

# Bur Oak E-Bulletin

Newsletter  
May 29, 2020



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## **Supporting Online Learning**

While schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We know that learning at home looks different for each family. 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](#).
- [Student Tech Help](#) form for support with student technology provided by the Board and accessing online learning platforms.
- [Mental health](#) and [community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources for students with special education needs](#).

To learn more about our [Learning and Caring Plan](#), access these resources and more, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/covid19](http://www.yrdsb.ca/covid19). Google translate is available on our website.

## **Attention Parents and Guardians**

Please be advised that teachers may be trying to get in touch with you regarding your student and may be calling from a blocked telephone number.

## Message from Our Trustee, May 29, 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](http://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](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Allan Tam  
Trustee, Markham, Wards 4 and 5

## **Graduating Student Reminders and Updates**

Families are encouraged to keep an eye on their emails from Post-Secondary Institutions to confirm details and ensure they submit their confirmation for selected programs before the stated deadlines. Students who are concerned about options should make arrangements to connect with their Guidance Counsellor.

## **Scholarship and Awards Updates**

Just a reminder to families, we do update our [Scholarship and Awards](#) page with information we receive from many community resources.

Students who will be receiving awards from the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA), please note that the event has been rescheduled to November, 2020.

## **Notice:**

During the school closure related to the current Pandemic, referrals to CRES partners listed below can continue to be made by YRDSB Psychology and Social Work, as well as directly by parents/families/student (as applicable). Some of our partners are offering a limited range of services. Please contact these agencies directly to learn more about their current offering of service.

Click on the attached link for helpful YRDSB information regarding [COVID 19 Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#).

Please refer to the attached links for more YRDSB information regarding [Novel Coronavirus FAQ](#) and [Novel Coronavirus Updates](#).

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting fall 2019. Please take a moment to review the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol notice YRDSB Student that is a part of the YRDSB website.

## **Summer School e-Learning**

Included below is information regarding the Summer School e-Learning:

- **Course dates:** July 2, 2020 – July 27, 2020
- **Registration period for YRDSB students:** May 8, 2020 (noon) – June 25, 2020 (noon)

A confirmation for interested students may be submitted to the [SSeL Student Confirmation Summer 2020 form](#). You will need to log on to your YRDSB GAPPs account to access the form.

Students may apply online by visiting the [e-Learning website](#), after receiving permission from their home school.

## **Summer School Applications and Course Change Requests**

Need to sign up for summer school? Follow the steps carefully and first fill out the form at [bit.ly/BOSSsummerRequest](http://bit.ly/BOSSsummerRequest). This form must be completed and conversations with counsellors are to take place prior to any further registrations for either face-to-face or eLearning programs.

While course verifications are now closed, we are accepting requests for course changes for next year. Please note, these changes are subject to availability and will likely be added to Wait Lists. The change request is available at: [bit.ly/BOSSchanges2021](http://bit.ly/BOSSchanges2021)

For both forms - students need to be signed into their Gapps account in your internet browser to access.

## **NEW! Grade 8 Reach Ahead 2020 Summer Credit Language Program & Grade 9 to 12 Students (Spanish & Mandarin)**

- Grade 8 students can now take a Grade 9 credit course this summer in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Grades 9 to 12 students can now take Level B or C summer credit courses in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Prerequisites are not required for any Level B international languages course.
- This is an 18-day program (July 6-29, Monday to Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:33 p.m. daily) for one credit introductory (Level B) international languages course.

Click on the attached [YRDSB link](#) for more information and details regarding registration.

## **FREE Live Tour of The Museum of the Jewish People**

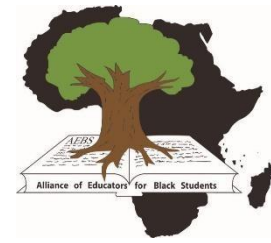
You are invited to join a unique and [FREE live tour from Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People](#), on **June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. Please see the attached flyer for more information. The tour explores synagogues from diverse Jewish communities around the world including from the Caribbean, Egypt, Ukraine, Germany, India, Ancient Greece, Italy, and Poland. You will have the opportunity to view Beit Hatfutsot's world-renowned collection of synagogue models and their associated original artifacts.

This opportunity was coordinated for mid-June, following the month of May designated as Jewish Heritage Month, as a way for interested YRDSB families and parents to take part in learning about Jewish culture and heritage. We recognize that there are opportunities all year-round to learn about the diverse communities that make up our schools, in addition to the heritage months throughout the year. For instance, Ontario's Arts Curriculum encourages students to learn about a variety of works of art and artistic traditions from diverse communities, times, and places.

If you are interested in this opportunity, **please register using the [online registration form](#) by June 12<sup>th</sup>** to book your spot for the live tour on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity is made available for free to YRDSB students and their families. If you would like additional information about the tour and have any questions, please email YRDSB's Community Partnership Developer [leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca). Alternatively, leave her a voicemail with your name and number at **905-727-0022 x 4101** and your call will be returned.

After completing the registration form, you will be sent an email receipt with information on how to access the live tour with a link to the live tour. The live tour is made available through the ZOOM video platform. You do not need to download ZOOM to participate. To ensure privacy, the primary video footage presented during the live tour will be of the tour guide and the tour itself, and participants' videos will be disabled and muted. This set up is to ensure privacy of our participants. You will be able to ask questions during the live tour through a chat box feature. For a small group, it may be possible for participants to ask questions unmuted; however, the chat box will nevertheless be used as the primary method for asking questions.

Thank you for taking the time to read about this opportunity!



## **AEBS 2020 Scholarships for Black Students**

### **Graduating from York Region District School Board High Schools**

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) is dedicated to the success of Black students of African Canadian heritage in schools in the YRDSB. Unfortunately, AEBS had to cancel the 2020 Achievement Awards Ceremony due to COVID-19. However, AEBS believes it is important for students to have access to funds to help pay for their postsecondary education.

AEBS invites Black students who are graduating to [apply](#) for a scholarship online.

**The deadline to apply is Monday, June 15, 2020.**

More [information](#) about AEBS Scholarships is available online or contact:

Charlotte Reid; [charlotte.reid@yrdsb.ca](mailto:charlotte.reid@yrdsb.ca)  
Elaine Ricketts; [elaine.ricketts@yrdsb.ca](mailto:elaine.ricketts@yrdsb.ca)  
Jaymyi Lesmond; [jaymyi.lesmond@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jaymyi.lesmond@yrdsb.ca)

# **MARKHAM AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION**

## **2020 Scholarship Application Package**



The **Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)** has awarded scholarships to students going to College or University for the past 32 years.

The MACCA event will take place in November, 2020. Please follow the attached link in order to access the full [\*\*MACCA Scholarship Application Package 2020\*\*](#). And note that the deadline to apply is Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.