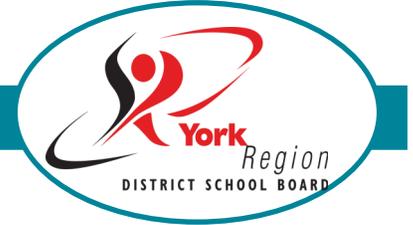




109 Garden Avenue
Richmond Hill, On, L4C 6M1

905-889-6266
langstaff.ss@yrdsb.ca
Attendance: 905-889-6266 ext: 1
langstaff.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca



Parent Newsletter: February 5-16, 2024

Administration

Principal:
Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal:
Heather Leatham

Vice-Principal:
Marianne C. Hamilton

STAY CONNECTED



@langstaffss

A Message from your Administrators

Hello Langstaff Families and Community Members,

Today is officially the last day of the first semester and we are very excited to begin the second semester on Monday, February 5, 2024.

It is always nice to begin a new semester; it brings a fresh start and a new excitement for what the future can be.

Timetables will be available for students this weekend. We are aware that some timetables have courses that students did not choose and/or have holes that need to be filled. Guidance is working very hard to ensure that, as many timetables are ready for the start of the semester. We will continue to work on timetables throughout the first week and, it will work out eventually, but we need everyone to be patient.

During our first week of semester 2, on February 8, the Guidance department will be meeting all students, through grade assemblies, to share information about the course selection process for next year. Course selection open on February 15th at 9:00 am and will close on February 23rd at 4:00 pm.

Last night was our Semi-Formal dance and it was a huge success!!! The students looked great and the dance floor was crowded all night.

We look forward to celebrating Black History month and we are once again having Glen Marais back to share important learning and wonderful music with our students.

On February 21, we will be holding another Picture Day for those students who are new to us for second semester.

Take Care and Have a Wonderful Weekend!

Sheri Epstein

Principal

Inspire Learning!

SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Our Trustee
February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of events taking place within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. **Black Voices** aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the **Lunar New Year** and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for severe weather and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating **Winter Walk Day**, and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the **Student Trustee Elections**. I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

Kindergarten and **French Immersion registration** opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our newsroom - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning podcast Tune In YRDSB, including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and how you can reach me on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Cindy Liang, Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

School Bell Timetable

Period 1	8:25 am – 9:40 am
Period 2	9:45 am – 11:05 am
Lunch	11:10 am – 11:50 am
Period 3	11:55 am – 1:10 pm
Period 4	1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

February 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
February 5 Shield Initiative “Adopt a Plushie”	February 6	February 7	February 8 Course Selection Assemblies	February 9
February 12	February 13	February 14 Valentine’s Day 	February 15 Course Selection opens	February 16
	Semester 1 Final Marks emailed to Families			

SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance Reminder

Parents/Guardians are reminded to report all late or absent notices to the Attendance Office
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by calling: 905-889-6266 ext.: 1

OR

email: langstaff.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

Should your student have a planned absence for 3 or more days, an Extended Absence Form must be signed by each subject teacher, parent/guardian and the Vice-Principal prior to leaving for the absence; Extended Absence Forms are available at the Main Office.

Yearbooks for Sale

2023/2024 Yearbooks on sale now for only \$35.00

Please pre-order your yearbook on schoolcashonline

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Langstaff families and community members,

Best Buddies is now hosting their fundraising for the Best Buddies Prom! Buy delicious Krispy Kreme donuts for \$15 per dozen on School Cash Online, to be delivered on February 27th. That's 12 Krispy Kreme delicious DONUTS for only \$15 on School CashOnline. All proceeds go to Langstaff's Best Buddies - we need your support for our Community Class Best Buddies!"

Krispy Kreme Donuts Fundraising

All proceeds go towards funding the
Best Buddies *Prom!*



Cost: \$15 per dozen

Where to order: School Cash Online

Delivery: February 27th



Accessing Your Guidance Team

WELCOME
TO
GUIDANCE



YOUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Support and promote students' well-being and continuous growth in three areas: personal (student) development, interpersonal development, and career development in order to help them develop resilience and realize their potential (success) as individuals and as valuable members of society.

-Ontario School Counsellors' Association

Contact Information: Please note the Guidance Counselors below

Ms. R. Chidiac, *Head of Guidance*
reina.chidiac@yrdsb.ca

Ms. S. Starkman,
sharonne.starkman@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. L. Rico, *Guidance Secretary*
lina.rico@yrdsb.ca



Stay Connected and in the "Loop": Continue to stay up to date by following us on Instagram and LSS Guidance & Success Google Classroom.

