

YES

We Can



March 2016

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Yorkhill Newsletter

www.yorkhill.es.yrdsb.edu.on.ca March 2016

Administrators' Message

Yorkhill Elementary School,
350 Hilda Avenue, Thornhill, ON
T 905-764-5292 F 905-764-5294

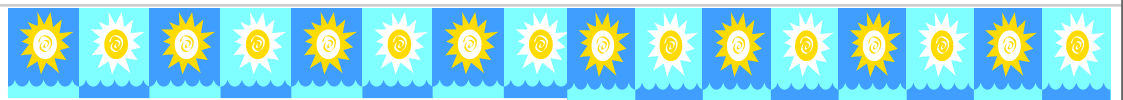
Over the past several weeks there has been a lot of learning and excitement at Yorkhill Elementary School. Scientist in the School workshops engaged our grade 2 students who actively participated in the "Move It" sessions. On February 24th, Yorkhill was awash in pink, in support of the national anti-bullying initiative named 'Pink Day'. The Eco team has worked hard to promote litterless lunches, which you can read more about in the 'eco' section of this newsletter, as well as other upcoming Eco team initiatives. In the library, our students have been involved with the Forest of Reading, an annual program, where students can enjoy 10 new Canadian books, that will ultimately be voted on by students across Ontario, to determine their favorite book. Lastly, all of our students participated in "The Big Crunch", on March 10, 2016. The event promotes healthy eating, with all students biting into and enjoying an apple at the same time across the YRDSB.

School Council continues to play a valuable role in supporting the students' learning experience at Yorkhill Elementary School. We would like to thank council on behalf of the students for the outdoor classroom equipment. The soccer balls, basketballs, foam dodge balls and skipping ropes have been put to use this past week with the milder spring like temperatures.

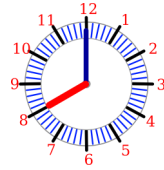
Don't forget to get your tickets for the upcoming Junior-Intermediate English Drama Club Play and the Primary English Drama Club Play, on April 5 & April 6, respectively, at the City Playhouse. Details about this are in this newsletter. It has always been an amazing evening. Our students are so proud to showcase their theatrical talents. We hope you can join us.

Lastly we would like to wish all of our families a relaxing March Break. Whether you are travelling or staying in the city, find time to spend with one another. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, March 21, 2016. Rest up and get ready for a busy, fun-filled final few months of the 2015-2016 school year.

Sincerely,
Catarina Burisch Karen Birnie
Principal Vice - Principal



Thank you for... Arriving On Time



We wanted to report that the number of late arrivals has decreased over the past several weeks. Thank you to all of our families for arriving on time. Modeling punctuality for your children is essential.

Arriving on time ensures that your child does not miss out on valuable instructional time. The beginning of the lesson is the time when skills and concepts are introduced. Punctuality is a life skill that will serve your child well in the future.

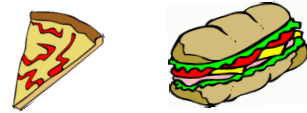
Thank you for helping us reduce the amount of late arrivals at Yorkhill Elementary School.

Pizza & Subs Inclement Weather Days

Although we hope that we are finished with inclement weather days for the remainder of this school year, we wanted to inform families that when an **inclement weather day is declared** by York Regions District School Board, **pizza and/or subs will be cancelled on that day.**

A make-up day will be rescheduled and families will be informed. If you do send your child to school on an inclement weather day, please pack a lunch for them.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Dance-a-thon Huge Success



On February 12, the students of Yorkhill Elementary School participated in a school wide Dance-a-thon. Students thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent dancing in the gym, having fun with their peers and learning new dance moves from the D.J.

School Council reported that this event raised \$2008 dollars.

Thank you to all the families for supporting this fund raising initiative.

EQAO - 2016 Grade 3 & Grade 6

Our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students will be participating in the Ministry of Education EQAO assessment, scheduled to take place **between May 25th and May 31th, 2016.** We would like to remind families to refrain from booking appointments or time away from school during this time frame, if at all possible though we understand that sometimes this cannot be avoided.



Student absences have increased recently within several schools in York Region, related to illnesses with respiratory and enteric symptoms.

To protect staff, students and families from getting ill, remember to:

Stay at home when you are sick, and keep your child home if they are sick

Keep healthy by eating healthy foods, being physically active and ensuring your immunizations are up-to-date, including the seasonal flu shot

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Wash your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available

Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue, not your hand, and throw away used tissues immediately

Avoid touching your face

Clean and disinfect common surfaces

Symptoms of respiratory and/or enteric illness can include:

Headache

Chills

Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius or 100 degrees Fahrenheit)

Muscle aches and fatigue

Runny nose

Sneezing

Sore throat

Watery eyes

Loss of appetite

Nausea and vomiting

Diarrhea



If you or your child are sick and do not improve, contact your health care provider.

