

# Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

December 20, 2024

## In this Issue:

- Grade 9 Math EQAO
- Semester 1 Final Exams

## Hello Winter Break!



Emily Carr Secondary School will be closed between Monday, December 23, 2024 and Friday, January 3, 2025. School resumes on Monday, January 6, 2025.

We wish everyone a restful winter break and for those celebrating - a happy holiday season!

## Grade 9 Math EQAO

Grade 9 Math EQAO will be taking place Wednesday, January 15, 2025 and Thursday, January 16, 2025 for any students taking grade 9 de-streamed Math during semester one. Students that are supported with an IEP or are ESL students would have received a letter from their classroom teacher. An email communication was sent home earlier this week to all families of students writing Math EQAO in January 2025.

## Semester 1 Final Exams

Semester 1 Final Evaluations will take place on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025 to Monday, January 27, 2025**. Thursday, January 30, 2025 will be a severe weather day, if needed. Please see the attached notice regarding Final Exam Policies and Procedures.

## Emily Carr's Pantry Program

The Pantry Program is meant to fill a specific gap in food access at school: confidential, anonymous, and drop-in access to healthy food. Should you require support, please review the attached flyer.

## Contact Us

Phone **905-850-5012**

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

[emily.carr.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto: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

### YRDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Recently, York Region District School Board launched its new Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Developed by the Board of Trustees and based on feedback from staff, students and community, it lays out three priorities:

- Student Achievement
- Health and Well-Being
- Human Rights and Inclusive Education

The plan aims to build unity while helping students to achieve excellence by promoting and supporting high expectations for all, building healthy environments and positive relationships and learning and growing together while affirming our diverse identities. This plan will guide the collective work of the board for the next 4-5 years and we look forward to sharing its success with you in the coming months. To learn more about the Multi-Year Strategic Plan please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/MYSP](http://www.yrdsb.ca/MYSP)

### Students can vote now for Student Trustees

Students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity January 13-17 to participate in voting for the student trustee candidate who will represent our geographic area of the school board.

### How to Vote

All students in Grades 5-12 will receive an email in their GAPPS account. The email will include a link to a Google site where they will find information about candidates in our area, and a link to a form where they can submit their vote. One candidate will be selected by students to represent each of the four areas of the school board in the final vote. In the final vote, scheduled for February, students can vote for two candidates who will represent them during the next school year.

### Student Trustees

Student trustees play an important role representing students in the school board. They network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice. This is an important opportunity for students to participate in the student trustee elections and vote for the students who will represent their voice, so we encourage students to check their email and take the time to vote.

Learn more about the role and the election process at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees).

## Important Dates

Winter Break - December 23 to January 3

Christmas - December 25 (Gregorian Calendar) and January 7 (Julian Calendar)

Epiphany - January 6

Tamil Heritage Month - January

## 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

### THERAPY DOGS ARE BACK AT ECSS! 🐕

Did you know that therapy dogs are trained to provide affection and comfort to individuals, other than their owners? Generally, therapy dogs will help us to improve our social, emotional, and mental well-being.

The ECSS Guidance Department, in partnership with St John Ambulance, has planned a very special event where therapy dogs will be coming to visit our school. This event will be taking place on **Tuesday, January 14th** during the lunch hour in a designated room. Spaces are limited but students will be offered the opportunity to express interest via a Google form next week. All participating students are asked to make a \$2 donation to support this program. Please see the additional notes below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- *Spots are very limited* and participants will be accepted on a *first come first served* basis.
- Interested students must **FIRST** submit the Google form, posted in the All Grades Google Classrooms (the form will open on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:00a.m.)
- All selected participants will be made aware of their participation and time block, via an email that will be sent to their GAPPs accounts. The email will include a link to a [permission form](#).
- The number of available therapy dogs could change and we may not know until the day of the event. Again, we will honour the list of students based on who signed up first.
- We ask that students provide their \$2 donation the day of the event and it will be collected at the door.

**\*\* If a selected participant misses their assigned time slot, they will miss their opportunity to spend time with a therapy dog.**

We are looking forward to this event!

