



# AMHS Bulletin

February 12, 2021

## Reminders

### Dates at a Glance

**February is Black History Month**

**February 12 - Lunar New Year**

**February 15 - Family Day**

**February 16 - Face-to-face learning resumes**

### **Revised School Self-Screening Protocol**

Each day, prior to entering the school, students must complete the on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#). Upon completion of the self-assessment, students will complete a response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the confirmation [form](#).

Students will receive an email response when they respond "Yes". The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week. Upon entering through the school designated entrance (main entrance), students will provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening to a designated staff by way of:

- On phone - email or picture of email from their computer
- Hard copy print off of email
- If neither option is available, students can provide a verbal response confirming completion

Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **Cohorts**

It is important that your child check TeachAssist prior to coming to school on Tuesday, February 16 to ensure that they have the most up-to-date timetable information reflected in TeachAssist.

### **Student Attendance**

General inquiries and student attendance information can be sent directly to the general AMHS email address at [alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca) or please call the school directly at 905-884-0554.

### **Visitors to AMHS**

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, visitor(s) are not permitted into the school without a pre-arranged appointment. Please contact the school by telephone and we will be happy to assist you.

Before coming to an appointment, please review and adhere to the instructions on the COVID-19 Self-Assessment poster from York Region Public Health posted at all exterior doors. Come directly to the main office to sign in and obtain a parking pass prior to your scheduled meeting time, and sign out when leaving.

Any visitor(s) experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must remain home. All visitors must sanitize their hands, wear a face covering at all times, and maintain a two-metre physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Parents/guardians if you need to meet with a staff member please call ahead to book an appointment.

### School Schedules

February 16 - 19	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alternate Face to Face and Online Daily 8:30 – 11:00	Family Day	<b>Period 1 Class</b> Cohort A Face to Face Cohort B Online	<b>Period 1 Class</b> Cohort B Face to Face Cohort A Online	<b>Period 1 Class</b> Cohort A Face to Face Cohort B Online	<b>Period 1 Class</b> Cohort B Face to Face Cohort A Online
11:00 – 11:15	Students Exit				
11:15 – 12:30	Period 3 Student Transportation / Lunch				
Synchronous Online – Block 2 12:30 – 1:20		Period 2 Class Cohort A & B	Period 2 Class Cohort A & B	Period 2 Class Cohort A & B	Period 2 Class Cohort A & B
Synchronous Online – Block 3 1:20 – 2:10		Period 4 Class Cohort A & B	Period 4 Class Cohort A & B	Period 4 Class Cohort A & B	Period 4 Class Cohort A & B
Synchronous Online – Block 4 2:10 – 3:00		Period 5 Class Cohort A & B	Period 5 Class Cohort A & B	Period 5 Class Cohort A & B	Period 5 Class Cohort A & B

### TIMETABLE ROTATION SCHEDULE - SEMESTER 2

Rotation	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	Feb 16-25	Mar 1-10	Mar 12-30	Apr 1-14	Apr 15-30	May 3-19	May 21-Jun 8	Jun 9-25
F2F	1	2	4	5	1	2	4	5
Block2	2	1	5	4	2	1	5	4
Block3	4	4	1	1	4	4	1	1
Block4	5	5	2	2	5	5	2	2

## **York Region District School Board Information**

### **Celebrating Black Excellence**

In honour of Black History Month, York Region District School Board will be celebrating Black excellence throughout the month of February and beyond by sharing stories of our students, alumni, staff, community members, community partners and our region as a whole.

Stories may be shared by YRDSB in the following ways:

- Written feature stories/profiles
- Social media profiles
- Videos

If you would like to see samples of how stories will be shared, please visit the Celebrating Black Excellence page on the [Board website](#), the Board [Youtube channel](#) and on Instagram and Twitter.

Do you have a story of Black Excellence about yourself or someone you know? If so, please consider nominating a student, alumni, staff member, community member or York Region resident through our [Celebrating Black Excellence form](#). Nominations will be accepted from February 1, 2021 - February 15, 2021.

### **AEBS Affirming Black Joy Student Campaign**

AEBS is hosting an opportunity to highlight and honour the achievements of Black students with the Affirming Black Joy Student Campaign. Please see the communication for more information and the nomination form. Please check the attached [document](#) for more information.

