

# YES We Can



December 2014

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# Yorkhill Newsletter

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

December 2014

Yorkhill Elementary School,  
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## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

A huge Yorkhill **welcome back** goes out to Leon Voudouris, who has rejoined our care-taking team. We are pleased to have Mr. Voudouris join the Yorkhill community and contribute to our work in student achievement and well-being.

You have received your child's Progress Report and have had an opportunity to speak with your child's teacher. The Progress Report is part of the ongoing communication between students, teachers and parents. Please note that your child's Term 1 Provincial Report Card will be sent home in February.

During the month of November, many events took place at our school. We held a Remembrance Day assembly in which students and staff had the opportunity to reflect on peace and on the sacrifices paid for the freedom we enjoy today.

Our grade eight students visited Thornhill S.S. on 'Take Our Kids to High School Day!' and were excited to attend classes during their visit. Thornhill S.S. will be hosting an Information Night on December 4th at 6:30 pm. Parents and students will learn about the various pathways offered in high school and the importance of carefully selecting courses.

As the holiday season approaches, it is important for us to reach out into the larger community and support those less fortunate— especially children.

At Yorkhill, the Peace Tree Committee will be running two drives this season. One is our annual "The Giving Tree", which collects **new** hats, caps, gloves, mittens and scarves for those in need. The second will be a Holiday Toy drive. You will find boxes for this purpose in the front hall. Both drives are beginning immediately, and will run through until December 12<sup>th</sup>. The new, unwrapped toys will be collected by the city of Vaughan and delivered to the Chum Children's Wish Foundation. Thank you for your support.

Whatever you and your families may be observing and at celebrating this time of year, have a wonderful Winter Break, and a peace-filled and joyous start to 2015!





## **Volunteers in York Region Schools Need a VSS Completed**

Please note that ALL parents wishing to volunteer in York Region schools must now obtain a Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) check from the police, in accordance with Policy and Procedure #280. This requirement is to protect your children at school. If you are thinking of joining a field trip, being a volunteer in the library, helping school council hand out pizza or helping in any other way that involves contact with students, the VSS check must be carried out.

Once you have the Vulnerable Sector Screening check, please bring the original copy to the school office. We will photocopy the original, stamp that the photocopy is a certified true copy, give you back your original and then file the VSS in the office. Volunteers will also be required to sign a confidentiality form, which can be obtained in the office and we will keep those forms on file as well. Once a VSS has been completed, each subsequent year that parents/volunteers continue to volunteer, a form entitled "Offence Declaration" is to be signed. This will also be kept in the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that we are all working to keep our children safe.

### **Reminder: End-of-day Dismissal Procedure**

A reminder to everyone that, at end-of-day dismissal, if the weather is such that bus students shouldn't go outside, the following procedure continues to be in place:

1. An announcement will be made as soon as it is determined that the weather outside requires bus student to stay inside. If so, bus students are directed to go to the large gym to line up and get ready for their bus pick-up.
2. Walking students, and those being picked up by parents/guardians, are directed to go out through the back doors and to the back of the school, as per usual. Parents and guardians will continue to be directed to the back of the school if we see them trying to wait in the front lobby. Waiting in the front lobby is a safety hazard, especially if bus students are in the gym because of inclement dismissal requirements.

Regardless of the weather, our staff is directed to NOT let parents in to the school via the back doors during dismissal time. This creates unnecessary chaos and traffic in the halls, which in turn becomes a safety concern. In addition, parents and students become unnecessarily confused, they aren't finding each other and so the office gets crowded by dozens of parents who are starting to panic, wondering where their children are.

Thank you for following the above procedure so that there is consistency for students and therefore no confusion.

### ***The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Tree Spirit Conference***

In October, our Peace Tree Student Ambassadors had the opportunity to attend a student conference on Equity and Inclusive Education along with many other YRDSB schools. The conference was a huge success and our students had the opportunity to participate in several workshops that dealt with peace, human rights and character development. Students also had the pleasure of listening and speaking to D.O. Gibson, rapper and amazing keynote speaker. It was a great day. The committee is now busy looking at what they can do at YES to spread the messages learnt at the conference.

Talya, Emily, Dylan, Stephan, Yael, Selena, Jonathan and Mrs. Di Tommaso

## Yorkhill School Council and other news

### 2014—2015 Yorkhill School Council

#### Co-Chairs

Alan Morris and Kim Sparks

#### Treasurer

Ellen Bosco

#### Secretaries

Lina Vaxman and Natasha Parsotam

#### Fund-raising

Robyn Badner & Sharon Rosenzweig

#### Community Representatives

No one nominated or acclaimed

#### Communications

Natasha Parsotam

#### Teaching Staff

TBD by teaching staff election

#### Administration

Nereo Bonomo

Karen Birnie

#### Members at Large

Janice Niss, , Jason Swaye,

Jennifer Lui, Liv Corriero,

Tewfik Zitouni, Shakufe Virani,

Louise Lewis

If you wish to propose an agenda item for a future School Council meeting, please contact the Co-Chairs: Alan Morris or Kim Sparks, or Mr. Bonomo, at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Highlights of all School Council meetings will be posted on the Community bulletin board inside the front doors of the school. They will also be posted on the Yorkhill school website.



Volunteers are needed to help co-ordinate and run Subway lunch days. If you are interested in helping in this fundraising initiative, please contact Robyn Badner at [rbadner@hoopdome.com](mailto:rbadner@hoopdome.com) or 416-706-8058.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out whenever and however they can. Please call the contact above to discuss how you can play an active role in your child's school. **Also, please see our ad below. The more who help out, the better the evening will be for everyone.**

### Safe Arrival Program

Our check of your child's attendance is an important part of our daily routine. In the interest of ensuring your child's safety we ask you to cooperate with us by following the steps below if your child is absent or is expected to be absent in the near future:

- ◆ If a future absence has been planned, please inform your child's teacher by note, giving the date and length of time of the expected absence.
- ◆ In all other cases, please call 905-764-5292 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:15 a.m. in order to leave a message concerning your child's absence on our school answering machine.
- ◆ In the case of a student returning from a prolonged absence (3 or more days) a written note explaining the reason for the absence is required.

If a child is not in school, and the school office has not received any notification form the parents, the school will take the following steps:

1. Call the student's home
2. If we do not reach you at home, we will call your work and/or cell phone numbers
3. If we cannot reach you at work, we will call your emergency contact numbers
4. If we are not able to obtain information from your emergency contact regarding your child's whereabouts, we will speak to a sibling, if one is in the school.
5. Should we still not be able to obtain information regarding your child's location, we may check with a friend of your child.
6. If we are not able to obtain information from your emergency contact re: your child's whereabouts, we will consider your child to be missing and will contact the **York Region Police**.

### Council Meeting Dates: 2014 — 2015

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

### Tip of the Month from the Heart and Stroke Foundation

**FRESH FROM THE FREEZER! DID YOU KNOW?** Frozen vegetables and fruit can be stored for up to a year and provide options regardless of season and availability. Not sold on frozen? Consider these pointers: try buying in bulk and looking for sales to help save on cost, steam or stir-fry frozen veggies to keep more of the nutrients compared to boiling, freeze bananas that are overripe - they're great in smoothies and in homemade muffins! Frozen berries make great add-ins to hot cereals. Use in oatmeal: add frozen berries to rolled oats with some water and microwave for about a minute - this is an easy, tasty breakfast without the sugar and additives of pre-packaged flavored oatmeal. Throw frozen peas in with rice as it's cooking!



### Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in **Grades JK-3** who live within **1.2 km** of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in **Grades 4-8** who live within **1.6 km** of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in **Grades 9-12** who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

### Cold Weather Reminder



As the cooler weather approaches, we ask that you ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately. **All students** are expected to go outside during morning and lunch recesses. Please make

sure your child comes to school dressed to go outdoors. Extra sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, etc. will be needed. Please ensure that children also have appropriate footwear: an outdoor pair of shoes or boots as well as an indoor pair of shoes for classroom and physical education use. Make sure all items are labelled clearly with your child's name. Children who are ill should remain at home until completely recovered as indoor supervision is not provided during recesses.

### Lost and Found Reminders

#### LOST AND FOUND:

We have many coats, sweaters, boots, shoes, lunch bags and assorted hats, scarves and mitts that have been collected in our bins. **These will be displayed in the hallway before the winter break, but then will be given to a charity for distribution to needy families if the items are not reclaimed.** Please make sure you or your child check the displayed items in order to identify your belongings. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Secondary School Information for Grade 7 and 8 Students

**Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs** are rapidly expanding throughout the York Region District School Board. We now have 28 of 31 secondary schools offering these valuable programs and next year, we hope to see 30 of 31 schools running one or more SHSM programs. The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) allows students to specialize in a specific economic sector (e.g. Health and Wellness, Business, Manufacturing, Arts & Culture, etc) while fulfilling all requirements for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). 100% of students in SHSM programs have had an enhanced educational experience with contextualized learning, and additional experiential learning to enable them to make more informed post-secondary destination decisions. Grade 7 & 8 students and their families are encouraged to browse through the SHSM literature to investigate some programs that may be of interest to them.

