

DATES AT A GLANCE

Feb. 13 Caring & Safe Schools Presentations

Feb. 13-15 eDistribution Sem. 1 Report Cards

Feb. 13 & 14 Period 2 Course Selection visits

Feb. 15 Course Offerings Fair

Feb. 16-17 Grade Photo Retake Day & New Students

Feb. 16 Course Selections for 2023/24 **OPEN**

Feb. 20 FAMILY DAY - No School

Feb. 21 School Council Meeting

Feb. 24 Course Selections for 2023/24 **CLOSE**

Mar. 02 - 05 [Study and Go Abroad Fair](#)

Mar. 13 - 17 WINTER BREAK - No

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

REPORT CARDS * NEW DATE

Please note that report cards will be sent **electronically** to students' GAPPS accounts from IT Services between February 13-15. Families will receive an email about how to access the report card file.

REPORT CARDS

LOST & FOUND:

Currently we have a table with lost and found items located in the front foyer in front of the main office. Any times not picked up by Friday, February 17, 2023 will be donated.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE - BLACK VOICES

As a continuation of our Celebrating Black Excellence campaign, YRDSB will be celebrating Black History Month with Celebrating Black Excellence - Black Voices.

Celebrating Black Excellence - Black Voices aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. This Black History Month campaign asks students, staff and community members who identify as Black to consider submitting a short video of themselves answering one of the following prompts.

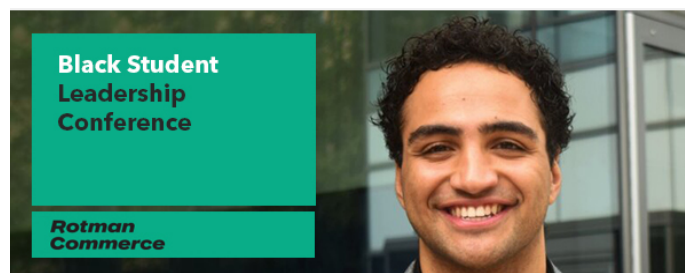
- I am proud to be Black because..
- It's important to me that I see my identity affirmed at school/work because...
- What I need at school/work is...
- People need to know that...
- I love myself because...
- I am magic because...
- Do you have a story to tell? Let us know what it is.
- If these prompts don't resonate with you, please feel free to answer a prompt or question of your own making.

These videos will be shared as Reels on the [@yrdsb.schools](#) Instagram account throughout the month of February. This information will be communicated to our schools and our community and will be available on the [Celebrating Black Excellence - Black Voices webpage](#).

BLACK STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Rotman Commerce is delighted to announce that the Black Student Leadership Conference will be returning on Monday, March 13, 2023 at U of T's St. George Campus. In partnership with the Black Rotman Commerce student group, Rotman

Commerce has planned an engaging afternoon of hands-on training in the core business competencies of trading and case study. Prospective black students in grades 9-12 are invited to campus to gain an introduction to the fields of finance and business problem-solving through sessions hosted by current Rotman Commerce students and staff. Registration is now open at [uoft.me/bslc](#).





