



# Clearmeadow P.S.

February Character Trait: Initiative

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Website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/clearmeadow.ps>

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## CALENDAR

February	Black History Month
Feb. 1 Day 0	P.A. Day - No school Model Change Survey Opens
Feb. 2 Day 2	
Feb. 3 Day 3	
Feb. 4 Day 4	
Feb. 5 Day 5	Spirit Day: Beach Day Final date to submit French Immersion Registration on time – all future registrations will be considered Late
Feb. 8 Day 1	Model Change Survey Closes
Feb. 15	Family Day

## PHOTO GALLERY



FDK Robots made with Recycled Materials

## AT A GLANCE INFORMATION

**Welcome to New Staff at Clearmeadow:** 2021 has brought several new staff members to Clearmeadow PS. We are extending a warm welcome to Ms. Shima Javar, who is teaching French, Ms. Alyssa Mihail, who is teaching Grade 1 with Ms. McKeown, Ms. Brown who will be taking over Grade 7 full time as Mr. Mako retires, Ms. Laura Bondi, who is teaching our Community Class, Ms. Tara Heshka, our new lead caretaker and Ms. Karen Goreski, a new member of our caretaking team.

**Elementary School Model Change:** On **Monday, February 1**, families will receive an email with the process to request an Elementary School Model Change. **Only families requesting a school model change need to complete the survey.** Please complete the survey (to switch models) by **Monday, February 8, at 5 p.m.** If you DO NOT wish to change models, you DO NOT fill out the survey. This will be the last opportunity for elementary students to change learning models in the 2020-21 school year.

Following the Ministry's confirmation of the date of our return to face-to-face learning, we will provide you with the official YRDSB change of program start date for students.

Staff will continue to work diligently to provide the best program for each child and to comply with the reduced cohort class size targets. However, we cannot guarantee that there will not be an increase in combined grades or a change to the number of students in classes in some schools. Due to the complexity of the pending reorganization and staffing, your child may be assigned a new teacher. Families will be informed of any changes to their child's class placement or program model, as well as the date it begins.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

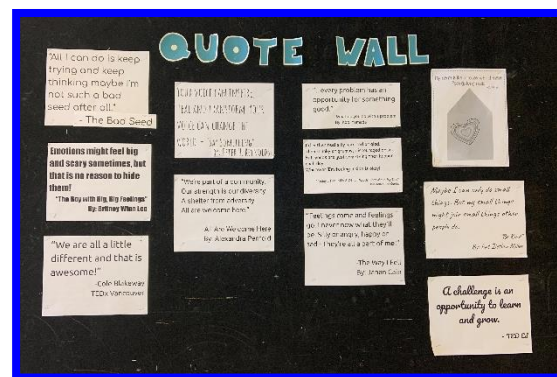
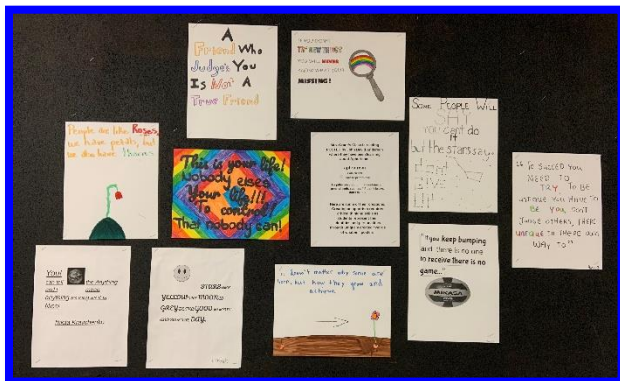
It is hard to believe that we are at the end of our 4<sup>th</sup> week of Online Learning for our face to face students and staff. This has been a challenging month for all involved and we are so thankful for the active partnership between school and home to provide continued learning for our students. We have visited many Google Classrooms during synchronous learning and have enjoyed speaking with students, partaking in lessons and seeing all of the amazing strategies that teachers are using to engage students online. We do miss having students in the building and are looking forward to our return to Face-to-Face learning soon.

Even though our students are not in the building, our amazing caretaking staff have been hard at work cleaning and disinfecting the entire building in preparation for a safe return of students. Our gym floor looks brand new! We continue to be grateful to our caretakers for taking such pride in our school.



Some of the challenges that families may be experiencing could require additional supports and services beyond those that the school can offer. A resource called **2-1-1 Ontario** <https://211ontario.ca/> is a helpline and online database of Ontario's community and social services, answered by highly trained professionals. The power behind this tool is that it uses GPS location services to identify community-based resources only relevant to a person's address. This reduces the time it can take for families to find help that is both nearby and relevant.

On Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, it was Bell Let's Talk Day. This year especially we are encouraging our students to reach out if they need help and also try to be a positive presence in someone else's life. Here are some ways that different classes have been encouraging each other. More sharing to come next week!



We are in the school every day, so please reach out if you need any support.