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## Updates from Guidance

**Night School** registration for Semester Two (Winter 2025) is open. Please click on the [link](#) for detailed information. Students are to register using MyBlueprint/MyPathway Planner by selecting the "Continuing Education" tab. Students must print and have the sign-off form signed by their parent/guardian and then submit this form to the Guidance Office. Counsellors will only approve courses for students who submit their completed sign-off form. Students can schedule a guidance appointment or come to the Guidance Pop-Up Shop should they require support.

**Community Involvement Hours (CIH)** is a graduation requirement and all students are required to earn 40 hours to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The Winter Break is a great opportunity for students to complete these hours. Students have been informed of some opportunities via their grade google classrooms and are encouraged to reach out to not-for-profit organizations to support. [Hyperlinked](#) is more information about eligible and ineligible activities for Community Involvement hours. For your convenience, the YRDSB Community Involvement form can be found [here](#). Completed Community Involvement forms can be emailed directly to Mrs. Fatemeh Norouzzadeh, Guidance Secretary, at [fatemeh.norouzzadeh@yrdsb.ca](mailto:fatemeh.norouzzadeh@yrdsb.ca) or they can be placed in the drop box located inside the Guidance and Career Education Office (room 129).

### **Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) update:**

Applicant Services Phone: 519-823-1063

The OUAC is officially closed for the holidays from December 23, 2024, to January 1, 2025, inclusive. The OUAC website will remain available during this time. We will re-open on Wednesday, January 3, 2025.

If you submit your payment or make changes to your application during these dates, you may not be able to access your online application until the office re-opens and we process these transactions. Due to high processing volumes, your payment may take longer to be processed.

### **Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) update:**

Toll Free (in Canada): 1-888-892-2228 or 519-763-4725

OCAS will be closed for the holidays from December 25, 2024 to January 1, 2025, and will reopen on January 2, 2025.

During the closure, all OCAS services will be available and reports will be updated daily. We'll also monitor our support email inboxes for urgent inquiries.



## Updates from Guidance

**ONTARIO UNIVERSITY AND ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES** are listed below. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they have decided on their postsecondary programs.

Ontario University/OUAC applications - **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025** for equal consideration.

Ontario College/OCAS applications - **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025** for equal consideration.

\*In addition to counsellor support, students have been provided with links to video tutorials to assist with the application process in their “All Things Grade 12” Google Classroom.

## **January 2025 Exam Schedule Information for Students and Families**

Please find the **January 2025** calendar for the examination period below. The exam period is determined by the YRDSB/approved by the Ministry of Education; students are expected to be present for all exams.

Here is our January exam schedule below for **students in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12:**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
20	21	22	23	24
Regular Instructional Day Credit Rescue Gr 11/12	Regular Instructional Day Credit Rescue Gr 11/12	Period 1 Exam Culminating Activities	Period 2 Exams Culminating Activities	Period 3 Exams Culminating Activities
27	28	29	30	31st
Period 4 Exams Culminating Activities	Rescheduled Exams and Credit Recovery	Instructional Day Lunar New Year	Exam Review Day Modified Schedule Severe Weather Day Regular Day for Community Classes	PA DAY - no students attend school on this date

- **A more detailed exam schedule, including course and room numbers, has now been shared. If your child does not have a final exam, please encourage them to connect with their teachers to learn more about any culminating tasks or assignments they may have in place of an exam.**
- **SEVERE WEATHER:** Information regarding bus cancellations, inclement weather, and school closures will be posted on the York Region District School Board website. If an Inclement Weather Day occurs during the scheduled exam period of January 22 to January 27, forcing the cancellation of all exams on a given day, the day for rescheduling those exams will be Tuesday, January 28. Exams will begin at 8:30 a.m.
- **Students in the DD and ASD Community Classes** will attend full days, following their regular schedule during the exam period.

### **Exam Policies and Procedures:**

- **Please review the following exam policies and procedures to support the exam period**

### **ABSENCES**

- Illness and court appearance are the only two valid absences during exams. If you are unable to be present for an exam, you must present a medical certificate or a court order. Failure to do so will result in a mark of zero for the exam and may jeopardize your credit. A court order must be presented prior to the writing of an exam so that alternate arrangements can be made. The medical certificate must be

presented to the Vice-Principal as soon as possible, or at the latest, prior to the end of the exam week, so that exams may be rescheduled.

