



# AMHS Bulletin

January 29, 2021

## Reminders

### Dates at a Glance

#### **January - Tamil Heritage Month**

In recognition of Tamil Heritage Month, please view the Tamil Heritage Month poster [here](#).

**February 3 (A.M.) - semester 2 begins**

### **Daily Attendance Reports**

Email notification of the daily attendance report, which notifies parents of student absences/lates resumed on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>. If there are any discrepancies with the information you receive, we ask that you contact the teacher directly. The teacher will communicate with the attendance office if corrections need to be made.

### **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.

### **Revised School Screening Checklist**

Each day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's revised COVID-19

Screening Tool for Children in Schools and Child Care. Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. 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.

#### **Self-screening tool**

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 the ministry has asked us to share this [link](#) with our school community.

#### **York Region Public Health Decision Tree Tools**

- [Preventing Covid-19 Exposures in the Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Screening Tool for students and children in school and child care](#)

### **School Schedules**

**February 3: Please note the modified schedule where classes are running only in the morning:**

	<u>Block/Period 1</u>	<u>Block/Period 2</u>	<u>Block/Period 3</u>	<u>Block/Period 4</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>8:30 - 9:00 a.m.</u>	<u>9:05 - 9:35 a.m.</u>	<u>9:40 - 10:10 a.m.</u>	<u>10:15 - 10:45 a.m.</u>

**February 4-10: All classes are online. See schedule below:**

	<u>Block/ Period 1</u>	<u>Block/ Period 2</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Block/ Period 3</u>	<u>Block/ Period 4</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>8:30 - 9:45 a.m.</u>	<u>9:50 - 11:05 a.m.</u>	<u>11:05 a.m.-</u> <u>12:25 p.m.</u>	<u>12:25 - 1:40p.m.</u>	<u>1:45 - 3:00p.m.</u>

**Cohort information and rotation schedules will be shared prior to students returning to the face-to-face model.**

## Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their flexibility, patience and perseverance during the school closures. We understand that the pandemic is creating challenges and hardships, and we will continue to prioritize and do our very best to support the well-being, learning and achievement of our students during these difficult times.

There are resources on the Board website that students and families may find helpful, including tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19, support using technology, community and mental health resources and more at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

One of our [priorities](#) as a Board of Trustees is to Champion Equity and Inclusivity: we aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.

### Anti-Black Racism

We want each and every one of our students to know that they are valued, welcome, safe and respected in our schools. We know that sadly that is not the reality for some students and that incidents of anti-Black racism continue to occur in our community and our schools. These incidents cause pain, make our students feel unsafe and affect their well-being and achievement. This is not acceptable.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing information and inviting you to participate in the *Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black affirming learning and working environments* virtual event. During this event we will be unveiling our Anti-Black Racism Strategy, which was developed in coordination with families, students, community partners, educators and members of our senior leadership team. The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism, and it will be a critical tool to support positive change in the system and to improve the experiences of Black students and staff.

A series of training sessions, webinars and opportunities for learning will also be made available. Future communication will provide registration options.

I want to thank the members of the Anti-Black Racism Committee for generously giving their time, sharing their difficult experiences and their voice. We are committed to ensuring that this strategy is more than a piece of paper and are committed to doing the work to create more equitable learning environments.

I also want to acknowledge that February is Black History Month, and while we take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contributions made by Black Canadians, we will also be looking forward to launching our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. We will also be continuing our [celebration of Black excellence](#) in our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the stories of some of the inspiring individuals learning and working here in York Region.

We all have a role to play in creating a community that enables everyone in it to thrive, and in doing this work, we will create a more inclusive and positive environment for *all* of our students and families.

Simon Cui  
Trustee

## **Guidance**

### **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 January is the use of **Inquiry Charts**.

### **Literacy Tip**

One of the best ways to connect with your teen is to read the same books that they might be reading. You can discuss characters and plot together, and make recommendations to one another. (Don't worry — you can never be too much of a grown-up to enjoy a YA novel!) Reading with your child will set a powerful example of what it means to be a reader and a thinker and can create an opportunity to discuss some of the narratives and struggles relevant to today's teen.

### **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**

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

### **Tamil Heritage TASME Poster Contest**

Secondary Students are invited to participate in this research-based poster competition through TASME that fosters ingenuity and creativity, encourages experimentation and teaches critical thinking and problem-solving. See [flyer](#) for further information.

### **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. 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.

### **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.

### **YRDSB Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter**

#### **Returning to Virtual Learning after the Winter Break:**

As a result of a provincially mandated lockdown due to rising COVID -19 cases across the province, we end the Winter Break with a return to virtual learning. Although this will present a challenge for some and disappointment for others, our focus will be on how to keep one another physically healthy and maintain social connections and mental health while distance learning. This month's edition of our Mental Health newsletter will focus on some suggestions of ways to stay socially connected during this continued time of physical distancing.

Please refer to this [link](#) to view the newsletter in its entirety.

### **STEM Information Session**

ALL parents/guardians of YRDSB students are invited on February 9, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm to learn about careers related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as initiatives and resources available from Skills Ontario. Please refer to this [flyer](#) 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](#).

## School Council News

### 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

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