



**HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH**
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD

Yorkview School



86 CAMERON AVE.
DUNDAS, ON L9H 1P8
905-628-8212

DECEMBER 2017

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

- Always keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Watch what you say and how you say it.
- Respect the safety and property of everyone.

Dates To Remember

- Dec 1 PA Day
- Dec 4th 6:30-7:30 Depave Paradise Mtg
- Dec 18th School Council Mtg
- Dec 21st Holiday Assembly 1:15-2:15
- Dec 22 Last day of school
- Jan 8th First day of

Motorists: please be aware of children at all times.



Principal's Corner



Can you believe we are already into December? It seems like just yesterday we started the school year. Yorkview continues to be a busy school with lots of activities planned for the students. Our Holiday Celebration Assembly is set for 1:15-2:15 on December 21st. Please make sure you join us.

The School Spirit Team has a winter clothing drive underway. All donations will be distributed to those in need. Safety patrollers faithfully do their job day in and day out. A special thank-you goes out to both groups of students for their leadership and community-mindedness!

Drinking Water Testing and Drinking Water Fixture Signage

Ontario is continuing to protect children's health with new regulation changes aimed at improving drinking water testing in child care centres and schools to minimize children's exposure to lead. New amendments to Ontario Regulation 243/07 that took effect July 1, 2017, now require lead testing within these facilities for all fixtures used to provide drinking water and/or prepare food or drink for children under 18. There is a three-year period to test at elementary schools and child care centres, and a five-year period to complete testing at secondary schools.

Ontario Regulation 243/07 also requires testing to measure the presence of lead in drinking water against the provincial drinking water quality standard of 10 micrograms per litre, based on a national guideline set by Health Canada.

As we go through testing each year at Yorkview you may notice stickers around certain sinks in the school. Any water fixture that is meant to provide water for consumption or for food preparation will be clearly labelled with a sign illustrating that the water is provided for drinking purposes. Water fountains will not have these signs as their intended purpose is for drinking.

M. Degner, Principal

Our grade 3 students have just started an Eco-Club. They have meetings scheduled on every Day 4 at the second nutrition break in the library. Their enthusiasm is infectious.

School Council has also been busy. An information meeting on December 4th has been organized for people interested in learning more about how playgrounds across North America are being redone as natural environments. There is also a flurry of fundraising activities this month, including the very popular Holiday Toy Raffle.

Clearly, we are a school with a strong commitment from staff and parents alike to provide the best educational experiences for children.

It is a privilege to be part of this wonderful community and to support its growth. I would like to thank all our volunteers for all their efforts, including those who participate at council meetings, serve pizza, fundraise, help children read or supervise on field trips. Yorkview is so enriched by this wonderful group of people. I also must thank the staff for all their hard work this term. We have a special group of teachers, EAs, DECEs, and caretakers. A special thank you is extended to Mrs. Cochlin, our office administrator. I am grateful to her for her organization and many kindnesses.

Please take time to enjoy the holiday season with friends and family this month.

M. Degner, Principal

TOY AND FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SALVATION ARMY
NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 19, 2017
Collection boxes have been setup in the front entrance of the school.

A Few Reminders

Safety Message

Your Yorkview Safety Patrollers would like to remind you that using the crosswalks, and their help if they are present on duty, is the best way to make sure that all of our Yorkview students stay safe getting to and from school.

We understand that everyone is busy, and sometimes parents don't feel like taking the extra minutes to go to the nearest crosswalk. Please know that it is not wasted time, but a good example for our children of how to be as safe as possible crossing our roads.

Parking Lot

With the possibility of snow coming in the months ahead, we remind all our parents to please **not drop off or pick up** their children in the parking lot during arrival and dismissal times. This can create serious safety issues. Thanks for your co-operation

Safe Arrival:

Please notify the school if your child is going to be late or absent for the day. Our telephone answering machine is on 24 hours a day for your convenience.

905-628-8212

Working Together to Develop Self-Regulation Skills in Children ...

Self-Regulation and self-control are not the same things. Self-regulation is a child's ability to manage stress. So in order to have self-control, children need to have good self-regulation skills. For example, a child may be sitting criss-cross on the carpet and look ok, but inside they are in a state of turmoil and unable to focus and learn. Another child may be 'motoring' from one activity to the next but really paying little attention to what they are doing or to others around them. In both instances, the children need to learn how to manage their stress—to self-regulate—and to return to an alert level for learning.

At Yorkview, staff have focused their professional learning to understand more about self-regulation and how to support students as they learn to self-regulate. Two programs have been introduced to the school: MindsUP and Zones of Regulation. Some of the language you may hear teachers and students using warrants an explanation.

"Core practice" is from MindsUP. It is used to describe a practice for calming body and mind after nutrition breaks or transition times. Each class may be using a slightly different "core practice" based on what is developmentally appropriate for the children. For example, some children are laying on the kindergarten carpet with their eyes closed and bodies relaxed, while others in grade 1 might be moving a finger over the fingers on the other hand as they take calming breaths.

In Zones of Regulation, children identify their state of feeling with a colour: red, yellow, or green. They learn to identify strategies in each state in order to get to or maintain the green state. Please talk with your child's teacher to learn more about how you can support our work to build self-regulation skills.

Or more information check out these sites:

Self-Regulation: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/social-emotional-skills/developing-self-regulation>

<https://www.todaysparent.com/family/self-regulation-techniques-for-children/>

<https://self-reg.ca/>

MindsUp: <https://mindup.org/>

Zones of Regulation: <http://www.zonesofregulation.com/>



News from Dundas Valley Co-op Preschool

It's been a fun filled month at preschool! We are seeing many new friendships bloom in the classroom and we look forward to meeting some new friends in January.

Mark your calendars now for our annual "Mickey Mouse Disco" fundraising party which will take place in Yorkview's school gym on Friday, January 19th! Doors will open at 6pm and the cost per family is \$25 or \$7 per person. Please spread the word! We are also looking for volunteers to help out with some tasks, so if you think you can lend us a hand please contact us soon at info@dundasvalleypreschool.com. We wish you all warm and bright holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

"Come play and learn with us!"
www.dundasvalleypreschool.com

School Council Update

There is a lot happening with School Council in December! Tickets for the annual Toy Raffle will go on sale from December 11th to the 14th. Council will also hold a bake sale during the Christmas Concert on December 21st. We are always looking for volunteers to provide nut-free goodies. If you are interested, please contact Megan at m.medlock@cogeco.ca.

On December 4th at 6:30pm Council will host a discussion with Laura Anderson from Green Ventures. Laura will be discussing how her organization supports schools and communities in efforts to remove old asphalt and replace it with environmentally friendly, educational gardens and landscaping.

The next council meeting is scheduled for December 18th at 6:30. Everyone is welcome and child care is provided in the gym by YMCA instructors.

To stay current on all the School Council activities at Yorkview go to Yorkviewpc.com and make sure you subscribe to receive regular updates.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE



Our School Spirit Team is asking students to bring in gently used (or new) outdoor clothes that they have outgrown. All clothing is donated to less fortunate children. This will happen Friday Nov.24---Wed. Dec.6. Please drop off items in the front foyer.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

All parents are welcome to join our School Council Meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.. **Child-minding service is available.**





COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

YORKVIEW SCHOOL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

6:30PM –7:30PM

RSVP 905-628-8212

Depave Paradise is a project of [Green Communities Canada](#) and Green Venture that engages volunteers and neighbourhoods in Canadian communities, removing pavement and planting gardens filled with native species in its place.

Hard surfaces, such as driveways, parking lots and buildings, interrupt the natural water cycle by preventing rain water from soaking into the ground. This in turn leads to flooding, poor water quality, and creates urban heat islands that are warming up our cities. By removing pavement and replacing it with green space, we are increasing the infiltration rate of rain water, cooling our neighbourhoods, keeping our water clean, and providing us and our children with greater connections to the natural world.

Through partnerships with local schools, organizations and community groups, Green Venture removes asphalt and concrete to renew and beautify community spaces by adding natural playgrounds, community vegetable gardens, trees, rain gardens and other permeable surfaces. In addition to building a strong sense of community, this program also increases usable public space and frequently improves a community's water quality. Through our past projects, we have depaved over **281 m²** of asphalt and concrete.

Beyond the community building, the benefits of depaving are numerous. They include:

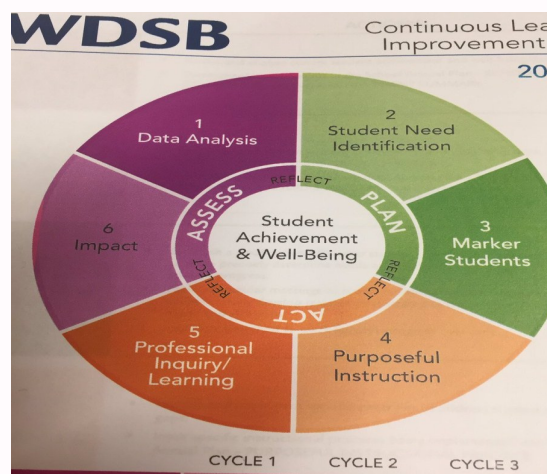
- Decreasing the runoff of stormwater to lower its impacts on our sewers and help improve our community's water quality
- Increasing urban green space and ecosystems present in our cities and reversing the proliferation of hard surfaces
- Reducing and filtering stormwater runoff to lower its impacts on sewers, help to improve community water quality, and restore natural hydrologic cycle
- Increase natural habitat for birds, bees and butterflies
- Educating residents about the effects of stormwater runoff and benefits of permeable surfaces, green space and reconnecting the urban landscape to nature
- Fostering behavioural change and community engagement
- Creating a sense of community through community space renewal and beautification
- Filter polluted runoff
- Decrease the heat island effect and help cool things down in this urban area



School Improvement Plan Update

At our School Council meeting last month, we began to learn more about our school improvement plan. Aligned with the HWDSB operating plan, it focuses upon three areas for improvement: positive culture and well-being, reading, and mathematics. While Yorkview students have a history of scoring high on EQAO exams, that data is trailing data: it captures past achievement. Looking at our current school data, we see challenges in the areas of self-regulation, phonological awareness, and understanding the concept of quantity.

Staff have committed to a process of collaborative professional inquiry to learn more about how our students think and how to respond to gaps in student learning. This learning process is called the Continuous Learning and Improvement Cycle.



It is at the core of our professional practice and provides the structure necessary for school-wide learning. In recognizing that many of you simply cannot attend School Council meetings, I want to provide updates in our newsletter about the learning we are doing as a school and how you can support your child's learning. But I also invite you to talk with your child's educators. We know that the best outcomes for children are achieved when there is a strong partnership between home and school.

Our Next Step as A School ...

The December 1st PA Day marks another point along our collective journey as staff will be participating in all-day sessions on mathematics. We shall be reviewing the Ministry's Renewed Math Strategy and examining ways to know and respond to the needs of a variety of mathematic learners. There are activities planned for staff to anticipate student responses and to identify various concepts in understanding quantity relationships. Anticipating student responses is important as it helps educators to know their students and to plan instruction effectively. Understanding quantity relationships are essential to a sound understanding of mathematics in general. For example, consider the equals sign. Many elementary students have learned that this symbol means 'the answer is', not a symbol representing equality. For these students, $7 + 5 = _ + 6$ is something that is incomprehensible. But if students understand the equals sign, they later on learn that when solving $5x + 24 = 54$ that $5x$ must be 24 less than 54 or $5x = 30$. Therefore $x = 6$.

You can support your child's learning in mathematic by reinforcing that = does not mean 'the answer is'; nor is it something you get by pushing 'enter' on the calculator. It means an equal relationship.