### **LATE ARRIVAL**

- If you arrive up to 30 minutes late, you should go directly to your exam room. You will only be given the remaining time for the exam. If you arrive more than 30 minutes late, you should go to the Main Office to speak to a Vice-Principal.

### **EXAM WEEK**

- During exam week, you are required to be at school only when you are scheduled to write an exam or culminating activities. To see your teacher for extra help, you must book an appointment in advance. Students may study quietly in the library, or in small groups in the cafeteria. Students are not permitted to be in the halls, or to go to their locker when exams are being written. The cafeteria server will be closed during exams.

### **EXTRA HELP**

- Students seeking extra help must book an appointment with their teacher(s) in advance. As students are not permitted to be in the halls during exam times, appointments should be scheduled outside of exam hours.

### **DURING AN EXAM**

- Textbooks to be returned should be placed on your desk. Other books, pencil cases, jackets, bags, notebooks, etc. are not allowed in the exam room.
- Electronic dictionaries, cell phones and other electronic devices (i.e. watches that connect to phones) are not to be used during an exam. Cell phones must be shut off and out of sight during exams.
- Students may not communicate or share resources with any other students once an exam has begun.
- Students must remain in the exam room for the entire duration of the exam.

### **EXTRA TIME**

- Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Multi Language Learners (MLL) who have the accommodation of extra time, may continue their exams with their teacher or be escorted to the provisions room (room 116). Arrangements must be made in advance with the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) for any student with an IEP who wishes to begin their exam in the provisions room.

SEM. 01 - ECSS EXAM TIMETABLE 2024-2025									
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Wednesday, January 22, 2025				Thursday, January 23, 2025				Friday, January 24, 2025				Monday, January 27, 2025			
Start Time 8:30 a.m.				Start Time 8:30 a.m.				Start Time 8:30 am				Start Time 8:30 a.m.			
PERIOD 01 EXAMS				PERIOD 02 EXAMS				PERIOD 03 EXAMS				PERIOD 04 EXAMS			
Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room	Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room	Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room	Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room
Chan	MHF4U1.3	2 Hour	146	Alkabeer	SNC1W1.3	1.5 Hour	122	Colella	HFA4U1.2	1.5 Hour	250	Addesa	HFC3M1.4	1.5 Hour	249
Grigoropoulos	CGC1W1.3	1.5 Hour	248	Carmichael	HFA4U1.1	1.5 Hour	174	George	MCF3M1.1	2 Hour	146	Antoniotti	BAT4M1.1	2 Hour	220
Kanesalingam	MDM4U1.2	2 Hour	152	Chan	ICS3U1/4U.1	1.5 Hour	106	Giralico	MHF4U1.1	2 Hour	144	Chan	ICD2O1.1	1.5 Hour	106
Kaur	SNC2D1.6	1.5 Hour	148	Eslami	SPH4C1.1	2 Hour	147	Grigoropoulos	CGC1W1.4	1.5 Hour	248	Colella	HHG4M1.1	1.5 Hour	250
Korn	SCH4U1.3	2 Hour	246	Eslami	SPH4U1.1	2 Hour	147	Kanesalingam	MCR3U1.4	1.5 Hour	152	Furlan	MPM2D1.4	1.5 Hour	151
Mir	SCH3U1.1	2 Hour	227	George	MCR3U1.3	1.5 Hour	146	Kaur	SBI4U1.1	2 Hour	226	George	MCR3U1.5	1.5 Hour	146
Oh	SPH3U1.1	2 Hour	247	Ioannou	BBB4M1.1	1.5 Hour	223	Korn	SNC2D1.3	1.5 Hour	246	Giralico	MHF4U1.2	2 Hour	144
Richardson	CHC2D1.1	1.5 Hour	243	Moradi	FSF 1D1.2	1.5 Hour	225	Marinelli	HSP3U1.1	1.5 Hour	221	Kaur	SBI3U1.2	2 Hour	226
Rybak	TPJ3M1.1	1.5 Hour	167	Oh	SNC2D1.1	1.5 Hour	247	Martin	ESLB01.2 / CO1.1	1.5 Hour	225	Korn	SCH4C1.1	2 Hour	246
Saad	MCF3M1.2	2 Hour	150	Pietrantonio	TXJ3E1.1	2 Hour	166	Mehta	BAF3M1.1	2 Hour	216	Korn	SCH4U1.4	2 Hour	246
Saad	MCR3U1.2	1.5 Hour	150	Richardson	CHC2D1.2	1.5 Hour	243	Mir	SCH3U1.2	2 Hour	227	Lo Re	FSF1D1.4	1.5 Hour	225
Safaric	ESLDO1.1	1.5 Hour	225	Saad	MHF4U1.5	2 Hour	150	Moradi	SNC1W1.4	1.5 Hour	122	Marinelli	HFC3M1.1	1.5 Hour	221
Safaric	ESLEO1.1	1.5 Hour	225	Sansom	CGC1W1.2	1.5 Hour	251	Patimisco	MPM2D1.3	1.5 Hour	150	Mir	SCH4U1.1	2 Hour	227
Sansom	CGR4M1.1	1.5 Hour	251	Skidmore	FSF1O1.1	1.5 Hour	224	Pietrantonio	TXJ2O1.1	2 Hour	166	Oh	SNC2D1.4	1.5 Hour	247
Shutov	SNC1W1.1	1.5 Hour	147	Skidmore	FSF2O1.1	1.5 Hour	224	Saad	MHF4U1.6	2 Hour	148	Oh	SNC2P1.1	1.5 Hour	247
Singh	SBI3C1.1	2 Hour	226					Safaric	ESLAO1.1	1.5 Hour	225	Rybak	TPJ3M1.2	1.5 Hour	167
Singh	SBI3U1.1	2 Hour	226					Skidmore	FSF1D1.5	1.5 Hour	224	Safaric	SNC1W1.5	1.5 Hour	122
Skidmore	FSF1D1.1	1.5 Hour	224									Safaric	SNC1W1.5	1.5 Hour	122
Pietrantonio	AMI 1O, 2O, 3M, 4M.	2 Hour	166									Sansom	CGC1W1.8	1.5 Hour	251

Tuesday, January 28, 2025				Wednesday, January 29, 2025		Thursday, January 30th 2025, MODIFIED TIMETABLE		Friday, January 31th 2025	
RESCHEDULED EXAMS & CREDIT RECOVERY				INSTRUCTIONAL DAY - LUNAR NEW YEAR		MARK REVIEW DAY/ SEVERE WEATHER DAY		P.A. DAY, NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS	
Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room			Period	Timeframe		
						Period 01	8:00 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.		
						Announcements	8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.		
						Period 02	8:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.		
						Period 04	9:25 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.		
						Period 05	10:05 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.		
						Lunch	10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.		
						Afternoon	11:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. *appointments only		



# Emily Carr Secondary School

# PANTRY PROGRAM

The Pantry Program is meant to fill a specific gap in food access at school: confidential, anonymous, and drop-in access to healthy food. Should you require support, please scan the QR Code and a trusted adult will connect with you.



## ITEMS THAT WE HAVE

- Canned Foods
- Pasta/Rice
- Cereals
- Granola Bars
- Snack Items
- Personal Hygiene Items



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THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA  
60 Wellington Street West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3H2  
**Tel:** 905.722.3201 905.895.7216 905.727.3141 416.969.8131  
**Fax:** 905.727.1931  
**Website:** [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

Date: December 13, 2024

Dear Families

Each year the York Region District School Board staff work collaboratively to balance student enrolment and accommodation needs in secondary schools. Those students accepted on transfer into courses and/or programs outside their home school attendance area need to be accommodated without displacing or limiting opportunity for students who live locally. This letter is to inform you of secondary schools open and closed to student transfer requests for the 2025-2026 school year in order to assist students in the transfer process and their course selection and pathway choices.

**A. The following schools will NOT be accepting new student transfer requests for the 2025-2026 school year:**

- CEC Central: Aurora High School (for French Immersion), Bayview Secondary School, Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, Richmond Green Secondary School, Richmond Hill High School
- CEC East: Bill Hogarth Secondary School (for Regular Track), Bur Oak Secondary School, Markville Secondary School, Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School, Unionville High School
- CEC North: Newmarket High School
- CEC West: Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School (for French Immersion), Stephen Lewis Secondary School, Tommy Douglas Secondary School

**B. The following schools will be open to new student transfer requests for the 2025-2026 school year:**

- CEC Central: Alexander Mackenzie High School, Aurora High School (Regular Track only), King City Secondary School, Langstaff Secondary School
- CEC East: Bill Hogarth Secondary School (French Immersion only), Markham District High School, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Milliken Mills High School
- CEC North: Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School, Huron Heights Secondary School, Keswick High School, Sir William Mulock Secondary School, Stouffville District Secondary School, Sutton District High School
- CEC West: Emily Carr Secondary School, Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School (Regular Track only), Maple High School, Thornhill Secondary School, Thornlea Secondary School, Westmount Collegiate Institute, Woodbridge College

## Transfer Process

- “Home school” refers to the YRDSB school you are designated to attend based on your home address.
- Where your signature is required, either an electronic signature or full name entered in the signature field will be accepted as a signature.

**By January 31, 2025**, families interested in a student transfer must request an electronic Transfer Request form and submit it as indicated below:

- **YRDSB Grade 8 students** request the Transfer Request form from their current elementary school. Complete the form and email to your current elementary school. If “other” is selected as the reason for request, your Principal will contact you to discuss the request.
- **YRDSB secondary school students** request and email the completed form to their current secondary school. If “other” is selected as the reason for request, your Principal will contact you to discuss the request.
- **Students new to YRDSB for Secondary School** request and email the completed form to their YRDSB designated secondary home school (as indicated in [school locator](#)) along with a [registration form](#). If “other” is selected as the reason for request, the Principal of your YRDSB designated secondary home school will contact you to discuss the request.

**By February 10, 2025**, students will be notified of the decision of their transfer request.

**On February 13, 2025**, YRDSB Grade 8 students will be mapped to their transfer school (if approved) and can begin submitting their courses in My Pathway Planner.

**By February 21, 2025 by 4:00 pm** course selections are due as indicated below:

- **YRDSB Grade 8 students** will complete course selection in My Pathway Planner.
- **YRDSB secondary school students and secondary school students new to YRDSB** will complete course selection as indicated by the secondary school.

For more information on attendance areas and student transfers, families are encouraged to review the process outlined in [Board Policy #108 Student Accommodation – Attendance Areas and Student Transfers](#). If you have questions about the Transfer process please contact your home school.

Thank you

Kate Diakiw, Associate Director of Education, Schools, Programs, and Equitable Outcomes

Neil Gunathunge, Associate Director of Education, Schools, Programs, and Equitable Outcomes



## Inclusive School and Community Services

### **Transit Assistance Program (TAP)** For Those who Qualify

York Region is offering the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) to help make transit more affordable for eligible residents.

- Eligible TAP participants can receive a 50% discount on regular Adult single ride York Region Transit (YRT) fare using a PRESTO card. After 40 trips, rides are free for unlimited travel for the remainder of the calendar month.
- Anyone in the family can use the TAP card, including students going to high school
- Please Visit : [Eligibility and How to Apply for TAP](#)
- **New Applications and Renewals for 2025** are now being accepted by telephone. There are a limited number of new spots available so apply soon.  
**Please contact ACCESS YORK at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75581.** All Students turning 18 should apply in their own right.
- If you require language interpretation for this call, simply say the language you speak when connected at the number above and interpretation services will be put in place.

**If you have any additional questions please contact:**

Yvonne Kelly,  
Community and Partnership Developer, YRDSB  
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty  
Inclusive School and Community Services  
[yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)  
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

# Wellbeing & Mindfulness Workshop

We are delighted to invite you to an engaging Wellbeing and Mindfulness Workshop designed to help students and families nurture balance, build resilience, and practice self-care in today's fast-paced world.

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Poplar Bank Public School  
400 Woodspring Ave, Newmarket, ON L3X 2X1

**Dinner will be provided.**

During this interactive session, you will learn practical mindfulness techniques, explore strategies to support mental health, and participate in activities aimed at fostering connection and relaxation. This workshop is a great opportunity to prioritize your wellbeing as a family while gaining tools to thrive both academically and personally.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## To Register

Please [register](#) by January 14, 2025. Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to respond early to secure your spot!

