

## NAP TIME

Smiley, the blind therapy dog, takes a break while collecting school supplies and backpacks in Stouffville Memorial Park last Thursday. The donations will be given to needy children through the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. For more on the event, see Jim Mason's column on page 6.



### FREE

Kids Pony Rides, Jumping Castle, Petting Zoo, Live Music Entertainment with Larry Goguen, Cream Pie Throwing with Larry Brown

# Earlier start time for growing school population

Students at Stouffville District Secondary School will have to set their alarms 10 minutes earlier come September.

In an effort to accommodate its growing student population, classes will begin at 9:10 a.m. instead of 9:20 a.m. as of the new school year.

The Hoover Park Drive school has a capacity of 1,353 students and enrolment is expected to be 1,291 in September, according to Lauren Peddle, communications specialist for the York Region District School Board.

School will also let out 11 minutes later – 3:46 p.m. instead of 3:35 p.m.

The school is also moving from four periods with a common lunch to five period and three lunches.

#### **MORE PERIODS, LUNCH HOURS**

"The move to five periods also allows us to maximize classroom use to accommodate the varied course selection choices by our students," Reid Wilshire, the school's principal stated in a notice about the changes on the school's website.

The change is also being made because the school's cafeteria is not large enough to support all of the students at once.

"This creates concerns around student safety in the cafeteria and the rest of the school due to overcrowding. Wait time for lunch orders through our cafeteria service becomes a challenge, as well," according to Wilshire.

School officials will try to keep period three lunch for Grade 9 students "to keep them congregated as they adjust to their new high school," Wilshire wrote.

For more information, go to www.yrdsb.ca/schools/stouffvilledistrict.ss/Pages/default.aspx

– Sandra Bolan

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