

Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

April 17, 2025

In this Issue:

- School Council is Partnering with YRP
- Graduation
- Election Day

Message from Administration:

We want to take a moment to celebrate and recognize our students who are making wise decisions every day at school. From consistently attending class, staying engaged in instruction, to remaining on at school and making respectful, responsible choices—these actions are setting a strong foundation for success both in and out of the classroom.

Your support at home plays a vital role in helping students make these positive choices, and we truly appreciate your partnership. Please join us in encouraging and reinforcing these great habits as we continue to work together to help every student thrive.

Math EQAO - June 2025

Students taking Grade 9 De-streamed Math will be writing Math EQAO on June 10 and June 11, 2025. Families will receive an email communication. Students supported with an IEP or have an ESL/ELL identification will receive letter from their Math teacher in May.

ECSS School Council Partnering with York Regional Police Evening

Emily Carr's School Council is partnering with York Regional Police to discuss school community safety. Join us at Emily Carr Secondary School on May 15 at 6:30pm. To register please use the QR Code below or see the attached flyer.



Contact Us

Phone 905-850-5012

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

emily.carr.ss@yrdsb.ca

Online

[School website](#)



@emilycarryrdsb

Administration

Principal

Tanya-Lynn Paul

Vice Principals

Nadira Lawrence-Selan (A-L)

Samuel Gangbar (M-Z)

[School Council](#)

Co-Chair - Andre Tsopelas

Co-Chair - Lisa Rapisardi

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News

Graduation Gowns and Tickets Open for Purchase

Please note that graduation gowns and tickets have been available for purchase since **Monday, March 3rd**. We will be sending out email reminders to all students through their GAPPS accounts, as well as emails to all parents of graduating students, early next week. **School Cash will be closed for purchases on April 23rd 2025.** We are excited as we work to plan and prepare for **Graduation on June 26th** and look forward to celebrating this important milestone of student success!

Emily Carr Secondary School accepts online payments through School Cash ONLINE!

School Cash Online is our preferred method of payment. Please see the attached document for instructions on how to register for School Cash Online.

School Photos

As part of Edge Imaging's data retention policy, images from the 2019/2020 school year will be **permanently deleted after June 15, 2025**. Place your order online at edgeimaging.ca/order by entering your portrait code and passcode. No codes? No problem! Call our Customer Care team at 1-888-416-3343 or use the LiveChat feature on our website for virtual assistance. If you haven't ordered or need extra copies, place your order before this date as after that, they will no longer be available.

Pride T-Shirt Ordering

Pride month is a universal celebration of love, inclusion and community! Let your true colours shine, boldly and brightly, as we celebrate diversity and work to inspire change.

This year, YRDSB students, staff and families can purchase a Pride t-shirt designed by students. Orders can be placed through [School Cash Online](#).

Let's make this year's Pride Month out of this world!

For any questions, please contact Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) at iscs@yrdsb.ca.

Important Dates:

PA Day - May 5

Helpful Links

CARING & SAFE SCHOOLS:

[Kids Help Phone Report It \(YRDSB\)](#)

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

Crisis Mental Health Supports for Students:

[310-COPE](#): 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7

[KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7



School News

Federal Election Voting Location

Our school will be a polling station for the upcoming federal election on April 28, 2025.

This is a valuable opportunity to highlight the importance of the democratic process for our students.

Please be assured that school operations will continue as normal. We will take all appropriate measures to ensure student learning is not disrupted. This includes:

- Voters will use one access door, closest to the location of the polling station.
- The voting access door will be monitored at all times by an Elections Canada representative. Hallways between the access door and the polling station will be also monitored by Elections Canada staff.
- Elections Canada staff will be made aware of their responsibilities regarding school access.
- School administration and staff will also remain visible in the hallways throughout the day.

The majority of voting occurs after school hours; school parking and traffic should not be significantly affected on Election Day. However, we thank you for your patience as there may be some minor delays during arrival and dismissal due to additional pedestrian and vehicle traffic on April 28.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

CARR Scoop

To read the latest edition of CARR Scoop, please [click here](#)!

Important Dates:

PA Day - May 5

Helpful Links

CARING & SAFE SCHOOLS:

[Kids Help Phone](#)

[Report It \(YRDSB\)](#)

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[KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7



Updates from Guidance

A representative from George Brown College will be coming to ECSS on Tuesday, April 22nd during the lunch period to give a presentation on ***How to Pay for College and University***. It is open to all students. More details will be shared directly with students in the *All Things Grade Google Classrooms*.

