

YES We Can



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February 2016

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Yorkhill Newsletter

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

February 2016

Yorkhill Elementary School,
350 Hilda Avenue, Thornhill, ON
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Administrators' Message

We would like to begin our message by thanking the parents of our YES School Council for organizing and hosting Two excellent community wide events over the past couple of months. The "Family Movie Night", which featured the Minions, was a fun-filled evening for our students. Many arrived with blankets and pillows, ready to enjoy time with their families and friends.

In addition our YES School Council recently hosted Michelle Cassidy, the Mental Health Lead for the York Region District School Board, for an evening session with our parent community. The evening was entitled, ***Supporting Your Child's Mental Health***. The power point of this presentation has been posted on our school website for your reference. It contains numerous resources and practical suggestions you can use to develop positive approaches to life's challenges. You may also be interested in attending one of the Triple P Parenting Sessions, as outlined in this newsletter, to further support your parenting journey.

One of the many highlights for our students within the past several weeks, was the Earth Rangers presentation, that focused on protecting animals and reducing our impact upon the environment. This presentation was the kick off for the Battery Blitz, an initiative to recycle our used batteries. We are anxiously awaiting our results to see if our school collected the most batteries in the Battery Blitz Competition. Further information about the Battery Blitz Challenge can be found with the newsletter.

First term Report Cards will be sent home on February 17 2016, so now is the time to revisit, reflect and revise those earlier learning goals. Review our child's Report Card with them. Focus on both the "Learning Skills" portion of the Report Card, as well as your child's academic achievement. Celebrate your child's accomplishments and set specific goals for improvement. If further clarification is needed, speak with the home-room or subject specific teacher to clarify learning strengths and needs. Remember, academic success and personal well-being are achieved through the setting, reflection and refinement of goals. Set some time aside to talk with your child or children about developing their ability to the accomplishment of their goals.

Sincerely,

Catarina Burisch
Principal

Karen Birnie
Vice Principal



Triple P Positive Parenting Seminar Series

For parents of children birth to 12 years of age

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

Location: Discovery Public School
120 Discovery Trail, Maple L6A 2Z2

Free Seminars and Dates

February 9, 2016 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Power of Positive Parenting

- Ensuring a safe engaging environment for children
- Creating a positive learning environment
- Using assertive discipline
- Having realistic expectations
- Taking care of yourself as a parent

March 22, 2016 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Raising Confident and Competent Children

- Encouraging respect and cooperating
- Learning to be independent
- Learning how to develop healthy self-esteem
- Learning how to be good problem solvers

April 26, 2016 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Raising Resilient Children

- Recognize and accept feelings
- Express their feelings appropriately
- Build positive feelings
- Deal with negative feelings
- Deal with upsetting or stressful life events

To register and/or for further information:

Oksana Majaski, Community Resource Facilitator

Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca or 905-738-5497 ext. 213

This presentation is brought to you by Discovery P.S. in partnership with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and York Region District School Board.





Triple P Positive Parenting Seminar Series

For parents of children birth to 12 years of age

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

Location: Woodbridge Public School
60 Burwick, Woodbridge L4L 1J72

Free Seminars and Dates

February 18, 2016 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Power of Positive Parenting

- Ensuring a safe engaging environment for children
- Creating a positive learning environment
- Using assertive discipline
- Having realistic expectations
- Taking care of yourself as a parent

March 10, 2016 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Raising Confident and Competent Children

- Encouraging respect and cooperating
- Learning to be independent
- Learning how to develop healthy self-esteem
- Learning how to be good problem solvers

April 7, 2016 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Raising Resilient Children

- Recognize and accept feelings
- Express their feelings appropriately
- Build positive feelings
- Deal with negative feelings
- Deal with upsetting or stressful life events

To register and/or for further information:

Oksana Majaski, Community Resource Facilitator

Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca or 905-738-5497 ext. 213

This presentation is brought to you by Woodbridge P.S. in partnership with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and York Region District School Board.

Yorkhill's Battery Blitz School Mission

On January 14, 2016 the grades 1 to 3 classes will be participating in a live Earth Rangers Assembly. Earth Rangers, in partnership with Call2Recycle, collect and recycle used batteries so they do not end up in landfill sites. The Eco Club will be participating in their Battery Blitz Mission and the kick off will happen during this assembly. Although the assembly is for grades 1 to 3, the entire school will be participating in the Battery Blitz Mission. Please send in your used batteries and help save our planet.

Here's How it Works:

- The Battery Blitz Mission will kick off during the live Earth Rangers Assembly.
- Battery collection boxes will be set up and students will be asked to bring in their used batteries over a 2-week period. In addition to common, single use batteries, any battery less than 5kg can be brought in to be recycled, including those found in: power tools, video game consoles, digital & video cameras, cellphones & cordless phones and watches (with the exception of wet-cell batteries). Please cover terminals with tape (electrical/duct/masking) before bringing the batteries to school.
- We will be collecting batteries for 2 weeks after this assembly.
- All batteries will be collected and weighed and the school that collects the most, by weight, will win a Pizza Party! The second and third place winners will win a hot chocolate party!

**Start collecting your batteries and bring them in during
our Battery Campaign Blitz!!**

Battery Facts

How do batteries work? When a battery is used, a special reaction happens between the chemicals in the positive end and the chemicals in the negative end of the battery. This reaction produces the energy your electronics need in order to run.

The Problem

Since batteries provide energy for so many of the things we use every day, what to do with batteries once they are dead becomes a big problem. When batteries are thrown out in the trash, they end up in landfills where they leak dangerous chemicals (like lead, mercury and cadmium) into the environment. These chemicals are not only harmful to us (humans), but to animals as well. British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec have made it illegal to throw out batteries in the trash.



Recycle your Batteries

Even though there are many places that will help us dispose of our used batteries properly, only 5% of alkaline batteries are recycled in Canada each year. Although in Canada, over 1.4 million kg of single-use batteries were recycled in 2012 (about the weight of 310 school buses), is only a small amount of the batteries we use. By recycling single-use batteries instead of throwing them away, you can reduce pollution and also help save resources. Used batteries can be a good source of base metals and through recycling programs, dead batteries can be turned into pots and pans, steel for stainless steel products (like golf clubs or fridges), or even new batteries! This reduces the need to mine for new materials.

We need your help to make sure batteries are properly disposed of. Collect any used batteries in your house and bring them to the school. Ask your neighbours and relatives for their used batteries and bring them in so that they too, can help our planet!

Remember, you can't recycle batteries in your regular recycling bin.

They have to be recycled at a proper facility.

Help our school help our planet!

Presents



MINDFULNESS EVERYDAY[®]

An Evening on Mindfulness and Learning Disabilities

Workshop: Mindful Parents – Resilient Children

With Heidi Bornstein and Sue Hutton from Mindfulness Everyday

The purpose of the evening is to provide parents with relevant information and skills on mindfulness and how it can benefit students with LDs. In addition, we will examine how social and emotional competencies can be supported through mindfulness.

This experiential workshop will provide parents with practical skills and knowledge about mindfulness: what it is, what are the benefits to both parents and children and how it can be practiced. It will deliver practical tips on practicing mindful awareness within family dynamics. The session will examine aspects of mindfulness specifically related to parenting and education:

- how parents can support their children through mindful parenting
- how practicing mindfulness can support students with LD and MID needs
- how mindfulness can support well-being for families

Heidi Bornstein is the founder of Mindfulness Everyday, a registered charity that has been delivering and designing custom programming for mindfulness in education since 2009 to students, educators, and parents since 2009 and is a member of The Resiliency Planning Committee for the YRDSB.

Sue Hutton has over 20 years' experience as a social worker, and leads mindfulness groups with Wellspring, social workers, and the disability community.

Time:

March 1st 2016
6:30pm — 8:30pm

Location:

York Catholic District
School Board Office
320 Bloomington Road
West Aurora, ON L4G 0M1

Cost:

\$10 LDAYR members
\$15 Non-LDAYR
members
Workshop fees are
transferable
and non-refundable.

How to Register:

Register by February 24

905-884-7933 x 23
info@ldayr.org
www.ldayr.org

Sponsored By:



Website: www.ldayr.org

Email: info@ldayr.org

Phone: 905-884-7933 ext. 23

ECO NEWS

Our student eco-team is now up and running! We are pleased to see old faces and new faces joining to help green our school. As in the previous years, we will soon be starting our Tuesday "Litterless Lunch Campaign". On Tuesdays, students are encouraged to bring in lunches that contain no waste at all. We are encouraging students to bring in items that do not require recycling. Compostable items are acceptable, but the rest of the lunch should have zero waste. Classes that win will receive the "Golden or Silver Garbage Can Award" each month.

We thank you in advance for your help.

Waste Free Lunch Tips

- Get children to help pack their lunches with healthy foods
- Only pack as much food as your child will eat
- Use a reusable lunch bag/box for carrying a lunch
- Use a refillable bottle for drinks
- If you choose to use a single serving container, please make sure it is recyclable
- Put sandwiches, muffins, etc. in reusable containers, instead of in plastic bags. Label them with your child's name so they have a better chance of coming home
- Avoid pre-packaged, single-serve portions of snacks
- Put re-usable napkins in your child's lunch box
- Prepare extra food at dinnertime and use leftovers for lunches. Minimize the morning rush by packing lunches the night before and refrigerating overnight

Yes Please	No Thanks
Reusable lunch container	Single use paper or plastic bags
Reusable containers (Tupperware, plastic, stainless steel, thermos)	Disposable plastic wrap, foil, wax or styro-foam
Reusable drink bottle or thermos	Single use, and non-recyclable containers
Cloth napkin to wash and re-use	Paper napkins
Cutlery/silverware to wash and re-use	Plastic forks/spoons

Lights Out

We are also trying to reduce our energy consumption at school. Every Monday, students from the eco-team will be tracking which classes have switched off their lights, SmartBoards etc, when they exit for lunch recess. If anyone is still in the class they have been challenged to use only one light at this time. Each month, winning classes will be able to keep a solar powered trophy in their rooms.

You can practice this at home. Save the environment and your money by switching off any lights or appliances when you exit a room.

Stay tuned from more eco-tips and news.

The Eco-Team

Message from our Trustee

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Plan](#) is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning.” Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

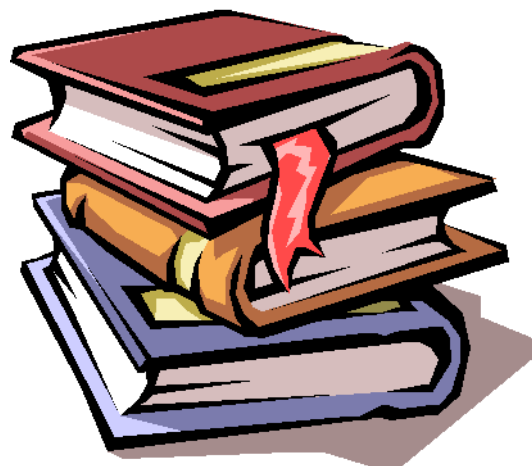
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.



Punctuality at Yorkhill

There are two morning bells. The first bell rings at 8:43 a.m. and the second bell rings at 8:50 a.m. This allows students seven minutes to enter and be prepared for the start of the instructional day at 8:50 a.m. Students on buses have been arriving on time by 8:45 a.m. All other students need to be in the playground by 8:45 a.m. as well. The three playground entrance doors will close at 8:50 a.m. Students who are late will need to report to the office using the front doors.

Being on time impacts your child in a positive way as he or she learns and acquires life skills and instructions. Please support us to support your child's learning by being on time.





SCHOOL CASH ON-LINE IS LIVE AT YORKHILL !

Yorkhill has joined the YRDSB secure “School Cash On-line” service as of this year. By the end of this school year the entire school board will need to use this service. The benefits have been vetted with attention and care by YRDSB. Moving forward , in order for you to receive notice of any events that require payment, such as Field Trips, Movie nights, Graduation, Yearbook, Pizza, Subway, etc you must complete a one time registration process.

Your child by now has come home with instructions to register and with their student number on a sticker. You must register on-line to receive notification of upcoming events and purchases. Please stay informed and register as from now on the only way to participate and pay for these events is through “school cash on-line”

For support, if you do not have a debit card, credit card or computer, please contact Ms. Wright in the office.

Please see the following page on how to register for School Cash on-line.





Yorkhill E.S. is accepting online payments through School Cash ONLINE!

School Cash Online provides the following benefits :

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
 - Reduces paper
 - No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes less than 5 minutes to register.

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees owed (both required and optional), and can make secure online payments by credit card or Interac and receive a receipt.

To view a presentation about the program, go to <http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>.

Follow the easy steps on the **BACK** page to register and get started!

PLEASE TURN OVER

Step 1 Register

- a) Click on the School Cash Online button on our school's website at <http://yorkhilles.yrdsb.ca/> and select the "Get Started Today" button.

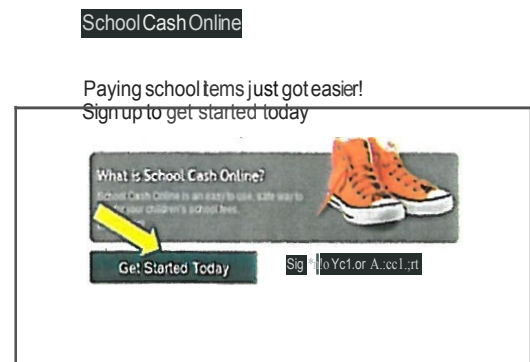
Disclaimer

- b) Complete each of the three Registration Steps

*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.

Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be automatically forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

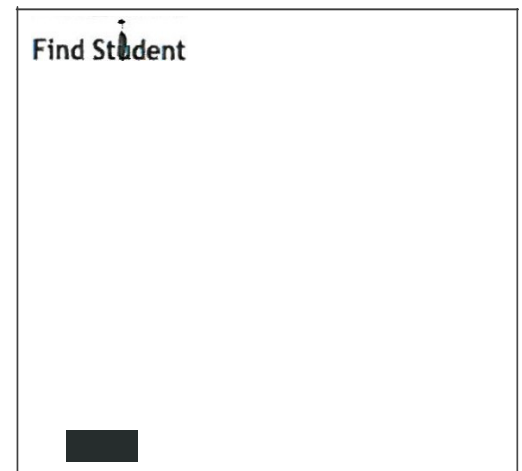


Step 3: Find Student

NOTE: A STUDENT NUMBER IS REQUIRED

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Student # and Last Name
- Select *Continue*
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*
- Your child has been added to your account



Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

NEED HELP? If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen or contact School Cash Online – **Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803** or parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com.

Important Dates

February 1st P.A- School Closed

February 8 - Immunization Grade 7 and 8

February 15 - Family Day-School Closed

February 17—Report Cards sent home

February 23 - Graduation Photo for Grade 8 Students

Upcoming Dates

March Break—Monday March 14 - 18 School Closed

March 25 - Good Friday School Closed

March 28 - Easter Monday School Closed

May 6— P.A Day School Closed

Additional Elementary P.A. Days

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a **P.A. Day has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on Friday, May 6, 2016**. You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

Reminder

If you will be moving please contact and notify the school office.