Many viruses are commonly active at this time of year, for example norovirus and influenza (flu). Both viruses are very contagious and can be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces, such as door knobs or eating utensils. For more information, read the norovirus and flu fact sheets online at the following links:

[Norovirus fact sheet](#)

[Flu fact sheet](#)



Curtains Up! Light the Lights!
The English Drama Club Performances Will Soon Be Here!

Junior-Intermediate Drama Club Performance (Grades 4-8)
Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 pm

Primary Drama Club Performance (Grades 1-3)
Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30pm

Both performances will be held at the City Playhouse Theatre in Thornhill
1000 New Westminster Dr.
(next to Westmount Collegiate Institute)

Tickets for each show are \$12.00 each or if purchasing 4 or more tickets then \$10.00 each. Ticket order forms have been sent home with students, and are also available in the school office. Tickets will be sold at the door the night of each performance beginning at 6:00 pm.

Please join us both evenings for family fun and live musical theatre performances presented by our wonderful Drama Clubs! For those who have a child in either show - stay tuned for dress rehearsal details! Thanks for your continued support!

Mrs. Frankel, Mrs. Erdman, Mrs. Fleising

For information or to reserve tickets please contact Mrs. Frankel at robbie.frankel@sympatico.ca



Earth Hour



This year, "Earth Hour" where communities all around the world switch off their lights for one hour will be on Saturday, March 19th at 8:30 p.m.