Summer School registration is NOW OPEN in myBlueprint. Please refer to the [link](#) for more details. Details information has been shared with students in the *All Things Grade Google Classroom* regarding next steps. Students are asked to come by the Guidance Office should they require any support.

JUNE GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES have been shared with our Potential Graduates via the *All Things Grade 12 Google Classroom*. Please encourage your student to apply for those they are eligible for. The deadline to apply for June Graduation Scholarships is **Wednesday, April 23rd, 3:00p.m.** In order to maintain a fair process, late applications will not be accepted after this day and time.

The ECSS Student Wellness Team in partnership with the Leadership and Peer Support class is hosting our **SENIOR SUNSET** on Thursday, May 22nd. This is an opportunity for our graduating students to make some final memories at ECSS. The evening will be filled with music, games, some treats, and a beautiful sunset - all FREE!

We have approximately 300 students on track to graduate this year so we're looking for donations from the parent/guardian community to support this event. We would appreciate any of the following items:

- Cases of water bottles
- Glow Sticks / Glow Bracelets
- Bubbles
- Snacks
- Monetary donation to purchase any of the above

If you would like to make a donation for this event, please reach out to Fiorella Finelli (fiorella.finelli@yrdsb.ca) or Rosanna Milani (rosanna.milani@yrdsb.ca) the Senior Sunset Advisors.

Please refer to the [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) for April 2025. It references supportive resources and community mental health events.



Updates from Guidance

LOOKING AHEAD:

IMPORTANT DATE / INFO. FOR OCAS:

- Students who have applied to Ontario Colleges for the 2025-2026 school year **MUST** confirm their acceptance offer of admission by **MAY 1, 2025**. Applicants are to log into their ontariocolleges.ca account to **confirm their offer**, as communicated in offers of admission.

IMPORTANT DATES / INFO. FOR OUAC:

- MAY 29, 2025** - The latest date for those who submitted their application by the January application deadline can expect a response from an Ontario university. This includes: An offer of admission; a refusal; or a deferral, once additional information is received.
- JUNE 2, 2025** - The earliest date an Ontario high school student may be required to respond to an Ontario university offer of admission and give a financial commitment (e.g., registration deposit, residence deposit, etc.).
- *All other admission-related elements, including scholarships, other forms of student assistance or financial incentives, and offers of residence, are considered part of the offer of admission. Therefore, a student may accept these other offers before June 2, 2025, but Ontario universities will not compel a student in any way to make a decision before this date.

The next **Ontario Universities' Information session** is taking place on May 22, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This virtual event is divided into 4 sessions, where students can learn about the universities of their choice and ask questions. This event is tailored to Grade 11 and younger students who are beginning their university research.

[Registration is available now.](#)

**EMILY CARR SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTS
SCHOOL COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

WITH

YORK REGIONAL POLICE

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

EMILY CARR SECONDARY SCHOOL

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **STUDENT ONLINE SAFETY**
- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

PLEASE REGISTER BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



EMILY CARR SECONDARY SCHOOL

6:30PM TO 8:00PM



more hoops and more mentorships



THRIVE HOOPS

Start date: April 9th

WED [6 - 8 PM]



Emily Carr SS
4901 Rutherford Rd.



*Must be registered to play

3RD ANNUAL YORK REGION ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: EDUCATE TO ERADICATE

**FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS,
PROVIDERS, COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AND YOUTH AGES 11+**

Join us for an educational and awareness raising event about human trafficking. Gain valuable knowledge, tools and resources to help protect and empower our community!

PARENTS!

Learn how to safeguard your children from human trafficking. Hear from a mother of a survivor and York Regional Police officer.

YOUTH!

Win prizes and have fun, while learning about personal safety, self-esteem building, and resilience.



Funding provided by Department of Justice Canada

LOCATION

Seneca Polytechnic, King Campus
13990 Dufferin Street, King City

DATES

Attend on either **May 13** OR
May 14 2025 from 6-9 pm.
Doors open at 5:30 pm.

LEARN, ENGAGE & ENJOY

- Information sessions
- Community information booths
- Free pizza and refreshments!



**REGISTER USING QR CODE
OR USING THE CODE BELOW
[BIT.LY/4BO4CTH](https://bit.ly/4BO4CTH)**

Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by

**THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

**Monday, April 28, 2025
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Families, parents, caregivers, please join us for our monthly virtual meeting where families with Black children come together to learn about resources and upcoming programs for Black students in both elementary and secondary schools.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Engagement Exercise
- Presentation on Black Affirming Resources to Support the Curriculum
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Question and Answer Session

Please register ASAP.