Instagram: @lssguidance

Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjcxOTQwNzYzNDFa?cjc=4rjwryf>



Guidance Appointments can be made in person by coming to guidance. There is a red binder on a standing desk in the Guidance Office. Students can book with their respective counsellor. The appointments are made available every Monday morning for the week.

SEMESTER TWO START UP

Students are reminded to check their teachassist (web version only, not the app!) to see their timetable. We are currently making changes, please check again on Monday morning to ensure you have the correct information.

We are working on student timetables that are missing courses and will share the process on how to make a course change request next week.

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

Guidance will offer Course Selection Presentations on February 8 . Teachers have received an invite and will escort their classes. We will walk through the steps to complete the online course selection via mypathwayplanner/myblueprint. Students will be required to include parent/guardian email to review and approve. Please look for this email between Feb. 15 and 23.

Grade 9: Period 1

Grade 10: Period 2

Grade 11: Period 3

Grade 12s will have a class visit to indicate their plans for next year.

Course selection opens: February 15 - Closes: February 23

NIGHT SCHOOL INFORMATION - CONTINUING EDUCATION

Semester Two - Winter 2024 -**February 15, 2024 to June 6, 2024**

The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous). Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm.

We encourage students to register early as course offerings are not guaranteed and are subject to sufficient enrollment. Grade 11 and 12 course offerings are listed [here](#)

Registration Details:

1. Registration is open, and closes on February 14.
 2. Students can register online on mypathwayplanner/myblueprint
 3. Students must then print their registration form, include both parent/guardian signature and submit to the Guidance office
 4. More details can be found [here](#)
-



February 2024

Dear Families,

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards*.

Below is a limited income grid for your reference.

Family size	Annual income*
2 people	\$30,286
3 people	\$37,234
4 people	\$45,206
5 people	\$51,272
6 people	\$57,286
7 people +	\$64,381

This year, there are different packages available for purchase. Please reference the [online application page](#) for the current available package offerings. Please note that there are three options for delivery.

1. If you would like for the computer to be delivered directly to your home, there is a \$40 charge for laptops and a \$50 charge for desktops. Families who choose this delivery option will have their order shipped when it is ready, roughly 3 weeks from date of order.
2. If you would like the device shipped to your child's school there is a \$20 delivery charge. If you choose this shipping option, the computer will be delivered to your child's school **after** the end of the promotion period. Please indicate the name of the school on the form when selecting this option.
3. You may choose to pick up the computer from the RCT Mississauga Warehouse, for free, located at **945 Meyerside Drive, Mississauga**. Families who choose this option will have their order ready for pick up roughly 3 weeks after the date of order.

YRDSB COMMUNICATIONS



3. You may choose to pick up the computer from the RCT Mississauga Warehouse, for free, located at **945 Meyerside Drive, Mississauga**. Families who choose this option will have their order ready for pick up roughly 3 weeks after the date of order.

Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household. Please see below for a full list of device specifications.

If you are interested in applying, please complete an online application at <https://www.iotform.com/210054491659255> using the group code on the attached program flyer. The application period is from February 1, 2024 – March 15, 2024 with delivery to schools taking place in April.

Please note - There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:

- Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income
- Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop

The Section on Course of Study can pertain to elementary or secondary. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, please contact the administration team at your school for assistance.

For inquiries related to the RCT application process, devices and delivery, please contact Alexander Oliver (Aoliver@rcto.ca) and for inquiries related to support from YRDSB, please contact Yvonne Kelly (yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)

For more information, including complete application and payment instructions, please refer to the attached program flyer and checklist.

Sincerely,

PRINCIPAL

Do you need a computer?

Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Working with **York Region District School Board** we are offering affordable, renewed computer packages.



1. Open camera on phone
2. Hold camera up to QR code above
3. Click link that appears on your screen

You can apply for this program if you are:

A resident of Ontario and you are an individual with limited income.

Parents or legal guardians may apply on behalf of a child or youth under the age of 18.

We offer 1 computer, per family, with a limit of 2 per household per year.

For more information, please contact:

Alexander Oliver
RCT Community Engagement Lead
AOliver@rcto.ca

All systems include our
STANDARD 1 YEAR DEPOT WARRANTY

*batteries not covered by warranty

We have Desktop Packages from \$75.00 to \$160.00.
Plus \$50.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get - a desktop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software, monitor, keyboard and mouse

We have Laptop Packages from \$140.00 to \$250.00.
Plus \$40.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get - a laptop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software

*Computers may not appear exactly as shown

With funding from

Canada

Visit Us Online @ www.RCTO.ca

RCT 
Renewed Computer Technology

Application Check-List



You can begin to apply for a computer on: February 1st, 2024
Application deadline: March 15th, 2024

Group Name: YRDSB | **Group Code:** G-YRDSB24

1. Open camera on phone
2. Hold camera up to QR code above
3. Click link that appears on your screen

How to fill out your application

Scan QR code OR access application using the link your organization provided

Section A

Group Name: YRDSB

Group Code: G-YRDSB24

Name of School: *Please enter the name of the student's school*

Section B

This section does not apply to you.

