



Boxwood Broncos



April 2021

Boxwood Public School
30 Boxwood Crescent, Markham, Ontario, L3S 3P7
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Email: boxwood.ps@yrdsb.ca

Principal: Dane Prince
Superintendent: Becky Green
Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416) 885-3479



Principal's Message

Schools in the Context of Covid

As you know, our society is experiencing unique circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has led to the need for some unfamiliar circumstances in order to keep our school community as safe as possible. For instance:

- Staff have to wear masks and eye protection (e.g., safety glasses)
- Students in grades 1-8 are required to wear masks
- Students in grades 1-8 are required to wear masks during recess
- Parents have to complete a screening each day to ensure that their child has no symptoms
- Staff have to complete the screening each day for themselves
- Students who display any symptoms at school are required to go to the isolation room until they are picked up
- Classes may be shut down (i.e., students and teachers have to self-isolate) as per the directions of Public Health if any cases develop in the classroom
- Siblings of students in classes that are shut down have to self-isolate as well

We recognize that the shut down of a class and the requirement of students to self-isolate is inconvenient. We recognize that the families of our face-to-face students believe that learning in this model is the best for their child, and it can be a stress on families to keep their children at home. Unfortunately, these are the guidelines that the province, specifically Public Health, have made mandatory for schools to follow. When a positive case occurs, we provide the necessary information to Public Health (e.g., last date of attendance) and then they provide us with the direction we are required to follow. This is not a school based decision. In each situation, Public Health provides direction to lessen the risk of any possible transmission. This means that there will be circumstances when students who are not presenting any symptoms have to stay home to better ensure the safety of all in our school community.

Thank you so much for your patience with these unfamiliar and new procedures. Also, please be aware that there is a possibility that schools in York Region may be closed after the break. Our most important goal right now is to provide a *safe atmosphere for our students to learn*.

York Region Dedicating Two COVID-19 Immunization Clinics to Residents Aged 45 to 59 in Five York Region Postal Code Areas (“Hot Spots”)

April 5, 2021

As vaccination efforts continue to expand to more eligible groups, York Region has announced COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for residents age 45 to 59 (born 1962 to 1976) who live in five identified initial high priority communities in York Region, often referred to as “hot spots”.

The following five areas include four in the City of Vaughan and one in the city of Markham, in the following postal codes: L4L, L6A, L4K, L4J, and L3S.

This inclusion follows the provincial government identification of priority groups in [Phase 2 of the provincial vaccine plan](#). These communities are defined as geographical locations with high historic and ongoing rates of transmission, hospitalization and death.

TO ACCESS THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The booking process for eligible residents will open **Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.** Appointments will be available from **Thursday, April 8, 2021 to Monday, April 12, 2021.** Eligible residents are encouraged to book their appointments as soon as they are able to.

Visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine and select one of the following dedicated clinic locations to book an appointment:

- City of Markham – Aaniin Community Centre
- City of Vaughan – Maple Community Centre

Vaccines are available by appointment only. Do not visit a clinic site without a scheduled appointment or if you do not meet the current eligibility (age requirement and postal code requirement) as you will be turned away.

Please bring the following items to your vaccination appointment:

- Ontario Health Card (OHIP) if you have one
- Photo identification
- Proof of address that you live in York Region

Public Health takes vaccine prioritization seriously. Providing false information may result in cancellation of your appointment.

Expanding York Region’s vaccine program into these high priority communities will help control spread, reduce illness and protect against variants of concern. These five initial communities

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/covid19



Visit YRDSB's New Website!

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at www.yrdsb.ca.

The new website has been designed to be mobile friendly, translatable, accessible, searchable, easy to navigate and to better reflect York Region District School Board and our community. This includes:

- Built-in translation tool
- Enhanced search capabilities
- Built-in accessibility features to meet accessibility legislation
- Revised navigation based on user testing, website analytics and research

Quick access to six of our most accessed pages, including school calendars and school transportation information.

The new website also includes:

- A [Family Resources](#) that provides quick access to online tools like Edsby, Google Classroom and School Cash Online, as well as links to information about translation tools, IT support for families and more. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.
- Updated [Online Student Tools](#) pages provide quick access to students to online learning platforms and resources to help with homework. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.
- An enhanced [newsroom](#) with access to the latest news, events and videos so you can find out what’s happening around our Board.
- Easy access to information about [supports for students](#), [elementary school](#) and [secondary school](#) programs, [adult learning opportunities](#) and more.

Information about COVID-19 and schools, including update information, screening tools and frequently asked questions can still be found at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

We hope that the website makes it easier for families to find and access the information you are looking for. When you visit the new website, please take the time to share your feedback, so we can continue to ensure our website meets the needs of the community we serve.

It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

It's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.
- It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca.



