

# Emily Carr Secondary School Newsletter



4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

November 15, 2024

## In this Issue:

- School Safety and Community Reminders
- Grade 10 OSSLT and Grade 9 Math EQAO
- Grade 8 Open House
- Semester 1 Final Exams

## School Council Meeting

The School Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7pm in the library at Emily Carr.

## Grade 8 Open House

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

## 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. Tuesday, January 28, 2025 will be held for rescheduled exams and credit recovery. 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!

## 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

### **The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), is used to determine whether a student has the literacy skills (reading and writing) required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The successful completion of this test is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

**The OSSLT will be administered during the window of November 18th-November 28.** All students are eligible for extra time, a quiet setting, preferential seating and prompting to return to the test.

Your child will have received letters denoting which days they will be writing from their homeroom teachers this week. All assessments will be written in the main library unless otherwise specified. Please reach out to Mr. Gangbar if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to a successful assessment session ahead!

### **Visitors to Emily Carr Secondary School**

All visitors must sign in at the main office before proceeding into the school. Students from other schools or students who used to attend Emily Carr Secondary School are not allowed on school grounds without permission. Likewise, Emily Carr Secondary School students should not be visiting other schools.

## Important Dates

November 18, 2024 - School Council Meeting - ECSS Library

November 18-20 - Midterm Report Distribution

## 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.

### Important Dates

November 18, 2024 - School Council Meeting - ECSS Library

November 18-20 - Midterm Report Distribution

### Helpful Links

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[Report It \(YRDSB\)](#)

#### SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

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## Updates from Guidance



Our **Pathways to Opportunity** event was truly a success! Thank you to the many students and families who attended our event so that they can make more informed pathway choices. Students are encouraged to schedule a guidance appointment via TeachAssist should they wish to discuss pathways in more detail.

[Secondary Transition Virtual Session](#) This information night will discuss programming, accommodations, and supports that equip secondary students with disabilities with the necessary knowledge and skills to access post-secondary education. This will be taking place on November 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Humber Polytechnic invites you to a Pathway Information Session** - This session will highlight opportunities, pathways, and resources in order to provide a smooth transition to postsecondary education. Humber would like to invite parents', guardians, and students in high school. We intend to shift your mindset from anxiety and uncertainty about potential careers to optimism about a postsecondary future by providing information about the dual credit pathway. Humber Polytechnic has a number of foundations and pathway programs that are designed specifically for students who are uncertain about their future education and are having difficulty deciding on a future career path. Food will be provided to minimize barriers for attendance. [Register here](#)



## Updates from Guidance

**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.

Here is the [flyer](#) containing the schedules, registration links, and websites to all the **college open houses** across Ontario throughout November

Upcoming **Ontario Universities' Fall 2024 Events** can be viewed [here](#). Registration is required. Connect with [Ontario's Universities](#). This document outlines the various ways students can connect with Ontario universities throughout the entire application process - from starting their research with OUInfo to applying through the OUAC.



**ECSS School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 – In Person Meeting**

School Council: <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/emilycarr.ss/SchoolCouncil/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/emilycarr.ss/SchoolCouncil/Pages/default.aspx</a>	
Agenda Items	Minutes
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p><b>Start @7:05 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Attendees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2024/2025 ECSS School Council Members</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Co-Chairs: Andre Tsopelas, Lisa Rapisardi</li><li>✓ Treasurer: Indra Kissoon</li><li>✓ Secretary: Enza Torchia</li><li>✓ Parent Representative(s): Monica Kaushik, Sukaina Dizazzo, Kirusha Kobindarajah, Patrizia Bosellino, Sofia Calautti, Erin Campbell, Dharambir Mann</li><li>✓ School Staff Representatives:</li><li>✓ ECSS Administration: Principal - Tanya-Lynn Paul,</li></ul></li><li>✓ Absent : Vice-Principal - Nadira Lawrence-Selan, Vice-Principal – Rory Gangbar</li><li>✓ Student Council reps: Prime Minister - Jayitn Kumar, Deputy - Sia Sharma</li><li>✓ Guests : Diane McNeilly, Roman Mykhailyshyn</li></ul> <p>Land Acknowledgement</p>
<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes From April 15, 2024 meeting approved.
<b>Student Council Report</b>	<p>Jaytin Kumar and Sia Sharma introduced the school council to the attendees and gave an update on upcoming events.</p> <p>Opportunities were discussed for the school council to help fundraise for activities such as the upcoming Semi-formal dance.</p>



