.

Wishing you a healthy, fulfilling and happy 2016!



P.A. Days

Friday, January 15th

and

Monday, February 1st

No School

Sincerely,

Andrea Welburn
Principal

Deanna Durfy
Vice-Principal





Kindergarten Registration January 15, 2016

Kindergarten Registration begins on Friday, January 15th for the 2016-2017 school year.

Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca.

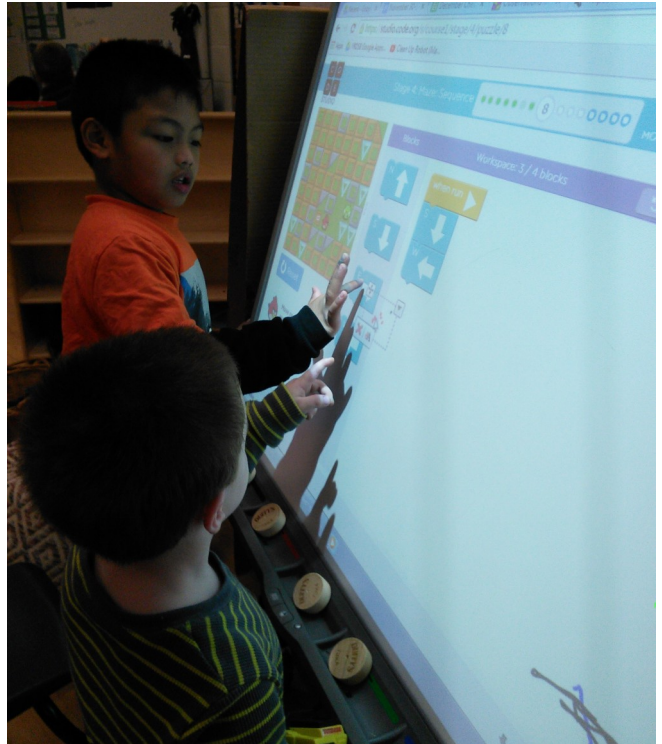
Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten.

All documentation must be submitted and completed before your child can be enrolled. Documents required for registration include:

- **Proof of child's age**
(birth certificate/passport)
- **Proof of residency**
(child and parent/guardian)
- **Citizenship and immigration status**
(if applicable)
- **Direction of school support form**
(school office)

A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for spring 2016. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact the school office.

Current Junior Kindergarten students do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten, as they are already enrolled.



Cold Weather / Indoor Recess

With the arrival of the winter snow, we want to share information with you about our practice for deciding when recesses are outdoors or indoors.

Throughout the winter, we regularly monitor the weather conditions, especially during extremely cold weather, consulting Environment Canada's Weather Information Service and then deciding when it is appropriate for students and staff to be outdoors.

We aim to have students outdoors at recesses for a fresh air activity break. They need the opportunity to play and burn off excess energy. As such, it is important students come to school dressed warmly and ready for winter play outdoors, including coats, snow pants, hats, boots and thick 'ski type' mittens.

When temperatures or wind chill reach minus 20 degrees Celsius, we strongly consider an indoor routine for recess/events. When temperatures or wind chill reach minus 18-19 degrees Celsius, we consider a shortened outdoor routine for recess/events.

Over the announcements, students are reminded to be sure to dress in EVERYTHING that has been sent from home. Staff also watch to make sure jackets are zipped, hats are on and boots are worn as the students make their way outdoors.






@WalterScottPS

(case sensitive)

Up Coming Dates

February 1	PA day	
February 2	Term 2 Begins	
February 15	Family Day Holiday	
February 17	Term 1 Report Cards	
March 14 to 18	March Break	
March 25	Good Friday Holiday	
March 28	Easter Monday Holiday	
April 27	Grade 7 Hep B & Grade 8 Girls HPV	
May 23	Victoria Day Holiday	
May 25 to June 8	EQAO	
June 3	PA Day	
June 21	Grade 8 Graduation	
June 22	Grade 8 Luncheon	
June 28	Term 2 Report Cards	
June 29	1/2 Day AM only - Early Dismissal	
June 30	PA Day	



Children with Allergies

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students and staff. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life threatening allergies. While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms.

