



Emily Carr SS e-Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

January 26, 2024

In this Issue:

- Morning Announcements and New Timetable
- School Hall Passes
- Immunization Catch Up Clinics
- Winter Weather and School Closures

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

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)
[Paula Borges](#) (M-Z)

School Council

Ajay Kumar (co-chair)
Andre Tsopelas (co-chair)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)

Message from Administration

Please review our newsletter for important updates.

Donations for Fundraising - ECSS School Council fundraiser

Our school with the support of school councils (parent and student councils) would like to raise funds through donations to help promote and support participation at Emily Carr high school events. Any amount will be appreciated and will enhance our students' experience at Emily Carr as well as our community's engagement with our school.

If you would like to donate to this cause please do so through [School Cash Online](#) (SCO) using the Donate button. Every donation through SCO receives a tax receipt from the system. Attached are instructions on how to use the donation feature on SCO.

In addition, please take a minute to respond to a [brief survey](#) created by our School Council. Your input is greatly appreciated.



School News

Morning Announcements

The time school announcements are made during the school day is changing. Currently announcements are made at the beginning of period 1. It will be shifted to the end of period 1. This will help students be in class on time for **8:00am**. This change will take effect on **Monday, January 8**. In addition this will help to ensure all of our students are able to hear the announcements and not miss important information as sometimes busses are late to the school, and some of our Grade 12 students have period 1 spare.

New Timetable as of January 8, 2024:

Schedule	Start	End
Period 1 (75 min)	8:00am	9:15am
Homeroom (5 min)	9:15am	9:20am
Travel Time	9:20am	9:25am
Period 2 (75 min)	9:25am	10:40am
Travel Time	10:40am	10:45am
Period 3 Lunch (75 min)	10:45am	12:00pm
Travel Time	12:00pm	12:05pm
Period 4 (75 min)	12:05pm	1:20pm
Travel Time	1:20pm	1:25pm
Period 5 (75 min)	1:25pm	2:40pm

Hall Passes

In an effort to promote student safety and in consultation with our school council and school community members, we will be implementing a hall pass system. Each teacher will be given a hall pass for their classrooms and students wishing to leave the classroom to use the washroom must have a hall pass. Staff will also be tracking the time that a student leaves the classroom and when they return back to class.



Important Dates

January 25-January 31

- Final Evaluations

Monday, February 5

- Semester 2 begins

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

CULMINATING TASK/EXAM DAYS

During the Culminating Task/Exam days, January 25 - January 30, 2024, students may be participating in Culminating Tasks and/or Exams. Culminating activities may include, but are not limited to presentations, performances, demonstrations, portfolios, conversations and conferencing, etc. Each class is unique and teachers will create schedules, based on the dates noted, that best support student achievement. This may or may not include specific activities during the exam period. Teachers will communicate expectations for culminating/ exam days directly with students and families. Also, attached, you will find more details regarding culminating task/exam days and hard copies of the attachment will be available in the main office.

Please note and review dates & times below:

- Students participating in culminating activities and/or credit salvaging may be asked to meet with their teacher at any point during the school day, even if it is outside of their regular class time.
- Students in Community Classes attend classes, as usual, during the culminating/exam period.

Culminating Task/Exam Days	
Period 01	Thursday, January 25, 2024
Period 02	Friday, January 26, 2024
Period 04	Monday, January 29, 2024
Period 05	Tuesday, January 30, 2024
Mark Review Day *revised schedule	Thursday, February 01, 2024
Severe Weather Days (if needed)	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 Thursday, February 01, 2024

Some important information to note:

- Exams begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.
- Bussing on exam days are per usual schedule
- The Cafeteria Servery will be closed during exams



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School News

Severe Weather on Exam Days

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 25 to January 30, forcing the cancellation of all exams on a given day, the day for rescheduling those exams will be Wednesday, January 31 and/or Thursday, February 01. Exams will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Mark Review Day

