

MARKHAM GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

30 Fonda Road, Markham, Ontario

L3S 3X3

Tel: 905-472-3303 Fax: 905-472-5536

Website: markhamgateway.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

February 9, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In an effort to communicate as effectively as possible using all aspects of modern learning, future newsletters, announcements, invitations, and flyers will be sent to our families and community members electronically. We hope to be able to reach all of our families in a timely and convenient manner to ensure accurate and effective communication. By reducing the amount of paper being sent home, we also support our school's goal of maintaining our Ontario Eco School's Gold status as we strive to be more eco-friendly, and to reduce our carbon footprint. We will be distributing our monthly newsletters **electronically** beginning March, 2015.

In order to facilitate this, we are requesting that each family provide a primary and secondary email address where they would like to receive our electronic copies of school communication including our monthly newsletter. A confidential distribution list will be used. Please complete this form and return to your child's homeroom teacher.

Family/Parent/Guardian email address 1: _____

Family/Parent/Guardian email address 2: _____

Child's Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

This month's newsletter will be the last one sent through wide distribution on paper. Please note that **hard** copies of newsletters, announcements or flyers will be available in the office if required.

We appreciate your support in supporting our ongoing efforts to improve communication and by helping Markham Gateway maintain our Eco-Gold status!

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Young

Ms. R. Ishtiaque



On Common Ground



February 2015



Markham Gateway News

30 Fonda Road, Markham, Ontario L3S 3X3

Ph: (905) 472-3303 Fax: (905) 472-5536

"On Common Ground"

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

Message from the Administration

Dear Markham Gateway Families,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the halfway point of the school year. As we transition to Term Two, teachers will be providing an assessment update to students and parents through the distribution of the First Provincial Report Card which will be sent home on February 18. These reports, as outlined in the Ministry of Education's *Growing Success* Policy, reflect student learning to date. Please note that student achievement of curriculum expectations, as well as learning skills, will be included on the report card. Teachers will also be sharing next steps for learning for each child to assist students, parents and teachers in working collaboratively to improve student achievement. We ask that you take the time to discuss the report card with your child(ren) in order to plan effectively for the second term of the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren)'s teacher for any further clarification or guidance.

The staff at Markham Gateway Public School continues to work with students and community members to provide a rich and engaging program of learning for the students at our school. In addition to having high expectations for student learning in classrooms, many other exciting initiatives continue to be embedded in the life of our school to provide a broad experience for all of our students. These include: school teams such as basketball and volleyball, chess team, Environmental Club, Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Student Council, Me to We, and assorted intramural activities. We also take time each month to come together as a school community during our monthly Character and Recognition assemblies. A schedule of these assemblies is contained in this newsletter and we invite and encourage all parents who are able to attend any or all of these assemblies.

Our winter weather this year has been unusual and unpredictable. Although we have had very little snow, this may change at any time. We ask for parent support by ensuring students have appropriate and sufficient clothing to keep them warm and dry when we are outside during recess and lunch. Unless it is extremely cold or dangerous due to icy conditions, we will be outside during recess and lunch. In addition, please partner with us by reminding your children that snow cannot be thrown at other people and to respect the snow creations of other students. It is important that everyone recognize and accept that in order to ensure everyone's safety, we cannot allow snowball throwing at school.

We realize that traffic and pedestrian safety is an often repeated message in our newsletter but it is critical that EVERYONE follow the rules of the road and parking lot. The winter weather usually brings about an increase in the number of cars we have entering our parking lot and drop off area. Please remember that safety ALWAYS comes before convenience. Drivers need to be patient when entering and exiting the drop off area at the front of the school. Please remember that the drop off area is similar to what is commonly referred to as a Kiss N Ride process. Drivers should never be parking or leaving their vehicles in the drop off zone. If you need to leave your car for any reason, you must park in the parking lot. We have a lot of cars entering and exiting our parking lot each morning and afternoon. Please continue to be patient and observe signage and the direction of staff and we will continue to ensure a safe start and finish to our school day for everyone.