HERE TO HELP LINE

 **905-503-9561**



Monday - Thursday
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**STARTING
IN APRIL**



*For children and youth (0-18 yrs)
and their parents, caregivers or
adult supporters.*

Call us if you have concerns that could benefit from quick access to phone counselling.

Topics include (but are not limited to):

- Anxiety, stress and depression
- Family relationship issues
- Managing stress and anxiety related to COVID-19
- Parenting resources and concerns

Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.



Parents for Children's Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Monday, April 19, 2021 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Panel Discussion and Q&A: Bullying Impacts and Strategies to End.

PARENTS' Support Group-All are welcome!

VIRTUAL MEETING

Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behaviour challenges make parenting difficult? Join us...

PCMH Chapter Support is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PCMH York/Aurora

Time: Apr 19, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92342129990?pwd=Wms4UFEyOG0rSVdDMkRqZmUyamVIZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 4212 9990

Passcode: 394643

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,92342129990#,,,,*394643# Canada

+17789072071,,92342129990#,,,,*394643# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 923 4212 9990

Passcode: 394643

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aiAw30O20>

Benefits of PCMH Support Group:

- meet other parents with children who have similar challenges
 - find encouragement and emotional support
- learn strategies to help your child or youth at home/school
 - learn how to access resources in the community

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centred principles of care. PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit www.pcmh.ca.

Monday, May 10th Topic Community Resources 6:30 – 8 pm

Monday, June 21st Building Healthy Relationships 6:30 – 8 pm

ADDRESSING ANTI-EAST ASIAN RACISM THROUGH CONVERSATIONS & LEARNING



A THREE-PART Virtual Learning Series

Hosted by **NEKS** (Network of Educators for Korean Students) and **SEAS** (Supporting East Asian Students)
In collaboration with the **York Region District School Board**

**Session 1: Exploring East Asian
Canadian Identities & Experiences**
Wednesday, April 7th, 2021 (4:30 - 6:00pm)
Optional Dialogue: 6:00 - 6:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Gen Ling Chang
Former Associate Director of TDSB
and Deputy Executive Director of ALPHA Education

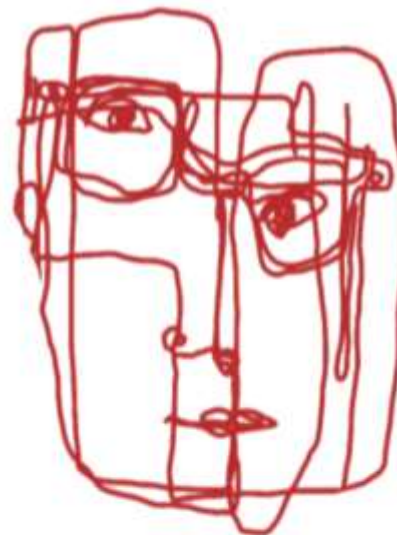
**Session 2: Disrupting Anti-East Asian
Racism in Education**
SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, May 26th, 2021
(4:30 - 6:00pm)

Keynote Speakers: Writers of
[Addressing Anti-Asian Racism: A Resource for Educators](#)

**Session 3: Addressing Anti-East Asian
Racism – Reflections & Practical Strategies
in Schools**
TBA: June 2021 (4:30 - 6:00pm)

Facilitators: Members of NEKS & SEAS

[YRDSB Registration](#) | [Public Registration](#)
Deadline to register is April 5, 2021



For more information, please contact SEAS
seasyork@gmail.com or
NEKS NEKstudents@gmail.com



NEKS

The Network of Educators for Korean-Canadian Students



Urban Alliance
on Race Relations



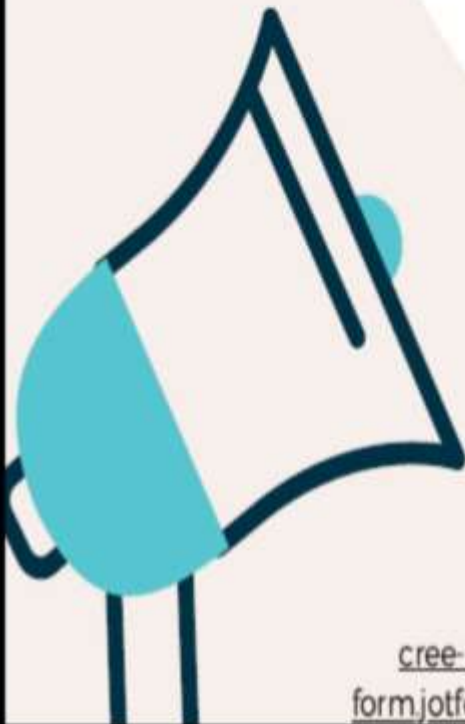
Association of Black
Educators

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE COALITION FOR RACIAL EQUITY
IN EDUCATION (CREE) PROJECT
IS RECRUITING BLACK
PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Are you passionate about community
organizing? Would you like to help
combat racism in the education
system? Do you live in the Durham,
Peels, Toronto, or York Region? Here
is your chance to help influence
education in Ontario!*

APPLY AT
JOTFORM



For More Info
cree-uarr.nationbuilder.com
form.jotform.com/210543718448256



World Autism Acceptance Month

April is World Autism Acceptance Month. Autism Awareness Month is a concept that has been around for several years within the autistic rights movement. This year, we are encouraging students to support a different cause: Autism ACCEPTANCE Month. Why the name change? Acceptance is INCLUSION. It goes beyond the concept of awareness, identifying the autism community as legitimate, meaningful and valuable members of society. During this month, we also honour the achievements and contributions of people with Autism.