Mark Review Day, Thursday February 01, 2024 is an opportunity for staff and students to discuss their culminating tasks and review final marks. The schedule for the day is:

Period 01	8:00 - 8:35 a.m.
Announcements	8:35 - 8:40 a.m.
Period 02	8:45 - 9:20 a.m.
Period 04	9:25 - 10:00 a.m.
Period 05	10:05 - 10:40 a.m.
LUNCH	10:40 - 11:30 a.m.
Afternoon	11:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. - Individual Appointments

The afternoon will be used for teachers to make appointments for individual consultation with students/parents as needed regarding credit salvaging where deemed acceptable, course selection consultation and/or support for the next level of study.

Semester 2 Timetables

Semester 2 Timetables will be available on teachassist by Sunday, February 04, 2024.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

January 2024 - please see attached newsletter



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School News

Winter Weather

With the arrival of winter weather, we wanted to provide some important reminders about the steps we take to keep students safe when severe weather occurs.

School Transportation Cancellations

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. If school transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon. Any special or hot lunch days and field trips will also be cancelled.

Families should use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on extreme cold or inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on those days. For safety reasons, please ensure you let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

School Closures

Emergency closures will be considered when conditions may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site (e.g., widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines).

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and aftercare programs will not operate if schools are closed.

Communication to Families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Transportation cancellations or school closures are communicated through:

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

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.



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School News

YRDSB Immunization Catch Up Clinics

Immunization Catch Up Clinics will be happening on February 5, 2024 at Emily Carr Secondary School. More details to follow.

Vaccine Eligibility and Parents/Students Communication Parents/students will be notified by mail in January of missing routine immunizations they are eligible to receive at their in-school immunization clinic in February.

Also, students who missed an in-school clinic may visit their health care provider or book an appointment at a Public Health community immunization clinic to obtain any missing routine immunizations.

Students can now vote for Student Trustee

Students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity January 15-19 to participate in voting for the student trustee candidate who will represent our geographic area of the school board. 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 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.



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School News

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process

whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that

students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Please see the attached information sheet.

University of Waterloo Math Contests:

Students in Grades 9 - 11 are invited to write the University of Waterloo's Pascal (Gr. 9), Cayley (Gr. 10), or Fermat (Gr.11) math contest. They will be written **in person at ECSS on Wednesday, February 28th.**

Students in Grade 12 are invited to write the University of Waterloo's Euclid math contest. It will be written **in person at ECSS on Wednesday April 3rd.**

Participating in a mathematics and computing contest helps students develop invaluable skills, like creative problem-solving and big-picture thinking. Students applying to a program in the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo are strongly encouraged to participate. If they are interested in registering, please have your child join our Google Classroom (Code to Join: 33lenal) and submit their payment on School Cash Online by **Friday February 9th.**

Please email Ms. Ahmed (sobia.ahmed@yrdsb.ca) if you have any questions.



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Updates from Guidance

THE ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

OCAS (ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE) EXTENDED HOURS have been shared below.

Please see their communication to applicants:

Peak Season Extended Hours:

To support college applicants leading up to the **February 1 Equal Consideration Date (ECD)** for highly competitive programs, we'll be extending our Contact Centre hours to include evenings and weekends for January 2024.

Here's a look at our Contact Centre's peak season schedule:

Monday, Jan. 8 to Friday, Jan. 26
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 28
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29 and Tuesday, Jan. 30
8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Thursday, Feb. 1
8:30 a.m. to midnight

CONTACT:

Telephone:

Toll-free in Canada: 1.888.892.2228

Tel: 519.763.4725

Email: ask-us@ontariocolleges.ca



Updates from Guidance

REMINDERS:

SEMESTER 2 REMOTE LEARNING NIGHT SCHOOL registration opened on **December 18th** and is available to students who cannot get the course during the day school program. Synchronous learning will take place on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:30p.m. - 9:45p.m., beginning on February 15th. 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. More information is linked [here](#) from the YRDSB website.

