

Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

February 14, 2025

In this Issue:

- Black History Month Celebration
- Community Updates
- Important Updates from Guidance

Message from Admin:

We are now entering the third week of Semester 2, and despite the snow day, learning is in full swing! Our staff is committed to ensuring students stay on track, and we encourage them to remain engaged, complete missed work, and reach out for support when needed.

As we settle into the semester, please remind your child to stay organized and make use of the resources available at school. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to connect with us—we're here to support both students and families.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in student success!

Emily Carr Admin Team

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.

School Council Meeting

The School Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00pm in the Emily Carr Secondary School Library. The agenda is attached.

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](#)



Community News

Student Trustee Elections

Each year, students in Grades 5-12 have the opportunity to vote for the two student trustees who will represent their voice across the York Region District School Board. Voting takes place between February 18-19, 2025.

You can learn more about the final four candidates and watch an all-candidates panel discussion at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees. This is an excellent opportunity to hear directly from each candidate and their views and thoughts on issues that concern all YRDSB students. All students in grades 5-12 are encouraged to watch.

Information on how to vote will be shared with all eligible students in your GAPPS email account when voting opens February 18.

Report Cards for Semester 1

Parents/guardians will soon receive emails letting them know they can access their child's Term 1 Report Card. They will be informed that report cards:

- will be available in the Family Dashboard for a limited time
- will be sent as a link to the student
- can be requested from the school

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](https://www.eventbrite.com) for more session information.

Important Dates

Black History Month - February

Family Day - February 17, 2025

School Council Meeting - February 18, 2025 at 7:00pm

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



Community News

Chinese Arts and Literary Festival

This festival aims to deepen participants' understanding of Chinese cultural heritage, promote appreciation and respect for cultural diversity, and enhance social harmony. [Register by March 5, 2025.](#)

Roots, Rauch and Resilience Group Workshop hosted by Jewish Family and Child Service

Join the JF&CS for a 4-week group workshop starting on March 4, 2025. For students in Grades 6-8. Dinner will be served. [Please register.](#)

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.

Important Dates

Black History Month - February
Family Day - February 17, 2025
School Council Meeting - February 18, 2025 at 7:00pm

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 are **NOW OPEN** in myBlueprint (MyPathwayPlanner) and will close on **Friday, February 21st, 4:00p.m.** Long weekends are a great time for families to review, research, and submit options. Please see some key points below to assist in your conversations with your child/student:

- Students participated in a Course Selection Assembly and the ECSS Course Offerings Fair. Information has been posted in each Grade Google Classroom.
- 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).**

Parents/guardians are asked to have their students (who have applied to postsecondary programs at colleges or universities in Ontario) **check their OCAS and/or OUAC accounts** this upcoming week. ECSS has completed the upload for final first semester marks for all students. If students notice any mark discrepancies, or if they notice any courses that appear that should no longer be there, they are asked to contact their guidance counsellor or speak to our Guidance secretary, Mrs. Giotis.

A representative from the Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) will be hosting a drop-in Q & A session for current and future applicants over the lunch period on Tuesday, March 18th just outside the cafeteria.

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.

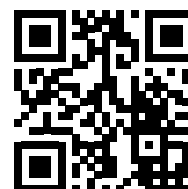
Setting up your account

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.



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.

Tuesday, February 25, 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 **February 14, 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



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.

REGISTRATION



REGISTRATION

PROGRAM

PROGRAM



Summer Co-op Information Session

February 12, 2025 4PM - 5PM

Register at: yrdsb.cc/summercoopinfo

A Compassionate Approach to Support Your Child's emotional well-being

This session in Mandarin and Cantonese will share tips on ways that lead your child to understand and manage their emotions in a constructive way. We aim to foster their mental well-being and equip them with coping skills that serve them throughout their lives.

本次研討會將探討如何幫助你的孩子理解和以建設性的方式處理他們的情緒。我們的目標是促進他們的心理健康，並為他們提供應對技巧，讓他們終生受益。

這次的講座將探討如何幫助你的孩子理解和以建設性的方式處理他們的情緒。我們的目標是促進他們的心理健康，並為他們提供應對技巧，讓他們終生受益。

To register for a Mandarin session:

[点击这里报名普通话讲座](#) or scan QR code



To register for a Cantonese session:

[點擊這裡報名粵語講座](#) or scan the QR code



Parents, Guardians, Caregiver and Students

Join us to learn and share with your community how the families are supported!

Date: **Tuesday, Feb 25, 2025**

Time: **6:00pm-7:00pm (Mandarin 普通话)**

7:00pm-8:00pm (Cantonese 粵語)

Location: **Virtually**

Presenters:

Hannah Xu (MPH)

Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Youth Program Worker

Charmaine Tong (M.S.W., R.S.W.)

York Region District School Board
Community Care Social Worker (Chinese Heritage Community)

For more information, please contact:

Community Care Social Worker (Chinese Heritage)

Charmaine Tong

charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca

This free session is brought to you in partnership with Hong Fook Mental Health Association and Community Care Team of York Region District School Board

Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by

THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

Monday, February 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 Special Education
- 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



Join the City of Vaughan's Transportation Youth Ambassador Program!

This program is an exciting initiative that empowers youth to participate in municipal transportation decision-making.

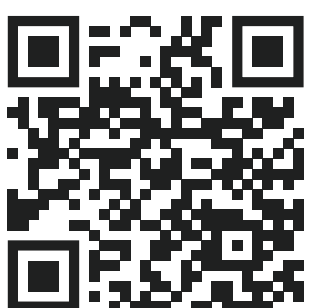
As an ambassador, you will:

- **gain valuable work experience with City staff.**
- **contribute to innovative transportation projects and initiatives.**
- **have your voice heard on transportation issues.**

Who can apply?

Vaughan secondary school students who are passionate about transportation and community involvement.

Apply now



vaughan.ca/YouthAmbassador





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



ECSS School Council Meeting Agenda

February 18, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

School Council: http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/emilycarr.ss/SchoolCouncil/Pages/default.aspx	
Agenda Items	Speaker(s)/Notes
Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Land AcknowledgementIntroductionsReview Minutes for Approval2024/2025 ECSS School Council Members<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Chair: Andre Tsopelas, Lisa Rapisardi✓ Vice-Chair:✓ Secretary: Sofia Calautti✓ Treasurer:✓ Communications Representative:✓ Parent Representative(s): (s): Sukaina Dizazzo, Kirusha Kobindarajah, Patrizia Bosellino, Sofia Calautti, Erin Campbell, Dharambir Mann, Enza Torchia, Monica Kaushik✓ Community Representative:✓ School Staff Representatives:✓ ECSS Administration: Tanya-Lynn Paul, Principal, Nadira Lawrence-Selan, Vice-Principal, Samuel (Rory) Gangbar, Vice-PrincipalNew Attendees (possible members)	
Review and Approval of Minutes (September 16, 2024)	
February 19, 2025 Meeting Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Call for additional items:	
Student Council Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">	
ECSS Staff Reports (Administration + Teaching &/or Non-Teaching Staff) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Admin Updates	
School Council Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">Treasurer PositionPro GrantCommunity Event Options for ECSSFundraiser Results	



ECSS School Council Meeting Agenda

February 18, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

2024/2025 School Council Meeting Dates

April 22, 2025