



AMHS Parent Bulletin

Week of June 22, 2020

Message from Admin

It is so hard to believe that the last week of the 2019-2020 school year is upon us! The week ahead is comprised of instructional days, so that students can continue to access their teachers for any support they may still need towards course completion. Teachers will maintain their office hours for the duration of this week, and will be touching base with students about their achievement and progress in their respective courses. Wednesday, June 24 is designated as a day when the results of course culminating tasks and final marks in courses will be shared with students by each of their teachers. It is our hope that students will find their efforts have been rewarded towards successful completion of this semester's courses, and have allowed them to meet their personal learning goals.

As we look to the summer break ahead, we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the academic accomplishments, perseverance and resilience of our students, as they "stayed the course" through our extraordinary circumstance this past semester. We wish them a safe, happy and restful summertime, and a well-deserved break from the strenuous pace of the last few months. We are proud of all our Mustangs, who, regardless of circumstance, seem to repeatedly rise to our school motto, by staying "Mustang Proud, Mustang Strong".



Supporting Students Remotely in YRDSB

While there is uncertainty in the length for which schools will remain closed, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We have developed a number of resources and tips to help students and families, including:

- [How to log in and use online learning platforms](#), including Google, Edsby and D2L. Short videos are also available.
- [Tips for families to support online learning](#).
- [Mental health](#) and [community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources for students with special education needs](#).

To access these resources and more, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/covid19. Google Translate is available on our Board's website.

Mental Health Support and Tips For Parents Related to Anti-Black Racism

This item supports [previous messages](#), sent out to our parent community by YRDSB. Our Board is taking significant steps to address anti-Black racism and support our students and staff. We have heard from our community partners that families are looking for support and referrals, particularly those that will continue to be available throughout the summer. As such, we have posted information on our website with [mental health support](#) and age appropriate [resources for families to discuss anti-Black racism](#). We know there continues to be much work to be done to address anti-Black racism, and we will continue to update the Board's website with more information on resources and actions, including live virtual sessions for Black children and families and partnership opportunities and services offered by Black community organizations.

Greetings and Message from Our Trustee – June 2020

Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well and are healthy. The past few months have been full of change and uncertainty as we respond to the global pandemic and try to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a Board of Trustees, we know that our families have experienced this pandemic and the school closures in different ways, and we want you to know that our thoughts have been with you all.

Our school board moved quickly to introduce our [Learning and Caring Plan](#) through an intentionally phased approach. Our plan focused on both supporting student well-being and providing continuation of learning for more than 127,000 students. A plan was developed that respected each family's unique situations and focused on maintaining a caring, safe and inclusive learning environment. To support this, over 20,000 pieces of technology were distributed to ensure that all of our students could access the learning opportunities available to them, and resources and plans were put in place to support all of our learners, including students with special education needs and English language learners.

More information about the Learning and Caring plan as well as tips, resources and supports for students and families to support well-being and online learning can be found at www.yrdsb.ca/covid19.

We are all part of a larger community and I am inspired to see the many different ways schools, families and students maintained their connections with one another. It was also moving to see the many inspiring ways our school board, students, staff and families acknowledged our frontline workers and made contributions to the fight against COVID-19. As a school board, for example, we [donated over 145,000 pieces of personal protective equipment](#), including gloves, masks and more.

Each and every one of us has made a difference - in staying home as much as possible and following [public health guidelines](#). I know that this has meant making sacrifices.

To our graduating class of 2020, I know this is not the graduating year you had hoped for. I appreciate that the school closures will not affect your ability to graduate, however this unique situation and the need to postpone graduations has been disappointing. I remain tremendously proud of all of our graduates and look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you as soon as we are able to reschedule the graduation ceremonies.

In addition, I know that you have missed out on field trips, awards events, athletic banquets, spirit days, assemblies, our annual [Celebrating Student Success awards](#) and the many other ways we extend learning, connect as a community and celebrate the achievements of our students.

We have also been unable to gather together as we normally would in our schools and communities to celebrate or recognize important dates, including Sikh Heritage Month, Pesach, Good Friday, Easter (Western), Vaisakhi, Holy Friday, Orthodox Easter (Eastern), Ridvan, Jewish Heritage Month, Asian/South Asian Heritage Month, Ramadan, Pride, National Indigenous History Month, Italian Heritage Month and Portuguese Heritage Month. As a Board, these dates of significance are important for us to acknowledge and we will continue to celebrate and value the wealth of diversity in our community.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer. I look forward to a time when we can welcome your children back into our schools again. We know that families have questions about what the return to school will look like. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following public health guidelines and to stay connected.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Corrie McBain
Trustee, Richmond Hill, Wards 1, 2 and 4

Message from the Director and Board Chair

Please use the link below to access our Director's and Board Chair's message to our YRDSB schools community, regarding our Board's commitment to anti-Black Racism:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Message-From-The-Director.aspx>

Literacy Tip

Literacy Tip: Almost all libraries have summer reading programs. Check out your local library (once social distancing restrictions allow). If your teen is already into reading and you want to continue to foster that love, keep an eye out for visiting the library when local authors may be in attendance.