A Zoom meeting link will be sent after registration.

Let us come together to empower our students and build a stronger community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



[Register now.](#)



If you require further information, please contact
BlackStudentExcellence@yrdsb.ca

Emily Carr Secondary School accepts online payments through School Cash **ONLINE!**

School Cash Online is our preferred method of payment and provides the following benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option can be made **anywhere, anytime!**
- No need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes **less than 5 minutes** to register
- You can choose the **language** of your choice by clicking **Google Translate!**

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees and can make secure online payments by credit card and receive a receipt.

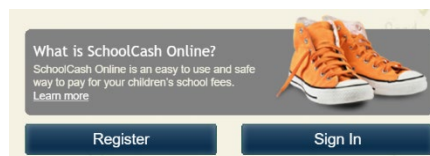
Follow the easy steps on the next page to Register and get started!

Step 1: Register

a) Please go to the School Cash Online parent site:

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

b) Select the **“Register”** button

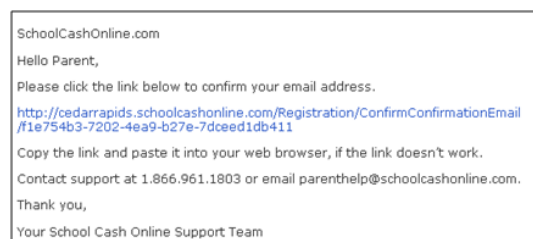


c) Enter your parent information to create an account.

*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**, **one uppercase** letter, **one lowercase** letter and a **number**.

Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be automatically forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find/Add Student

NOTE: Enter Student Number (not OEN)

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Select the School Name from the list
- Enter student information: Student Number and Last Name
- Select **Confirm**
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- Your child has been added to your account

Add Student

* Indicates a required field

1. Type in the School Board name and select one from the list

York Region District School Board

☐ Type in the School Board name and select one from the list

2. Select School Name from the list

Select school...

3. Enter student information

Student Number

Last Name

Confirm

[I don't want to add a student](#)

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

- If you have more children, select **“Add Another Student”** option in My Account/My Students and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.
- If you do not wish to add additional children, select **“View Items For Students”** option.
- A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

NEED HELP?

If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen or contact School Cash Online – Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com.

Substance Abuse, Social Media, and School Concerns

April 7, 2025

Kevin Greene MBA, MACP Registered Psychotherapist

Clinical Director and Supervisor

Health & Happiness: Counselling and Wellness

kevin@hhcw.ca | 416.613.1259 x 3 | www.hhcw.ca



Topics

1. Quick Introduction – Kevin and HHCW
2. Substance Abuse
3. Social Media
4. Impact on Schools
5. Parenting Strategies
6. Q & A

Quick Introduction

HEALTH &
HAPPINESS

Counselling and Wellness

Quick Introduction - Kevin

- Licensed by the [College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario](#)
- Member of the [Ontario Association of Mental Health Professionals](#)
- Clinical Supervisor
- Founded Health & Happiness: Counselling and Wellness, March 2019
- Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology
- Extensive experience treating teenagers and mental health in young people
- Long Time Community Volunteer (Coach, Instructor, Not-For-Profit Boards)
- Corporate Technology Sales 2001 to 2017 (IBM, Oracle, SAP, Workday)

HHCW

- Founded 2019
- In person and virtual sessions
- Full service clinic
 - Individual therapy
 - Play therapy
 - Couple's therapy
 - Family therapy
 - Parent Coaching
- Focus on ADHD, Autism, Families
- Helped over 1000 individuals!!!



Quick Group Activity



Remember ...

1. No human can control what another human does without using a ton of energy
2. Assuming you agree with #1, the path is clearer
 1. Determine if you are trying to control something that you have zero ability to control
 2. Determine if there are areas that you can control (hint: there are likely very few)
 3. Focus your energies on what you can INFLUENCE

Teens

- Puberty = brain development = More sophisticated thought processes
- Identity -> becoming more individual than connected to parents

Challenge:

- Lack Experience of Parents
- Brain still developing
- Hormones/physical components of puberty