School	
<p>SCHOOL COUNCIL emily.carr.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca Meeting Dates: Tuesday Feb. 21, 2023 Wednesday, Apr. 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. - Library</p> <p>ATTENDANCE email: emilycarrss.attendance@yrdsb.ca</p> <p>SCHOOL email: emily.carr.ss@yrdsb.ca</p> <p>HELPFUL LINKS: ECSS Calendar ECSS Website YRDSB Website ECSS Twitter ECSS Instagram York Region Public Health Tips For Speaking With Your Child - COVID-19 Mental Health Supports School Mental Health Ontario</p>	<p>SKATE WITH PRIDE EVENT This Family Day event (information hyperlinked) is from 10:00am - 3:00pm at 90 Wexford Dr. Georgina, ON. You can also volunteer for the event on the website under the Get Involved! tab.</p> <p>YRDSB STUDENT TRUSTEE Each year, students in Grades 5-12 have the opportunity to vote for the two student trustees who will represent their voice across York Region District School Board. Voting takes place between February 16-22, 2023.</p> <p>You can learn more about the final four candidates and watch an all-candidates panel discussion at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees. This is an excellent opportunity to hear directly from each candidate and their views and thoughts on issues that concern all YRDSB students.</p> <p>Information on how to vote will be shared with all eligible students in your GAPPs email account when voting opens February 16.</p> <p>R;pple© In our continued work to foster student Well-Being and Mental Health we have added R;pple© to the YRDSB wifi network as a Google Chrome browser extension. The extension is deployed through the YRDSB GAPPs environment meaning if a student is not logged into their browser with their GAPPs account, the tool would not be initiated.</p> <p>R;pple© is a tool which presents a life promoting message and helpful resources (such as kidshelpphone) when a student searches for harmful keywords or phrases related to self-harm or suicide.</p> <p>No personal information is collected and students are not identifiable. For more information about Student Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion, please review the resource link: YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol</p> <p>ESCS PUBLIC SURVEY CONSULTATION York Region District School Board will be conducting the Every Student Counts Survey with students in Grades K-12 from April 24, 2023 - May 12, 2023. As part of the survey development, we are asking families to review our draft surveys and provide their feedback.</p> <p>Student and family feedback is critical to the survey development process and helps to ensure that the survey is an accurate reflection of our school communities. Responses made through the feedback form are voluntary, confidential and anonymous. The feedback form will be available from February 3, 2023 - February 10, 2023. To learn more, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/escs</p> <p>COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 2023/2024 Students in grade 9 - 11 viewed grade specific course selection videos in their period 2 classes during the week of February 6th. Counsellors are following up with in class visits on February 13th and 14th to answer questions. There will also be a Course Offerings Fair in the main hallway during the lunch hour on February 15th so that students can ask questions to subject experts about courses and pathways. It is important to note that students can begin locking in their</p>



course selections as of February 16th. Submitted course selections are due **no later than February 24th at 4:00 pm**. Parents/guardians must finalize submissions by providing email approval in order to lock in a student's course selection.

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS

Interested in learning more about pathways after high school? Students and families can attend a virtual information session. Refer to the flyer below for more details.

TUNE IN YRDSBS

[Tune In YRDSB](#) is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling.



GOOD NEIGHBOUR RELATIONSHIPS

The students of E.C.S.S. have a shared responsibility with our community partners to ensure an inviting and clean environment for our neighbours and our community. Although the Al Palladini Community Center, the Pierre Berton Resource Library and the Business establishments at the Plaza are public facilities, they are to be treated as private property by our students.

We would like to remind our students that they are discouraged from "hanging out" in these different areas between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. During lunch students are welcome at both centers as long as they adhere to the City of Vaughan's 'Safe Community Centres Policy Code of Conduct'. We expect our students to be positive representatives of ECSS at school and in our community, being polite, staying out of unsupervised areas and courteous in behaviour or speech at all times.

PARKING LOTS

With icy conditions and darkness making it difficult to see, we kindly ask that staff, students and parents please slow down when driving through the parking lot.

SEVERE WEATHER

In order to prepare ourselves for the upcoming snowy season please be aware of the following:

On days in which weather reports are indicating that York Region will be receiving some snow, you can obtain information in the morning about bus and/or school cancellations, such as, but not limited to the following:

- Student Transportation Services website: schoolbuscity.com
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Board website (www.yrdsb.ca) and school websites
- Radio and TV media outlets

Please continue to monitor local media for up to date weather forecasts and take safety precautions advised by local authorities.

BLACK EXCELLENCE in STEM Careers

Diversity in Engineering

Join us as we showcase Black Excellence in Engineering with a feature presentation by Electrical Engineer and Energy specialist Gary Thompson, P. Eng.

Monday, Feb. 13
7:00 pm

 Register on Eventbrite

 Live on Zoom



GARY THOMPSON, P. ENG.





diverseminds



B'nai Brith Presents...



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

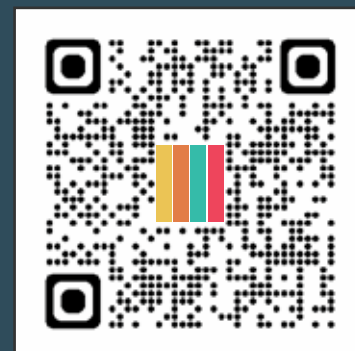
Write and illustrate a children's book that tells a story of diversity and inclusion

WINNING BOOK WILL BE PUBLISHED
AND WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE OF \$5000!
2ND PRIZE: \$2500 • 3RD PRIZE: \$1000

Deadline for entries is April 16, 2023!