Mr. Young, Principal

Ms. Ishtiaque, Vice-Principal

FOOD ALLERGIES and CELEBRATION TREATS

In our school community, we have students with severe and life-threatening allergies. While nut/peanut allergies are the most known allergens, other common allergies are to shellfish, seeds, berries, insect bites, dairy (milk, eggs) and others. We also have numerous students with faith-based, dietary and health related food requirements.

In order to keep all our students safe from allergens, as well as to accommodate for dietary needs, we strongly ask you to **avoid sending any food that is not for your own child.** Peanut and nut products should not be sent to school. Please ensure that you check labels carefully.

When celebrating special occasions, **please do not send food items.** Stickers, pencils, and erasers are examples of acceptable alternatives.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our students and staff who have life-threatening allergies.

Character Matters at Markham Gateway!

Every month at Markham Gateway we host our Spirit and Character Assemblies. We gather together as an entire school from Kindergarten to Grade 8, to show our school spirit by singing our school song, celebrating accomplishments and recognizing good character. We also have important messages presented from our student groups such as Student Council, Me to We and our Eco-Team. Parents are always invited to attend all assemblies. The dates for the remainder of the year for Spirit and Character assemblies are as follows:

March 6th – 11:00am

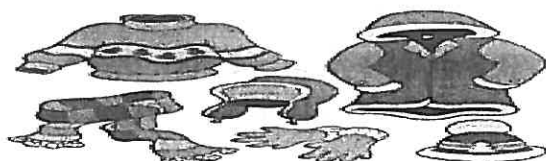
April 7th – 1:00pm

May 1st – 11:00am

June 11th – 8:30am

EXTRA CLOTHES PLEASE!

Please send your child to school with an EXTRA SET of season appropriate clothing (pants, tops, socks, shoes, etc) Some of our younger students may have the odd “accident” and as the season changes the weather can be wet and we often have students who slip or fall into mud or puddles and require a change of clothes.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2015-16 school year. Children born in 2011 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September 2015. Children born in 2010 and are currently attending public school are eligible for senior kindergarten in September 2015.

Documents that are required for registration are as follows:

Proof of child's age - Birth Certificate, if born in Canada.

- Passport, Permanent Resident Card of the child and parents if child is born outside of Canada.

Proof of Residency :

If you own:

- ◆ Purchase Agreement
- ◆ Town of Markham Tax Bill

If you rent:

- ◆ Landlord/Tenant Lease Agreement

Applications cannot be accepted without these documents . For further information please call the school.



***** Please note that hand written letters will not be accepted *****

Family Literacy Day

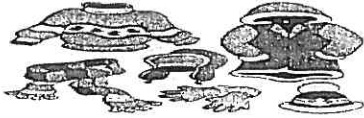


On January 27, families across the country celebrated **Family Literacy Day**. ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Learning can happen at any time. Practicing literacy together every day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents. Here are some great ways to get started:

1. Read a "wake up" story in the morning (after reading your bedtime story the night before).
2. Search online for fun places to go in your community. Pick out a spot for your next family day trip.
3. Make up a new recipe together and post it online.
4. Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes.
5. Create a story with your family: take turns writing one sentence at a time, then read the whole story aloud when you're done.
6. Write a review of a book you read together as a family. Send it to the author through email or snail mail.
7. Organize a book swap at your school or with your friends.
8. Track your trip to school, the park, and the grocery store on a map. Find a different route to take to each place.
9. Learn to play a musical instrument. What about the ukulele?
10. Write a note to include in a grown-up's lunch – ask them to write back!
11. Make a Popsicle stick model with your family.
12. Write your names graffiti-style using chalk on your sidewalk – you may need to shovel first!
13. Play a board game together.
14. Look up the words to your favourite song online. Have a sing-off with your friends!
15. Count how many steps it takes to get from your bedroom to your kitchen. Find out who in your family has the most steps to a snack!

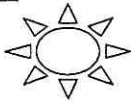
Passion to Give Fashion

During the holiday season, our Markham Gateway families generously donated gently used clothing. After receiving multiple bags of clothing, we decided to start our very own *Passion to Give Fashion Gazette*. Student volunteers eagerly participated in sorting and designing their own clothing lines, which were then made into a Fashion Gazette. The students were actively involved and expressed their voice by being the designers, writers and editors of the fashion articles. Once the Gazette was put together, it was distributed to every class. We couldn't be prouder of our students and their philanthropic spirit.