Guidance Services

Mental Health Tip of the Week

Our mental health tip of the week is about building and maintain relationships. Finding ways to stay connected with friends, family and loved ones will support good mental health and wellbeing.

Canadian Mental Health Association is offering Virtual Mindfulness Group for Youth

For more information please click on this [this link](#) for more details.

Summer School Information

Over the last two weeks we have received an abundance of emails regarding summer school confirmation. Please be assured that as long as you have emailed our Guidance Department with your child's summer school confirmation, their summer school registration is confirmed. Unless their course is cancelled or moved to a different virtual school location, they may not hear anything from a summer school representative until July 2nd (for E-learning Summer School) or July 6th (for Online Secondary Summer School).

Dual Credit Courses

Registration for Semester One, 2020-2021 Dual Credits is now open! This year, due to the current situation, our school board has been able to confirm that dual credits will be delivered on-line with a possible hybrid model (some in school/college components) to be offered later in the school year.

The target audience for a Dual Credit course is comprised of Senior YRDSB students who would like to continue their post-secondary studies at a college or in an apprenticeship. If you are interested in a Dual Credit course, connect with our Guidance Department. Priority will be given to Grade 12 students. Other applicants will be considered, but placed on a waiting list. Course offerings, scheduling details and more information can be found in this flyer: bit.ly/DCflyer2020

Visit www.bit.ly/YRDSBdualcreditapp to apply for your Dual Credit course.

Ontario Secondary School Teacher Federation – Bursaries/Scholarship

District 16 is offering exciting scholarship and bursary opportunities for graduating students. All information has been posted in the Graduation Google classroom. Please encourage your Gr. 12 graduating students to visit the classroom for more details.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to connect by email at ana.fisher@yrdsb.ca

BFCN Scholarship Opportunities

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (Macca) Scholarship –due date of Friday, June 26, 2020
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vK8WdznqhgRiU-dcX2Inh_4oqXrCfVTRbf46_IFVko8/edit

United Achievers' Club 2020 Scholarship Application – due date of Monday, June 29, 2020
<https://www.unitedachieversclub.com/>

Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Annual Scholarship Awards Program –
due date Wednesday, July 15, 2020 <https://jcaontario.org/scholarship/>

Donald Willard Moore Scholarship – George Brown College
<https://www.georgebrown.ca/apply/financial-aid/awards-and-scholarships/types-of-awards/college-wide>

Community Events and Upcoming Opportunities

Citizenship and Adult ESL Classes

For updated information regarding Citizenship Classes during the school closure period, please go to:
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Specialized-Programs-Citizenship.aspx?from=DigestNotification&e=brOKtaMmOU-L4d8mM1Xmeg&at=9>

International Pride Month

June is Pride Month around the globe. This month was chosen to commemorate the Stonewall Riots which took place in New York City at the end of June 1969. In YRDSB, we committed to recognizing and celebrating Pride Month by way of a number of initiatives, including the opportunity for schools to fly the Pride Flag at their school sites below the Canadian Flag. The Pride Flag is internationally recognized as a symbol of pride, hope and diversity. Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, designed the Pride Flag in 1978 as a response to the need for a symbol to support the LGBT rights movement. Flying the Pride Flag affirms our Board's commitment to eliminating harmful biases and prejudice that lead to discrimination and exclusion, it signals our commitment to upholding the principles outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which are reflective of Canadian values, and it aligns with the YRDSB Director's Annual Plan, identifying Equity and Inclusivity as a priority area in our Board.

YRDSB Updates

May 27th – Learning and Caring At Home Survey

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Coronavirus.aspx>

FAQs for Families Regarding Student Learning, Mental Health Supports:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/Repository/NewsEvents/Pages/BoardNews/Coronavirus-FAQ.aspx#CommunityandMentalHealthSupport>

York Region Public Health Updates: www.york.ca/covid19

School Council

Minutes

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

School Contact Information

School Website Information

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/Pages/default.aspx>

Superintendent- Michael Cohen

Phone: (905) 884-4477

cec.central@yrdsb.ca

Trustee-Corrie McBain

(416) 219-7426

corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Krista Pummell

Vice-Principals – Yula Nouragas (A-L), George Ellinas (M-Z)

Telephone: 905-884-0554

Special Education

Twitter: [@AlexMackSpecEd](https://twitter.com/AlexMackSpecEd)

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Arts & Culture:

Instagram: [#amhsartscouncil](https://www.instagram.com/amhsartscouncil)

Visual Arts Department

Twitter: [@amhsvisa](https://twitter.com/amhsvisa)

Instagram: [#amhs.studio](https://www.instagram.com/amhs.studio)

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

Moderns Department

Twitter: [@AlexModerns](https://twitter.com/AlexModerns)

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: [@Mustangsmove](https://twitter.com/Mustangsmove)

Instagram: [macpheathletics](https://www.instagram.com/macpheathletics)

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. On Twitter

Follow us on twitter [@AlexMackHS](https://twitter.com/AlexMackHS)

*All Parent Bulletins are posted to the school website (*see web address, linked above).*

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