

# Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

March 28, 2025

## In this Issue:

- Updates re: Vaping in Schools
- Spring OSSLT
- Family Interview Night
- Graduation Gowns

## Message from Administration:

As we approach the middle of the term, we want to keep you informed about key academic milestones and upcoming events. Interim reports will be sent home soon, and midterms are fast approaching. The next few months will be busy with learning, extracurricular activities, and exciting school events, including spirit days, sports tournaments, performances, and class trips.

We appreciate your ongoing support and encourage students to stay engaged, do their best, and take advantage of the many opportunities available. Stay tuned for more updates!

## School Council Presents a Parent/Guardian Evening Featuring Kevin Greene (Clinical Director and Registered Psychotherapist)

Mr. Greene will share insights on

1. Substance Abuse
2. Social Media
3. School Issues (avoidance, stress over marks, bullying, etc.)

Join us on Monday, April 7 at 6:30pm at Emily Carr Secondary School. To register please scan the below QR Code.



## 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

### Spring Session for OSSLT

The Spring session for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will be held in the **main library** on the following dates:

- **Part A:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 10:40 AM
- **Part B:** Wednesday April 2, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 10:40 AM
- **Make-Up Session:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 10:40 AM

This session is for students who were not yet successful in the Fall window of the OSSLT. Students and families will receive notification letters in the coming weeks with details about the specific testing dates. Students have been directed to come straight to the main library for 8:00 am on both dates of the test. Attendance will be taken in the library.

### Family Interview Night: Thursday, April 3

Family Interview Night will take place on **Thursday, April 3** at **Emily Carr Secondary School** from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**. Come and meet your child's teachers and the other caring adults who make Emily Carr Secondary School such a special place.

The format of the evening will be similar to first semester, with an opportunity to meet and greet all teachers in the cafeteria. There will also be time for more formal interviews with teachers in their classrooms.

Please review the attached document titled "**Families Interview Night Timelines and Format of the Evening**" which provides details on how to access Teach Assist to book interviews and the overall format of the evening.

We look forward to the opportunity to connect together soon!

### 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!

## Important Dates

Eid - March 30-31, 2025

## 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

### 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.

### The Importance of Instructional Time

Please note that students must complete 110 hours in their classes to achieve their credits. As the spring and summer months approach, kindly remind your child that attending class regularly and completing their work is essential. We ask for your support in reinforcing that bathroom breaks should be brief and that walking the halls unsupervised is not permitted.

Additionally, students should be reminded that cell phone use during instructional time is not permitted and should remain in their backpacks unless directed by the teacher. Thank you for helping us ensure a productive and focused learning environment for all students.

### Missed Grad Photos

Our Grad Studio will be open on March 29 & 30 for missed appointments or retakes. To book your appointment please visit this link:

<https://edgeimaging.ca/en/studio-day-disclaimer-aurora/>

Studio Location:

Aurora Preparatory Academy (APA)  
81 Industrial Parkway North,  
Aurora, ON  
L4G 4C4

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## School News

Dear Families,

The Ontario Ministry of Education released [Policy/Program Memorandum 128](#) in the fall of 2024, which included a directive to school boards to set out enforcement mechanisms to address the possession, use and provision of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, nicotine products, recreational cannabis, alcohol and illegal drugs. In support of a comprehensive approach, we are pleased to announce that in the coming months, vape-detecting devices will be installed at all YRDSB secondary schools.

Our schools continue to provide education and support regarding the harmful impact of these products. Please see resources listed below.

Resources for Families

QUASH

- [A Logical Plan for Quitting](#)
  - free smoking and vaping cessation app (co-designed by youth for youth)

School Mental Health Ontario

- [Vaping: What you need to know](#)
  - general information about vaping; outlines important facts, associated risks, and additional resources to support educators/families in having informed conversations with students

York Region Public Health (YRPH)

- [Vape Facts: What You Need to Know](#)
  - a website containing YRPH anti-vaping campaign videos and vaping facts
- [Vaping and E-Cigarettes](#)
  - a website continuing YRPH information on vaping and health risks

Canadian Lung Association

- [How to Talk to Your Child About Vaping](#)
  - a pdf guide for parents about talking with your child about vaping and the risks

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## School News

Dear families,

Until **April 18**, York Region District School Board invites families and community members to participate in the Board's annual budget consultation process. Fill out the [online survey](#) (translated into 17 languages) or take part in a virtual consultation on **Monday, April 7, 2025**. More information on how to join the virtual consultation is available on the YRDSB [website](#).

As the Board faces a decline in enrolment for the 2025-2026 school year, community feedback will help guide budgeting priorities. Questions about the budget process may be directed to [budget@yrdsb.ca](mailto:budget@yrdsb.ca).

Thank you for your time and feedback.

Sincerely,

Ron Lynn  
Board Chair

Bill Cober  
Director of Education

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## Updates from Guidance

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](mailto:fiorella.finelli@yrdsb.ca)) or Rosanna Milani ([rosanna.milani@yrdsb.ca](mailto:rosanna.milani@yrdsb.ca)) the Senior Sunset Advisors.

Summer School registration will open in myBlueprint on Tuesday, April 15th. Please refer to the [link](#) for more details. Students are asked to come by the Guidance Office should they require any support.

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

A representative from George Brown College will be coming to ECSS on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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*.

Is your student considering a postsecondary school in the United States? Get informed by attending the US College Expo in Toronto Saturday, April 12th. Discover valuable resources and insights to kickstart their path. Please refer to this [link](#) for more details and registration information.