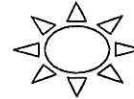


Parenting
and Family
Literacy
Centres

News from the Markham Gateway
ing and Family Literacy Centre



Leave the cold of Winter behind!

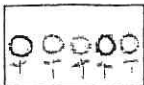
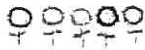


Come and have fun in the PFLC
at these special February Events:

Fun with Math	February 5 th
"Zootek" Demonstration	February 9 th
Tea Party With Our Neighbours	February 13 th
FDK Educator Visit	February 25 th

Parent Worker: Carlene Nembhard
No cost or registration required

Open: Every school day between 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Snacks are provided for the children





Positive Parenting TIP

"Cross border shopping may be tempting, but when it comes to buying a child's car seat or booster seat for use in Canada, Transport Canada and Health Canada warn consumers against it.

Transport Canada and Health Canada are concerned that parents and caregivers may not know that it is illegal to import and use in Canada a seat that does not comply with Canadian standards. Many consumers are looking south of the border and in other countries for the best buy without knowing all of the facts."

From *Child Car Seat Cross Border Shopping – What Parents and Caregivers Should Know* accessible at <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/motorvehiclesafety/safedrivers-childsafety-notices-2007c09-menu-353.htm> To get all the facts about car seat safety, please go to: <http://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/injuryprevention/carseatsafety/carseatsafety>

February 2015

1	2	3	4	5 Spirit and Character Assembly 1:00 pm School Council meeting 6:00pm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Trip to Science Centre Grades 5-6	13	14
15 National Flag Day 	16 Family day No school	17 Gr. 8 Grad Photo	18 Term I Reports Go Home	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Pizza Day 	27	28

celebrate **BLACK** history MONTH



416 885 3479

Juanita.Nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Inspire Learning!

Message from our Trustee

The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break!

It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year.

February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still lots of learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or by phone at 416-885-3479. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and wellbeing, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Juanita Nathan

Trustee | York Region District School Board
City of Markham – Ward 7&8

MARKHAM


CHAP

Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program
Programme de sensibilisation à la santé cardiovasculaire

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE ASSESSMENTS FOR SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS

You'll also get a FREE health risk profile and community resource kit!

Next sessions:

Date	Time		Location
Thursday, February, 5 th , 2015	1:00 PM - 2:45 PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Markham Gateway Public School 30 Fonda Road, Markham, ON, L3S 3X3
Wednesday, February, 18 th , 2015	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellen Fairclough Public School 33 Brando Avenue, Markham, ON L3S 4K9

For more information about sessions or volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Evanna Thiruchelvam

☎ 905-940-7864 ext. 250

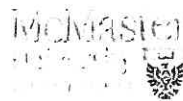
✉ evannat@socialservicesnetwork.org

Local Lead Organization



SOCIALSERVICESNETWORK
serving diverse communities

Research, Training & Teaching in partnership



Collaborating Organizations





DR. BETTE STEPHENSON CENTRE FOR LEARNING

36 Regatta Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 4R1

Tel: 905.884.3434 905.884.2046 1.877.280.8180

Fax: 905.773.2406

Website: www.yrdsb.ca

2015 Spring World Classroom Program (for students and their families)

International Education Services (IES) of the York Region District School Board helps students from other countries in the world (we call them “international students”) attend our schools and live with local families in York Region. The reason international students choose to come here is to improve their English and learn about our culture and our country.

We have an amazing opportunity for you and your family to participate in as hundreds of other York Region students and their families have in the past several years.

This Spring (tentatively April 10 to May 23), a group of 25 students from the Shanghai Xiawai International School are coming to several schools in York Region. The visiting students need to live with a local family who have children that attend a YRDSB elementary school. What we do is match a visiting Chinese student to a York Region family/student. The Chinese visitor will live with the local family and they will go to school together for about six weeks, go on two excursions with the whole group, and attend a World Classroom party. Families who host a visiting student **receive \$225 per week** to cover the cost of hosting the student.

By sharing your home, family and school with your visitor from China, you will also get to learn about their culture and country... and maybe even learn a little bit of Mandarin or Shanhaiese!