### **Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) Black History Month Workshop & Celebration**

Join BFCN and special guests for a Black History Month workshop and celebration of steelpan, storytelling, and knowledge sharing! Please visit this [link](#) for registration information.

### **Speaker's Idol 2021**

Grades 6 – 12 students have the opportunity to participate in Speaker's Idol 2021 – Changing the World, One Speech at a Time. Students will prepare a 3 minute speech sharing their thoughts on how to make positive change while commenting on a quote from Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal. Speeches are due Friday, March 12, 2021. Please view the information [flyer](#) for additional information.

### **Proposed boundary change for Alexander Mackenzie HS and Langstaff SS**

The York Region District School Board will be hosting a virtual public information meeting regarding a proposed boundary change for Alexander Mackenzie High School and Langstaff Secondary School.

The purpose of this virtual public information meeting is to provide information to parents regarding a proposed change for the Alexander Mackenzie High School boundary to add a portion of the boundary to Langstaff Secondary School.

Please review this [notice](#) for additional information regarding the virtual public meeting on Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> 2021.

### **York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities Presents:**

YRAACC is pleased to present its annual Black History Month Event. Please view the attached [flyer](#) for additional information.

### **Standing on Strong Shoulders**

Please view the attached [flyer](#) for additional information about NACCA virtual Black History Month activities.

### **PILLARS to Well-Being Muslim Student Conference**

PILLARS to Well-Being is an opportunity for self-identified Muslim students from Grades 7-12 to engage in interactive, community-led workshops that will centre their identity and well-being.

YRDSB and the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS) is excited to offer our first ever Muslim Student Conference. **PILLARS to Well-Being** is an opportunity for self-identified Muslim students from Grades 7-12 to engage in interactive, community-led workshops that will centre their identity and well-being.

This virtual conference will provide differentiated well-being supports for Muslim learners in YRDSB through engagement with Muslim writers, artists, and other professionals in the areas of health and physical fitness, activists, and community leaders amongst others.

YRDSB is committed to creating equitable and inclusive environments that foster well-being and achievement and elevate student voice from marginalized communities, including Muslim students.

#### **Virtual Conference Dates:**

- Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:00pm - 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:00pm - 6:00pm
- Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Students are asked to [register](#) by **Friday February 12**.

For more information about the conference, please contact:

Wahid Khan [wahid.khan@yrdsb.ca](mailto:wahid.khan@yrdsb.ca)  
Rizwana Kaderdina [rizwana.kaderdina@yrdsb.ca](mailto:rizwana.kaderdina@yrdsb.ca)

### **Building Social Skills Guide**

Social skills like taking turns, decision making, greeting, self-regulation and more, can help prepare students for success in many areas of their lives. There are many ways children can learn these skills, and many ways adults can help to develop and nurture them.

York Region District School Board has developed a user-friendly guide full of tips, resources and ideas to help caregivers and other adults:

- Determine what social skills to teach
- How to teach them
- How to support any child who may benefit from direct instruction and practice in learning social skills.

[Play. Talk. Think. Feel: A User-Friendly Guide for Building Social Skills in Children](#) covers a wide variety of skills and includes a number of activities, games, resources and more that can be used by family members, caregivers, educators and others to support social skill development.

### **Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH)**

PCMH is holding a virtual meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Topic: Social Media: Positive use during COVID times. Please use this [link](#) for additional information.

### **211 – Services for Families**

Do you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter? For information and referral to government, health, community and social services, call 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, text 21166, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email [gethelp@211Ontario.ca](mailto:gethelp@211Ontario.ca). 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports. Learn more about the services they offer in this one-page fact sheet. Please use this [link](#) for more information.

### **Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry 2020/21**

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry. Theme: Islamic Heritage Month in the Canadian Context with a focus on Muslim Canadians past and present who have made an impact in our country. Deadline: March 1, 2021. See flyer for further details. Please check this [flyer](#) for additional information.

### **Secondary GSA Google Classroom**

Secondary school students who identify as 2SLGBTQI+ and their allies are invited to join a virtual GSA secondary classroom. The classroom will be moderated by our caring and dedicated GSA advisors, who will make sure the space is following ground rules, safe space guidelines and confidentiality. The classroom is now open and accepting student registrations. Students must [register](#) using their YRDSB GAPPS account. The GSA Google classroom will bring the social and educational aspects, and fun of a GSA online. It will include discussion boards, community services and resources, group social sessions and various supports as students need.

### **Renewed Computer Technology**

The York Region District School Board is once again working with Renewed Computer Technology (RCT). RTC is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with access to affordable, renewed computers to help meet education and career goals. Please refer to the attached [Renewed Computer Technology flyer](#) to review the available packages.

### **Online Program Opportunities**

As many of our YRDSB community partner organizations continue to offer on-line opportunities for your children and youth, we are happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of these opportunities, including those that are continuing and also new programs and services.

Please visit [2020-2021 Online Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families](#) to find a list of programs organized by category and age group. We encourage you to check the link regularly as the Community and Partnership Developer Team will be making regular updates to available programs and resources.

For more information, please contact [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca)

### **Adult ESL, LINC & LBS Programs**

YRDSB offers Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for those who want to develop effective language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for daily life in Canada. We also offer specialized classes in Citizenship and Conversation.

For more information and registration details, please check these links: [English](#), [Farsi](#), [Russian](#), [Tamil](#), [Simplified Chinese](#).

## Guidance

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Course selection cycle for the school year 2021-2022 opens on Tuesday, February 16th and closes on Wednesday, February 24th.

Please access the following link for course selection presentations (9-11).

<https://bit.ly/AMHS-2021-2022-Course-Selection>

There will be Q and A sessions for students who would like to drop in and ask the Guidance team any questions they might have regarding course selection

Please use the following link: <http://bit.ly/Course-Selection-QA-Feb16-24>

This link is active on the following days from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	16	17	18	
22	23	24		

Students may also book an appointment to have a one-on-one session with their Guidance counselor with alpha.

[A. Gurfinkel](#) - Counsellor (A-G)

[S. Juma](#) - Counsellor (H-Ki)

[J. Petrone](#) - Counsellor (Ki-R)

[N. Reyhani](#) - Interim Department Head (S-Z)

Thank you,

The Guidance Team

### Jean Lumb Foundation – Jean Lumb Awards

The Jean Lumb Foundation presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jean Lumb Awards for high school students of Chinese Heritage. Deadline for application: May 24, 2021. Please view the information [flyer](#) for additional information.

### Central East PPAN Scholarship

The Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is being awarded through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) to one recipient in the OPSBA Central East Region for three school years – 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Scholarship recipients are students of strong character, who care deeply about their communities and furthering their own learning. Please refer to the information [flyer](#) for additional information.

### Volunteer Opportunity

[Sending Sunshine](#) is a not-for-profit corporation run out of Mississauga, Ontario. Sending Sunshine aims to help reduce the negative effects of social isolation and loneliness among senior citizens in our community by providing them with handwritten cards. It is with the help of people like YOU that Sending Sunshine can help provide a ray of sunshine in the lives of Ontario seniors!

Please speak with a guidance counsellor for more information about this volunteer opportunity.

### **A.B.L.E. Scholarship Program**

The Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) created its Scholarship Program to commemorate the contributions of Rose Fortune (1774-1864) and Peter C. Butler III (1859- 1943) – the first Black police officers in Canada. By awarding scholarships, A.B.L.E. assists Black and visible minority students in achieving their educational and career aspirations.

A.B.L.E. is committed to ensuring that the criminal justice system is reflective of the entire Canadian mosaic, by providing opportunities for our young people to serve, protect, and correct.

Please share the following information with graduating Students accepted at a designated educational institution that may be interested in this scholarship opportunity: [Application Form](#), [Candidate Letter](#), [Selection Criteria](#)

Application deadline has been extended to **March 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

For any questions, students may contact the Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair at [ablescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ablescholarship@gmail.com)

### **Town of Aurora – John West Scholarship 2021**

Leaders of Tomorrow ... The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing our Leaders of Tomorrow, who have made a positive impact in our community and inspire and give us hope for the future. This award honours youth contributions to the advancement and well-being of our community. Please review this [flyer](#) for additional information.

### **Transportation and SHSM Students**

A recruitment officer from Centennial College School of Transportation will be offering daily sessions from Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students can expect to learn about Post-Secondary Programs with Career Options, Apprenticeships, Pathways, Why Consider a Trade, Financial Aid, Student Support Services, Tuition, and much more. Please visit Zoom and use Zoom Webinar ID: 92661724820, passcode: 920905.

### **Grade 12 Students:**

Students are encouraged to keep a copy of the OUAC PIN and password in a safe place for future reference. Should your child not have received an email containing this information, please contact the AMHS Guidance Department at your earliest convenience.

Students are invited to review the slide show information linked in the email concerning how to use the PIN in the OUAC Website and how to set up a student profile, and add University Programs among other things.

Please note: 'While creating your OUAC account, it might ask for a 12-digit student number: add '000' (3 zeros) in front of your 9-digit student number.'

Please feel free to contact your child's counselor for more information regarding the OUAC Application process or any other questions you may have over the next several weeks.

**Please see the following updated Guidance Google classrooms:**

### **Grade 12:**

Graduating Class June 2021; Password: zjwvzt3

Grade 12 Scholarships for Graduating Students only; Password: hltthp5

Note to Grade 11 Students: If you would like to learn more about Grade 12 in order to prepare for next year, please join the Grade 12 Google classrooms. However, please be mindful that only Grade 12 students may participate in the nomination for any awards and scholarships that are shared by the Guidance department.



## **School Information**

### **OSSLT Support**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a requirement for students who wish to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. As a school, we are taking many steps to assist our students in completing the test successfully. This year's test will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. One way that we have chosen to assist our students is by offering extra support to reinforce literacy skills in reading and writing.

A number of pre recorded sessions are available to students. These sessions will make a difference in the student's knowledge and confidence related to the various reading and writing tasks they are required to complete on the OSSLT. The pre-recorded sessions are located in the Google Classroom titled "OSSLT Practice".

### **Literacy Strategy of the Month**

To support student success with the OSSLT, grade 9 and 10 teachers use a suggested "strategy-of-the-month". Teachers are asked to consider suitable times throughout the month to use it. Parents and guardians are asked to engage in dialogue with their child around how the strategy was used in class. The strategy for February is [summarizing](#).

### **Parking & Ticketing**

Students and visitors will be required to display a valid parking permit in their vehicle at all times in order to park on school property. Any vehicle parked on AMHS property without a valid parking permit will be subject to ticketing. It is your responsibility to ensure that a valid parking permit is clearly visible to our parking enforcement officers. Be sure to request a parking pass when you sign in at the Main Office. (\*ALL visitors to the school MUST report to the Main Office.) **[Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis; availability cannot be guaranteed](#)**

## **Community Information**

### **Vivanext Metrolinx**

The Yonge Street rapidway in Richmond Hill is now open. Please view the information [flyer](#) for important safety information.

## **School Council News**

The School Council proudly presents Dr. Brooks Gibbs, a social psychologist, a veteran youth speaker, and the author of "Love is Greater than Hate". His viral videos have been translated into 20 languages and amassed more than 200 million views. Be sure to join Council virtually on Monday, March 1 at 8 p.m. to hear an expert's opinion on how to communicate and understand teenagers, particularly during the current COVID lockdown situation. For further details please refer to the information [flyer](#).

### **Minutes**

School Council minutes can be accessed through the school website by clicking the attached link: [School Council Minutes](#)



## **School Contact / Website Information**

**Superintendent** - Lois Agard

Phone: (905) 884-4477

[cec.central@yrdsb.ca](mailto:cec.central@yrdsb.ca)

**Trustee** - [Simon Cui](#)

**Alexander Mackenzie High School**

**Principal** – Krista Pummell

**Vice-Principal** – Erika Pridie (A-L)

**Vice-Principal** – George Ellinas (M-Z)

Telephone: 905-884-0554

Fax: 905-884-4694

**Arts Mackenzie**

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

**Music Department**

[www.amhsmusic.ca](http://www.amhsmusic.ca)

**AMHS Literacy & OSSLT**

[rebrand.ly/OSSLT](http://rebrand.ly/OSSLT)

**MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics**

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: @Mustangsmove

Instagram: macpheathletics

**Alexander Mackenzie H.S. On Twitter**

Follow us on twitter @AlexMackHS

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter, please notify Alexander Mackenzie High School by email.