

Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

March 7, 2025

In this Issue:

- Spring OSSLT
- Family Interview Night
- Graduation Gowns

Message from Administration:

As we begin March Break, we want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education. Your encouragement and involvement play a vital role in their success, and we truly appreciate all that you do. This break is an opportunity for students to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. Whether you're traveling, exploring new activities, or simply enjoying some downtime, we hope it is a joyful and refreshing time for your family.

We look forward to welcoming our students back, re-energized and ready for the remainder of the school year. Until then, wishing you a safe, happy, and restful break!

Attendance

The goal of our attendance policy is to have students attend all classes.. It has been clearly demonstrated that regular attendance is one of the most important contributors to success at school.

When a student is going to be absent for the day, the school is to be informed by a telephone call/e-mail from the parent/guardian before 7:50 a.m. on the day of the absence. A message may be left on the school voice mail of the attendance secretary (905) 850-5012 ext.101 or email emilycarrss.attendance@yrdsb.ca.

Families planning to move or students not returning in September

As we begin our planning for the 2025-2026 school year, we kindly ask you to inform the school office if your family has plans to move over the summer, or if your children will not be returning in September for any reason. This information helps us to ensure a smooth transition for all students and to make necessary staffing arrangements for the upcoming academic year. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps us in planning effectively for the new school year. Thank you for your support.

Contact Us

Phone 905-850-5012

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

emily.carr.ss@yrdsb.ca

Online

[School website](#)



@emilycarryrdsb

Administration

Principal

Tanya-Lynn Paul

Vice Principals

Nadira Lawrence-Selan (A-L)

Samuel Gangbar (M-Z)

[School Council](#)

Co-Chair - Andre Tsopelas

Co-Chair - Lisa Rapisardi

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News

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.

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.

In the coming weeks, we will provide more 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 Open for Purchase - Monday, March 3

Please note that graduation gowns will be available for purchase starting on **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

March - Bangladeshi Heritage Month, Persian Heritage Month, Hellenic Heritage Month

Saturday, March 8, 2025 - International Women's Day

March 10-14, 2025 - March Break

March 14 - Holi

March 17 - Irish Heritage Day

March 20-21 - Nowruz

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.

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.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

March 2025 - [A Fresh Start for Spring](#)

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Updates from Guidance

Please refer to the [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) for March 2025 focuses on ways to relax, connect, and enjoy the upcoming March Break. It also references supportive resources and community mental health events.

THE STUDY AND GO ABROAD/SCHOOL FINDER FAIR is taking place on Sunday, March 2nd. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

A representative from the University of Guelph Humber will be hosting a drop-in Q & A session for current and future applicants over the lunch period on Friday, March 28th just outside the cafeteria.

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. The upcoming break in March will have a number of great opportunities for students and families to attend.

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

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

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

Your partners in education,

The ECSS Admin Team

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

Family Dashboard



Main

Home

Apps

Welcome to the YRDSB Family Dashboard

Home

The dashboard will give you secure one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. It is designed to make it easier for you to engage with your child's education.

Register today at family.yrdsb.ca.

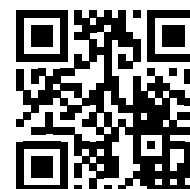
Setting up your account

1. Visit family.yrdsb.ca.
2. Click "No account? Create one" under the email.
3. Enter the email address you have on file at your child's school, and click the Next Button.
4. Check your email, you will receive an email with a one-time code that expires within 30 minutes in order to confirm your identity. Enter that code on the account creation screen.

Once your email has been validated you will be asked to:

1. **Create a password.**
Passwords must be between 8-256 characters and include three of the four following types of characters: lowercase characters; uppercase characters, numbers (0-9); symbols
2. **Enter a Display Name** (your parent/guardian name).
3. **Enter the following information about your child or one of your children for further verification:**
If you use the same email address for your children's schools, all of your children will show in the dashboard once you have registered.
 - a. **Student Number** (is the same number as their GAPPS ID, or is available in EDBSY)
 - b. **Student Birthdate**
 - c. **Student Home Address Postal Code**

For more tips and frequently asked questions, visit www2.yrdsb.ca/family-resources and click on the Need Help button for the Family Dashboard.





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



Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by

THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

Monday, March 24, 2025
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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

Agenda:

- Welcome and Engagement Exercise
- Presentation on YRDSB Speciality Programs
- 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

SEVA Meet & Greet

~ A Sikh Educators Voice Alliance (SEVA) Networking Event ~

We are excited to invite you to a special **Seva Affinity Group Meet & Greet**. The gathering is designed to bring together all YRDSB educators for meaningful networking, collaboration, and community-building. This event will provide a space to connect with like-minded educators, exchange ideas, and access valuable resources for **Sikh Heritage Month** and beyond.

Why Attend?

- **Network & Collaborate** – Meet fellow educators, share experiences, and build lasting professional connections.
- **Sikh Heritage Month Resources** – Gain access to educational materials, lesson plans, and ideas to enrich your curriculum.
- **Community Building** – Strengthen the SEVA educator network and discuss ways to support one another.
- **Inspiration & Support** – Learn from peers, discover new opportunities, and explore ways to elevate Sikh representation in education.

This is more than just a networking event, it's a chance to cultivate a **supportive and empowering** community of YRDSB educators dedicated to making an impact. Whether you're an experienced teacher, a new educator, or simply passionate about Sikh representation in education, your presence will help strengthen our collective efforts.



Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025



Location: Langstaff S.S.

Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Light refreshments will be served

We look forward to seeing you there! Share this invitation with a fellow educator! [Please REGISTER HERE](#)

Let's come together, **support** one another, and **build** a stronger network for all educators!

SUMMER CO-OP

2024-2025

www.yrdsb.ca/summer-pathway

SHSM 2-Credit Co-op

Mackenzie Health & Scarborough Health Network

The SHSM Summer Co-op Program is for SHSM students in the Health & Wellness or Business sectors (for non-clinical positions), interested in working at Mackenzie Health or Scarborough Health Network.

Application is limited to SHSM students entering Grade 12 who could not schedule Co-op into their regular timetables.

Registration opens February 14, 2025 and closes on February 24, 2025.

2-Credit Co-op

The 2-credit summer co-op program is a blended learning model running from May 6, 2025 to August 1, 2025. Pre-placement classes will take place in-person and virtually from 5:00-9:00 pm. In-person classes will take place at Richmond Green Secondary School at 1 William F. Bell Pkwy, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 2T9.

Registration opens February 14, 2025 and closes on March 7, 2025.

1-Credit Co-op

Students will participate in virtual and in-person learning with their Co-op teacher and in-person/virtual Co-op placements in their community from July 2, 2025 to July 25, 2025. Location of the in-person classes is to be determined at a later date.

Registration opens February 14, 2025 and closes on March 7, 2025.

1-Credit ALEP

1-Credit ALEP is available to students in grades 10-12 interested in earning a credit in July through paid employment.

Employers must meet with the summer ALEP teacher for a placement assessment before students are accepted into the program.

Registration will happen through My Pathways Planner in April.



Summer Co-op Information Session

February 12, 2025 4PM - 5PM

Register at: yrdsb.cc/summercoopinfo