

Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

November 29, 2024

In this Issue:

- School Safety and Community Reminders
- Grade 8 Open House
- Semester 1 Final Exams

Grade 8 Open House

Grade 8 Open House - will be held on Thursday, December 5, between 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Grade 9 Math EQAO

Grade 9 Math EQAO will be taking place Wednesday, January 15, 2025 and Thursday, January 16, 2025 for any students taking grade 9 de-streamed Math during semester one.

Semester 1 Final Exams

Semester 1 Final Evaluations will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 to Monday, January 27, 2025. Thursday, January 30, 2025 will be a severe weather day, if needed. Please see the attached notice regarding Final Exam Policies and Procedures.

Family Dashboard

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 families to engage with their child's education. Please visit the included link: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/node/4373>

Food Donations

Emily Carr Secondary School is looking for non-perishable food donations (eg. pasta sauce, pasta, canned vegetables) to distribute to families in need throughout the school year. If you are able, please help by dropping off your non-perishable food item donations to the main office. We appreciate your continued support to our school community. A HUGE thank you to all the families who have already contributed!

ECSS Alumni Club Presents...

Students at Emily Carr Secondary will have the opportunity to hear from Chris Vasiliou on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Please see the attached flyer.

A Message from the Trustee for December 2024

Please see the attached message from the Trustee, Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair.

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

Students can vote now for Student Trustees

Students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity January 13-17 to participate in voting for the student trustee candidate who will represent our geographic area of the school board.

How to Vote

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

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.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Recently, York Region District School Board launched its new Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Developed by the Board of Trustees and based on feedback from staff, students and community, it lays out three priorities:

- Student Achievement
- Health and Well-Being
- Human Rights and Inclusive Education

The plan aims to build unity while helping students to achieve excellence by promoting and supporting high expectations for all, building healthy environments and positive relationships and learning and growing together while affirming our diverse identities. This plan will guide the collective work of the board for the next 4-5 years and we look forward to sharing its success with you in the coming months.

To learn more about the Multi-Year Strategic Plan please visit

www.yrdsb.ca/MYSP

Important Dates

Grade 8 Open House - December 5

Winter Welcome - December 12

Winter Break - December 23 to January 3

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

Coyote Pride

As members of our school community, it is important to treat our school with respect and care. Our school property, including washrooms, classrooms, hallways, libraries, and outdoor areas, are vital for a positive learning experience.

Please remind your child(ren) to:

1. **Keep Areas Clean:** Dispose of trash in garbage bins properly and tidy up.
2. **Handle Equipment with Care:** Use school materials and equipment responsibly to ensure they remain in good condition.
3. **Respect Shared Spaces:** Be considerate of others when using common areas such as school washrooms. Our washrooms are shared spaces that need everyone's cooperation to maintain.
4. **Report Issues:** If students notice any damage or need assistance, please report it to a teacher or staff member.

By following these guidelines, we can create a welcoming and safe environment for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

Good Neighbour Relationships

The students of ECSS have a shared responsibility with our community partners to ensure an inviting and clean environment for our neighbours and our community. Students are asked to respect the property and privacy of our neighbours. Although the Al Palladini Community Center, the Pierre Berton Resource Library and the Business establishments at the Plaza are public facilities, they are to be treated as private property by our students. Students are not to loiter in, or near, these establishments. To be inside Al Palladini Community Center, students must have a Community Center membership and they must be participating in community activities. We are proud of our students as they are ECSS ambassadors wherever they go in the community.

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Updates from Guidance

ONTARIO UNIVERSITY AND ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES are listed below. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as they have decided on their postsecondary programs.

Ontario University/OUAC applications - **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025** for equal consideration.

Ontario College/OCAS applications - **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025** for equal consideration.

*In addition to counsellor support, students have been provided with links to video tutorials to assist with the application process in their "All Things Grade 12" Google Classroom.

Night School registration for Semester Two (Winter 2025) opens on December 16, 2024. Please click on the [link](#) for detailed information and how to register through My Pathway Planner/myBlueprint. Students can schedule a guidance appointment or come to the Guidance Pop-Up Shop should they require support.