If you and your family are adventurous, like to meet interesting people and learn about new places and cultures, we encourage you to talk to your family about applying to host a student.

The application must be completed by your parents and returned to your Principal for approval no later than **March 5th**. Your Principal will then send the application to our team for consideration.

***Important Dates:**

February 27 – application deadline

April 13 – first day of school for visitor

May 22 – last day of school for visitor

Excursion and Arrival/Departure dates and times are to be determined

Checklist for World Classroom Applicants (please submit applications to your Teacher/Principal by February 27)

- Now that you have heard about this exciting opportunity, please share the information with your parents and family!
- When your parents and family have agreed to host an international student, please complete the attached World Classroom Application and give it to your Teacher as soon as possible! **Applications should be submitted no later than February 27.** After your Principal approves your application, it will be sent to us (International Education Services) for consideration.
- When we have received enough applications, we will review them and **may** contact your family to set up a visit in your home with a Homestay Representative to interview you and your family and talk about the program. When visiting your home, the Homestay Representative will take pictures of your home and family, and prepare a host family profile using the information you share during the visit. The pictures and profile are sent to partners once matching is completed and if you are assigned a partner. **If approved, your family will be instructed to proceed with Police Vulnerable Sector Screening (PVSC) which is mandatory for participation in this program. This means that anyone in your family who is 18 years or older must complete PVSC in time for hosting a student. There is a small \$20 volunteer fee applicable for PVSC completion.**
- After interviews are completed, we will review all of the applications and match partners as best we can by age, gender, interests, hobbies and other family/partner information. This process can take a few weeks. Once matching is done, and if you are matched with a partner, we will contact your family to let you know the good news! **Only applicants who are matched will be contacted. We do our best to match everyone who applies, but sometimes, if we receive a large number of applications, not everyone is able to have a partner.**
- If you are matched with a partner, we will email important program information to you and your family. **It is important that you or your parents check email every day.** This information will include a profile and picture of your partner, a program itinerary and calendar with details about all the fun activities you will participate in (a World Classroom party, and two day-long excursions to Niagara Falls and Toronto), as well as other important program information.
- The students, along with three adult chaperones will arrive around *April 10. They will be picked up from the airport and dropped off at our office, Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning in Richmond Hill, where YRDSB host partners and their families will come to pick them up. The students will stay for about six weeks. They will go to school with you each day and live with your family. The group departs around *May 23. When it's time for the students to leave, you and your family will drop them off at our office to meet a bus which will take them to the airport to catch their flight home.

* The program duration is April 13 to May 22, but we do not have the group arrival and departure date and times yet



YRDSB Homestay Services



International Education Services

36 Regatta Avenue
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4R1 Canada
www.yrdsb.ca/international

Telephone: (905) 884-3434
Fax: (905) 773-2406
homestay@yrdsb.ca

DATE OF APPLICATION (DD/MM/YYYY)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

INCLUDE A RECENT WALLET-SIZED PHOTO AND RETURN BOTH TO YOUR SCHOOL.

- ANYONE LIVING IN THE HOME, 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER, IS REQUIRED TO UNDERGO A POLICE VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK (PVSC) PRIOR TO HOSTING A STUDENT. A PVSC MAY INCLUDE FINGER PRINTING (AT THE EXPENSE OF THE APPLICANT) IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS MATCHED IN THE POLICE DATABASE. THE PVSC MUST RESULT IN A CLEAR REPORT. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETED, FAMILIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN INTERIM OFFENCE DECLARATION (AVAILABLE FROM OUR OFFICE). A CLEAR PVSC IS REQUIRED YEARLY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.
- PHOTOS OF YOUR HOME AND THE ROOMS OCCUPIED BY VISITING STUDENTS WILL BE TAKEN AND SHARED WITH PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS.
- STUDENT PLACEMENTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS .
- HOUSEHOLDS WHERE TENANTS (RENTERS/BOARDERS) OCCUPY ROOMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE HOST FAMILIES.
- HOUSEHOLDS MUST BE SMOKE-FREE