3.2 M likes



diverseminds@bnaibrith.ca

diverse minds Calling all high school students in Canada!
Create a book for elementary school kids. Visit DiverseMinds.ca
for detailed submission information and guidelines

#onceinalifetime #championingdiversity

NOMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMMUNITY APPRECIATION AWARD



In recognition of BLACK HISTORY MONTH, the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) is seeking nominees for Community Appreciation Awards. The nominees must be individuals of African/Caribbean heritage who have contributed to our community in his or her field of expertise. The contribution should have brought honour to the City of Markham and is recognizable beyond the community of Markham. Recipients of the Certificate of Appreciation will be recognized by the City of Markham during the Black History celebration event on February 24, 2023 at the Markham Museum.

Submission of nominations is via the [Google form](#).

The deadline for submission of nominations is: Thursday, February 16, 2023

Please email info@macca1987.com with **subject: 2023 BH Award**

Black History Award Committee
Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)
505 Hood Road, Unit # 5,
Markham, Ontario, L3R 5V6
Phone: 905-946-9998
Email: info@macca1987.com



**Parents of Jewish Learners - York Region
Invites public & private school students &
parents and community members to attend a:
TOWN HALL ON ANTISEMITISM**



#ENDJEWHATRED

Let your voice be heard.

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

**Schwartz Reisman Centre
9600 Bathurst St., Maple, ON**

**New
Date**

**Registration
required.**

Scan QR code or go to:
bit.ly/YRantisemitismtownhall

With financial support in part by:

JTeach.ca
Fighting Antisemitism Through Education



Post-Secondary Pathways



This virtual presentation will provide attendees with overviews of the 3 main pathways from high school: **Apprenticeship, College & University.**

Kren and Liz will include information about programs, pathways and credentials as well as admission requirements and the application process.

Please register for one of the dates below:

March 1 (Wednesday)

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

April 6 (Thursday)

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

May 2 (Tuesday)

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

Presented by:



Krenare Aliovski

Transfer and Mature Student Recruitment Officer
study@yorku.ca



Liz Henriques

Domestic Student Recruitment & Liaison Officer
student.recruitment@georgebrown.ca

Krenare Aliovski is the Transfer and Mature Recruitment Officer at York University. She has previously supported high school 101 applicants and in her current role she guides both domestic and international students looking to transfer from other colleges and universities to York University.

Liz Henriques has been at George Brown College since 1999, starting in the School of Business after completing her Human Resources diploma program, and then as a domestic student recruitment advisor.

Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Guardian/Parent Engagement Event

Advocacy and Allyship

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

1. Understanding and Challenging our Bias

Learn how to understand and challenge our biases. Challenge our Comfort Zones in order to change and grow in a positive direction. Connect with other parents and caregivers and share our ideas and experiences.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: January 31st 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2. Recognizing and Responding to Hate

Learn how to recognize and respond to hate and discrimination, through looking at data, talking through examples and further understanding bias.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: February 22nd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

3. Becoming an Ally

Learn how to become an ally through engaging and listening to lived experiences of discrimination and hate.

Presented by: Soha Mohammad from Working Women

When: March 22nd 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Registration at <http://bit.ly/3VZpttx>

Registration closes: January 27th, 2023

Please reach out to Harpinder Kaur or Kenzie Wass if you have any questions

Harpinder.kaur@yrdsb.ca, Kenzie.Wass@yrdsb.ca

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | February 2023

Black History Month !

Centre for Black Student Excellence

We invite you to explore our new online presence at yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence to:

- Access videos, resources and information about community partners.
- Learn more about our work to dismantle anti-Black racism, guided by our strategy.
- Celebrate Black excellence through video, feature stories, podcasts and more.
- Find out about programs available to Black students and families.
- Check out our new community newsletter.
- And much more.

YRDSB Black History Month Events for Students and Families

February 2, 2023: Virtual Storytime By Sandra Whiting

Open to All Students and Families in K-6 In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration

[Register Here](#)

February 17, 2023: Black Excellence Program Master Class 2

Secondary Self-Identifying Black Students in YRDSB Schools

[Register Here](#)

February 23, 2023 9:00-2:00p.m: In Conversation with MARKTD

Dion Walcott and Dr. D'Wayne Edwards at York University for Self-Identifying Black Students
Gr. 7 -12 York University Trip- Specific Schools

[Register Here](#)

February 24, 2023: Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight

Open to All: Student & Families [Register Here](#) Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration

February 28, 2023: Black Excellence Program

Elementary- Specific Schools

[Register Here](#)

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

YRDSB Black History Month Events for Staff

February 7, 2023 4:30 - 6:30 pm: AEBS Workshop featuring “Black Sun Comics”

[Register Here](#)

February 7, 2023 6:00 pm: The OSSTF D16 T/OT Black Caucus

An Evening with Dr. A. Campbell (Dr. ABC); “A little more oil in my lamp”: #SELFCARE and Anti-Black Racism Work - The workshop session will be open to Black identifying employees of the board—secondary and elementary panels

[Register Here](#)

February 8, 2023 4:30-6:00 pm: Building an Understanding of Anti-Black Islamophobia

A virtual workshop presented by the National Council of Canadian Muslims which will explore the interlocking impact of Anti-Blackness and Islamophobia on Black Muslim communities and Black Muslim students.

