



Voice of the Vaughan Voyageurs

ISSUE 10

MONDAY MAY 04, 2009

VSS ADMIN

Chris Sarellas Principal

Fraser Scott Vice Principal

TRUSTEE

Joel Hertz

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIRS

Cheryl Ebidia

Rhonda Uretsky

From our Director of Education regarding H1N1

April 28, 2009

To All Parents/Guardians and Staff:

As you have already learned through the media, a strain of influenza (swine flu) has been reported in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Countries around the world and the World Health Organization are investigating this illness.

Remember to:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and warm water.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or arm.
- Contact your family doctor and stay at home if you are ill.
- Keep doing what you normally do, but stay home if sick.
- Check www.fightflu.ca for more information.
- Check www.voyage.gc.ca for travel notices and advisories.
- Talk to a health professional if you experience severe flu-like symptoms.

For further information on human swine flu, please visit:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php> or call: 1-800-454-

8302.

You can also call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000

As always, all York Region public elementary and secondary schools remain in close contact with York Region Community and Health Services and are fully prepared to respond to advice and direction aimed at protecting the health of our school communities. Information and instruction on proper hand washing technique is already in place at every school and is being renewed and re-emphasized.

As per standard school practice, all school staff are encouraged to be vigilant for students who are ill and to report any concerns to the principal. Students who are ill should remain at home until they are feeling better.

Updated information will be linked on our Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Bill Hogarth

Director of Education

Please see Page 2 for more info

Upcoming Events May 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4 AP Exams	5 AP Exams	6 AP Exams	7 AP Exams	8 AP Exams	9
	11 AP Exams	12 AP Exams	13 AP Exams	14 AP Exams	15 AP Exams Grad Gown \$ due	16
	18 Victoria Day	19 Music Night @ St. Elizabeth	20 Senior Assembly	21 Springtime Music Concert	22	23
24	25	26	27 Grad Dinner Dance	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events June 2009

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4 Math EQAO Athletic Banquet	5 Math EQAO	6
7	8 Math EQAO Vaughan-aloo	9 Math EQAO	10 Math EQAO	11 Math EQAO	12 Math EQAO	13
14	15 Math EQAO	16 Math EQAO	17 Math EQAO	18 Math EQAO	19 Math EQAO	20
21	22 Exams	23 Exams	24 Exam Review Day	25 Leaving Ceremony PA Day	26 PA Day	27
28	29	30				

RSVP for the Leaving Ceremony by May 10 at

www.vaughan.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

H1N1 Information Q&A

May 4, 2009

How is the Board responding to the potential of a H1N1 outbreak?

The Board is working in close cooperation with York Region Community and Health Services. Board staff are in daily communication with health authorities in the region. We have been assured that they are very sensitive to our concerns regarding the operation of schools. The Board is ready and able to take whatever advice or action regional health authorities recommend to reduce the risk to our school communities. Status quo applies.

To stay healthy generally and prevent the spread of the influenza and other infections, it is always good practice to:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and warm water.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or arm.
- Contact your family doctor and stay at home if you are ill.
- Practice social distancing (minimizing contact with family members, not going out in public) while symptomatic.
- Stay home until 24 hours after symptoms are resolved or up to seven days from when you became ill (onset of symptoms), whichever is longer.
- Keep doing what you normally do, but stay home if sick..
- Recent travelers to areas affected by H1N1 and have symptoms should contact their family doctor and tell their doctor of their recent travel.

What specific plans are in place in the schools?

Administrators are monitoring the general health condition of students. As per standard practice, if students exhibit symptoms of illness, parents are called and advised to have students stay home until they are well and contact their family doctor.

Teachers and administrators are reminding students, daily, of the importance of regular, thorough hand washing and good personal hygiene. Students should avoid sharing of food, beverages and other personal items.

Principals should ensure that the hand washing poster (adult poster, children poster) is displayed prominently in the washroom and that students and staff are reminded through daily announcements to wash their hands frequently.

Should children returning from travel to Mexico (or other areas affected by H1N1) be asked to remain at home?

The most recent information from York Region Community and Health Services states: If you have travelled to Mexico recently and are feeling well, monitor yourself for flu-like symptoms. In the meantime, go about your normal routine. There is no need to stay away from work or school. If you are feeling well, do not go to the emergency department or your family doctor.

If you have travelled to Mexico and are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, or in contact with a confirmed case within seven days of onset of symptoms, contact your health care provider or call Telehealth Ontario at

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“Administrators are monitoring the general health condition of students. As per standard practice, if students exhibit symptoms of illness, parents are called and advised to have students stay home until they are well and contact their family doctor.”



A Note From the Science Department

The Science Department congratulates the 34 Grade 12 Biology students who participated in the University of Toronto Biology Competition on April 30. The prizes for this competition include Scholarships for the University of Toronto.

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1-866-797-0000. Make sure you mention your travel history. People should only go to Emergency Rooms if they have severe symptoms, such as feeling short of breath. In other words, if students are well, then the status quo applies and they should not be excluded.

As per standard procedure, if students exhibit symptoms of illness, parents are called and advised to have students stay home until they are well and contact their family doctor for instructions. Recent travelers to areas affected by H1N1 and have symptoms should contact their family doctor or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 and tell their doctor of their recent travel.

What if parents simply choose to have children stay home?

Children who are healthy are expected to come to school. We would advise parents not to withdraw their children as a precaution without the specific direction from York Region Community and Health Services. Parents must understand that it is expected that their child attend school on all days identified in the school year calendar and if their child is absent that they must ensure the continuity of learning for their child.

Can students wear masks at school?

The wearing of masks at school is not permitted. We are concerned about the fear and panic that may result from the wearing of masks, especially among young children. Parents who feel strongly about wanting their children to wear masks will be asked to keep their children home.

Are drinking fountains being turned off?

NO. Regular practices and precautions should be followed (i.e. students are being reminded to avoid touching the spout of drinking fountains. As per standard practice, students should avoid sharing of food, beverages and other personal items.

Are breakfast programs, hot lunch programs and other activities involving food being cancelled?

As per standard practice, elementary breakfast programs and hot lunch programs should continue under normal, diligent adult supervision.

Will clubs and co-curricular activities be cancelled?

Co-curricular activities will continue.

What measures are caretakers taking to disinfect schools?

As per standard practice, caretakers provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfecting of schools as part of their routine duties.

Where can I obtain more information about H1N1?

Contact York Region's Health Connection Line at 1-800-361-5653.

For H1N1 information in other languages, contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Our Board website, www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca has a link to the latest information.

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AEBS Awards

Vaughan Secondary would like to congratulate the following students for being nominated for the Alliance of Education for Black Students Awards:

Aidid, Abdi Grade 12
 Baldwin-Francis, Pharaoh Grade 09
 Collins, Josh Grade 12
 Francis, Nelson Grade 09
 Harrison, Shaina Grade 09
 Lawrence, Shanae Grade 12
 Richards Samuels, Cy Grade 10
 Walker, Dinjiyl Grade 10

We are working on reporting Student attendance and community hours in an E-Bulletin to come

VSS Office Staff

Vaughan Secondary School

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School Office Supervisor
Bethany Carruthers (on leave)

Term School Office Supervisor
Merissa Badali
Extension 323

Assistant Head Secretary
Responsible for the Student Management System
Mary Peard
Extension 352

Attendance Secretary
Rosemary Valentino
Extension 300

Guidance Secretary
Diane Jarvis
Extension 405

STAR Secretary
Domenica Pereira
Extension 320

Student Transportation Services of York Region

For all school bus information and a daily "Late Bus Report", visit www.schoolbuscity.com

For further information, visit our school website www.vaughan.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

E-Bulletin Distribution List

The "Voice of the Vaughan Voyagers" is available via email and our website. If you are not receiving our publication please contact Diane Jarvis at diane.jarvis@yrdsb.edu.on.ca in

order to update our Student Management System accordingly. Please reference the student name, your name, your relationship to the student and be advised if your email address is at-

tached to a free account a personal call to Diane will be required.

