

ROYAL ORCHARD MS



Royal Orchard Middle School will foster an environment that values mutual respect, lifelong learning and diversity. We celebrate staff, students and community.

77 Royal Orchard Dr

905.455.3760

September 2019

Newsletter



CORE VALUES:

Royal Orchard Middle School will cultivate a collaborative professional learning community:

Staff, students, parents & community strive for

Excellence in the 4 A's

Engagement & a celebration of

Diversity and

Student Success

Hours:

Morning bell - 8:25 a.m.

Classes begin - 8:35 a.m.

Lunch hour - 11:15 am-12:15 pm

Dismissal - 2:35 p.m.

Reporting an Absence Call:

1-855-209-6155

People to Know:

Principal - Mr. Kervin White

Vice Principal - Ms Allison Held

Office Manager - Mrs. D. Guglietti

Superintendent – Dana Sheahan

Trustee – David Green



Follow us on Twitter

Peel District School Board @PeelSchools

Royal Orchard MS @Royal_Orchard

AIM Program @ROMSAIM

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs Sept 12	Photo Day
Tues Sept 17	Toonie Tuesday Fundraiser for Hurrican Dorian Victims
Wed Sept 18	Grade 8 Regional Program Lunch & Learn with Ms. Vijayasekar
Tues Sept 24	P.D. DAY – NO SCHOOL
Fri Sept 27	Student of the Month & Terry Fox Kick Off Assembly
Fri Sept 27	Orange Shirt Day (wear an Orange shirt To support the learning about Residential Schools)

Stay up-to-date with Royal Orchard MS & Peel board news

School news

<http://schools.peelschools.org/1483/Pages/default.aspx>

Visit our school website to learn what's happening at your school, including:

the latest school news
contact information for school administration, superintendent and trustee
the school calendar
enrolment data
school hours
registration information
online library catalogue

You can **subscribe** online to receive email notifications for news, calendar events and volunteer job opportunities related to your school. You can also choose to receive email and/or text message notifications for critical news, such as school closures due to bad weather. Click on the "Subscribe" link on the left side of the main page of the school website.

Peel District School Board news

Subscribe to automatically receive a list of activities by email that are sent the last week of each month, plus bonuses throughout the year. Visit our website at **www.peelschools.org** and click on the *subscription* link under "Quick Links."

You can also subscribe to:

Learn more about board news and school events.

View Peel board meetings with Board agendas. Meetings are open to the public and are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Read highlights of decisions made by trustees at board meetings.

Receive job postings for non-teaching staff

Happy New School Year!

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year—opportunities to learn, grow and succeed await you and your child!

At the Peel District School Board, our mission is to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student. There is no doubt that families play a vital role in helping us achieve this goal.

We value your involvement and want you to know it's appreciated. As our partner in education, we hope you'll stay connected to your child's learning throughout their entire school experience! Reach out to your child's teacher to find out how you can get involved or visit www.peelschools.org/parents. Together, we have the incredible opportunity to inspire a smile in each student.

On behalf of the Peel board, I wish you an amazing school year.

Peter Joshua,
Director of Education
Peel District School Board

Fundraising Information

Royal Orchard Middle School provides all of its students with a quality education and a number of extra-curricular activities. Your generosity and support over the years have been instrumental in the purchase of new resources for our library and new technology to advance learning, as well as offering a variety of educational field trips and guest speakers. Through your fundraising efforts, we have enriched students' experience and built a broader sense of community while enhancing parental engagement.

This year we would like to continue to support school field trips, extra-curricular activities, guest speakers, presentations, and add more technology for learning.

Throughout the school year, some of our fundraising activities include pizza day, dances, selling food items at our Tuck Shop and samosa day. Participating in fundraising activities is strictly voluntary and the entire school community is welcome to participate. The activities listed above reflect the diversity, values and priorities of our school community.

If you have any questions, please call us at 905-455-3760.

Join our school council – share your ideas

Every Peel school has a school council—a group focused on helping students succeed. School councils provide a voice for parents and the community and offer advice to the school principal on a number of topics.

We are holding school councils elections **Wednesday October 2nd 2019**

If you would like to know more or are interested in joining our council, please contact 905-455-3760.

ParentConnect

Online parent portal to access important student information



What is ParentConnect?

ParentConnect is a safe and secure website, created by the Peel District School Board, that acts as a single point to stay informed and to access all electronic services provided to Peel board parents and legal guardians.

The parent-friendly website will allow you to:

- view school-based alerts and information
- access real time absence reporting
- view current and historic elementary report card information
- get up-to-date busing information
- review secondary school credit history and diploma status
- and more

To learn more about the benefits of ParentConnect, visit our school website or www.peelschools.org/parentconnect

Our work has just begun.

The Peel Learning Foundation's mission is to raise funds to enable Peel District School Board students to achieve personal excellence by providing resources that help them overcome barriers. We officially launched in February 2019, and to date, the foundation has supported more than 200 students.



Peel Learning Foundation
Create hopeful tomorrows

*Did you know that 1 in 5 students in Peel Region face barriers related to poverty. **That's more than 27,000 Peel board students.***

Through the Student Emergency Needs program and Student Backpack program, the support we provide can be as simple as providing funds for food or transportation, a winter coat, or a backpack filled with school supplies. This type of support can enrich a student's school experience and help them achieve success. Any teacher, staff or support person can speak confidentially to their school's principal, vice-principal or supervisor when they encounter a student in need, who will then reach out to us to ask for help.

There are many ways that you can support the foundation. A gift will help us achieve great things for students. To learn more, visit www.peelllearningfoundation.org/how.

You can help us create hopeful tomorrows.

www.PeelLearningFoundation.org | 905-890-1010 ext. 2461 | foundation@peelsb.com



@PeelLearningFDN | /PeelLearningFDN

Important information regarding student privacy and use of third party apps and web services

At the Peel District School Board, we are committed to helping each child achieve to the best of his or her ability. Using Modern Learning tools is an essential component of teaching and learning in today's world. Modern Learning tools can include Internet sites where users interact and collaborate in online environments, websites where users log in, and/or applications for tablets. The Peel board believes that these online services are key tools in aiding students and teachers in the development of 21st Century skills.

Please note: In order to support student privacy, Peel board students are encouraged to be mindful of how and when they use their school email (studentnumber@pdsb.net) to create accounts on any third party, non-protected domain, apps/web services.

The terms and conditions of these app/web-services may not align with the Peel board's Registering and Use of Software, Web-Based Services and Apps guidelines as their services may collect and display the student's private information, including the full name, publicly.

If your child uses their own personal accounts to access these apps/web services, please encourage them to use privacy settings to ensure that their account information, including full name, is not shared publicly.

Please visit www.bit.ly/byodparentresources for more information.

Protect your kids — and your finances

The Peel District School Board does **not** provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities including extracurricular sports. Each year, families could spend thousands of dollars when their children are injured at school, on field trips, while participating in non-school activities, or at home. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any medical costs not covered by provincial health care or their employer's health care plan.

The provincial health care system does **not** cover costs which are commonly related to accidents including dental work, ambulance fees, casts and crutches, and physiotherapy. All of these **are** covered by Insuremykids student accident insurance plan and as a convenience to parents, the Board has arranged to offer a plan to parents through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. To help protect your family, it is strongly recommended that you consider obtaining Insuremykids Protection Plan, which offers a variety of benefits at affordable prices, which provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year coverage, range from \$13 to \$33 per year.

The insurance agreement is between **You** and **Reliable Life Insurance Company**.

You can apply for coverage online at www.insuremykids.com for answers to frequently asked questions. For more information, call Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada toll free at **1-800-463-KIDS (5437)**.

Getting your questions answered

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about your child's education, or about education in general, anyone with the Peel board is happy to help. Here are some of the people who can help you:

- If you have specific questions or concerns about the education of your son or daughter, the first person to talk to is your child's teacher. If possible, arrange a personal interview with the teacher to discuss your concerns and attempt to resolve the matter. Your child's teacher or principal can also give you more information about specific strategies being used to monitor your child's progress.
- If you need extra help, or have more general questions, your school principal is there to assist. Your school principal can help if you have been unable to resolve the issue with your child's teacher. All curriculum material is available in your child's school.
- If you still have unanswered questions or concerns, talk to your superintendent of education.
- If you have general questions about curriculum, call Curriculum and Instruction Support Services at 905-890-1010 ext. 2559.
- If you have questions about special education programs or services, contact Special Education Support Services at 905-890-1010 ext. 2345.
- Of course, your local school trustee is elected to represent your interests and is always ready to hear and discuss your suggestions or concerns. If you don't know the name of your trustee, check the 'Meet your Trustee' section of the board's website at www.peelschools.org.

If you still have questions, please email communications@peelsb.com or call Communication & Community Relations Support Services at 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1149 ext. 2809.

Keeping lunches and snacks peanut-free

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that affects some children. We ask that you help us take care of these students by sending lunches and snacks for your child that are **free from peanuts or nuts**, because these foods are the leading cause of anaphylaxis.

Please read the label of any food you plan to send to school with your child. If the label says, "May contain nuts or peanuts," **please do not send it to school.**

You can get a complete copy of the Peel board's anaphylaxis guideline at www.peelschools.org under the Parent tab, under Student Health.

What you need to know about busing

Eligibility for Transportation is based on distance criteria established by the **Peel District School Board**. Under the Board's Policy, students residing within their school's attendance boundary and living in excess of the following distance criteria from their school are eligible for transportation:

Kindergarten to Grade 1:	1.0 km
Grades 2 to 4:	1.6 km
Grades 5 to 8:	2.0 km
Grades 9 to 12:	3.8 km

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) is responsible for administering the transportation policy for both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

STOPR Web Site:

We recommend that you take a moment to review STOPR'S website as it is available to you 24 hours per day, 7 days per week at: www.stopr.ca

STOPR'S website is your source for the most up to date transportation information such as bus delays and cancellations as well it can provide you with important information such as "what school do I attend" and "am I eligible for transportation".

In addition, from STOPR's website www.stopr.ca, you can also access important school bus safety information as well as "Transportation Procedures", "Forms", "Courtesy Seats" and "frequently asked questions concerning student transportation".

Parents can also access their children's bus route information and details through the website by clicking on the "Your Child's Busing Information" tab located on the main page. You will need your child's Ontario Educational Number (OEN), home address, school and grade in order to retrieve your child's bus information from the web site.

Parents can now sign-up to receive automatic e-mail notifications of delays or cancellations for their children's bus run. Parents should go to www.stopr.ca and click on the "bus delays and cancellations" link and then click "subscriptions" to sign-up for this service.

Contacting STOPR

STOPR operations are divided into 3 defined zones, *East*, *West* and *Special Needs Transportation*. The *East* and *West* zones manage all regular *home to school* busing for all of Peel Region and the dividing line between these zones is generally Kennedy Road.

When calling STOPR for school bus information, please make sure that you have your child's Ontario Educational Number (OEN) available. The OEN number can be found on your child's report card or is available from your school.

STOPR staff will ask for your child's OEN to ensure your child's personal transportation information is secure and is shared only with the appropriate person.

Telephone contact: (905) 890-6000 (*East, West and Special Needs Transportation*)
Toll free: 1-800-668-1140
Fax: (905) 890-6033

Twitter:

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) will begin Tweeting as of September 1, 2019. Please follow us @STOPRinfo to receive information on safety programs/initiatives, bus cancellations, STOPR updates and more.

Bus Stop Locations and "Primary Protocol":

Please note that "door to door" or "home bus stop" locations are not generally provided. STOPR establishes bus stops in safe and appropriate locations that can service multiple families and students. Typically these stops are located at intersections or "group" locations that provide an area for all students/parents to wait for their bus away from the roadway.

Please note that Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safe conveyance of their children to and from the bus stop location and it is expected that all transported kindergarten and grade 1 students are always met by a parent/guardian at the end of the day at their bus stop location. There is simply no substitute for an adult's supervision at the bus stop as this is the most critical moment for student safety. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 must always be met at their bus stop each day under STOPR "Primary Protocol".

For more information on school bus safety and the "Primary Protocol" please go to www.stopr.ca

Requests for changes for a Student's Transportation:

STOPR is responsible for the safe and efficient transportation of approximately 68,000 students each school day. Please note that during school start-up in September, the STOPR office is extremely busy and staff are focused on critical issues such as eligible students requiring transportation, bus overloads and route timing issues.

Requests for a change in a bus stop location will be addressed after school start-up is completed later in September.



Coping with Back-to-School Stress

Stressful feelings are normal and expected in children and teens returning to school. Stress can help us prepare for challenges and change and should not always be viewed negatively. Focus on building your child's resiliency so s/he can cope when problems arise. Model positive self-care and teach your child ways to manage stress. Spending positive quality time together will strengthen your relationship and enhance your child's well-being.

Worries are Common. Although it is normal for your child to have worries, **it is crucial to have your child attend school. It is important they experience all that school offers and learn to cope with their fears. Be sure to communicate with the school and teacher(s) about the stress your child may be feeling so they are better able to support your child his/her worries and concerns.**

5 Steps to Deal with Back-to-School Stress

Step 1 Take care of the basics: Ensure your child is getting enough sleep, eating regular meals and healthy snacks and has daily exercise. When your child's mind and body are nourished, communicating with you and meeting school challenges is easier.

Step 2 Provide empathy: Listen to your child's hopes and concerns. *What is s/he looking forward to and what is s/he worried about?* Let your child share his/her hopes and fears and talk about what's on his/her mind. Remember, you don't have to 'fix' the problem for them. Your child mainly needs to be heard and feel understood.

Step 3 Encourage connection: Social relationships are key to wellness and resiliency. If possible help your child connect with other children in his/her class or school. Schedule quality time with family and neighbourhood friends.

Step 4 Practice and problem solve: **Many children starting school or a new grade will benefit from practicing routines such as the drop off and pickup. If they identify other concerns, helping them problem solve and practice the possible solutions can also build confidence.**

Step 5 Pay attention to your own behavior: Children take cues from their parents: the more confidence and calm you demonstrate, the more your child will believe s/he can handle this new hurdle. Be supportive yet firm. For instance say, in a calm tone, say: *"I can see that going to school is making you scared, but you still have to go. Tell me what you are worried about, so we can talk about it."*

Modified from Anxiety BC

<https://www.anxietybc.com/parenting/coping-back-school-anxiety>

Procedures help keep students safe at school

Dear Families,

Peel schools provide a safe environment for students and staff to learn and work. The board has many procedures to ensure safety — including regular fire drills, evacuation plans, criminal record checks for new staff and volunteers, and lockdown, hold and secure and shelter in place drills. Together with Peel Police, OPP and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board, the board developed procedures for critical situations.

Every school will review the key points of the lockdown process with students. We rehearse the drill twice per year to make sure staff and students know what to do if we have to initiate a lockdown.

During the rehearsal, the principal will make an announcement to "initiate lockdown procedure." The school bell will ring continuously for a period of time and our goal is to make the school appear vacated.

Students and staff *inside* the school will:

- go to the closest room, close the door and lock it, if possible
- turn off the lights and lie down on the floor away from doors and windows
- remain on the floor quietly until further directions are given

Students and staff *outside* the school will:

- move as far away from the building as possible
- remain outside until further directions are given

Depending on the situation, students and staff *outside* the building may be directed to an evacuation site. When the rehearsal is over, the principal will make another announcement.

Important things to note when an emergency occurs

1. **Students and staff must not use cell phones**

In these critical situations, safety is our number one priority. During rehearsals or in real critical situations, Peel Police have advised that cell phone usage can cause more safety risks and the following consequences:

- Cause signal delays for emergency services to attend to the situation.
- Prevents police from being able to communicate with each other and other important personnel in a timely manner.
- Public posts and messages may identify where individuals are in the building and a pose a safety risk.
- Can attract attention to the area of the school where the phone is being used.

Parents are requested to NOT call the school or your child's cell phone during emergency procedures.

2. **Parents can get updates during emergency procedures on their school website**

3. Parents are requested NOT to go to the school

In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown, hold and secure, shelter in place or bomb threat, police ask that parents do not go to the school. For safety reasons, you will not be allowed to enter a school that is in lockdown, hold and secure or shelter in place and students and staff cannot leave the school. In rare cases, police will designate a Parent Information Site for you to attend and get up-to-date, accurate information. **Please monitor your child's school website and do not come to the school unless requested to do so.**

If you have any questions about our lockdown drill, or any of the procedures we have in place to keep students and staff safe, please call the school.

Pay school fees online using School Cash Online—register today!

SchoolCashOnline

Our school offers School Cash Online, a safe and secure form of online payment, as its preferred method of payment for all school fees. With a parent-friendly portal and an easy way to keep track of your child's activity fees, you can use School Cash Online to pay for school items like field trips and pizza days directly from your computer or smartphone using eCheck, Visa or MasterCard

Register now

By registering, you'll have the ability to:

- Keep track of your children's school item and activity fees
- Check account history
- Print or view receipts
- Make donations to school fundraisers online and instantly receive a tax receipt
- Pay for school fees with the click of a button

For more information and to register, visit <https://peelschools.schoolcashionline.com>. If you have any questions, please contact the school directly.