

Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

January 24, 2025

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Black History Month Celebration

On February 27, 2025, local, award-winning band Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train will be joining us for our Black History Month Assembly.

Glenn and his band are dedicated to "giving back to their community and currently run their own non-profit, MusicCan, that provides instruments and lessons to underserved youth in Canada and are currently sponsoring music programs in two YRDSB schools with plans to expand. The band's motto is Give to Live and over the years they have continually supported the Food Bank, Starlight Children's Foundation, Blue Door Shelters and have raised over 100 000 for The Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The band is comprised of Juno-nominated songwriter Glenn Marais on guitar and vocals, bassist Manny De Grandis-leader of the Maples, The Toronto Blues Society House Band, keyboardist Jesse Karwat, keyboardist for Canadian Rock Legends, I Mother Earth, and renowned drummer Jeff Saulnier".

The band is currently in Memphis, Tennessee, competing in the semi-finals of the International Blues Challenge.

At Emily Carr, Glenn Marais & the Mojo Train will be performing their Keynote Concert, Black History: the Music and the Message, which is described as "a riveting and powerful musical and visual journey through Black History that teaches, inspires, and challenges audiences to reflect, learn, and grow from the lessons of the past". Glenn and his band will also be taking time to meet and converse with Carr's BSA.

<https://glennmarais.ca/>

<https://glennmaraisandthemojotrain.ca/>

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 Tsopeles

Co-Chair - Lisa Rapisardi

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News



THERAPY DOGS AT ECSS! 🐕

On Tuesday, January 14th, the ECSS Guidance Department partnered with St John Ambulance and had therapy dogs visit with our students and staff. Our new furry friends, Maggie Mae, Charlie, and Toby were all wonderful supports for our ECSS community and helped provide a calm and positive space for all.

Thank you to all who participated and provided a donation to this value program. We look forward to continuing this partnership next school year.



Community News

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.

Summer Company

Summer Company provides mentorship from Vaughan's business community, along with a pipeline of tools, skills, connections, and resources required to turn goals into reality.

Young entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to get up to \$3,000 in provincial grant funding to kick-start their business.

To learn more please visit [Eventbrite](#) for more session information.

Important Dates

Tamil Heritage Month - January

Final Evaluations - Wednesday, January 22, 2025 to Monday, January 27, 2025. (Thursday, January 30, 2025 will be a severe weather day, if needed)

Lunar New Year - January 29, 2025

PA Day - January 31, 2025

Black History Month - February

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



Updates from Guidance

COURSE SELECTIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR will open in myBlueprint (MyPathwayPlanner) on **Thursday, February 13th at 9:00 am** and will close on **Friday, February 21st, 4:00p.m.** Please see some key points below to assist in your conversations with your child/student:

- Students will participate in a Course Selection assembly during period 1 the **week of February 3rd**
- The ECSS Course Offerings Fair will take place on **Friday, February 7th** in the main hallway during the lunch period from 11:25 am - 11:55 am. This is an opportunity for students to connect with course experts to help make informed decisions about their 2025-2026 course selections and pathway programming. *We strongly encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to help prepare for our upcoming course selections and ask parents and guardians to assist with this reminder.
- Students can begin adding courses to their planner prior to this date but can only begin locking in/submitting courses as early as **Thursday, February 13th**
- This is not a “first come, first served” process - as long as students make their selections prior to the **Friday, February 21st, 4:00 p.m.** deadline, all requests are treated equally
- **Please note that course selections are not complete/locked in until parent/guardian has approved selections via email (email comes from myBlueprint - parents/guardians should check junk mail folder if they cannot find the email)**

Whether your student is applying to an Ontario College or Ontario University, George Brown is offering their FREE Winter Wisdom Webinar Series and one of the many key topics is on **how to finance your postsecondary education**. This 50-minute webinar will cover information to help alleviate students' (and parents') worries about the cost of post-secondary education in Canada. Topics covered include average costs of college/university, types of financial aid (scholarships, bursaries, crowd-funding, etc.,) overview of OSAP & how to apply, lists of useful resources., etc. Below is the flyer and link to register for these FREE sessions.

A representative from Trent University will be hosting a drop-in Q & A session for current applicants over the lunch period on Friday, February 21st just outside the cafeteria.