Substance Abuse

Some numbers on substance abuse

- Substance abuse cost Canada over \$46 billion as of 2017 including healthcare, criminal justice, lost productivity, etc.
- 60% of illicit Canadian drug users are aged 15-24
- Young people (15-24) are more likely to experience substance abuse disorders than any other age group
- 23% of students in Ontario report that they have been exposed in some form to a drug in school in the past year (offered, sold, given)
- Top 4 substances used by Ontario students:
 - Alcohol (58%)
 - Marijuana (35%)
 - Non-prescribed pain medications (17%)
 - Tobacco (11.7%)

Abuse vs Addiction

Somebody Abusing _____

- May be curious
- Social pressures (Peer Pressure)
- Still does (most) of what is required of them
- Can stop when they want
- Can lead to addiction over time

Somebody Addicted to _____

Note: *An addiction is a symptom of something else*

- Does it to feel different than usual
- Will be (more) unable to control their usage
- Will often have other significant life trauma/challenges
- *May* be able to do (most) of what is required of them
- An escape

Marijuana – What I See Most

Worrisome

- Usage very common
- Often to relax – lack other ways
- Easily attainable
- Inside school usage
- Curiosity
- **#1 concern: brain development**

Reassuring

- Not a new problem
- Curiosity
- Kids know it is bad
- “Age appropriate” acting out

Social Media

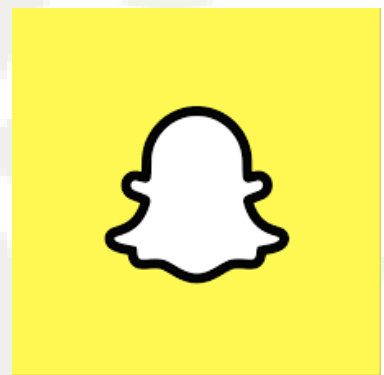
Background

“Growing up in a phone-based world bred a dependence upon the tiny metal devices and the constant stream of social media,” notes Paul W. Bennett, the author of a new MLI report, *Weapons of mass distraction – Curbing social media addiction and reclaiming the smartphone generation*.

Summary of Report

- Almost 1/5 Canadians part of the “Smartphone Generation”
- 95% use Internet & apps for social networking/chat/networking
- 83% use Google for searching vs 64.1% who use TikTok and Snapchat
- 81.9% of Canadians use social media
- 96.6% of children use a smart phone before the age of 1
- By age 3 or 4, many use almost unsupervised
- Young women (16-24) are the biggest users
- Banning smartphones in schools a Band-Aid solution
- Creating a shift away from “play-based” childhood
- and dangerous online behaviours/stalkers/etc.

Which do you know?



My Professional Concerns

- Its not just social media ... it's the virtual world in general
- No easy solution
- Adults are just as bad as children
- Blind acceptance of information
- Algorithms = polarization of information consumption
- **Societal problem but FOCUS IS ONLY ON KIDS**

2 Examples ... Not Realistic Answers

Counselling and Wellness

1. Banning phones in schools

On the surface makes sense

- Reduce distractions and increase focus

But.....

- All of the onus on classroom teacher
- Laptops/Tablets/Watches do the same thing as phones
- Google Classroom = computers used
- Parents contact their kids
- Teachers use phones

2. Ban Social Media Before Age 16 (Australia Dec 2025)

On the surface makes sense

- Protects kids from predators
- Encourages real-life interactions

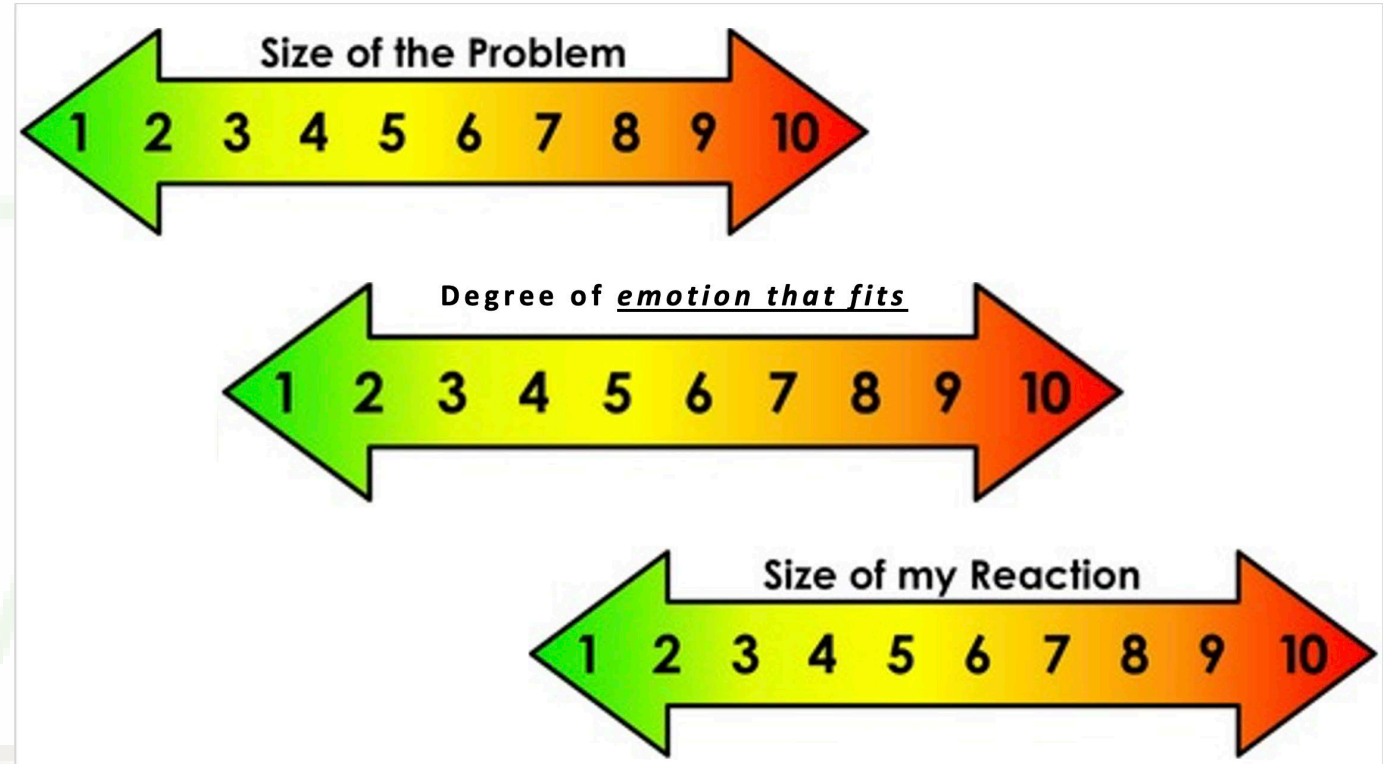
But.....

- Doesn't deal with online games
- Parents rely on social media
- Social media used for social and school planning
- Schools have social media accounts
- Media courses & literacy require access

So What Can Parents Do?

Problem vs Annoyance/Frustration

- Is there a short-term consequence to what is bothering you?
- Is there a long-term consequence to what is bothering you?
- Would you tolerate that behaviour (e.g. swearing) if your kid was in the same room as their friend?



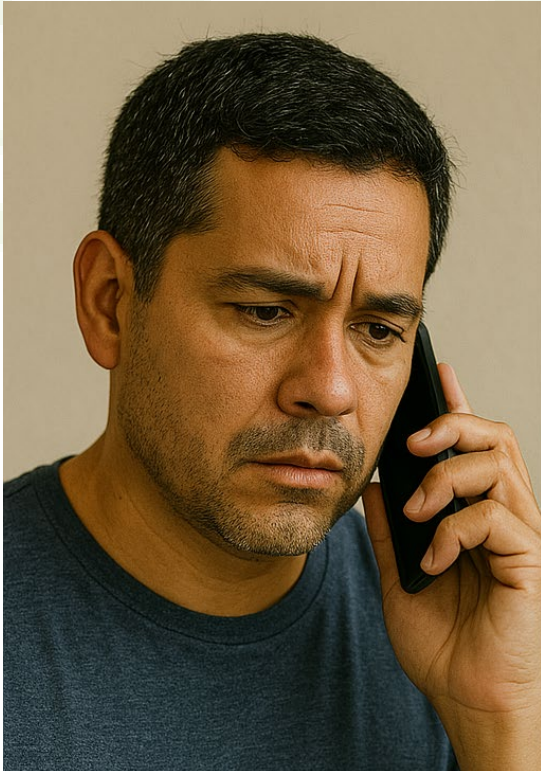
Adapt/Change (Parental) Thinking Styles

HEALTH &
HAPPINESS
Counselling and Wellness

MODEL THE BEHAVIOR YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR TEN



Talk To The School ... and your Kids



We Turned Out OK Right?

Parents throughout
history have worried
that their kids will
not turn out good.

And in the end,
they are ok.