## ECSS School Council Meeting Minutes

*SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 – In Person Meeting*

<b>ECSS Staff Reports</b> (Administration + Teaching &/or Non-Teaching Staff)	<p><b>Principal's report:</b> Tanya-Lynn Paul welcomed all to the meeting, and discussed the school's activities.</p> <p>Healthy snack program continues to be supported at Emily Carr.</p> <p>Improvements to the school's grounds with a much anticipated track and field renewal is planned for the 2025 calendar year.</p>
<b>School Council Updates/Reports</b>	<p><b>School Council Policy review:</b> Principal Tanya-Lynn Paul review the school council policy handbook main highlights with the attendees and invited everyone to introduce themselves express interest in joining the School Council. Former Council Co-Chair Andre Tsopelas presented the activities that the council is expected to participate in and discussed the roles of the council members.</p> <p><b>School Council Election Results:</b> Co-Chairs: Andre Tsopelas and Lisa Rapisardi Treasurer: Indra Kissoon Secretary: Enza Torchia</p> <p>Members: Monica Kaushik, Sukaina Dizazzo, Kirusha Kobindarajah, Patrizia Bosellino, Sofia Calautti, Erin Campbell, Dharambir Mann</p> <p><b>Council's first meeting discussions and upcoming dates and activities:</b></p> <p>October 24 Interview night. Council members will be present to welcome attendees.</p> <p>November 13, West School council forum will be at Westmount High School this year. We are able to attend with 3 council members. Andre Tsopelas, Enza Torchia, and Indra Kissoon volunteered to attend and participate in the forum's workshops.</p> <p>December 5, Grade 8 Open House evening. Council will be present to welcome attendees and address the audience.</p> <p>Fundraising opportunities were discussed for the council to participate in support of the Student council's objectives. A BBQ fundraiser was discussed as a possibility.</p> <p>Follow up discussions from last year's anticipated traffic study will be on the agenda of this year's council as well.</p>



**ECSS School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 – In Person Meeting**

	PRO grant – The council will organize a pro grant funded event again in the new calendar year.
Meeting Adjourned:	@ 8:30 pm
<b>2024 / 2025 School Council Meeting Dates</b> November 18 2024, February 18 2025, April 22 2025.	



## **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	Semester Feedback Day: Modified Schedule, students attend half day (students in DD and ASD Community Classes attend full day	Instructional Day and Wrap Up	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.

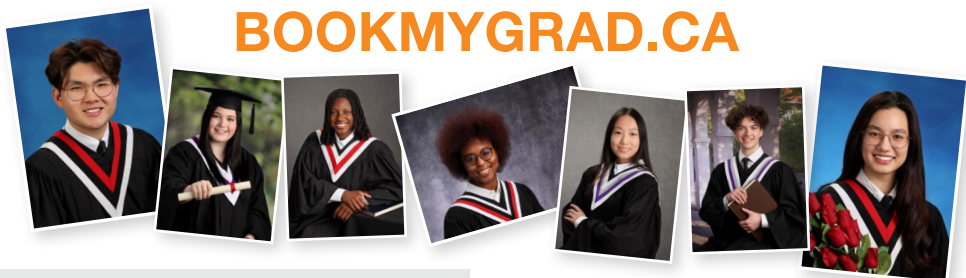


# GRAD PHOTOS

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for details

**Book your session today!**

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**SCHOOL CODE:**



**YRDSB FAMILIES OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-11**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO...**

# **PATHWAYS TO SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY**

Learn about:

- OYAP
- Pathway Planning
- Course selection for skilled trade careers
- Experiential learning opportunities

## **EXHIBITORS**

Hear about career pathways and opportunities from:

- Industry partners and associations
- Colleges and Trade Unions
- Local Employers

## **IMPORTANT INFO**



Monday, December 9, 2024



6:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Richmond Hill High School  
201 Yorkland Street, Richmond Hill, ON

**REGISTER NOW**



**SCAN ME**

[yrdsb.cc/PSTTDec9](https://yrdsb.cc/PSTTDec9)





The SEVA Affinity Group presents:



## Gurpurab Celebration: An Evening of Learning and Langar

We are excited to invite you to a special **Gurpurab Celebration** on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024**, from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** This event will honor the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings and provide an opportunity for our community to connect, learn, and collaborate.

### Event Highlights:

#### **Workshops to Learn about Sikh Identity:**

Educators, students, parents, and caregivers are all welcome to participate in workshops designed to foster understanding of the Sikh identity and values. Each workshop is thoughtfully crafted for different age groups to encourage meaningful engagement and learning.