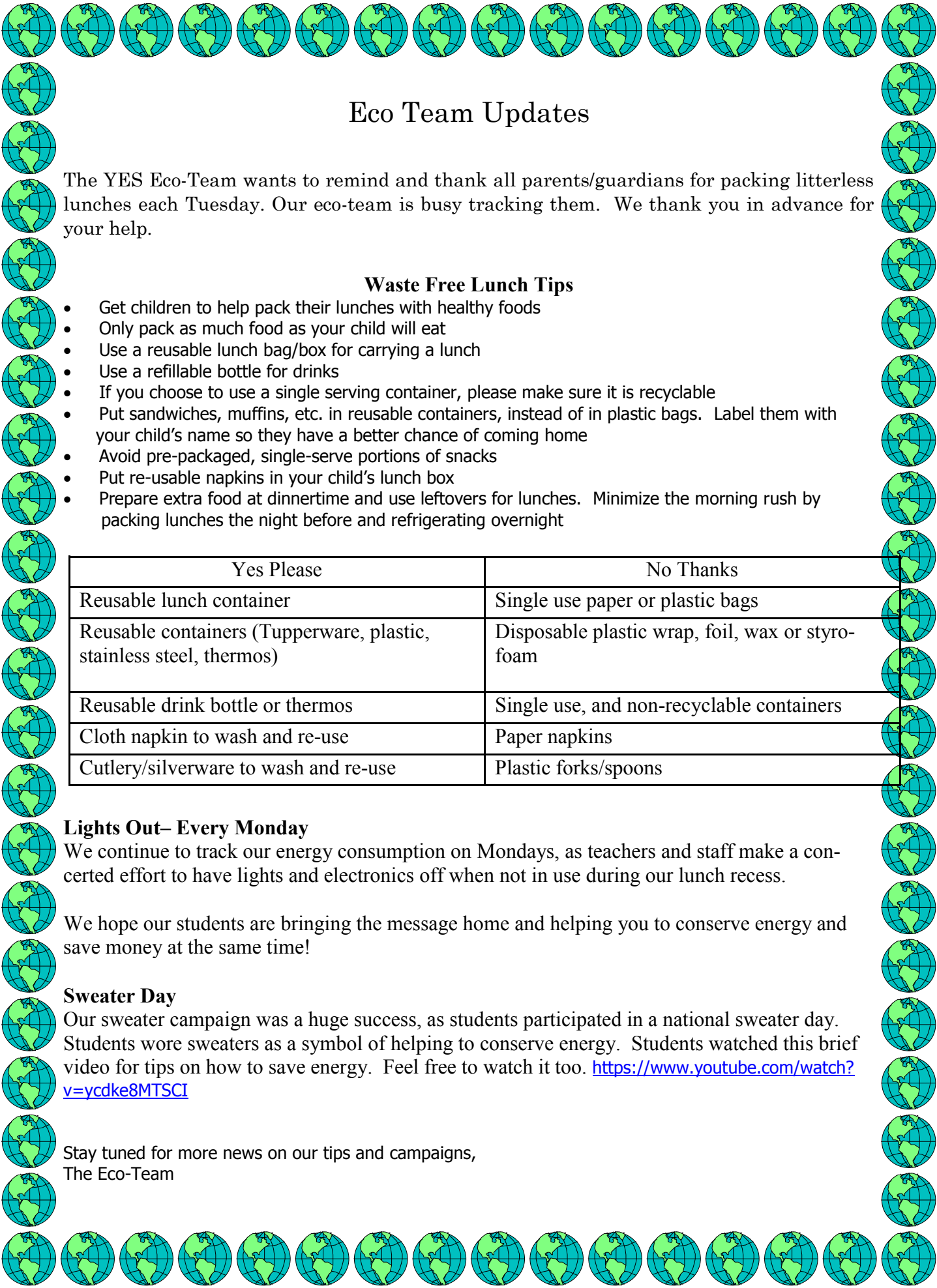


Click on this link: <http://www.mnn.com/family/family-activities/questions/what-activities-can-i-do-when-i-turn-off-the-lights-for-earth> for some fun family activities you can do for light out on March 19th.



Yorkhill Elementary School will be celebrating the event on March 24th from 1:30 to 2:30.





Eco Team Updates

The YES Eco-Team wants to remind and thank all parents/guardians for packing litterless lunches each Tuesday. Our eco-team is busy tracking them. 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– Every Monday

We continue to track our energy consumption on Mondays, as teachers and staff make a concerted effort to have lights and electronics off when not in use during our lunch recess.

We hope our students are bringing the message home and helping you to conserve energy and save money at the same time!

Sweater Day

Our sweater campaign was a huge success, as students participated in a national sweater day. Students wore sweaters as a symbol of helping to conserve energy. Students watched this brief video for tips on how to save energy. Feel free to watch it too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycdke8MTSCI>

Stay tuned for more news on our tips and campaigns,
The Eco-Team

Upcoming Parenting Presentations

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding, fulfilling and challenging roles we can have. Seeking the advice of experts in the field, whether through books or live presentations, and talking to parents you admire is an excellent idea. Remember you are never alone when it comes to supporting your child or children. Read, listen and talk to others.

On the next several pages of this newsletter you will find a variety of parenting presentations to support your ever evolving role as a parent. These are free presentations that we would encourage you to attend if you have the time or need.

Sincerely,

Catarina Burisch & Karen Birnie

Thornhill Secondary School School Council Speaker Series

Laughing & Learning – The Power of Parenthood

TSS School Council is very excited to invite all parents to a presentation by **Andy Thibodeau** on the **Power of Parenthood**. Andy uses powerful and hilarious stories to highlight the power of the individual to make a difference.

Please join us.....

March 31st at 7:15pm in the Library
Thornhill Secondary School, 167 Dudley Ave.

Everyone welcome, refreshments provided

RSVP at thornhillcouncil@hotmail.com

The School Council at Stephen Lewis Secondary School Presents

A Free Parenting Seminar on Connecting with Teens



Join us for a free, informative seminar to learn important techniques to connect with and have open communication with your teenagers. Register today!

Photo credit: Huffington Post, January 2013
<http://www.blogcdn.com/www.parentdish.co.uk/media/2013/01/teenager-mother-argument-al.jpg>

Guest Speaker:

Dror Enbar, M.A.
Parent Mentor and Consultant

Date and Time:

Thursday, April 7, 2016
7:00PM -9:00PM
Light refreshments will be served

Location:

Stephen Lewis Secondary School
555 Autumn Hill Boulevard, Thornhill, L4J 8X2

Please RSVP by April 5 to:

Stephen Lewis Secondary School Council
Email: stephen.lewis.ss@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
Online: <http://goo.gl/forms/lj5izdUXIA>



<http://goo.gl/forms/lj5izdUXIA>



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

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.





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

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: Brownridge Public School
65 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill L4J 7R8

Free Seminars and Dates

March 31, 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

April 14, 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

May 26, 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 Brownridge P.S. in partnership with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and York Region District School Board.





Sign Up for the York Regional Police **CRIME PREVENTION ACADEMY**

Interested in learning about how to keep you and your family safe and secure? Community members are invited to register for a four-week program that offers presentations from our specialty units on:

- When to call police
- Fraud prevention & senior safety
- Home security
- Personal safety
- Internet safety
- Vehicle crime
- Resources including Road Watch program, Crime Map & Neighbourhood Watch
- Fire Prevention in partnership with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

Seminar dates & times:

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Seminar 1: April 6

Seminar 2: April 13

Seminar 3: April 20

Seminar 4: April 27

Where: York Regional Police, #4 District Headquarters – 2700 Rutherford Road, Vaughan.