Section C

I would like to pick up my computer in Mississauga RCT Warehouse (\$0.00 Shipping fee)

OR

I would like to order a laptop, please ship my computer to my home (\$40.00 shipping fee)

OR

I would like to order a desktop, please ship my computer to my home (\$50.00 shipping fee)

OR

I am part of the York Region District School Board Group order (\$20.00)

Section D

Pick your computer package and method of payment.

Our partner organization will need proof of eligibility (one of the following) before you can apply for a computer.

Proof of Financial Status (one of the following)

- Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (most recent)
- Ontario Works Statement (Social Assistance)
- OSAP Statement of Funding
- Refugee Payment Received from government
- Letter from school supporting the application
- EI Benefit Statement
- ODSP (Disability Benefits)
- Second Career

Payment

You will have the following online payment options when completing your order:

- Credit/Debit Card
- Money Order or Certified Cheque
- A Third Party will be Paying (Ex. Ontario Works)

Certified Cheques should be made to: Renewed Computer Technology

The applicant's name must be added in the memo field. When you come to pick up your computer, please bring a government photo ID.

With funding from

Canada

Visit Us Online @ www.RCTO.ca

RCT 
Renewed Computer Technology

YRDSB COMMUNICATIONS

Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024

* Dates and Events subject to change

Student Events and Family Engagement

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families. Register Here	Dr.Bette Stephenson Cafeteria
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr.Joi Spencer and Dr.Kerri Ullucci Register Here	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families Light refreshments will be served. Register In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration. Register Here	Dr Bette Rm 113

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mental Health for Students

- YMCA of Greater Toronto Y Mind Program

<https://www.ymcagta.org/youth-programs/y-mind>

- o Y Mind is a free, seven-week mental wellness group program for teens (ages 13-18) and youth (ages 18-30) who are experiencing symptoms of mild-to-moderate anxiety or stress. Participants learn and practice evidence-based strategies to help manage anxiety.
- o Teens and youth from York Region are welcome to apply

- Girls Inc. York Region After School Program

<https://girlsincyork.org/after-school/>

- o Open to girls ages 9-11
- o The main objectives of the program include: active living, eating healthy, building confidence, and academic improvement
- o The After School Program is available at no cost
- o Resuming the week of January 15th 2024, at Maple Leaf Public School, Meadowbrook Public School and Wellington Public School (the After School Programs based in these schools are accessible to students from different schools as well)

- One Stop Talk

<https://onestoptalk.ca/>



One Stop Talk – Free, instant access for youth and children to mental health support

Children and youth in Ontario can immediately connect with a therapist for a free counselling session and access mental health support.

onestoptalk.ca

- o **NEW** provincial Brief counseling service
- o Accessed through web chat or by calling 1-855-416-8255
- o Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST.
- o Children and youth 18 years old and younger.
- o Free counseling by registered and culturally diverse therapists who also connect to longer term local support.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Families

- [Markham Public Library - Meditation](https://markham.bibliocommons.com/events/656e2141eb28943d007a7b1e)
<https://markham.bibliocommons.com/events/656e2141eb28943d007a7b1e>

	<p>Meditation</p> <p>Join us every Wednesday for a guided virtual meditation workshop led by an instructor from Markham Yoga. This online session will lead you in powerful breath work and other meditation techniques. All ages welcome! If you do not receive the Zoom link prior the program, please note: The email will be from "Markham Public Library" It may be in your junk/spam folder. If you still cannot find the email, please contact us @ mplcommunitylibrarians@markham.library.on.ca prior to the program start time so we can send you the link again.</p> <p>markham.bibliocommons.com</p>
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- [Kinark Family Education Series](#)
 - o Previous webinars recorded for parents

	<p>Family Education Series - Kinark Child and Family Services</p> <p>Parents, caregivers, and other family members play an integral role in caring for children and youth experiencing mental health challenges. Created with our Family Advisory Committee and with feedback from the families we serve, Kinark's free Family Education Series is intended to build on caregivers' ability to identify, understand, and respond to childhood and adolescent... View Article</p>
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<https://www.kinark.on.ca/family-education-series/>