College and University Open Houses & Tours: Attending a college and university open house or tour is a great way to find out more about the campus, the programs, and the environment. Each post-secondary institution offers a variety of events throughout the year for secondary school students. We encourage students and families to visit each institution's website to find out more details about in-person and virtual opportunities.

Students and families are invited to review the **Trades Report** and/or participate in an online **Trades and apprenticeship Workshop**. The links and passwords to access this report and workshop have been posted in the grade specific Google Classrooms. The links and passwords are not to be shared.



Community News

Updates from Vaughan Public Libraries

Debate Club begins at the Dufferin Clark branch on Thurs. Feb. 8 at 4:00 and runs until Feb. 29. Register on [Eventbrite](#).

D&D Club continues at Pierre Berton every other Saturday Starting on Feb. 10 at 2:00 and has a few spots left! Register by contact zachary.fanni@vaughan.ca

Teen Book Club has moved to Discord! Apply to join [here](#) to join our Discord and meet for our next session on Thurs. Feb. 15 at 7:30pm.

Vibe & Create begins Wed. Feb. 21 and continues monthly! Register via [Eventbrite](#) to practice watercolour painting, drawing, vision board creating, and more.

ECSS CULMINATING TASK/EXAM INFORMATION – JANUARY 2024

During the Culminating Task/Exam days, January 26 - 31, 2024 students may be participating in Culminating Tasks and/or Exams. Culminating activities may include, but are not limited to presentations, performances, demonstrations, portfolios, conversations and conferencing, etc. Each class is unique and teachers will create schedules, based on the dates noted, that best support student achievement. This may or may not include specific activities during the exam period. Teachers will communicate expectations for culminating/exam days directly with students and families. Also, attached, you will find a schedule for specific course exams. *Please note:*

- Students participating in culminating activities and/or credit salvaging may be asked to meet with their teacher at any point during the school day, even if it is outside of their regular class time.
- Students in Community Classes attend classes, as usual, during the culminating/exam period.

YOUR SCHEDULE

Complete the following table with your personal Culminating Task and/or Exam schedule:

Period/Grade	Course	Section	Date	Time	Room
Pr. 1 – All grades			Thursday, January 25	8:30 a.m.	
Pr. 2 – All grades			Friday, January 26	8:30 a.m.	
Pr. 4 – All grades			Monday, January 29	8:30 a.m.	
Pr. 5 – All grades			Tuesday, January 30	8:30 a.m.	
All grades	For rescheduled exams, exams by appointment, or credit recovery		Wednesday, January 31 and/or Thursday, February 01	8:30 a.m.	

EXAM REVIEW DAY – Thursday, February 01, 2024

Period	Timeframe
Period 1	8:00 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.
Announcements	8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Period 2	8:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.
Period 4	9:25 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Period 5	10:05 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
Lunch	10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Afternoon	11:30 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. Teachers are available, by appointment, for individual consultation with students/parents/guardians

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 25 to January 30, forcing the cancellation of all exams on a given day, the day for rescheduling those exams will be Wednesday, January 31 and/or Thursday, February 01. Exams will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ABSENCE

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 servery 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.