Two Helpful Books

1. The Upward Spiral by Alex Korb
2. Rewire Your Anxious Brain by Catherine Pittman and Elizabeth Karle

Q & A

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Counselling and Wellness

Thank you

- Questions?
- Comments?
- For more information call me at 416.613.1259 x 3 or click below



Counselling and Wellness



BLACK EXCELLENCE NIGHT

Showcasing Excellence, Leadership, Resilience, and Innovation

All are welcome to join us for:

- Musical Performance by Nobleton PS
- Interactive Carousel Stations
- Collaborative Mural Painting
- Arts and Craft
- Game Show

When

Monday, May 7, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where

H.G. Bernard Public School

245 Bernard Ave. Richmond Hill L4S 1E1

Contact

For more information, please contact:

h.g.bernard.ps@yrdsb.ca

This event is hosted by H.G. Bernard Public School in collaboration with Nobleton Public School, Sixteenth Ave. Public School, Doncrest Public School, Richmond Hill High School and Inclusive School and Community Services



ATTENTION GRADE 12s!

There's a lot going on behind the scenes to celebrate **YOU** and all of your **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** here at **ECSS!**



Check out SCOL and enroll in these fun events!

SENIOR SUNSET

Thursday, May 22, 2025 from 7-9pm

BRING BLANKETS, CHAIRS AND YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

NO IN AND OUT PRIVILEGES

SIGN UP ON SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

- ICE CREAM TRUCK
- MOVIES AND POPCORN
- MUSIC

CLASS OF 2025

FIRST EVER ECSS GRAD BREAKFAST

Friday, May 23, 2025
Period 2



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Breakfast Items
- Juice
- Coffee
- Tea
- ECSS Grad T-shirt to sign
- being part of what is sure to become a great tradition for ECSS Graduates!

Payment **MUST** be made by Wednesday, May 7, 2025
on School Cash Online

ECSS *Prom 2025*

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Montecassino Event Venue
140 Jevlan Drive, Woodbridge

All payments and forms are due by
FRIDAY, MAY 2

Seating arrangements are due by
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

STUDENT SIN & SUMMER JOB BANK CLINIC SPRING 2025

Students, Parents and Guardians
Meet with a Service Canada representative and receive your
Social Insurance Number on the Spot!

Service Canada representatives will be at the following schools to help students and newcomers apply for their Social Insurance Numbers, learn about the Canada Job Bank and Summer Program for Youth and the Federal Dental Program!

Children 12 years of age or older may apply for their SIN. Parents, legal guardians or legal representatives can apply for a SIN for children under the age of majority in their province, and for adults in their care.

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location	What to Bring	Primary Document	Secondary Document	Benefits
April 9, 2025 Richmond Hill H.S. 201 Yorkland, Richmond Hill April 10, 2025 Tommy Douglas S.S. 4020 Major Mackenzie Dr. West, Woodbridge April 15, 2025 Hodan Nalayah S.S. 1401 Clark W. Thornhill April 16, 2025 Keswick S.S. 100 Biscayne Blvd. Keswick April 24, 2025 Sutton H.S. 5147 Baseline Rd, Sutton May 1, 2025 Woodbridge College 71 Bruce St. Woodbridge May 6, 2025 Alexander Mackenzie H.S. 300 Major Mackenzie Dr. W. Richmond Hill	<p>A primary identification document and a secondary document such as a passport or provincial identification.</p> <p>You would need to bring your original primary document, no photocopies accepted.</p>	<p>Permanent Resident Card or a Confirmation of Permanent Residence or A Study Permit/Work Permit/Visitor Record issued by IRCC which indicates the permit holder “may accept employment” or “may work” in Canada</p>	<p>or A Certificate of Birth or Birth Certificate issued by the vital statistics agency in the province or territory of birth</p>	<p>Be job ready for summer employment by receiving your Social Insurance Number.</p> <p>Learn about the Job Bank and Canada Summer Jobs program for Youth.</p>

This free service is brought to our school communities through a joint project with Service Canada and York Region District School Board.

For more information, please contact YRDSB Community & Partnership Developer

Yvonne Kelly: Yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca

Oksana Majaski: Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca

ECSS Graduation



School Cash Online is now open for purchases, and the deadline is Wednesday, April 23rd—there will be no extensions.

The \$85.00 fee includes your Student Cap and Gown (with Tassel and V-Stole) and Graduation Fee (2 Tickets.)

The ECSS Graduation Ceremony will take place at La Primavera Event Space on Thursday, June 26th, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

We Can't wait to celebrate with you!

York Regional Police Community Services



Event:

Dates:

Location:

Time:

How to sign up:

Contact for session: