

YES
We Can



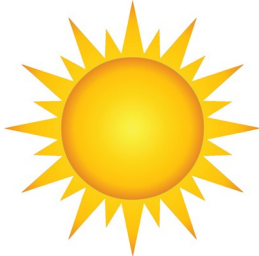
Yorkhill Newsletter

www.yorkhill.es.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Yorkhill Elementary School,
350 Hilda Avenue, Thornhill, ON

Administrators' Message

MARCH Touchstone/Character Trait: We take pride in our work. We stick to a goal and work hard even in the face of obstacles and challenges. We complete all tasks and assignments. Perseverance is essential.



MARCH 2018



Happy March! Our school community continues to be a very busy place for our staff, parents and students. The past two months have been busy with many activities such as our Family Math Night, Puppets Cool Workshops, Right to Play Assembly, Touchstone Assemblies, Scientist in the School, skating, athletics, and clubs. March and April will continue to be very busy, productive and filled with much learning and exciting events such as the Brent and Sarah Magic Show which delivers an inspiring message about understanding and overcoming bullying.

Our staff continues to be engaged in meaningful and professional learning about meeting the diverse needs of our learners through equitable and inclusive practices, as well as the comprehensive math program. It is important that we continue to hone our practice to meet the needs of our student population. We also thank our staff for offering various extracurricular activities such as clubs, music and athletics.

Principal

Josie O'Hara

Office Staff

Morag Wright

Maria Cortes

Superintendent

T. Dungey

905-764-6830

Trustee

Susan Geller

905-763-8682

As we are in second term, please take the time to review next steps in setting goals for academic and learning skills improvement with your child. We encourage students to set these goals and check in with parents and teachers to help them attain these goals. The final report card will be issued at the end of June.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, students, and families for the warm welcome to the Yorkhill Community. I look forward to a collaboration that will provide numerous opportunities for us to collectively inspire learning, serve and nurture our children.

We would like to wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable March break!

Josie O'Hara

School Cash Online

All YRDSB schools are now using School Cash Online as an online payment system. School Cash Online is an easy, safe and convenient way for families to pay online for extracurricular items or events, including yearbooks and field trips. It helps to reduce paper and the amount of cash/cheques handled by parents and students.

Families may make payments using School Cash Online, or by cash or cheque. You can [register for School Cash Online](#) at any time. There is also a button on our school website. Once you are registered, you will be notified of any new items available for your child.



Families please note that staff supervision begins 15 minutes before school starts (8:35 am). Parents/Guardians are responsible for their children before this time. To ensure safety, please do not send your children to school early. Please pick them up at 3:10 pm promptly. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Moving? If moving is on your horizon, please inform the office in writing. Include the last day of attendance and the school your child(ren) will be attending. This will help to facilitate the transferring of your child's records and update our records.



FOOD FREE CELEBRATIONS

We ask families to please refrain from sending in food as treats for birthdays, celebrations, etc.

There are a number of students at Yorkhill with life-threatening allergies. As a staff we take serious precautions to avoid any unnecessary risks. We look at the sharing of food as one of these risks. We ask your cooperation in helping to keep our students safe by not sending food to school with your child to share with others or to celebrate a birthday.

If you feel the need to share something for your child's birthday, please find an alternative (pencils, stickers, etc.), that students can hand out.

Another very creative way that families can celebrate a birthday is to purchase a book for the class, wrap it up, and let your child open it in front of everyone and have the teacher read it (with a personalized birthday message from you!). There are lots of alternatives.....these are just a few.

At Yorkhill birthdays are recognized by announcing the names of students who are celebrating their birthday during morning announcements.

FAMILY MATH NIGHT

Our Family Math Night was a big success! Our gymnasium was transformed into a math wonderland with life-size board games, giant manipulatives and colourful math mats which engaged students in fun and active math learning as they moved through various challenges with their peers. Many thanks to our staff and student leaders who led our community of learners as they moved through the 15 math stations. Thank you as well to our School Council for supporting a wonderful evening of math learning at Yorkhill.



Puppet Workshops

Yorkhill Students participated in a workshop led by Puppets Cool. Students were very engaged as they learned about hand puppets and used their problem solving and innovation skills to create their very own puppets. Even our youngest learners are involved in developing their puppet's character and acting out stories they imagine. They see themselves as creators and are developing their oral language skills. The students really enjoyed the workshop and had lots of fun !





Basketball News

A big congratulations to all the girls on the intermediate basketball team. These girls showed a tremendous amount of initiative by taking it upon themselves to ensure that our school would have a team. Initially we did not have a team but these girls got together and asked for a coach so that they could learn and play basketball. Well, thanks to their perseverance we immediately had a tryout and made the team. For almost all of these girls it was the first time they had ever played or practiced playing basketball. And even though they played against teams where the girls played in outside leagues, our girls nevertheless competed and played great. Although they did not win a game at the area tournament they; nevertheless ,showed true winning spirit by not giving up, putting forth their best effort and by improving every single game they played. Being the winner is not necessarily the score on the board but rather the attitude and character that you bring to the game. Without a doubt our girls are true winners! Congratulations Emily, Ilil, Renee, Jasmine, Talia, Nicky, Victoria and Alyssa.



Right to Play

On February 21, the students in grades 3-8 were visited by a Play Your Part facilitator, Lindsay, who is part of The Right To Play Schools Team. Lindsay discussed how the organization uses the power of play to educate and empower children in countries where they are faced with adversity. After the assembly, 25 students in grades 4-8 participated in a workshop where they learned a variety of games revolving around health, gender equality, literacy and more. The school has now been challenged to "Play Your Part" and raise awareness about the importance of learning through play in disadvantaged areas around the world.





Yorkhill Fun Fair

Save the date for our school's Fun Fair on **Thursday, May 31 from 5:30-8:00pm** for an evening of fun with your family. Activities include bouncy castle, silent auction, face-painting, and more.

In order to make this event happen, our School Council needs your help. We are looking for:

Volunteers - Please let us know if you can help us staff the event. There are shifts to allow you free time with your family and it's a great way to meet other parents as well as demonstrate community involvement to your children. Grandparents and family members are welcome.

Prizes for the silent auction – Do you work for a company or know someone who can provide a prize for our silent auction? Tickets to sporting or kids events, gift certificates, and other prizes are welcome. All sponsors will receive acknowledgement, an opportunity to reach our Thornhill community, and a tax receipt for their donation.

Entertainers – do you know how to juggle, play music or do magic tricks?

And more – got an idea for the fair you can help run? Let us know.

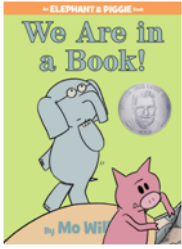
Please contact Ilana Keyes (ilanakeyes@hotmail.com) or Stephanie Ip (steph.ip@gmail.com) if you can help. **Your contribution counts and every student benefits!**

All the money we raise from this event will go directly to the school for the benefit of your children. With the funds raised, resources will be purchased to enhance learning opportunities for our students. Funds will also be used to arrange for more in-school enrichment programs (such as our Family Math Night and Scientists In School). We hope that you will consider donating your time or a prize. Your investment will enrich the learning environment for all students.

Lunar Year

Ms Purwitsky's SK/1 class was lucky to receive a visit from one of the parents to teach the class about the Lunar New Year. They learned about different Chinese customs and were treated with gifts to celebrate the year of the dog. We are grateful when our community members work together to educate our students. The students were excited to learn and listen and enjoyed this learning experience. Thank you our parent speaker who took the time to visit our classroom and share her knowledge with the students.





Library News

Our library has been bustling over the past few months, as students inquired about, and celebrated, Black History Month, Team Canada and the 2018 Winter Olympics, and Lunar New Year. The FI classes kicked-off World Read-Aloud Day with animated read-alouds by Mme. Sazant, Mme. Calder and Mme Robinson. Primary and Junior students participated in a variety of read-aloud activities, and intermediate students, along with their their kindergarten 'learning buddies', enjoyed reading together - accompanied by a host of furry friends!



The Forest of Reading program is now in full swing! It is wonderful to have the opportunity to read so many Canadian books from both new and well-known authors. Primary students are participating in the **Blue Spruce** and **Le Prix Peuplier** programs through read alouds, book ratings, and activities related to the nominated books. We even had an opportunity to meet one of the authors through an amazing 'virtual author visit'! Junior and Intermediate students who have chosen to participate in the program, are reading, sharing and discussion books from the **Silver Birch** and **Red Maple** selections. Voting will take place at the end of April. Many students are visiting the library during recess and lunch to get in as much reading as possible!

The library collection continues to grow! Our 'Pop Open a New Book' display is filled with a variety of recent acquisitions, of a variety of genres, for all grade levels. New books, purchased with proceeds from our Scholastic book fair, were recently received in FI classes to boost thier classroom independent reading programs.



Planning, collaborating, and problem solving are all skills being used with our new STEM activities - Lego, Magna-tiles, Squishies, Tall-Stackers and Plus-Plus! We are looking forward to the visit from the Bathurst Clark Library on March 28th, when they will be bringing their 'Makerspace Experience' to the Yorkhill library.

Our Library Leadership Team is made up of a select group of students in grades 5-8. These students volunteer their time each week to keep the library running smoothly by checking books in and out, shelving and organizing materials, setting up displays, and assisting in many other ways. Their dedication is invaluable!



French Language Book Fair!

“**Librairie Mosaïque**,” a French-language bookstore located in downtown Toronto, will be having a French Language “Foire du livre” (Book Fair) for the entire French Immersion community of the YRDSB...!! This “Foire de livre” will be hosted by Adrienne Clarkson Public School, located at 68 Queens College Drive in Richmond Hill, and will take place April 17th through to the 19th. A flyer will be coming home with your child(ren) with all of the details about the event. This is an excellent opportunity for families to purchase additional French-language books, resources, and other materials to further your children’s learning at home.



Save the date...!!

FRENCH BOOK FAIR

at

Adrienne Clarkson Public School

[68 Queens College Drive, Richmond Hill](#)

Mosaïque Bookstore will be at **Adrienne Clarkson** School the **17th, 18th, and 19th of April**

- Tuesday, the 17th : 10 am – 6 pm
- Wednesday, the 18th : 8 am – 6 pm
- Thursday, the 19th : 8 am – 3 pm

Novels, essays, comic books, illustrated albums, early readers, graded readers, workbooks, resource guides, classic literature, novelty, games...

Shop online

www.mosaiquetoronto.ca

HYPERLINK "http://www.mosaiquetoronto.ca/"



Message from the Student Council

Message from the Student Council: Next week we will be holding a graduation fundraiser for the Grade 8s. There will be a large jar of candy (nut free, gluten-free, and kosher) set up in the foyer in front of the office at every morning recess. Students will have the opportunity to guess the number of candy in the jar. 1 guess will cost 50C, and 3 guesses will cost \$1. The student who comes the closest to the actual number of candies in the jar will win the full jar of candy. Thank you to all students in advance for supporting your Grade 8s and Student Council!

2018 Winter Olympics

The students from Mr. Dishy's grade 5 class have kept the Yorkhill community informed on the 2018 Winter Olympics each day with an Olympic Announcement! The morning announcement included Olympic Trivia, athletic achievements and a daily medal count for Team Canada! We are proud of Team Canada for their accomplishments in this year's winter's Olympic Games. Thank you to our grade 5 reporters and our announcers!



Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls

York Region District School Board is revisioning its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of public education in York Region public schools. The MYP incorporates the direction established by the Trustees with feedback received from all stakeholders, and will inform decision making at the Board in the years to come. Town halls will be taking place across the region and feedback collected from families and community members will inform the creation of a new MYP. Your voice is important and your input and feedback will help York Region District School Board support student achievement and well-being. There will also be other opportunities, including a survey available in April, to share your thoughts if you are unable to attend a town hall.

Save the Date!

TOWN HALL DATES AND TIMES	LOCATIONS
Monday, April 16, 2018	Keswick High School
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6 - 9 p.m.	Markville Secondary School 1000 Carlton Rd., Markham
Sunday, April 22, 2018	Sir William Mulock Secondary School
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6 - 8 p.m.	Maple High School 50 Springside Rd., Maple
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Bayview Secondary School 10077 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

Summer Institute

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? [Summer Institute](#) offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum.

The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at 11 school sites around York Region.

For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the [Summer Institute](#) page on www.yrdsb.ca.

Registration opens March 7. Families can now register online, as well as in person or by mail.

Base Registration Weekly Fees:

York Region District School Board students: \$105 (4 day weeks) \$120 (5 day weeks)

Non- York Region District School Board students: \$130 (4 day weeks) \$155 (5 day weeks)

“Raising Positive Resilient & Happy Kids”

With International Speaker, KATE JONES

Thursday, March 29, 2018 7:15 - 8:45 PM

Thornhill Secondary School

167 Dudley Ave., Thornhill L3T 2E5

Join Kate to learn how we can work together to help kids thrive both at home and at school. In this interactive session, you will explore the following:

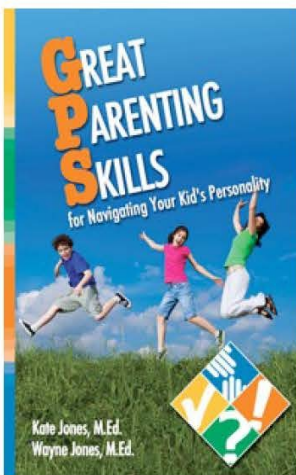
Your Kid’s Resilience versus Achievement

Why Resilience is so Important

Recognizing Resilience

Ways to Increase Kids’ Resilience

By applying these practical strategies you will be able to help your offspring cope with life’s challenges in a more positive way.



Book available at
Special price: \$20!

ABOUT KATE JONES

Amazon Author with Partner, Wayne, Retired Principal

International Speaker

Specialist in Personality & Positivity

Motivational speaker for over 15 years

Founder of the “Awesome Parenting Series©”

Master Trainer for Personality Dimensions®

Master of Education Degree in Teaching and Learning



Up Coming Events

Friday March 2, 2018	Stress Anxiety Presentation Gr. 4-6
Friday March 2, 2018	Grade 3FI Skating @ Garnett Williams
Tuesday March 6, 2018	Grade 8 Graduation Photos
Wednesday March 7, 2018	Workshop: High Conflict Divorce
Thursday March 8, 2018	Grade 1's Visit Kortright Centre
Monday March 12-Friday March 16, 2018	March Break
Thursday March 28, 2018	Maker Space Experience Gr.2-8
Monday March 26-27 2018	Gr. 3 Scientist in School
Tuesday March 27, 2018	Workshop: Effective :Parenting
Friday March 30, 2018	Good Friday
Monday April 2, 2018	Easter Monday
Tuesday April 3, 2018	World Autism Awareness Day
Thursday April 5, 2018	JK/SK Visit Kortright Centre
Friday April 6, 2018	Holy Friday
Monday April 9, 2018	VIP Grade 6's
Tuesday April 10, 2018	Lice Check
Friday April 13, 2018	Vaisakhi
Monday April 16, 17, 2018	Primary Play @ City Playhouse
Thursday April 19, 2018	Brent and Sarah Anti Bullying Magic Show
Friday April 20, 2018	Scientist in School Gr. 1
Wednesday April 25, 2018	Scientist in School Gr. 1
Tuesday May 1, 2018	VIP Grade 7's
Wednesday May 2, 2018	VIP Grade 8's
Friday May 4, 2018	Hep B and HPV Vaccinations Gr. 7
Wednesday May 9, 2018	VIP Grade 3's
Monday May 21, 2018	Victoria Day