#### Workshops:

- **Educators:** Workshop on the Sikh Identity, including a Q&A session to address any questions or curiosities.
- **Primary Students (K-3):** Storytime
- **Junior Students (4-6):** Painting Workshop
- **Intermediate Students (7-12):** Community Circle
- **Parents and Caregivers:** Community circle to engage, share in strengths and challenges

#### **Langar Seva:**

Following the workshops, we will gather to share a **Langar** (free community meal) in the Sikh tradition. Langar embodies Guru Nanak's principles of equality and community, and all are welcome to join.

### Event Details:

**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- Welcome message: 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- Workshops: 5:20 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Langar: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Emily Carr S.S., 4901 Rutherford Rd, Vaughan, ON L4H 3C2

This event is for everyone—students, educators, parents, and caregivers from all backgrounds and communities—to come together to learn about Sikh traditions, ask questions, and connect in an inclusive space. It is an opportunity to build understanding, celebrate diversity, and engage in shared learning.

Please complete the [Registration Form](#) RSVP by November 27, 2024, to assist with preparations. We look forward to celebrating this meaningful occasion with you!



# The Jewish Rainbow

**A monthly support group for parents and  
caregivers of LGBTQ+ individuals**

**Cost: Free**

Pre-registration is required.

**For more info or to register, please contact  
Shirley Shedletsky at 416-638-7800, ext. 6260 or  
[sshedletsky@jfandcs.com](mailto:sshedletsky@jfandcs.com)**



**Schwartz/Reisman Centre  
from 7:00-9:00pm  
On the following Wednesdays:  
September 18, 2024  
October 9, 2024  
November 20, 2024  
December 11, 2024**

*JF&CS strives for inclusivity in all its programs, serving community members of any income, family structure, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, level of observance, race, ethnicity, cultural identity and place of origin.*



[www.facebook.com/jfandcs](https://www.facebook.com/jfandcs)