PLEASE It is especially important that parents communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the office and your child's teacher so that we have accurate records and establish the protocol to follow with your child.



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

High School Information Evening for Grades 7 & 8 Parents

Bayview Secondary School will be hosting an information evening for parents of Grade 7 & 8 students on January 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to support students in their transition to high school.

Alexander Mackenzie High School held an information evening in October 2015. Additional information can be obtained from their website or by contacting the high school office.

In addition, staff from both high schools will be coming to Walter Scott to meet with the Grade 8 students - Jan 11 Alexander Mackenzie HS and Jan 12 Bayview SS.



Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.



Dressing for Outdoors



During the winter, students need to come to school warmly dressed to play outside at recesses. **Students need to wear a winter coat, snow pants, hat, mittens and boots.**

As children may get wet while playing during the snowy season, rather than having to interrupt your day to bring your child dry clothing, we suggest children keep an extra set of clothing at school, especially pants and socks. These can be kept in a labeled bag in the classroom.



All students, Kindergarten to Grade 8, are expected to go outside at recess. If your child is not well enough to go outside at recess, they need to stay home and rest until they are feeling better.



Being physically active during our Canadian winter is an essential part of a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.

Safe Arrival 905-884-2693

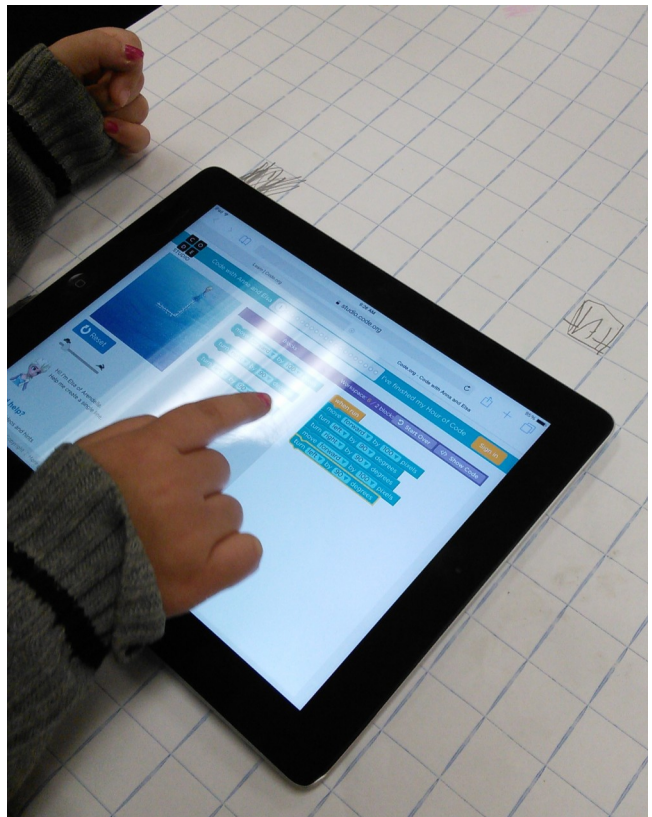
When you know your child will be absent, please send a note to the teacher in advance. When the absence/late is unplanned, please call the office. The answering machine is always on, so you can leave a message any time, day or night. Press 1 to leave a message.

By calling, you let us know your child is safe. It saves us from calling you at work, trying to locate you, or calling all the emergency contact phone numbers to ensure the child is safe.

When a student is not accounted for we will :

- Call home to see if the child is there, then
- Call the parent/guardian at work/mobile, then
- Call the emergency phone numbers, and finally (if we are unable to confirm the child's safety),
- Call the York Regional Police.

This call is a safety check; in accordance with the YRDSB Safe Arrival Policy #665.



French Immersion Registration January 15, 2016

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. Our designated FI school is Michaëlle Jean P. S., 320 Shirley Drive, Richmond Hill. Please visit YRDSB's website for any additional information (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>).

Registration begins January 15th after 8:30 am. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in September 2016, and wishing to enrol, can visit or call the current school office and request an *Office Index Card*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school where your child attends Senior Kindergarten. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Michaëlle Jean P. S. to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

What you do everyday
matters more,
than what you do
every once in awhile.



School Visitors

ALL parents and visitors must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's pass. Parents may not walk through the hallways or out onto the school yard.

We ask that families wait outside for their children. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please send a note or call the office for an appointment.

Following these procedures fosters independence in our students and ensures a greater degree of safety for all. We appreciate your support in keeping our students safe!

VISITORS
WELCOME!
PLEASE SIGN IN
AT OFFICE



arts@baythorn



Are you interested in learning the curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary Integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. York Region students have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music while meeting the necessary curricular requirements for the grades five, six, seven and eight programs.

Dates

January 13, 2016 @ 7:00 pm - Information Evening for Arts@Baythorn

February 20 and February 28, 2016 - Workshops for acceptance to the Arts@Baythorn program.

Program

The arts@baythorn program is an intensive three or four year Arts program (depending on the grade of entry) providing students interested in the Arts with the opportunity to study Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts in the company of other students with similar interests. We believe in an integrated curriculum where individual artistic strengths are used to deepen the understanding of studies in the academic areas. Through the Arts, students have an opportunity to develop important social skills, group work skills, problem-solving strategies, risk-taking ability and creative thinking skills. Arts teachers work with students to develop their skills in each Art discipline and to support learning through the arts in other subject areas. In addition, students in the arts@baythorn program will increase the depth and breadth of their learning through workshops with guest artists and field trips to performances and exhibitions. Participation in the Arts can increase a student's self-esteem, self-discipline, self-motivation, as well as their ability to internalize concepts presented in the various academic subjects.

Admission

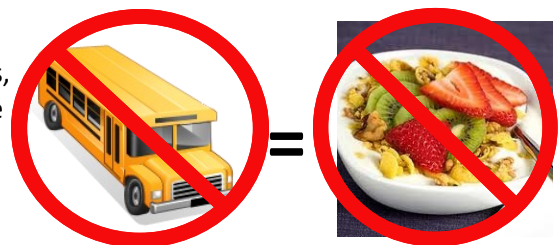
Admission to the program is based on the evaluation of the completed student application package, a student profile completed by the home school and a successful workshop. For the 2016-2017 school year, students currently in grade four or five are eligible to apply. Results regarding placement in the program will be e-mailed to families.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening at **Baythorn Public School on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

Breakfast Club

We wanted to let you know that when busses are cancelled due to inclement weather, the Breakfast Club will not be operating. Families who are driving children to school on these days, need to ensure that the children take time to eat breakfast at home, before coming to school.

When the driving conditions warrant the cancellation of buses, the Breakfast Club does not run as the volunteers who prepare and serve breakfast will not be at school.





School Bus Cancellation

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.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. 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.
- 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.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not 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.
- 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	1540AM
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 the YCDSB and YRDSB on twitter.