Secondary schools will be sharing SHSM information at their Grade 8 Open Houses for families.

To learn more about SHSM, please visit:

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/shsm](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/shsm) OR [www.ontario.ca/shsm](http://www.ontario.ca/shsm)

## Secondary Schools: Grade 8 Information Sessions (for September 2015 Enrolment)

Please visit

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Grade-8-Information-Nights.aspx> for details on dates and times for Information Nights.



Month	Touchstone Focus
September	Respect is essential
October	We treat others as we would like to be treated
November	Looking past people's differences and valuing each others' strengths makes us stronger
December	We encourage each other to live out our goals, hopes, and dreams
January	We learn from our mistakes and grow with every new opportunity
February	to care about the environment is to care about ourselves
March	We take pride in our work
April	We use words to solve problems
May	We strive to make a positive difference in our world
June	We do our best to make good choices



## *School Bus Cancellations*

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time 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. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions.

Please note the following:

- A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be **system wide** (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) **or municipality specific** (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is cancelled and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is operational, your child **will not** be transported to/from school.
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is operational and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is cancelled, your child **will not** be transported to/from school.
- **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 102.1 FM 1540 AM 1580 AM

88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM

104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

### TELEVISION

CITY TV THE A-CHANNEL CFTO TV THE WEATHER NETWORK GLOBAL NEWS A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001.

## **December Workshops for Parents: Offered by JF&CS**

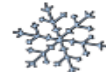
**WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEPARATE: WHAT TO TELL THE KIDS**- A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. How and when to tell the children, how to handle moving day, as well as ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs will be discussed. **Thursday December 18/14 at 4600 Bathurst St.- Lipa Green Ctre. from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**DATING IN MID-LIFE**- a one session workshop for men and women in midlife ( 40+) who have been single for 2 or more years and are looking for information on how to nurture a lasting relationship. Topics include: dating myths and facts, the 5 stages of dating, and the difference between the dating behaviours of men and women. **Wednesday December 17/14 4600 Bathurst St.- Lipa Green Ctre. from 7 to 9:30 p.m.**

**As with all of our programs, registration is required. Our groups and workshops are open to all members of the community regardless of cultural, religious and/or racial background and we offer a sliding scale for those who need.** For more information or to register please call Shawna Sidney at 416-638-7800 Ext # 6215 or go to our website at [www.jfandcs.com](http://www.jfandcs.com).



SAVE THE DATE



# YORKHILL'S WINTER WONDERLAND CONCERT

We would like to invite you to join us on the evening of



Thursday, December 11th

Performance from 6 :30pm – 8 :00pm in the gym



\* A Schedule of performances and required student arrival times will be provided shortly \*

## Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 16, 2015

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 16, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2015, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

## French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Yorkhill ES on January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to [school name] to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

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](http://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.

- Dec. 2 Maun-agiyaras
- Dec. 3 Intermediate Girls Regional Volleyball
- Dec. 4 Intermediate Boys Regional Volleyball  
6:30 pm: Information evening at Thornhill SS for Grade 8 families
- Dec. 5 Money Tree play at YES for Grades JK-6
- Dec. 11 6:30 pm: Winter Wonderland Concert in Gym (all grades performing)
- Dec. 17 Chanukah begins
- Dec. 19 Touchstone Assembly at 11:00 am
- Dec. 22 Winter Break begins
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 26 Kwanza  
Death of Prophet Zarathustra

Please note that sometimes, due to unforeseen circumstances, the date scheduled for an event may require changing. We will communicate any such changes to you as soon as possible.

- Jan. 1st: Happy 2015!!!
- Jan. 5 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- Jan. 5 Welcome back :)
- Jan. 6 Epiphany (Western)
- Jan. 7 <> Eastern Christmas
- Jan. 13 Maghi
- Jan. 14 Makar Sankranti  
7pm: School Council meeting in library
- Jan. 15 7 pm: French Immersion Information Session for parents at YES in large gym
- Jan. 16 PA Day. No school for students  
Kindergarten Registration and French Immersion Gr. 1  
Registration both begin today
- Jan. 19 Epiphany (Eastern)
- Jan. 24 Vasant Panchami
- Jan. 30 11:00 am: Touchstone Assembly



**Touchstone Focus:**

**December:** We encourage each other to live out our goals, hopes, and dreams.

**January:** We learn from our mistakes and grow with every new opportunity.

**\*\*\*Home Connections:** The next time you are together with your child/children, have a discussion about what the above Touchstone statements mean to them and to you? How have you demonstrated these qualities and attitudes? Why are the above traits important?



[www.tumblebooklibrary.com](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com)

Username: Yorkhill Password: books