There is no cost to participate but registration is required. Applicants must live, work or attend school in York Region and be 18 years of age or older. Registrants are subject to a police background check.

To register, please contact Constable Jennifer Bujan at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7406 or email 1510@yrp.ca.



DR. BETTE STEPHENSON CENTRE FOR LEARNING

36 Regatta Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 4R1
Tel: 905.884.3434 905.884.2046 1.877.280.8180
Fax: 905.773.2406
Website: www.yrdsb.ca

2016 Fall World Classroom Program (for YRDSB students and their families)

International Education Services (IES) of the York Region District School Board helps students from other countries in the world (we call them “international students”) attend our schools and live with local families in York Region. The reason international students choose to come here is to improve their English and learn about our culture and our country.

We have an amazing opportunity for you and your family to participate in as hundreds of other York Region District School Board students and their families have in the past several years.

This Fall (October/November), students from China will be participating in YRDSB’s World Classroom Program. The visiting students will need local families with children that attend a YRDSB elementary school to host them in their home. A visitor is matched with an YRDSB student and their family. The Chinese visitor will live with the local family and attend school with their partner for four to six weeks. During the program, they will participate in two day-long excursions with the whole group, and attend a World Classroom party. Families who host a visiting student **receive \$250 per week** to cover the cost of hosting the student.

By sharing your home, family and school with your visitor from China, you will also get to learn about their culture and country!

If you and your family are adventurous, like to meet interesting people and learn about new places and cultures, we encourage you to consider this wonderful opportunity.

Applications must be completed by your parents and returned to your Teacher/Principal for approval by Friday, **April 15, 2016**. Your Principal will then send the application to our team for consideration.

Once all program activities, etc. are confirmed, a program calendar will be available to all participating host students and their families.

Checklist for World Classroom Applicants

Now that you have heard about this exciting opportunity, please share the information with your parents and family!

When your parents and family have agreed to host an international student, please complete the attached World Classroom Application and give it to your Teacher as soon as possible! After your Principal approves your application, it will be sent to us (International Education Services) for consideration.

When we have received enough applications, we will review them and **may** contact your family to set up a visit in your home with a Homestay Program Representative to interview you and your family and talk about the program. When visiting your home, the Homestay Representative will take pictures of your home and family, and prepare a host family profile using the information you share during the visit. The pictures and profile are sent via email to partners once matching is completed, and if you are assigned a partner. **If your family is approved, your family will be instructed to proceed with Police Vulnerable Sector Screening (PVSC) which is mandatory for participation in this program. This means that anyone in your family who is 18 years or older must complete PVSC in time for hosting a student (instructions will be provided for this process along with PVSC screening form).**

After interviews are completed, we will review all of the applications and match partners as best we can by age, gender, interests, hobbies and other family/partner information. This process can take a few weeks. Once matching is done, and if you are matched with a partner, we will contact your family to let you know the good news! **Only applicants who are matched will be contacted. We do our best to match everyone who applies, but sometimes, if we receive a large number of applications, not everyone is able to have a partner.**

If you are matched with a partner, we will email important program information to you and your family. **It is important that you or your parents check email every day.** This information will include a profile and picture of your partner, a program itinerary and calendar with details about all the fun activities you will participate in (a World Classroom party, and two day-long excursions, as well as other important program information).

Upon arriving to Toronto, the students, along with adult chaperones/teachers from their school will be picked up from the airport and dropped off at our office, Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning in Richmond Hill, where YRDSB host partners and their families will come to pick them up. The students will go to school with you each day and live with your family.

WORLD CLASSROOM

STUDENT PROGRAM



Join the many YRDSB students and families who have participated in the World Classroom Program since it began in 2005.

Since then local teachers, students and their families have had the opportunity to learn about another country and culture and made life-long friendships by hosting an international student in their schools and homes.

Host families receive \$250 per week to cover the cost of hosting a visiting student.

We are expecting students from China during October/November of next school year and are looking for:

- a 4-week commitment, (confirmed)
boys and girls in grades 7 & 8
- a 6-week commitment, (tentative)
boys and girls in grades 7 & 8

AND

- a 4-week commitment, (tentative)
boys and girls in grades 5 & 6

To find out more call 905 884 2046 ext.237 or email homestay@yrdsb.ca



*March Break— March 14 - 18 **School Closed***

*March 25 - Good Friday **School Closed***

*March 28 - Easter Monday **School Closed***

Upcoming Dates

April 5—Primary Play @ City Playhouse

April 6—Junior and Intermediate Play @ City Playhouse

April 22—29 Passover

*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.