ECSS EXAM TIMETABLE - 2023-2024 - SEMESTER 01

Thursday, January 25, 2024				Friday, January 26, 2024				Monday, January 29, 2024				Tuesday, January 30, 2024			
8:30 a.m.				8:30 a.m.				8:30 a.m.				8:30 a.m.			
PERIOD 01 EXAMS				PERIOD 02 EXAMS				PERIOD 04 EXAMS				PERIOD 05 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
ABBOTTS	CGC1D1.2	1 HOUR	251	CHAN	MCR3U1.1	2 HOURS	152	ABBOTTS	CGC1D1.1	1 HOUR	251	ALKABEER	SNC1W1.6	1.5 HOURS	122
ALKABEER	SBI3U1.3	2 HOURS	226	COZZUPOLI	TXJ3E1.1	1.5 HOURS	166	ALKABEER	SBI3C1.1	2 HOURS	226	CHAN	ICS3U1.1	1.5 HOURS	106
CHAN	MCR3U1.5	2 HOURS	152	GEORGE	MCT4C1.1	1.5 HOURS	146	ALKABEER	SBI3U1.1	2 HOURS	226	CHAN	ICS4U1.1	1.5 HOURS	106
CLARK	MPM2D1.2	1.5 HOURS	150	GIRALICO	MHF4U1.3	2 HOURS	144	COLELLA	HFA4U1.2	1.5 HOURS	250	COLELLA	HFA4U1.3	1.5 HOURS	250
COZZUPOLI	TXJ2O1.1	1.5 HOURS	166	HABER	HFC3M1.2	1.5 HOURS	204	COZZUPOLI	TPJ3M1.1	1.5 HOURS	167	GEORGE	MCR3U1.3	2 HOURS	146
ESLAMI	ICD2O1.1	1.5 HOURS	106	KAUR	SNC1W1.5	1.5 HOURS	122	COZZUPOLI	TPJ4M1.1	1.5 HOURS	167	GIRALICO	MCF3M1.1	1.5 HOURS	144
GRIGOROPOULOS	HSB4U1.2	2 HOURS	248	KORN	SCH3U1.1	2 HOURS	246	GEORGE	MCR3U1.2	2 HOURS	146	GRIGOROPOULOS	ESLAO1.1	1.5 HOURS	225
HABER	HHG4M1	1.5 HOURS	204	MORADI	SNC2D1.2	1.5 HOURS	148	GIRALICO	MHF4U1.4	2 HOURS	144	GRIGOROPOULOS	ESLBO1.1	1.5 HOURS	225
LO RE	FSF1D1.4	1.5 HOURS	225	OH	SPH4U1.1	2 HOURS	247	GRIGOROPOULOS	ESLCO1.3	1.5 HOURS	248	HINTON	CGC1D1.5	1 HOUR	251
OH	SPH3U1.1	2 HOURS	247	RADMEHR	MPM2D1.3	1.5 HOURS	150	HINTON	CGC1D1.4	1 HOUR	249	HULME	SBI4U1.2	2 HOURS	226
OH	SPH4C1.1	2 HOURS	247		HULME	SNC2D1.1	1.5 HOURS	147	KAUR	SNC2D1.4	1.5 HOURS	147			
RICHARDSON	CHC2D1.4	1.5 HOURS	243		IOANNOU	BBB4M1.1	1.5 HOURS	223	KORN	SCH3U1.4	2 HOURS	246			
RYBAK	TPJ3M1.2	1.5 HOURS	167		KAUR	SNC1W1.3	1.5 HOURS	122	MEHTA	CLU3M1.1	1.5 HOURS	216			
SKIDMORE	FSF1O1.1	1.5 HOURS	224		KORN	SCH4U1.1	2 HOURS	246	MORADI	SNC2D1.3	1.5 HOURS	148			
WU	MAP4C1.1	1.5 HOURS	149		LO RE	ESLDO1.1	1.5 HOURS	225	RICHARDSON	HSP3U1.1	1.5 HOURS	243			
WU	MCR3U1.7	2 HOURS	149		LO RE	ESLEO1.1	1.5 HOURS	225	SAAD	MHF4U1.2	2 HOURS	149			
					MORADI	FSF1D1.6	1.5 HOURS	224	SADOWNIK	MPM2D1.8	1.5 HOURS	152			
					OH	SPH3U1.2	2 HOURS	247	SANSOM	CHC2D1.5	1.5 HOURS	249			
					RADMEHR	MPM2D1.5	1.5 HOURS	150	SKIDMORE	FSF1D1.1	1.5 HOURS	224			
					SADOWNIK	MPM2D1.1	1.5 HOURS	152	WU	MDM4U1.1	2 HOURS	151			
					SINGH	SNC2D1.7	1.5 HOURS	148							
					SINGH	SNC2P1.1	1.5 HOURS	148							
				SIRIANNI	HSP3U1.2	1.5 HOURS	243								
				WU	MHF4U1.1	2 HOURS	149								