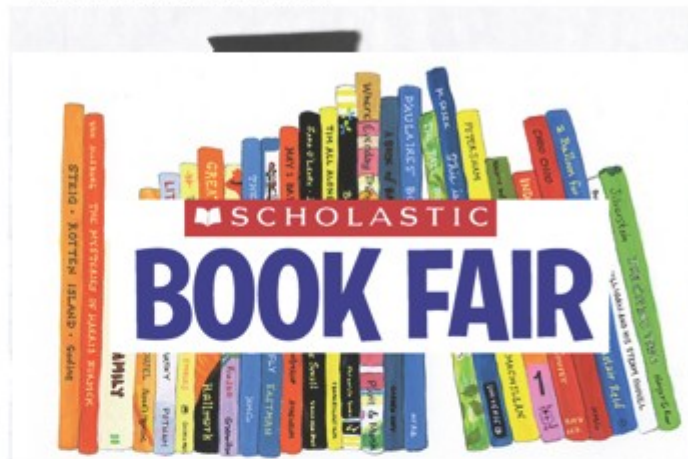


LIBRARY NEWS

WALTER SCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOL



Welcome back to the library and happy new year. Students took home books over the holidays and they are up for renewal. Please ensure that you send the books back to the library so they can continue reading new material.



Coming This Month!

Mrs. Sebald is very excited to be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from Thursday January 21 until Thursday January 28th. There will be a large selection of new titles, including many

classics ranging in levels from Kindergarten to Young Adult books. Watch for flyers coming home in your child's backpack.



FOLLOW MRS SEBALD ON TWITTER FOR THE LATEST LIBRARY UPDATES AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS. @MRSEBALD



Did you know that you can take out virtual books from the Public Library? All you need is your library card and your pin number to access thousands of ebooks that you can read at home. Get yours today at the Richmond Hill Public Library.

Tumble Books

Find excellent online books through our tumble books library.

Tumblebooks.com
User: walterscott1

Password: bookd

News from the Walter Scott Parenting and Family Literacy Centre




**Come and meet a
Kindergarten Educator
at the
Walter Scott Parenting
and
Family Literacy Centre!**

You're invited!

Where: Walter Scott Room 13
When: See dates /times below

Wednesday February 17th	10:40 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.
Wednesday March 30th	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday April 28th	10:40 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Snacks provided No registration

Parenting
and Family
Literacy
Centres

Parent Worker: Saima Khan
No cost or registration required

Open: Every school day between 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Snacks are provided for the children



Positive Parenting TIP

Some Thoughts about Risky Outdoor Play

- “Risky outdoor play is not about courting danger – e.g. skating on a half-frozen lake or letting a preschooler walk alone to the park.”
- “Risky outdoor play is about play that is thrilling and exciting where kids independently test their abilities and limits. It’s what many adults today did as children – like exploring the woods, tumbling and rough housing, moving fast or playing at heights.”

For more information, please go to <http://www.participaction.com/report-card-2015/report-card/>

Let's get ACTIVE!

The families of the
Walter Scott Parenting
and Family Literacy Centre
invite you to enjoy



15 MINUTES OF FUN IN THE FRESH AIR



to celebrate
Family Literacy Day

PLACE: Walter Scott P.S.

DATE: Wednesday January 27th

Snow Date – January 28th

TIME: Story Walk

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Snack provided. No registration required.

Please dress for going outside!





January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4 Day 2 School Resumes	5 Day 3 Pizza Day 	6 Day 4	7 Day 5 Christmas (Christianity - Eastern)	8 Day 1	9
10	11 Day 2	12 Day 3 Pizza Day 	13 Day 4	14 Day 5 Gr 7 Menactra Vaccinations French Immersion Information Night at Michael Jean P.S.	15 P. A. Day (No School) Kindergarten & French Immersion Registration Begins	16
17	18 Day 1	19 Day 2 Pizza Day 	20 Day 3	21 Day 4 Winter Celebration Bayview S.S. Gr 7&8 Parent Info Evening Book Fair - January 21 to 28	22 Day 5 Lice Checks	23
24	25 Day 1	26 Day 2 Pizza Orders Due Pizza Day 	27 Day 3 PFLC Story Walk 11:15-11:30 am	28 Day 4	29 Day 5	30
31	February 1 P. A. Day (No School)	2 Day 1 Term 2 Begins Pizza Day 	Walter Scott Public School (905) 884-2693  			