The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Team are excited to invite secondary school students and their caregivers to attend a Post-Secondary School Information Night hosted by APSIP, the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program. Students and families will have the opportunity to engage with a collective of recruitment representatives from Colleges, Universities, Polytechnics from across Ontario and Quebec. Please join us to explore the many programs and pathways to reach your career aspirations and find the program that's right for you. Please refer to the link in the flyer below to register.

Date: Monday, December 2, 2024

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Location: Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning - 36 Regatta Ave, Richmond Hill

Western University will have a representative at ECSS on December 6th during the lunch hour to answer any questions students may have about programs or opportunities. Students can stop by the table outside of the cafeteria to speak with the Western expert.

George Brown College is offering their **AUTUMN WEBINAR SERIES**. Students and families can register for virtual evening sessions on ***How to Pay for College & University (OSAP)***, ***Discover Apprenticeships & Skilled Trades***, & ***Discover George Brown Programs and Pathways***. Please refer to the flyer below for more detailed information.

January 2025 Exam Schedule Information for Students and Families

Please find the **January 2025** calendar for the examination period below. The exam period is determined by the YRDSB/approved by the Ministry of Education; students are expected to be present for all exams.

Here is our January exam schedule below for **students in Grades 9, 10, 11, 12:**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Regular Instructional Day Credit Rescue Gr 11/12 | Regular Instructional Day Credit Rescue Gr 11/12 | Period 1 Exam Culminating Activities | Period 2 Exams Culminating Activities | Period 3 Exams Culminating Activities |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31st |
| Period 4 Exams Culminating Activities | Rescheduled Exams and Credit Recovery | Instructional Day Lunar New Year | Exam Review Day Modified Schedule Severe Weather Day Regular Day for Community Classes | PA DAY - no students attend school on this date |

- **A more detailed exam schedule with course and room numbers will become available by late November**
- **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 22 to January 27, forcing the cancellation of all exams on a given day, the day for rescheduling those exams will be Tuesday, January 28. Exams will begin at 8:30 a.m.
- **Students in the DD and ASD Community Classes** will attend full days, following their regular schedule during the exam period.

Exam Policies and Procedures:

- **Please review the following exam policies and procedures to support the exam period**

ABSENCES

- 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 server 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.

Message from Our Trustee

December 2024

As we approach the winter break, I am happy to share a few updates from the Board of Trustees and to wish you all the very best for the approaching break and holiday season.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence. The plan sets out three priorities that will guide our direction and decision-making as a school board: student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education. It was developed by the Board of Trustees based on feedback received from the community, and we are grateful to everyone who shared their input. It was important to Trustees to ensure that this is a plan that serves the needs of our students and community. I invite you to [learn more about this plan](#).

Family Engagement

Earlier in the fall, we hosted a series of **school council forums**, bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all of the family members who are supporting the work that we do in schools, including participating on school councils, volunteering in schools, attending events and meetings, sharing information and getting involved in any way to support and strengthen our schools and school communities. Your partnership matters and makes a difference both to your child and to our schools and school communities. Thank you for all that you do.

Some families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.

As part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with families to support your child's education, we also recently introduced the **Family Dashboard**. The dashboard will offer you secure, one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).

We hope you continue to see evidence of your child's learning. This year, that includes welcoming [school police](#) presentations in partnership with York Regional Police on community safety topics, such as road, bike and pedestrian safety for elementary school students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the outstanding, dedicated and professional staff members throughout our system who work hard to provide your children with clean, safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. They provide students with learning supports, resources and opportunities that will help them develop skills, knowledge and experiences that will benefit them now and in the future. They collaborate with families and community partners, knowing that these partnerships make a difference to student achievement and well-being. To our staff members, thank you for all that you do.