With Covid -19 safety protocols in place, Boxwood will be participating in a series of weekly classroom initiatives that challenge students to think critically about inclusion and what it means to truly be inclusive of persons with Autism and/or other special needs. We are committed to this cause and we look forward to sharing pictures of our learning in the May Newsletter.

“Not all awareness is good awareness, and awareness itself can be the farthest thing from acceptance.” Lydia X. Z. Brown

Cindy Soares
Community Class Teacher
Mental Health & Well-Being Lead Teacher
Boxwood Public School



AUTISM PREVALENCE AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CANADA

2018 Report of the National Autism Spectrum
Disorder (ASD) Surveillance System*

IN **CANADA**,
AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUTH 5–17 YEARS OF AGE:

AN ESTIMATED
1 IN 66 HAVE BEEN
DIAGNOSED WITH ASD



MALES WERE
IDENTIFIED WITH ASD
MORE FREQUENTLY
THAN **FEMALES**

4X



1 IN 42
MALES
WERE DIAGNOSED WITH
ASD



MORE THAN HALF
OF CHILDREN AND
YOUTH HAD RECEIVED
THEIR DIAGNOSIS
BY AGE **6**

56%



AND MORE THAN
90% OF CHILDREN
AND YOUTH WERE
DIAGNOSED BY AGE **12**

90%



1 IN 165
FEMALES
WERE DIAGNOSED WITH
ASD

* Report findings are based on 2015 health, education and social services data collected from seven participating provincial and territorial governments (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory), representing 40% of children and youth in Canada.

Acknowledgements: This work was made possible through collaboration between the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and participating provincial and territorial governments and expert advice from the Autism Spectrum Disorders – Advisory Committee (ASD-AC). This infographic was developed by PHAC, no endorsement by provincial and territorial partners should be inferred.

Based: Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children and Youth in Canada 2018: A Report of the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Surveillance System
www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/autism-spectrum-disorder-children-youth-canada-2018.html

* ASD Data Blog <https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/infobase/autism-blog-en.html>

LEARN MORE ABOUT ASD IN CANADA

Visit: Canada.ca and search "autism" or "ASD"

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: PHAC @GovCanHealth

Boxwood Public School

invites you to join us for a virtual presentation to learn more about online resources available to families from TVO

tvo

Never stop learning

TVO Learn

a straight-forward, resource to support at-home learning

TVOkids

provides access to TVO's award-winning advertising-free videos, games and content that support the Ontario curriculum

TVO mPower

provides free, creative online games that support the development of foundational K-6 math and STEM skills while fostering positive attitudes towards math

TVO Mathify

is an online FREE one-on-one math service for Ontario students in grades 6-10 in the publicly funded school system.

Date: April 8th, 2021

Time: 7pm-7:45pm

[RSVP for this session](#)

Please press Ctrl & click this [LINK](#) to RSVP
Thank you!



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter April 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

Social Connection and the Power of a Listening Ear

A year later, we continue to experience uncertainty with lockdowns and social distancing; we long for social interaction with peers, friends, and families beyond our immediate social circles. This month's newsletter will focus on the importance of maintaining and expanding our social connections by offering a listening ear while following Public Health guidelines.

Restrictions limiting in-person interactions have left many parents and students feeling a sense of isolation, sadness, anxiousness, and frustration, among other feelings. The importance of offering a listening ear could not be more pronounced as many feel disconnected and alone. According to [CMHA](#), 'really listening' is the key to a meaningful connection. Active listening is a part of effective communication skills that can support building a real connection with other people. It can take some getting used to, especially when behind a mask and distanced six feet apart or even behind a virtual screen.

The importance of offering a listening ear to understand what a person might be experiencing is a small act that can make a meaningful difference. [Leon F. Seltzer Ph.D.](#) explains why feeling understood is essential to our wellbeing and how it connects us to others, allowing us to feel welcomed.

Included below are some tips to build connection safely by offering a [sympathetic ear](#):

- Reach out in a manner that feels safe and follows Public Health guidelines i.e., phone call, zoom, text, and other creative ways.
- Take the time to let the other person know you are there for them. *"I am here for you. I am listening. Tell me what's on your mind..."*
- Show empathy and understanding by validating what is being said. *"I hear you, and it makes sense why you would feel this way."*
- Acknowledge their feelings.