SEMESTER 2 REMOTE LEARNING NIGHT SCHOOL registration opened on **December 16th**. Synchronous learning will take place on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:30p.m. - 9:45p.m., beginning on February 13th. 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.



Updates from Guidance

THE ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, 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 2025.

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

Monday, Jan. 13 to Friday, Jan. 24 (weekdays)

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 27 and Thursday, Jan. 30

8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, 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

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

Black History Month Celebration

Join us for an inspiring evening as we celebrate Black History Month with interactive performances, student showcases and dinner.

Dates: **Monday, February 3, 2025, at Dr. J.M. Denison H.S.**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Bill Hogarth S.S.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Tommy Douglas S.S.

Time: **6:00–8:00 p.m.**

This event will feature:

- Interactive Performances
- Student Showcases
- Dinner will be provided

Please join us to celebrate the rich history and contributions of the Black Community while creating meaningful connections and memories together. Looking forward to celebrating together!

To Register

Please fill out a [registration form](#) by **January 31, 2025**.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca



F E B R U A R Y

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



Do you need a computer?

Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Working with **York Region District School Board** we are offering affordable, renewed computer packages.



1. Open camera on phone
2. Hold camera up to QR code above
3. Click link that appears on your screen

You can apply for this program if you are:

A resident of Ontario and you are an individual with limited income.

Parents or legal guardians may apply on behalf of a child or youth under the age of 18.

We offer 1 computer, per family, with a limit of 2 per household per year.

For more information, please contact:

Alexander Oliver
aoliver@rcto.ca

All systems include our
STANDARD 1 YEAR DEPOT WARRANTY

*batteries not covered by warranty

We have Desktop Packages from \$85.00 to \$300.00.
Plus \$35.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get - a desktop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software, monitor, keyboard and mouse

We have Laptop Packages from \$160.00 to \$300.00.
Plus \$25.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get - a laptop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software

*Computers may not appear exactly as shown

Application Check-List

You can begin to apply for a computer on: JANUARY 2025
Application deadline: MARCH 17th 2025



1. Open camera on phone
2. Hold camera up to QR code above
3. Click link that appears on your screen

Group Name: YRDSB **Group Code:** G-YRDSB

How to fill out your application

Scan QR code OR access application using the link your organization provided

Section A

Group Name: YRDSB

Group Code: G-YRDSB

Name of School: *Please enter the name of your student's school*

Section B

This section does not apply to you.

Section C

I would like to order a laptop, please ship my computer to my home (\$25.00 shipping fee)

OR

I would like to order a desktop, please ship my computer to my home (\$35.00 shipping fee)

OR

I am part of the York Region District School Board

Group order (\$20.00)

OR

I would like to pick up my computer in Mississauga RCT Warehouse (\$0.00 Shipping fee)

Section D

Pick your computer package and method of payment.

Our partner organization will need proof of eligibility (one of the following) before you can apply for a computer.

Proof of Financial Status (one of the following)

- Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (most recent)
- Ontario Works Statement (Social Assistance)
- OSAP Statement of Funding
- Refugee Payment Received from government
- Letter from school supporting the application
- EI Benefit Statement
- ODSP (Disability Benefits)
- Second Career/Better Jobs

Payment

You will have the following online payment options when completing your order:

- Credit/Debit Card
- Money Order or Certified Cheque
- A Third Party will be Paying (Ex. Ontario Works)

Certified Cheques should be made to: Renewed Computer Technology
The applicant's name must be added in the memo field. When you come to pick up your computer, please bring a government photo ID.

YRDSB ARTS CAMP 2025

Join us for an immersive program in visual, studio, and performance arts. Explore your identity through creative expression, supported risk-taking, and collaboration with peers and staff. Fosters self-confidence, individuality, and the discovery of new talents.

Memories that last a
Lifetime

Students, Educators, Community Artists
CREATING TOGETHER



Applications open Fri. Dec 13 – Fri. Feb. 7

- ✓ Campers (gr. 7-12)
- ✓ Counsellors-In-Training (gr. 9-11)
- ✓ Counsellors (gr. 11 & 12)



FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TO APPLY, VISIT:

bit.ly/YRDSBac25info



Sat. May 24 – Sat. May 31, 2025



Questions? Email:
arts.camp@yrdsb.ca



Find us on Instagram
[@YRDSBArtsCamp](https://www.instagram.com/YRDSBArtsCamp)

Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by

**THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

**Monday, January 27, 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:

- Inclusion Activity
- Course Selection and Pathway Planning
- 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.

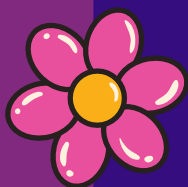
We look forward to seeing you there.



[Register now.](#)



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



LET'S GET Walking!

Walking is a natural and easy form of physical activity that can be enjoyed by most children. It's a great way for children to meet The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Reduces stress, depression and anxiety
- Increases resilience, well-being and positive mental health

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

- Healthy brain development
- Stimulates the body and mind
- Improves academic performance: better concentration, attention span, memory and focus

HEART AND LUNG HEALTH

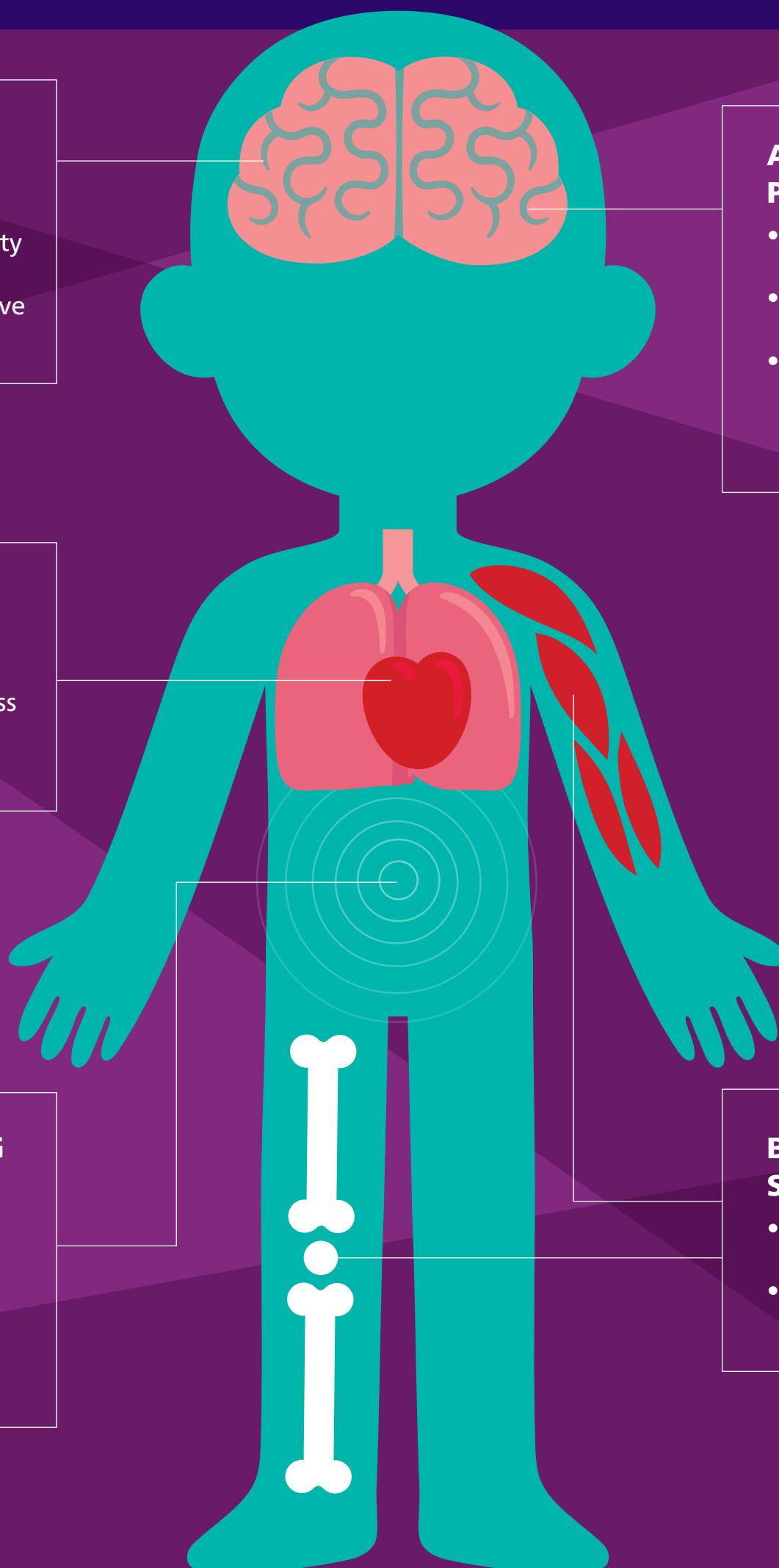
- Improves heart health and fitness
- Increases lung capacity

PROMOTING LONG TERM HEALTH

- Reduces risk for type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, heart and lung disease
- Strengthens immune system

BONE AND MUSCLE STRENGTH

- Builds stronger muscles and bones
- Increases muscle endurance



Step it up! Walk to school or enjoy nature on park or forest trails. Make it fun by walking with others – try a walking challenge or mindful walking. Let's build healthy kids and get walking!

PUBLIC HEALTH
york.ca/HealthyKids



G.I.V.E!

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

2025 Winter Session

Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience!

You will learn more about:

- The role of a volunteer
- Transferable skills
- Equity and Inclusive education
- Self care and well-being
- Human Rights
- Employment readiness
- School information and community resources

We will help you:

- Expand your network
- Effectively communicate with school staff
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in schools
- Build healthy communities
- Boost Professionalism

Location: Ellen Fairclough Public School, 33 Brando Ave, Markham, ON L3S 4K9

Dates: February 24 to 28, 2025 (Monday to Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All parents, guardians, caregivers are welcome to join this free training program!

Space is limited, please scan the QR code or visit the [Registration Link](#) to sign up.



This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information, please contact Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) at iscs@yrdsb.ca or Victoria Chung vchung@ccsy.org 416-568-2252 or Eman Hasan ehasan@ccsy.org 905-884-3434 #322.





Supporting East Asian Students Family Engagement Evening Series

Understanding High School Pathways and Course Selection

Families, parents, caregivers please join us for this SEAS Family Engagement Evening to help you gain a deeper understanding of the high school pathways and course selection process in the Ontario Education System.

YRDSB teachers and Guidance Counsellors will be delivering information focused on:

- Understanding the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements
- Exploring pathways and planning for post-secondary options
- Navigating high school course selection process in YRDSB

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

Cafeteria, 3rd Floor

Bill Crothers Secondary School

44 Main St Unionville, Unionville, ON L3R 2E4

Please scan the QR code

or click <https://bit.ly/4flwbhs> to register



For additional inquiries, please contact: iscs@yrdsb.ca

In partnership with YRDSB, Inclusive School & Community Services (ISCS), Community and Partnership Developer team and Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) affinity group.



THE CITY IS OUR CLASSROOM



WINTER WISDOM WEBINARS

How to Pay for College

This 50-minute webinar will cover information to help alleviate students' (and parents') worries about the cost of post-secondary education in Canada.

Topics covered include average costs of college/university, types of financial aid (scholarships, bursaries, crowd-funding, etc.,) overview of OSAP & how to apply, lists of useful resources.

Lunch Session:

WED. JANUARY 15 AT 12:00 PM

Evening Session:

WED. FEBRUARY 26 AT 6:00 PM

Discover Apprenticeships & Skilled Trades

Demand for qualified personnel in the Skilled Trades is growing and could be your path towards a fulfilling career. In two to five years, you can complete your professional training while being paid for the work you do in the process.

This 50-minute webinar will take a high-level look at apprenticeships and how you might pursue your training, while providing some useful resources and insight into the potential of careers within the Skilled Trades

Evening Session:

THURS. JANUARY 30 AT 6:00 PM

How to Apply to College

Programs at George Brown College can be the gateway to your first career, a means to take yourself to the next level, or a tool to open up entirely new possibilities.

This 50-minute webinar for *domestic* students will lead a step-by-step walkthrough of applying to full-time programs at College, taking note of key dates and covering frequently asked questions.

Lunch Session:

THURS. JANUARY 16 AT 12:00 PM

Evening Session:

WED. JANUARY 22 AT 6:00 PM