STUDENT INFORMATION

SURNAME (family name)		FIRST NAME		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Attach Photo Here</p> </div>
DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YEAR)	AGE	PRESENT GRADE	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	SCHOOL			
TEACHER		ROOM NUMBER		

HOST FAMILY INFORMATION

MOTHER OR OTHER SURNAME (family name)	MOTHER'S FIRST NAME	OCCUPATION
FATHER OR OTHER SURNAME (family name)	FATHER'S FIRST NAME	OCCUPATION
STREET ADDRESS		
TOWN/CITY	PROVINCE	POSTAL CODE
HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER	CELL TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
MOTHER'S WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER	FATHER'S WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER	FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER

CHILDREN & OTHER FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

FULL NAME	AGE	DOB (DD/MM/YYYY)	RELATIONSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> MALE

HOSTING PREFERENCE

OUR FAMILY PREFERS TO HOST: MALE FEMALE EITHER WOULD YOU HOST A STUDENT WHO SMOKES? YES NO

Host Family Application

DWELLING INFORMATION

CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE THE STUDENT IN A PRIVATE BEDROOM WITH A WINDOW? YES NO
 CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE THE STUDENT IN A SHARED BEDROOM WITH A WINDOW? YES NO

FAMILY PREFERENCES

LANGUAGE

PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKE IN THE HOME: _____

Visiting students are attending our schools to improve their English. They view the homestay placement as an opportunity to practice and improve their English; therefore, English must be spoken while hosting.

HEALTH ISSUES

DOES ANYONE LIVING IN YOUR HOME HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE HOMESTAY STUDENT? YES NO
 (This includes conditions such as ADD/ADHD, anxiety or depression.)

IF YES, EXPLAIN: _____

PETS & ANIMALS

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS OR ANIMALS IN YOUR HOME? YES NO

IF YES, HOW MANY AND WHAT TYPES? _____

SMOKING

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOME SMOKE? YES NO IF YES, DO FAMILY MEMBERS SMOKE INDOORS? OUTDOORS?

DIETARY

DOES YOUR FAMILY FOLLOW ANY SPECIAL DIETARY PRACTICES? YES NO

IF YES, SPECIFY: _____

IS YOUR FAMILY VEGETARIAN? YES NO FISH IS EATEN CHICKEN IS EATEN DAIRY PRODUCTS

FAMILY INTEREST & ACTIVITIES

INDICATE THE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOUR FAMILY IS INTERESTED AND REGULARLY PARTICIPATES:

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SWIMMING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> READING | <input type="checkbox"/> TENNIS | <input type="checkbox"/> GOLF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WATER SPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> CONCERTS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTERS | <input type="checkbox"/> BASEBALL | <input type="checkbox"/> CAMPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SKIING | <input type="checkbox"/> DANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> VIDEO GAMES | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCCER | <input type="checkbox"/> MARTIAL ARTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SNOW BOARDING | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATRE | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVIES | <input type="checkbox"/> HOCKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |

COMMENTS: _____

HOUSEHOLD ROUTINES

WHAT HOUSEHOLD ROUTINES DO YOU EXPECT THE VISITING STUDENT TO OBSERVE? _____

TRANSPORTATION

HOW WOULD THE STUDENT GET TO SCHOOL? SCHOOL BUS WALK OTHER _____

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE FOR THE STUDENT TO GET TO SCHOOL? MINUTES: _____

PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM IS DEPENDENT UPON: (1) SUBMISSION OF CLEAR POLICE VSS FOR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER; (2) A SUCCESSFUL MATCH OF STUDENT HOST/GUEST; (3) THE PRINCIPAL'S APPROVAL OF THIS STUDENT'S APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL.

PRINCIPAL'S NAME	PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE	DATE
MOTHER'S SIGNATURE		DATE
FATHER SIGNATURE		DATE

Personal information is collected pursuant to the Education Act and will be used to assess and document students/families who wish to host international students participating in this program. This information will be retained from 12 months from the date of last use. Please contact the information access and privacy office for more information about the collection and use of personal information 905 727 0022 x2015

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED (MM/DD/YYYY)	DATE ACKNOWLEDGED (MM/DD/YYYY)	HOMESTAY REPRESENTATIVE
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