**UJA FEDERATION  
of Greater Toronto**



**United Way  
Greater Toronto**

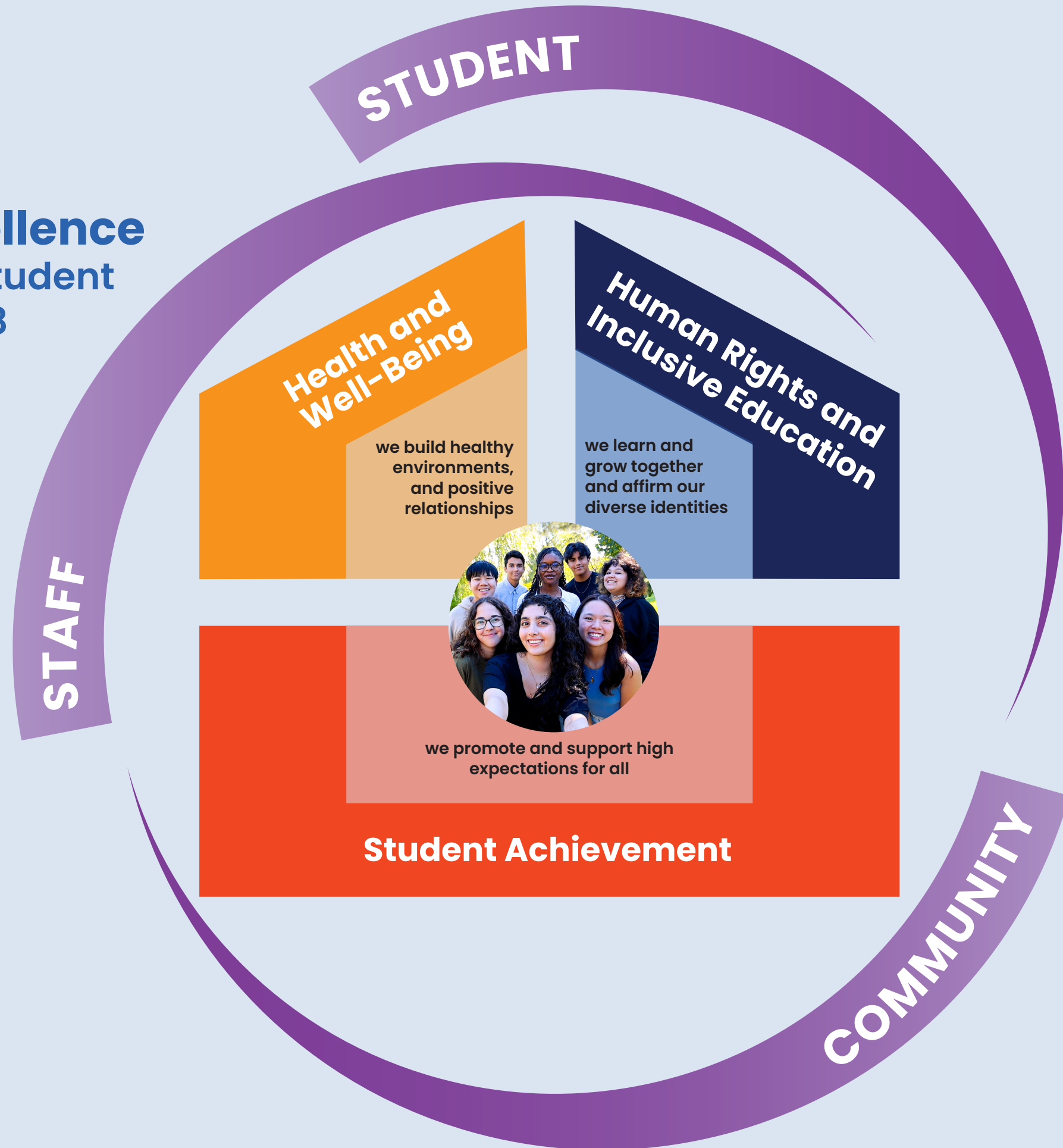


**Ontario**

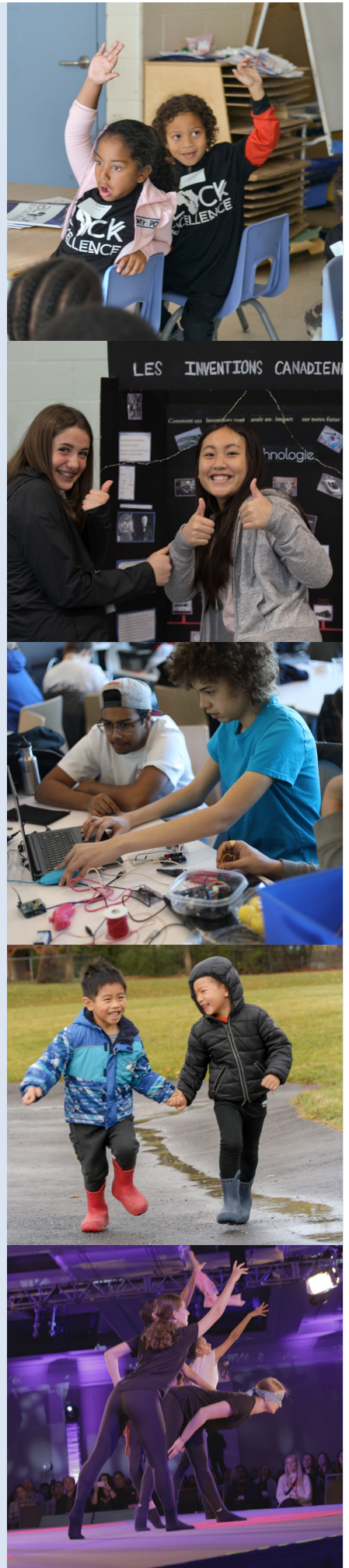


# Building Unity Achieving Excellence

Our roadmap for student  
success 2024-2028



Learn more at  
[www.yrdsb.ca/mysp](http://www.yrdsb.ca/mysp)



# BUILDING HEALTHY KIDS



## Supporting healthy, confident kids and teens!

Resiliency is not just about surviving tough times; it's about thriving despite them. Resilient kids and teens are better equipped to manage stress, build healthy relationships, and succeed academically and socially. Resilience comes from supportive relationships, emotional awareness, competence, and realistic optimism.

Help kids bounce back from stress by giving them tools to manage stress in different environments. These tools might include strategies such as breathing, visualization or listening to music. Try a variety of activities, and practice strategies together as a family to see what works best for you and your child.

You can also encourage optimistic thinking by listening to your child and respecting and confirming their experiences. Foster positive interactions and support and help them to make connections – encourage your child to talk to others. Parents, caregivers, coaches and teachers all have a role to play in building a child's resilience and confidence. Everyone can contribute to a child or teens resiliency by believing in them and encouraging them to try new things and achieve their goals.

Don't forget it is also important to build your own resiliency – taking care of you helps you support others. Your self-care can help improve your energy, focus, ability to cope with challenges and you will be a role model for your children. Practice self-care by staying active, getting enough sleep, keeping connected with friends and family, taking time to pause and reflect and treating yourself with compassion and gentleness. You may want to try journalling, mindfulness, practicing gratitude and kindness or listening to music. Find what works for you.

Building positive relationships with children is important for them to grow up healthy and confident. York Region Public Health is here to support you with information and resources. If you would like more information on how you can help build healthy kids and teens visit [york.ca/HealthyKids](https://york.ca/HealthyKids).

### Public Health

1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/HealthyKids](https://york.ca/HealthyKids)