Student Mental Health and Addictions....cont. p.2

- Be present in the moment with the person.
- Listen to understand and take the necessary time to absorb the information.
- Ask questions when appropriate. The questions should be curious, open-ended, and ones that do not contain an answer. *"Can you tell me more about what that was like for you?"*
- Pay attention to body language by facing the person to show you are listening.
- Avoid advice-giving, interrupting, making assumptions, or judgments.
- Let the conversation flow.
- Be honest about how much time you can offer to connect.

Following these tips should help you get started on building meaningful connections through the act of listening.

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has created various resources for educators, parents and families, and students regarding supporting student mental health by developing healthy relationship skills. Check out some more tips from School Mental Health Ontario on [reaching out](#), so you can be your best to support your children.

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented issues and concerns for our community, our country and the world. As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well.

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health during this pandemic. Resources for students, parents/guardians as well as community resources are listed. In addition, there are various links to YRDSB mental health supports as well as community supports available during the school closure. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports During COVID](#).

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account @YRDSB

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.

Mental Health Lead

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Hoshana Calliste, MSW, RSW Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca



Budget Consultation Process for Families and Community Members

Between April 7 and April 29, York Region District School is inviting families and community members to participate in its annual budget consultation process. The Board values public input and encourages public participation in virtual [consultation sessions](#) and an online survey. These consultation sessions provide the Board with valuable information about how the community would like to see the school board budget allocated to better support student achievement and well-being. The results will be used to inform the 2021-22 school year budget allocation.

The date and time of the virtual consultation is:

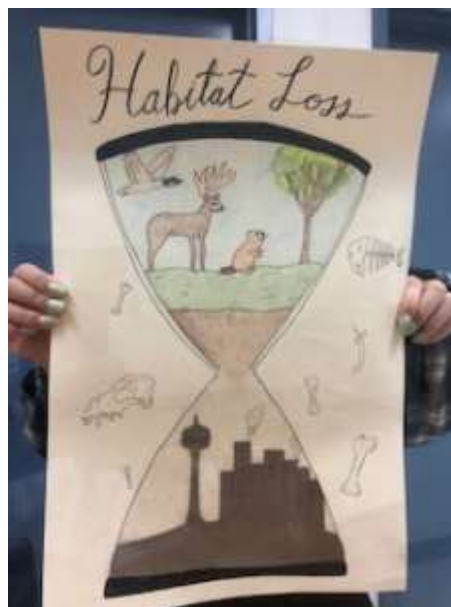
- Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 - ◊ Please register for this Public Budget Consultation Session at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3227105524126939660> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
 - ◊ Public, listen only, telephone access to the webinar is via 647-497-9389 and Access Code 149-846-166.

YRDSB has created a survey to gather community feedback into the process. The survey will be available for completion on the Board [website](#) April 7 - April 29, 2021.

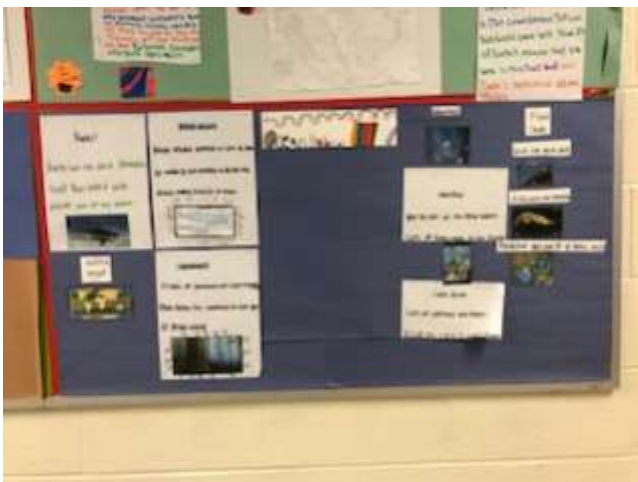
YRDSB values community input and is working to increase transparency and understanding of its budget process. Questions regarding the budget process may be directed to Budget20212022@yrdsb.ca.

Learning at Boxwood

Our amazing grade 7 & 8 students. Have been working on social justice issues and creating art using different materials. They used both of these skills to create an art piece that represents a social justice issue. We are so proud of the work that they have created! Thanks to our intermediate team, Ms. Royce, Ms. James, and Ms. Mullings for providing these wonderful learning opportunities for our students!



More Learning and Creativity at Boxwood...





Dates to Remember

April 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL 
5 EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL 	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
APRIL BREAK—NO SCHOOL				
19	20	21	22	23
26	27		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></p> <p>May 24th - Victoria Day—No School May 31—P.A. Day—No School</p>	