

YES
We Can



November 2014

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Yorkhill Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

At our PA DAY on October 27th, staff were engaged in reflecting on the current context at Yorkhill, including student learning needs. We are now beginning to update our School Improvement Plan, which involves analyzing assessment data such as EQAO. As a staff, we will continue to focus on the areas of assessment and critical thinking while creating an equitable and inclusive learning environment where all students learn through inquiry and collaboration. We will continue to build students' ability to work collaboratively by developing their use of the learning skills and work habits which lead to academic achievement.

We continue to work collaboratively with our School Council to support the goals of our School Improvement Plan. The School Council has been busy with organizing pizza lunches, sub lunches, movie nights, a family dance, as well as with looking at ways to fund-raise for the school and get more parents and guardians involved. Please consider attending our meetings to learn more about the focused work we are doing as a school.

One way we guide our efforts and the efforts of students is through our Touchstone, which was written by a team of Yorkhill students. We have reprinted it for you on pages 8 and 9. Staff frequently refer to the school Touchstone in order to guide us in our attitudes and actions at Yorkhill.

Terry Fox School Run Day- A Great Success

Yorkhill's Terry Fox School Run Day took place on September 24th. It was a beautiful autumn day, as all students participated by walking/running around the school and through our community. The students wore their 'I'm Walking For...' stickers, sported Terry tattoos, and carried homemade banners to show their support. This spirited event was the culmination of weeks of fundraising, a school wide Presentation from a representative from the Terry Fox Foundation, daily announcements, and learning about Terry's legacy. We are so proud of the great efforts of our school community, as together we raised \$2115.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Congratulations to Mme Diliunas' class for being the top fundraising class, and to Joshua K. for winning the 2014 Terry Fox Run t-shirt!

Photo Retake Day

Retakes of school photos will take place on **November 13, 2014.**



***Growing Success:
Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting
in Ontario Schools***



All assessment, evaluation and reporting in Ontario schools are based on the policies and practices described in *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting In Ontario Schools, First Edition, Covering Grades 1 to 12*. There are three formal reporting periods in elementary schools where teachers share student's information regarding their learning and achievement of their learning skills and work habits and the Ontario curriculum expectations:

Elementary Progress Report Card

The Progress Report will be sent home November 12, 2014

Interviews to be held: November 13th (evening) and the morning of November 14th (PA day)

***Invitations for the above interviews were sent home at the end of last week. Please RSVP asap.

Elementary First Provincial Report Card

Report to be sent home: February 10, 2015

Elementary Final Provincial Report Card

Report to be sent home: June 24, 2015

Elementary Progress Report Card (Grades 1-8)

The purpose of this report card is to communicate the progress your child has been making since the beginning of the school year in each subject. The progress report also indicates how well your child is demonstrating the various learning skills and work habits and identifies areas where you may be able to support your child in achieving success this year. This report is not an evaluation or a record of achievement levels. It reflects mid-term observations of your child's learning to date. It is our hope that this report will serve as a central part of focused discussions between home and school.

On the Progress Report Card teachers will let students and parents/guardians know if students are:

- Progressing Very Well or
- Progressing Well or
- Progressing With Difficulty

in each subject area.

Kindergarten Reporting Process for the 2013- 2014 School Year

The Kindergarten reporting process and timelines align with the Grade 1-8 reporting timelines. A progress report will be sent home November 12th, followed by term one and term two reports cards.

2014—2015 Yorkhill School Council

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

The Yorkhill School Council met on October 7, 2014, where the new School Council executive was formed. Please see the list of voting and executive members.

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.

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**.

**Yorkhill School Council
Meeting Dates:
2014 - 2015**

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

***remainder of dates TBD

Cross Country News

Our cross-country team this year was small, but mighty. We took 28 runners and 3 student coaches to the area meet on October 9th and 8 individuals placed in the top 15, qualifying them to advance to the regional meet on October 17th. Our team showed good sportsmanship and tried their very best. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work that was displayed. The team would like to thank the parent volunteers who made it possible to attend these two events.



Take Our Kids to High School Day!

On November 5, 2014, the grade eight students will be visiting Thornhill Secondary School for Take Our Kids to High School Day! **This is an orientation to Thornhill S.S. for grade eight students.** Students will have an opportunity to follow a grade nine timetable, attend four classes and tour the school. The students are looking forward to the visit.

School Attendance

We want to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regular and on-time attendance at school and its impact on student success and achievement. We are asking for your help and support in helping our students achieve their personal best. Please make every effort to plan vacations during the designated breaks in the school year calendar. Endeavour to support your children in arriving on time each day for school. Whenever possible, try to make appointments and commitments outside of the instructional day.

Yorkhill's Terry Fox School Run Day took place on September 24th. It was a beautiful autumn day, as all students participated by walking/running around the school and through our community. The students wore their 'I'm Walking For...' stickers, sported Terry tattoos, and carried homemade banners to show their support. This spirited event was the culmination of weeks of fundraising, a school wide Presentation from a representative from the Terry Fox Foundation, daily announcements, and learning about Terry's legacy. We are so proud of the great efforts of our school community, as together we raised \$2115.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Congratulations to Mme Diliunas' class for being the top fundraising class, and to Joshua K. for winning the 2014 Terry Fox Run t-shirt!

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.

When severe weather conditions threaten the safety of our students, the School Board informs radio stations about bus cancellations by about 6:45 a.m.

Buses cancelled in the morning will not be running in the afternoon. Parents who drive their children to school in the morning must also pick them up at 3:10 p.m. On days when school buses have been cancelled, it is up to the parents' discretion whether or not to send their children to school. Cancellation of bus service does not mean that schools are closed.

Library News... THE BOOK FAIR!



From September 30 - October 3, we hosted our first Scholastic book fair of the year. Students, families and staff enjoyed browsing new titles, and purchased many great books to enhance personal and classroom collections. The book fair gives the school the opportunity to bring a lot of new books into the library and into your child's classroom. The book fair was so successful that we are now able to add \$2400 worth of new materials to our library collection! Thanks go out to our student library assistants and volunteers for helping out during the book fair, and to our school community for supporting Yorkhill's library and literacy program!



School Bus Cancellations

To ensure the safety of students, 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 bus 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.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be 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
1540 AM	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	107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV 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 YRDSB on twitter.

Grade 8 High School Information Evenings

Secondary School Information Evenings are coming up. Please find all dates and times at <http://www.yorkhill.es.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/> under *Announcements and Events*. Among the schools highlighted are:

Erin Carr SS
Maple HS
Stephen Lewis SS
Thornhill SS
Thornlea SS
Vaughan SS
Westmount CI
Arts Program at Westmount CI
Woodbridge College

The International Baccalaureate Program at Bayview Secondary School

Registration is for grade 8 students wishing to enter the 4 year program at Bayview Secondary School.

Please visit YRDSB's website to obtain more information regarding the program and information evening for parents and students.



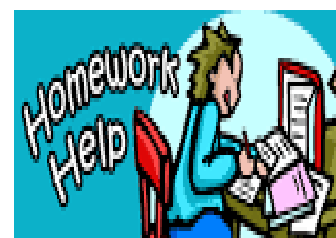
HOMEWORK HELP

INDEPENDENT

LEARNING TOOL

Homework Help is a Ministry of Education initiative which supports intermediate math learners in grades 7 - 10. In the intermediate years, many parents become unable to help their children with homework. Homework Help is designed to support students, families and teachers as students work towards an understanding of mathematics.

This ministry resource can be accessed at <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>.



Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) is a system-wide school with a focus on healthy active living and sport. The school is open for Grade 9 to 12 students. Students and parents from across the region are invited to attend an information evening. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, transfer policy and application process.

Applications are **NOW AVAILABLE** on the Bill Crothers SS website

<http://billcrothers.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

for the 2015-2016 school year.

Deadline for submission is **Friday, November 7th, 2014**



A Message from Our Eco-Team

The Eco Team has kicked off the year by participating in a Waste Free Lunch Challenge, along with schools from across Ontario. We are proud to announce that Ms. Purwitsky, Madame Panabaker, Madame Popescu, Madame Daigle, Ms. Hantzakos, Ms. Russel, Madame Yu, Ms. Behar, Madame Gue-Pariso and Ms. Purwitsky's class are all participating in this challenge from November 3-7th.

Even if your child's class is not participating in this challenge, you can still help to minimize waste by following these tips below:

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 styrofoam
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

We look forward to greening our school as a community,

The Eco-Team





Yorkhill's Touchstone: Witten by our very own students!

Our completed Touchstone (below) was shared with our community last October. The team of student writers presented the document in both English and French. Staff and students are enthusiastic about discussing its themes and messages.

At Yorkhill Elementary School, we welcome everyone with open arms, open minds, and open smiles

Looking past people's differences and valuing each others' strengths makes us stronger

We accept ourselves for who we are and treat others as we would like to be treated

Taking pride in ourselves and our work, we do our best and make good choices

We learn from our mistakes and grow with every new opportunity

Respect is essential. Bullying is not tolerated

Communicating in a polite and gentle way, we use words to solve problems

We encourage each other to live out our goals, hopes, and dreams

We understand

We care about those in need; selfishness has no place at Yorkhill

We strive to make a positive difference in our world; to care about the environment is to care about ourselves

We keep on moving. Forward is the only direction.

Yes we can!

À l'école Yorkhill, nous accueillons tout le monde à bras ouverts, avec un esprit ouvert et un grand sourire

Nous regardons plus loin que les différences des autres et nous apprécions les points forts des autres; ça nous rend tous plus forts

Nous nous acceptons tels que nous sommes et nous traitons les autres de la façon qu'on aimerait qu'on nous traite nous-mêmes

Nous sommes fiers de nous et de notre travail. Nous faisons de notre mieux et nous faisons de bons choix

Nous apprenons de nos fautes et nous grandissons à chaque occasion

Le respect est essentiel. L'intimidation n'est pas tolérée

Nous communiquons d'une manière polie et respectueuse; nous résolvons nos problèmes en parlant

Nous encourageons l'un l'autre de vivre selon nos buts, nos espoirs et nos rêves

Nous comprenons l'un l'autre

Nous prenons soin de ceux qui ont besoin; l'égoïsme n'a pas de place à Yorkhill

Nous essayons de faire une différence dans le monde; prendre soin de l'environnement c'est de prendre soin de nous-mêmes

Nous continuons à avancer. Vers l'avant, c'est la seule direction pour nous

OUI on peut!

What Exactly is A Touchstone?

Character development has always been an important part of the Yorkhill program. We have had a long association with such initiatives as Character Matters and Future Aces. These have laid the foundation for the next generation of Character education at Yorkhill: The Yorkhill Touchstone.

Developing a common language of character and identifying the values and goals of a school community solidifies a school's character initiative. When everyone -- students, staff and parents -- use the same words to describe behaviours and expectations, talking about how we interact becomes easier. A TOUCHSTONE is a document which outlines these values, goals and behaviours. Developed by a team of student writers, based on data collected from our parent community through the School Council, our staff, and the students themselves, the TOUCHSTONE effectively gives voice to the core values of a community.

Schools that have developed TOUCHSTONES find restorative conversations more productive, given the document itself is community-created; everyone starts on the same page.

The ideas contained in the TOUCHSTONE are expressed in verbs (noticeable actions) rather than nouns (often vague concepts, needing further explanations). When a school works together to create a TOUCHSTONE, its core values are identified and celebrated. Think of it as a mission statement expressing the beliefs of a particular community—in this case, our school.

To promote and celebrate our Touchstone, Yorkhill students and staff will participate in monthly Touchstone Assemblies; parents and guardians are welcome. These assemblies will replace the traditional Future Aces assemblies, which have prepared us for this next step in character development at Yorkhill ES. Please join us when you can.



- Oct. 31 Pizza lunches
- Nov. 5 *Tour for Humanity* Presentations for Grade 3/4 to 7/8 classes
Sub Lunches
Grade 8 students visit Thornhill SS
7:00 pm: School Council meeting in library
- Nov. 7: Pizza Lunches
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Assembly at 11:00 am in large gym
- Nov. 12 Progress Reports sent home today
Sub Lunches
- Nov. 13 Picture Retake Day (morning only)
Parent-teacher interviews (3:30 pm-8:00pm)
- Nov. 14 Parent-Teacher Interviews until 11:50 am (Non-instructional day for students)
- Nov. 17 8:50-10:40 am: Menactra (gr. 7 students) and HPV (Grade 8 females) Vaccination Clinic
- Nov. 19 Sub Lunches
- Nov. 20 Family Movie Night (Notice coming home soon)
- Nov. 21 Pizza Lunches
- Nov. 26 Sub Lunches
- Nov. 27 Touchstone Assembly at 11 am
- Nov. 28 Pizza Lunches
- Dec. 3 Sub Lunches
Intermediate Girls Regional Volleyball
7pm: School Council meeting
- Dec. 4 Intermediate Boys Regional Volleyball
6:30 pm:Information evening at Thornhill SS
for Grade 8 families
- Dec. 5 Pizza Lunches
Money Tree play at YES for Grades JK-6
- Dec. 10 Sub Lunches
- Dec. 12 Pizza Lunches
- Dec. 17 Sub Lunches
- Dec. 19 Pizza Lunches
Touchstone Assembly at 11:00 am
- Dec. 22 Winter Break begins

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.

Touchstone Focus:

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.

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 do you demonstrate these qualities and attitudes?



www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Username: Yorkhill Password: books

This is a great family reading resource!!