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. Thursday, February 01, 2024 - REVISED SCHEDULE 2/2/2024 - Friday, February 02, 2023 - P.A. DAY Monday, February 05, 2024 - SEMESTER 2 BEGINS

RESCHEDULED EXAMS & CREDIT RECOVERY MARK REVIEW DAY NO CLASSES CHECK TEACHASSIST FOR SEMESTER 2 TIMETABLE

Teacher Name	Course Code	Length	Room	Period	Timeframe	OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:	OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:
				Period 01	8:00 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Describe a funny moment from Semester 1:	List 2 goals for Semester 2:
				Announcements	8:35 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.		1)
				Period 02	8:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.		2)
				Period 04	9:25 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.		List 3 ways in which you can achieve your goals:
				Period 05	10:05 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	List 2 things you are most proud of from Sem. 1:	1)
				Lunch	10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	1)	2)
				Afternoon	11:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. *appointments only	2)	3)



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

January 2024

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

New Beginnings and Exams

Dear Families,

After the winter break we are welcomed back to school and to a new beginning of the 2024 calendar year. We recognize that many of our students and families follow various acknowledgements of the calendar year, and that new beginnings are happening all the time. This provides us with many opportunities to begin anew.

When experiencing transitions, such as the beginning of a new year, we can become aware of parts of the transition that are joyful, and the parts that are challenging. We can help our children learn that it is OK for new things to feel uncomfortable and exciting, or to be curious and tentative about what the new year will bring. For some of our secondary students this new year will bring their first experiences with exams.

While some students may be entering their first exam season with a sense of confidence, some students may be feeling a mix of emotions such as: stressed, overwhelmed, or uncertain. How can we help our youth through this new chapter of their lives? One thing we can do is listen to our children when they talk to us about their emotions, including those related to exam stress. As we listen, we can also validate their emotions. While this may seem like a small act, it is hugely impactful because it makes youth feel heard, understood, and supported.

It might also be beneficial to remind youth of the times they have put their best efforts into taking a test, or times when they've taken a test and have been proud of



YRDSB Mental Health

their performance. In reminding them of these experiences, you might also encourage them to think about the strategies they used to study, prepare and feel confident for these tests. Everyone will have different strategies and that is OK. For some it might be studying while listening to music, or studying at a certain time of day. For others it might be preparing a study schedule, prayer and contemplation, eating healthy, or asking for additional academic help. No matter the strategy, it's helpful to encourage youth to remember what has worked well for them in the past. Finally, remind youth that exam results are not the sole definition of success. Even if they don't do as well as they would like to on their exam, encourage them to think about how they could continue to learn, grow and, ultimately, improve their understanding after the exam. This can help take some of the pressure off of taking exams. The Central Mental Health team met with Youth S.P.A.C.E. Student Leaders and a Student Trustee to talk about managing stress and mental health during exams. Listen to the Tune In YRDSB podcast episode to hear this important discussion: [Tune In YRDSB: Supporting Student Mental Health During Exams](#)

As we navigate the winter months, it is also essential to prioritise the well-being of our young learners. Some tips to ensure a healthy and happy winter season include outdoor play, healthy snacking, group reading and more.

Supportive Resources:

[Mental Health Resources in York Region](#)

[YorkHills Here to Help Line](#) (905-503-9561)

The Here to Help Line is a free service available to children/youth (0-18 years) and their parents/caregiver/adult supporters. Monday to Thursday from 2:00pm-7:00p.m

[Family Services York Region](#) (905-895-2371)

Virtual walk in is operated on a first come, first serve basis, and can be accessed once per month. Virtual appointments can be 15 minutes to 1.5 hours long depending on your specific needs. Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[CMHA BounceBack Ontario](#)

Feeling sad, irritable or stressed out sometimes? Do you feel that maybe you could benefit from some support? BounceBack® gives you access to materials and resources that will support you in learning new skills through workbooks, activities,



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videos, and a trained coach who can provide up to six telephone sessions. BounceBack Coaching is available through the provincial [Ontario Structured Psychotherapy](#) program. Offered to [youth aged 15-17](#) and [adults 18+](#).

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#)

Follow YRDSB Mental Health on Twitter [@MH_YRDSB](#)

Students

York Services Support Network

- [Wellness Recovery Action Plan \(WRAP\)](#)
 - January 10, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Caregivers

[York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families](#)

- January 15, 6:30- 8:30- [Teen Triple P Seminar #1- Responsible Teenagers](#)
- January 16, 6:30- 8:30- [Learning to Pay Attention](#)
- January 22, 6:30- 8:30- [Teen Triple P Seminar #2- Competent Teenagers](#)
- January 23, 6:30- 8:30- [Raising a Child with ASD](#)
- January 29, 6:30- 8:30- [Teen Triple P Seminar #3- Getting Teenagers Connected](#)

Family Services York Region

- [Free To Be](#)
 - Third Monday of Each Month, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
 - This is a free virtual group for parents/caregivers of gender diverse children, regardless of age which meets once a month. Free to Be offers an opportunity to meet for support and education. The goal of this program is to destigmatize gender diversity

York Services Support Network

- [Starting the Journey for Tweens and Teens](#)
 - January 10, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
 - This group is for parents and family caregivers of children and teens ages 8-18, who have a recent diagnosis of autism. The group is facilitated by YSSN's Family Peer Mentors, who have felt all the feelings and are ready to listen and share, as well as a Foundational Family



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Service Worker, who will be on hand to answer your questions about funding and services.

- [Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Workshop \(MBSR\) 8-Week Series](#)
 - [January 18, 25, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm](#)
 - Hosted by the DS Family Peer Mentor program and led by Dr. Mabel Hsin, you will learn tools for building resilience, increase wellbeing, manage stress, ADHD, improve focus, and numerous other benefits.
- [Transition Planning Resource Days](#)
 - [January 3, 19, 31 from 9:00- 5:00 p.m](#)
 - Need help understanding the developmental services system and transition planning? Does your child have an IEP? Book a free, 1 hour session, with a transitional planner to discuss and ask important questions.
 - Registration can be done through emailing cmacdonald@yssn.ca or calling: 905-953-8354 or 1-833-953-8354 ext. 2245.
- [An Overview of Sensory Processing and Strategies with Paula Aquilla](#)
 - Part 1: January 24, 6:30- 8:00, Part 2: January 31, 6:30- 8:00
 - Learn some of the more commonly-seen issues, how to identify when your child may be hypersensitive or hyposensitive, and strategies to support their sensory processing.
 - This workshop is for caregivers of children with autism ages 0-18.
- [Starting the Journey: Monthly Virtual Meetup For Parents and Family Caregivers](#)
 - [January 31, 11:00- 12:00 p.m.](#)
 - This is a group for parents and caregivers of children up to age 8 who are recently diagnosed with autism. The group is facilitated by YSSN's Family Peer Mentors and OAP-Funded Family Support Worker teams, who have felt all the feelings and are ready to listen and share. This judgement-free space is a chance to ask questions and connect with other families with young ones.

PFlag

- [Coffee Night](#), held every second Monday of the month, is a safe space where members of the LGBTQ2 community, their friends, family or allies can come together.
- [Online Registration](#)

[Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#)



YRDSB Mental Health

- This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health concerns
- 3rd Monday of each month
- Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- January 15, 2024

This edition of the Newsletter was written by the Student Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Implementation Team 2022-2023, inclusive of YRDSB School Social Workers Ruth Damdar, Kymani Spence, Peter Reid and Kate Phillips.

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Art

for

Change

JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON FILLED
WITH INSPIRATION, AND EXPRESSION!

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND 2024

- Saturday, March 2nd, 2024
- Time: 10 am to 4 pm
- Community Church at 45 Crosby Ave.,
Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 2R3

Click on the to register to perform:

<https://forms.gle/DV4ZNScJaGfV6iB8A>



Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Challenge for Credit

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school.

<p>WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO CHALLENGE A COURSE FOR CREDIT?</p> <p>★ YRDSB secondary school students who are enrolled in a regular day school program in a secondary school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students under the age of eighteen need parental approval before applying to challenge for credit for a course.○ Students who have their Principal's approval.	<p>HOW DO I GET STARTED?</p> <p>Your school guidance department will announce the date that applications are available. Follow the instructions of your guidance department. Be sure your application is submitted to your counsellor by March 7, 2024.</p> <p>When you see your counsellor, you will receive information on what documentation is required, how your application will be processed, how your tests and assessment will be conducted, how your results will be reported, appeal procedures, withdrawal policy and contact information.</p>
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The PLAR challenge assessments will take place virtually on July 2, 2024

WHAT COURSES ARE AVAILABLE TO CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT?

Grade 10 – 12 courses offered by YRDSB in regular day school.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

A student may begin by gathering and organizing any evidence that demonstrates the knowledge and skills related to the course for challenge. For information on any course information visit the Ministry website www.edu.gov.on.ca and follow the path:

- > English or Français
- > Secondary
- > Secondary Curriculum
- > By Grade
- > Choose a Grade
- > Choose a Subject.

Examples of evidence may include letters of reference from teachers or community leaders, certificates, sample assignments, samples of original work, a portfolio, descriptions of programs, courses or experiences that support your application.

AM I LIKELY TO BE AN ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE?

You also must be able to answer “**NO**” to all of the following questions to be an eligible PLAR Challenge candidate.

- Is the course you want to challenge a grade 9 course; a cooperative education course or a transfer course?
- Have you already earned a credit in this subject in a later grade? (for example you earned a Grade 11 music credit and now you would like to challenge the Grade 10 music course)
- Have you earned a credit in this course at a different level? (for example, you earned an ENG3C credit and now you would like to challenge the ENG3U course)
- Have you been granted/earned equivalency for this course?
- Have you previously failed this course?
- Have you previously earned a credit in English and want to challenge for ESL or ELD? (ESL – English as a Second Language; ELD – English Literacy Development)
- Have you already earned a credit in Français at a French language school and want to challenge a French as a Second Language (FSL) course?

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE INFORMATION

Appeal Procedure

In cases where there is a disagreement with the decision of the principal about whether a student should challenge for credit, an adult student or the parent of a student who is not an adult may ask the appropriate supervisory officer to review the matter.

Repeating the Challenge

A student may submit an application for challenge for a specific course for a second time after a reasonable interval, if the student can provide reasonable evidence of additional study and experience.

Assessment and Evaluation

Assessment and evaluation strategies will be based on curriculum expectations and achievement charts in the Ontario curriculum policy. They will include formal tests and other assessment strategies with a balance between written work and practical demonstrations that is appropriate for the subject/discipline and that may include written assignments, quizzes, demonstrations, performances, laboratory work, and observation of the student.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from the challenge process prior to the final formal test without a notation on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST). If students have entered the final phase of the challenge process in the summer, and then choose to withdraw from the process, a mark will be entered on the OST (Grade 11 and 12) and on the Cumulative Tracking Record (Grades 10-12).

Final Mark

The student's final percentage grade will be recorded on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST) in the same way as achievement in other courses. For challenges of Grade 10 courses, only passing percentage grades will be entered on the OST. For challenges to Grade 11 and 12 courses, both passing and failing percentage grades and withdrawals will be entered on the OST. The teacher will communicate the mark to you once the challenge is complete.

The PLAR challenge assessments will take place virtually on July 2, 2024.

Message from Our Trustee

February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion registration](#) opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a

reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3