Happy Holiday Season and Winter Break

For many in our community, this time of year includes significant dates and celebrations. For those who are celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. It is also a valuable time to connect with family and friends, as well as to rest and recharge. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

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



please join us for our
2nd annual

Winter Welcome



an evening of
the ARTS at ECSS

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

Emily Carr Secondary School
Doors Open at 6 pm until 8:30 pm

Performances by our
Music and Drama Departments
Visual Arts & Photography Displays
in the Cafeteria

Community Partners
Fundraisers
School Clubs
Bake Sale and Hot Chocolate



Donations for Yellow Brick House
Admission is free - Donations Welcome



Lauri Hoeg

Waabang/Tomorrow

Post Secondary Information Night

In partnership with APSIP

DECEMBER 2, 2024

Dr. Bette Stephenson
Centre for Learning
36 Regatta Ave,
Richmond Hill

6:00–8:00PM

JOIN US!



<https://www.apsip.ca/>



First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Education Team
YRDSB



For more information:
Indigenous.education@yrdsb.ca

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.

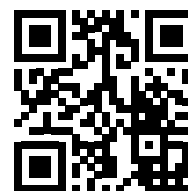
Setting up your account

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 www.yrdsb.ca/family-resources and click on the Need Help button for the Family Dashboard.





THE CITY IS OUR CLASSROOM



AUTUMN ANSWERS WEBINAR WEEK

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.

Evening Session:
TUES. DECEMBER 3 AT 6:00 PM

Lunch Session:
THURS. DECEMBER 5 AT 12:00 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:
MON. DECEMBER 2 AT 6:00 PM

Discover George Brown College

Certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, degrees...there are so many program types to choose from at college. Which one is right for you?

This 50-minute webinar will provide an overview of the programs that George Brown offers as well as the many pathways available for students to 'stack credentials' in order to achieve their academic career goals.

Evening Session:
WED. DECEMBER 4 AT 6:00 PM

Chris Vasiliou, President | CTK Group of Companies

Experience

- Began CTK in October 2021 with a focus on network cabling solutions.
- Launched multiple divisions in ICI construction, including electrical, low voltage, and security services.
- Managed large-scale projects in facilities up to 500,000 sq ft, including new builds, retrofits, and renovations.
- Building a business and managing its many different aspects (Accounting, HR, Operations, Legal, Sales etc)

Achievements / Career Goals

- Expanded into new markets, including battery energy storage and home renovations.
- Expansion of services across Canada to our national level customers.
- Actively pursuing strategic acquisitions to expand service offerings and enhance capabilities in key sectors.





Inclusive School and Community Services

Transit Assistance Program (TAP) For Those who Qualify

York Region is offering the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) to help make transit more affordable for eligible residents.

- Eligible TAP participants can receive a 50% discount on regular Adult single ride York Region Transit (YRT) fare using a PRESTO card. After 40 trips, rides are free for unlimited travel for the remainder of the calendar month.
- Anyone in the family can use the TAP card, including students going to high school
- Please Visit : [Eligibility and How to Apply for TAP](#)
- **New Applications and Renewals for 2025** are now being accepted by telephone. There are a limited number of new spots available so apply soon.
Please contact ACCESS YORK at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75581. All Students turning 18 should apply in their own right.
- If you require language interpretation for this call, simply say the language you speak when connected at the number above and interpretation services will be put in place.

If you have any additional questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer, YRDSB
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Transition Planning Resource Days

January – June 2025



Need help understanding the developmental services system and transition planning? Do you have an IEP?

Book a free, one (1) hour session, with a transitional planner to discuss and ask important questions related to your situation.

We can:

- discuss the differences between elementary and high school
- share tips and strategies to help you and your child prepare for life in high school
- help fill out forms and applications (e.g. ODSP, SSAH, Mobility Transit, etc.)
- share options for after high school and adult life

These sessions are for individuals who have a developmental disability, have an IEP, are in high school or recently graduated and need help planning adult services. Also included are students in Grade 8 with an IEP preparing to transition into high school.



YSSN.ca



Wednesdays:

- January 8, 2025
- February 5, 2025
- March 5, 2025
- April 12, 2025
- April 30, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- June 25, 2025

Fridays:

- January 24, 2025
- February 21, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- April 18, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- June 13, 2025

Time: 09:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

How to book an appointment:

Email: cmacdonald@yssn.ca

Call: 905.898.6455 ext. 2245
or toll free 1.866.257.9776