[Register Here](#)

February 13, 2023 4:00pm - 5:00pm: BSA Black Student Associations Drop-In Chats

[Register Here](#)

February 27, 2023 4:30pm - 6:00pm: In Collaboration with CurriculumWorkshop

[Sankofa Series Resources](#) at my School

[Register Here](#)

YRDSB Programs

Black Excellence Program

The vision of the Black Excellence Program, (BEP), is to advance the achievement, wellbeing and sense of belonging of Black students in YRDSB schools through responsive programming that affirms their identity, builds on their strengths, and enhances their access to academic opportunities after high school. Students will have opportunities to learn from each other, experts from diverse fields, and mentors who will uplift, inspire and encourage them.

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Center for Black Student Excellence is pleased to announce that in the 2022-2023 school year, the program will be extended to 100 students from YRDSB secondary schools who self-identify as Black or African descended.

Please share information about the Black Excellence Program with your school community and encourage your students to sign-up for this Black-affirming experience using the [BEP Registration Form](#).

Ascending Sisters Pilot Project

In alignment with the Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy, Ascending Sisters serves as a mentorship program that connects Black girls and Black non-binary students with self-identified Black YRDSB staff (e.g., teachers, educational assistants, Child and Youth workers, support professionals, administrators). Cisgender girls, transgender girls and non binary students from **grades 7-10 in selected pilot schools** are all welcome to participate. Through targeted wellness, health and mentorship opportunities, students will be provided with the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of self, promote healing, increase ability to advocate, communicate effectively and further enhance their leadership skills.

Please contact the Black Excellence Planning Team at ascendingsisters@yrdsb.ca if you have further questions.

Rise Brothers

Rise Brothers is committed to supporting Black males—**elementary & secondary students**—from grades 7 to 12. Through school contacts, participating schools will be asked to recommend Black male students who fit the following new criteria:

- Black male-identified
- Presently achieving level 2 or below (elementary) or credit deficient (secondary)
- Have experienced attendance challenges
- Have a problematic school discipline history

Please take a look at our promotional [video](#), which outlines the program's vision and goals.

Please contact the Black Excellence Planning Team at Blackexcellence@yrdsb.ca if you have further questions.

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Partners

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) is committed to promoting well-being and excellence in achievement for students of African/ Caribbean heritage. You can follow them on Twitter [@AEBSyrdsb](#)

Learn more about Black community agencies that provide supports in your area:

[Aurora Black Community \(ABC\)](#)

[ANCHOR \(Formerly Vaughan African Canadian Association \(VACA\)\)](#)

[Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association \(MACCA\)](#)

[Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association \(NACCA\)](#)

[Parents of Black Children](#)

[The Black Foundation of Community Networks \(BFCN\)](#)

[York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities \(YRAACC\)](#)

Upcoming Community Events

February 3, 2023 @ 6:00pm -

[ABC/Black History Opening Ceremony](#)

Enjoy a night of elegance with dinner, a silent auction, and entertainment. Thanks to our main sponsors, the Town of Aurora and TD Bank, the event is free to our everyone. Located at Corner Stone Church, 390 Industrial Pkwy S, Aurora, ON L4G 3V7
You can register at [RSVP](#)



February 3rd @ 6:00pm

Tickets are free, thanks to our sponsors. Visit our website to RSVP.

Join us for an evening of elegance and upliftment. Bob Marley said, "The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively." This is what this year's Black History Celebration is about, celebrating the people around us and our journey. Enjoy live performances | exquisite food | Silent Auction | Black Business Marketplace | Presentations | Awards & Recognitions, and more.

Keynote Speaker: Honorable Jean

February 17, 2023 - [Paint, Poetry & Jazz Night](#)

Black Excellence Paint Night is about building a more unified community, working together, learning and experiencing Black Joy. It will be an elegant evening listening to poetry while painting and having a glass of wine as you flow with the Jazz. Children 10+ can also attend with an adult.