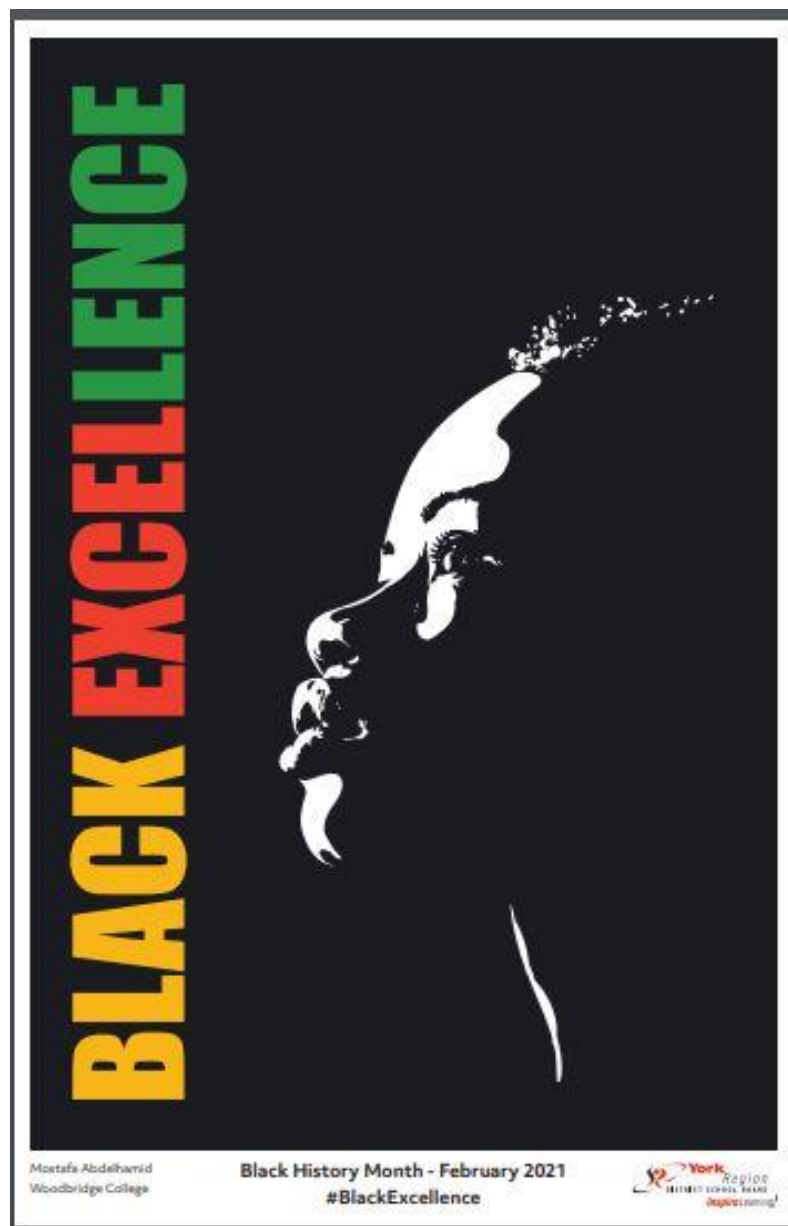
Janine Stutt, Principal & Ingrid Legros, Vice-Principal

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.



## TRUSTEE GREETINGS

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.

Linda Gilbert





## Parents for Children's Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

**Monday, February 22, 2021 6:30 pm - 8 pm**

**5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Chapter!!!**

*PARENTS' Support Group-All are welcome!*

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

### **Guest Panel: Social Media: Positive Use during COVID-19**

*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: Aurora York PCMH Chapter 5th ANNIVERSARY Meeting

Time: Feb 22, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94001101367?pwd=VFpTbGJQTEhUeWJkMzk2cUIBaWhzQT09>

Meeting ID: 940 0110 1367

Passcode: 403748

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,94001101367# Canada

+15873281099,,94001101367# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 940 0110 1367

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

#### **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](http://www.pcmh.ca).

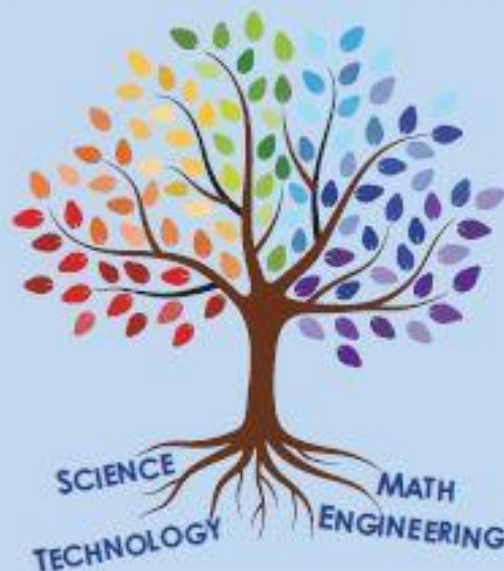
**Next Meeting: Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm – 8 pm. Topic to be announced next flyer**

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD & SKILLS ONTARIO  
INVITE YOU TO AN INFORMATION SESSION ON

# STEM

THE ROOTS OF SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



We are inviting **ALL** YRDSB parents/guardians of YRDSB Elementary and Secondary students to join York Region District School Board's Pathways Team & Skills Ontario on Tuesday, 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.

## GOOGLE STREAM

\*Please note: you will need to log into your child's YRDSB Gapps account to access the online webinar stream. \*Register in advance: [BIT.LY/YRDSB-STEM](https://bit.ly/YRDSB-STEM)