**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 and especially during the spring 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.

## **Families Interview Night Timelines and Format of the Evening**

Dear Families,

**Interview Night is on Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 pm.** You will have an opportunity to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and learn more about the classroom. Families can use TeachAssist, an online platform, to schedule a meeting time with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) on Interview Night. All students in our school currently have a TeachAssist account to access information associated with their class assessments.

Families may access appointment bookings on **Tuesday, March 25th to Tuesday, April 1st, 2024** through the TeachAssist Parent Portal available at <https://ta.yrdsb.ca/parents>. From there, enter in your email address and leave the password blank, to set up a one time access link, or to reset a password that you've created. An email will be sent with a time limited link that will look similar to this:

[teachassist@yrdsb.ca](mailto:teachassist@yrdsb.ca)

To: parent\_email

Click here for your one time access to teachassist

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/live/parents/listReports.php?email=parent&token=serdftyugio678>

Once logged in, parents/guardians will have the option to set up a password. For instructions on how to book an interview through TeachAssist, please click [here](#) or see below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact our main office.

If you have any challenges with meeting in-person on Thursday, April 3rd, 2024 , please contact your child's teacher to make alternative arrangements for another day.

### **FORMAT OF THE EVENING**

#### **6:00-6:30 pm Staff Meet and Greet in the Cafeteria**

- **We encourage ALL families to take advantage of the opportunity to meet and greet with teachers but more importantly any staff members in the building. This format offers families and parents a chance to meet and connect with staff in a less formal setting than the interview portion of the evening. Please join us for this important opportunity to connect together as a community at the start of the evening.**

#### **6:30-8:00 pm - Parent/Guardian Teacher Meetings**

**IMPORTANT TIMELINES: MARCH 25TH-APRIL 3RD 2025**

<b>Tuesday, March 25th - Tuesday, April 1st</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Interview Night Scheduler opens at 8:30 a.m. for booking.</b></li><li>● Parents/Guardians will go to the TeachAssist parent portal <a href="https://ta.yrdsb.ca/parents">https://ta.yrdsb.ca/parents</a> to book their appointment(s).</li><li>● For instructions on how to book an interview through TeachAssist, please click <a href="#">here</a> or see below.</li></ul>
<b>Friday, March 21st</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Interim Reports will be distributed electronically to parents /guardians / 18+ students via the Electronic Distribution Process.</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, April 1st</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Interview Night Scheduler closes to families at 3:30 pm.</b></li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, Wednesday April 1st, &amp; 2nd</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Teachers send an email to confirm appointment time and interview locations with families.</b></li></ul>
<b>Thursday, April 1st</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Staff Meet and Greet in the Cafeteria <b><u>6:00-6:30 pm</u></b></li><li>● Parent/Guardian Teacher Interviews <b><u>6:40 to 8:00 pm</u></b> in classrooms with the teacher</li><li>● Teachers Class locations will be posted throughout the school</li></ul>

Your partners in education,

The ECSS Admin Team





# Trans Day of Visibility Celebration

We invite 2SLGBTQIA+ and ally students, families, and staff of all ages to join us for an evening of community, connection, and celebration as we honour Trans Day of Visibility! This event is free to attend.

**Location:** Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, 39 Dunning Ave, Aurora, ON L4G 1A2

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 6pm-8pm

## Hoodie Swap

Bring a hoodie, take a hoodie! Find comfortable and affirming clothing.

## Community Resources

Connect with local organizations supporting Queer youth & families.

## Art & Activities Eat

Express yourself through creative stations and Queer & Trans trivia.

Enjoy pizza and snacks during the event.

## Connect

Connect with peers and families with shared identities and experiences

## To Register

To Register: Attendance is free, but please fill out a [registration form](#) by March 18, 2025.

If you have any further questions, please contact: [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca)



# 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)**



## School Council Presents: Social Media, Substance Abuse, & School Issues

# Free Mental Health Information Night

April 7 @ 6:30pm  
Emily Carr  
Secondary  
School  
Kevin Greene  
Registered  
Psychotherapist

Come shop with us at our inaugural...

# spring market



BROUGHT TO YOU BY TOMMY DOUGLAS SCHOOL COUNCIL

See you  
at the market!  
SATURDAY  
APRIL 26  
—  
10 - 2 PM

## Spring into the season!

Join us for a day of great shopping —  
supporting local businesses at Tommy's  
first ever spring market!

## Shop a variety of 20+ local vendors at our market

→ Please note: because this is a community event, each vendor will  
offer their own payment options but cash is always appreciated!

Join us as  
a vendor!

**We welcome all makers, local businesses  
and companies!**

- Secure a table or Sponsor/Donate prizes
- Email: [Daniela.DiSanto@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Daniela.DiSanto@yrdsb.ca) today!

- Meet school arts council reps
- Enjoy coffee & refreshments

## Market location

**Tommy Douglas SS**  
4020 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Woodbridge, Ontario L4H 4E9

## Shop with us!

- Personalized gifts, jewelry and paper goods
- Handmade knit items
- Clothing and unique style accessories
- Home decor, including artisan wood items and flower arrangements
- Hair products, accessories and more!

## Hungry for more?

Stock up on hot sauces,  
baked goods, cookies,  
cakes, muffins, and more!

Tommy Douglas's school council is excited to  
see you at our amazing community market!