February 17th @ 6:00pm

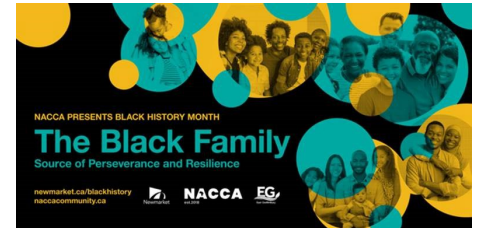
Celebrating Black Excellence

Community Poem & PAINTING NIGHT

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

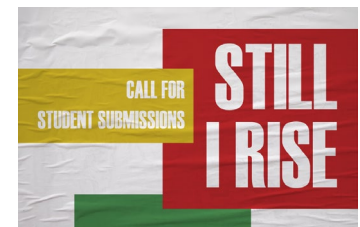
February 4, 2023 @ 10:00 am - [NACCA/Black History Month 2023](#)

We are very pleased to have planned an exciting roster of events throughout Black History Month, and are hosting a very special reception for Saturday, February 4, 2023. This year's theme is "The Black Family: Source of Perseverance and Resilience." The inspiration for this theme is from the writer and activist, Maya Angelou. Her phrase, "I sustain myself with the love of family" rings evermore true today. The reception will be hosted at the Old Town Hall in Newmarket, located at 460 Botsford Street with a wonderful day-long program beginning at 10 a.m. through to 4:00 p.m.



February 4, 2023 - [NACCA/Call for Art Exhibit](#)

Theme of the art is: The Black Family: Source of Perseverance and Resilience. Art Exhibit will take place at Old Town Hall, 460 Botsford Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 1T1 on Saturday, February 4, 2024. Submit all forms of visual art including photography, painting, sculpture etc until January 15, 2023 via email to blackhistory@naccacommunity.ca or by USB to NACCA (449 Eagle Street, Newmarket ON, L3Y 1K7)



February 8, 2023 - [Creating a special Afrocentric Valentine](#)

Learn how to create and design your own unique Valentine's Day. Bring your imagination and get ready for an evening of fun!!



February 8, 2023 - [An annual celebration of Black Artistic Expression](#)

The Jean Augustine Chair is proud to announce this year's Black History month showcase. The showcase is an opportunity for the amplification of cultural and artistic expression as we spotlight Black oral narratives and musical expression.

Performances include the York R&B and Oscar Peterson Ensembles, the York University Gospel Choir, High School Students to Emcees, Coco Murray, Dwayne Morgan and students from the Toronto District and Peel District School Boards. This is a free event and all are welcome to attend. [GET TICKETS](#)



THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

February 18, 2023 @ 11:00am

[YRAACC/Black History Month Celebration](#)

6th Annual Black History Month Celebration at Bur Oak Secondary School!

Please see the [poster](#) for more information and use [this link register](#)!

Contact info@yorkregionaacc.ca for more information.



March, 2023 - [MACCA/York Region Youth School Success Initiative](#)

Now accepting Black students in grades 6-8 in the York Region Youth School Success Initiative! Kick off the week of March 21st. [Register today!](#)



SHINE Podcast

Listen to the [SHINE Podcast](#)

SHINE is a YRDSB podcast that features voices from the Black community. It introduces conversations that inspire and challenge. Guests share their lived experiences, advice, industry expertise and more. SHINE is a production of Tune In YRDSB. [Tune In YRDSB](#) is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario, featuring a wide range of topics related to education. Tune In YRDSB is available on all major podcast platforms.



To request support from a member of the Centre for Black Student Excellence team
please email BlackStudentExcellence@yrdsb.ca



Inclusive School and Community Services

Parent/Guardian Virtual Workshops

POVERTY in York Region 2023

All parents, guardians and staff are welcome to attend any **or all** of the free virtual workshops about poverty, housing rights and resources in York Region.

1. Making Ends Meet during COVID, Inflation and a Housing Crisis – Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Completed : Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 - 8:30 pm

2. Tenant Rights to Housing – Guest Speaker Margaret Flynn with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights

Wednesday, Feb 8th, 7:00pm-8:30pm

3. The Impact of Poverty, Intersectionality and Classism on our Students, Parents and Family Engagement - Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Monday, February 27th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

[Register](#) for any or all three workshops.

A virtual link will be provided prior to each event.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Kelly

yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca