



Alexander Mackenzie High School  
300 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Richmond Hill, ON, L4C3S3  
School Website: [www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.ca](http://www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.ca)  
School Email: [alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca)  
Telephone 905-884-0554  
Principal: Krista Luks  
Vice Principal: Themis Drekolias and Helen Ho

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## Important Upcoming Dates

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- Monday November 25 - Mackenzie Health Benefit Concert (RHCPA)
- Tuesday December 3 - Friday December 6 - Matilda Musical (RHCPA)
- Monday December 9 - Vaccination Clinic
- Thursday December 12 - MLL After School Tea Party
- Tuesday December 17- Music Holiday Party
- Friday December 20 - WinterFest Assembly
- Monday December 23- Friday January 3 - Winter Break (No School)
- January 14 and 15 - Grade 9 Math EQAO for students currently taking Grade 9 Math
- Wednesday January 22- Tuesday 28- Exams (Student cannot be away during exams)

### School Cash Online

- School Yearbook 2024-2025
- School Council Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser
- Graduation Ceremony

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## School News

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### Graduation / Graduation Photos

#### Grad Photo Sign up Information

Attention grade 12 students: Grad photos are coming! Edge Imaging will be here to take grad photos beginning **Monday, January 13, 2025**. Don't forget to book your appointment!

Please sign up online at [BOOK A PHOTO SESSION » Edge Imaging](#) Our school code is: **WAM**

Sign up early to get the time that works best for you.

Congratulations class of 2025! We look forward to seeing you for your graduation photos!

### **Graduation Ceremony - School Cash Online**

Graduation from High School is a significant milestone for those who have met the criteria.

Students are eligible to participate in this year's ceremony and commence with your classmates, if they have successfully achieved the following three criteria below:

1. You must have obtained 26 credits by the end of Semester 1 towards the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. And have **completed 30 credits** including all compulsory credits.
2. You must have **completed (40) hours** of community service hours of volunteer work by May 2, 2025.
3. You must have passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) requirement.

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to report any credits earned through night school, summer school, and/or private school to the guidance office by May 2, 2025. Failure to meet all three criteria may result in ineligibility to participate in this year's ceremony and could consider you for next year's graduating class.

This year our Graduation ceremony will be held at Borgata Event Center. 8400 Jane Street, Vaughan Ontario, L4K 4L8.

The graduation package, which includes a graduation gown, cap, stole, tassel, and two guest tickets, is priced at \$85. Please submit your payment by May 2, 2025 to ensure your participation through school cash online.

### **Popcorn Fundraiser!**

Athletic Council is running a popcorn fundraiser with Kernel's Popcorn to support the purchase of new athletic equipment and support the Athletic Banquet. There are a variety of flavours to choose from - Salted Butter, White Cheddar, Salt and Vinegar, Ketchup and Dill.

Sales will run until December 9, 2024 and pick up will take place in the ProShop between December 16-19, 2024 after school. Each Bag also includes a 2-for-1 Kernel's Popcorn coupon as well!

Place your orders on School Cash Online today! Each Bag also includes a 2-for-1 Kernel's Popcorn coupon as well!

\*\*\*Students are required to bring their student card when picking up their orders. \*\*\*

## Grade 9 Science Guest Speaker

On Wednesday December 11 during your child's grade 9 science class, we will have a guest speaker from the organization Agsacpe to share on the topic of "Sustainability in Agriculture". Students will explore the three pillars of sustainability in the agriculture and agri-food industry in Canada and investigate the impacts that they have on society and the future of Canadian agriculture. The speaker will be presenting to the class virtually. The topic of the speaker connects to the following grade 9 science curriculum expectations:

- B2.4 investigate factors and processes, including biodiversity, air and water quality, soil health, and succession, and explain how they contribute to ecosystem sustainability
- B2.5 explain the effects of various human activities on the dynamic equilibrium of ecosystems
- B2.7 explain how sustainable practices related to the cycling of matter and the flow of energy can be applied in agricultural innovations

## Lost and Found

As a friendly reminder, the lost and found will be cleared during the winter break - please remind your child to gather any lost belonging from the lost and found near the main office. Thank you.

## Parking Lot Reminder

This is a reminder that the school parking lot is not a safe area to play. Playing near the school parking lot can lead to injuries and accidental damage to parked vehicles. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and respectful school environment.

## Message from Our Trustee

*December 2024*

*As we approach the winter break, I am happy to share a few updates from the Board of Trustees and to wish you all the very best for the approaching break and holiday season.*

## **Multi-Year Strategic Plan**

*In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence. The plan sets out three priorities that will guide our direction and decision-making as a school board: student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education.*

## **Family Engagement**

*Earlier in the fall, we hosted a series of **school council forums**, bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all of the family members who are supporting the work of our school councils, volunteering in schools, attending events and meetings, sharing information and getting involved in any way to support and strengthen our schools and school communities.*

*Some families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.*

*As part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with families to support your child's education, we also recently introduced the **Family Dashboard**. The dashboard will offer you secure, one-stop access*

to information and applications related to your child's education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).

### **Happy Holiday Season and Winter Break**

*For many in our community, this time of year includes significant dates and celebrations. For those who are celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. It is also a valuable time to connect with family and friends, as well as to rest and recharge. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.*

*Robert Kolosowski, Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4*

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## **Guidance**

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### **Semester 2 Night School Information - Registration opens Dec. 16th.**

It is important for all students to maintain a full course load of four courses per semester, particularly for students in Grades 9-11. This is crucial for meeting graduation requirements and ensuring students are progressing toward their academic goals.

Night School is intended for students who are unable to take certain courses due to scheduling conflicts or if a course is not available during regular school hours. Additionally, students should not drop a course from their regular schedule to take it in night school. [Night School information Link](#)

### **Night School Credit Courses | York Region District School Board**

2024-2025 Night School Credit Classes Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face Night School program will move to a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous). Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:45 p.m.

[www2.yrdsb.ca](http://www2.yrdsb.ca)

## Post-Secondary Transition Night

RACA is providing an information evening session for grade 11 and 12 students regarding secondary transitions to University for student with LD or Exceptionalities.

### Post-Secondary Transition Information Night



 **November 26, 2024**  
6:00-7:00pm

 **Virtual Presentation**

The Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) promotes equity and access for students with neurodevelopmental disorders in post-secondary education, by providing evidence-based services and supports to students, practitioners, and educators across Ontario. Our vision is to enable students with neurodevelopmental disabilities to thrive in post-secondary education.

In this presentation, we will discuss programming, accommodations, and supports that equip secondary students with disabilities with the necessary knowledge and skills to access post-secondary education. Presenters will highlight the important role of transition planning to help students feel more confident and prepared to meet educational challenges. The role of assessment and appropriate determination and implementation of accommodations will also be central to the discussion. This training is appropriate for grade 11 and 12 students with learning disabilities, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and/or Mental Health Disorders, parents/guardians, and resource teachers. There is no fee or registration required for this event.



**Objectives:**

- 1 Identify the skills required to successfully transition to post-secondary education and the resources available to teach your students these skills.
- 2 Appreciate the differences between rights and responsibilities of a student at the various levels of education.
- 3 Recognize how assessment can be used as part of transition planning and the determination of appropriate accommodations.

**Join via Microsoft Teams:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/42pde9dr>

**Meeting ID: 278 204 256 553**  
**Passcode: bEjZix**

 [rarc.transitions@queensu.ca](mailto:rarc.transitions@queensu.ca)  [www.queensu.ca/rarc](http://www.queensu.ca/rarc)  613-533-6311

## Upcoming Post Secondary Pathway Events

Event	Date	Location
Experience Seneca Days	December 2024 (full day)	Register on SCO

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## Board News

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**A Career that works for you.**

**“**  
**We believe that every student can be successful. That drives our work.**  
**”**

We are looking for individuals who share this commitment to student learning well-being, and achievement.

We have ongoing job postings in a variety of positions. Learn more about why YRDSB may be the right place for you.

Meet some of our staff and explore career opportunities. [www.yrdsb.ca/careers](http://www.yrdsb.ca/careers) or scan the QR code.



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## Student Attendance

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General inquiries and student attendance information can be sent directly to the AMHS attendance email address at [alexandermackenziehs.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexandermackenziehs.attendance@yrdsb.ca).

You may also call the school Main Office directly at 905-884-0554.

If your child is arriving late to school due to an appointment or another reason, please ensure that you confirm their late arrival with a call or email to our attendance office. Thank you.