



Markham Gateway P.S.

30 Fonda Road, Markham, Ontario L3S 3X3

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

Markham.gateway.ps@yrdsb.ca



Home of the Titans



PRINCIPAL
PAUL BATTLER

VICE-PRINCIPAL
DALIA OSMAN

SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
CAMILLE LOGAN

SCHOOL TRUSTEE
JUANITA NATHAN

Important Dates

- Dec 20 - Student Success Assembly @ 8:30 am.
- Jan 6 - School re-opens
- Jan 14 - MGPS Hot Lunch Program.
- Jan 16 - School Council.
- Jan 17 - P.A Day. Kindergarten Registration begins.
- Jan 29 - Student Success Assembly 1:10 pm.



Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

Message from the Administration

Please visit [Google Translate](https://www.google.com/translate) to translate the contents of this message.

As we approach the holiday break, it is fair to say winter is here! The students have enjoyed playing outside in the snow, building structures and generally having fun during our outdoor breaks. Thank you for sending your children dressed appropriately for the weather every day. Students enjoy their time outside far more when they are wearing items (e.g. boots, scarves, snow pants, hats, gloves, etc.) that keep them warm and comfortable when playing. It will be interesting to see how much snow we get over the winter, especially with the substantial snowfalls we have seen already!

We would like to review a few things with families related to severe weather. During the winter season, we ask that anyone driving students to or from school take the time to completely clean off any snow or ice from the windows of their vehicles. It is particularly important to have clear visibility to safely drive in areas where children are walking around. As a staff, we are adding additional travel time to our own schedules, and for families driving their children to school, adding time to prepare your vehicle for safe travel is strongly recommended.

The Board has a new Severe Weather policy and procedure and we have been asked to share the following information with families.

- If your child travels to school by bus or taxi, cancellation information is communicated through local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board's and school's voicemail recording.
- It is a parent's responsibility for using their best judgment to decide whether or not to send their child(ren) to school on days when buses are cancelled and schools remain open. We ask that you please report your child's absence to the school if your child is away due to the weather, as we will be following up on any unreported absences in accordance with the Safe Arrivals and Departures policy and procedure.
- Parents are encouraged to make a standing arrangement with a neighbor or other trusted person so that every child in Year 1 Kindergarten to Grade 6 know where to go if they arrive home early and cannot enter their home.

We remind families once again that the driving lane parallel to the front of the school, which is used to quickly drop off and pick up students at the beginning and end of the school day, respectively, is a fire route. You are not legally allowed to park your vehicle there or even stop and sit and wait in your vehicle at any point of the day. The City of Markham has been ticketing those who are stopped in the fire route. They do this by taking pictures of those in violation, then mailing tickets to the vehicle owners. We continue to recommend that, if you must drive to pick your child(ren) up, please park in one of our parking spaces or on side streets close to the school that have legal parking. We continue to thank everyone for putting safety before convenience by putting their phones away and driving slowly, carefully and patiently when near, or on, school property.

We are finishing the calendar year in a positive way. We are proud of the many, many opportunities our students have had this term to participate in a wide range of exciting in-class and extra-curricular events and experiences. We thank our dedicated staff and student leaders for their commitment and efforts to help ensure MGPS is an engaging and vibrant place for our students. We also thank our wonderful families for their ongoing support and partnership in all that happens at MGPS. We couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you so much!

Finally, we hope that everyone has an amazing holiday break and we wish everyone all the best for what we hope will be another great year! Season's greetings!

P. Battler and D. Osman

Inspire Learning!

Message from Our Trustee



One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

- Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.
- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Juanita Nathan

Trustee, Markham, Wards 7 and 8

Kindergarten Registration

We are pleased to announce that you can register your child for Kindergarten registration, which will begin for the 2020-21 school year via [Kindergarten ONLINE](#), on Friday, January 17, 2020.

Children born in 2016 are eligible for Year 1 kindergarten this September 2020. Children born in 2015 and are currently attending public school are eligible for Year 2 kindergarten in September 2020.

Once you register you will be contacted to come to the office with the following documents:

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/Utility Bill

If you rent:

- ♦ Landlord/Tenant Lease Agreement
- ♦ Bank statement/Utility Bill

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

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

Winter Weather

With winter weather already here, we want to share a few important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an **extreme cold** or **inclement weather** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. Please notify the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency weather events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure. Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on January 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2020 <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 17, 2020. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2020, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. This Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register, between January 17 and February 7, 2020. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 7, 2020. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

YMCA PLAYON PROGRAM

We are excited to open our program to more participants !

Program runs Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday from 2:50—5:45pm

Includes after school meals, team building exercises, nutrition and physical education.

If you are looking to register, please visit us at Markham Gateway P.S. Room 118.

Call us at 416-219-7361.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR UPDATE

This year's book fair was the most successful one yet! We raised just over \$1200 for our school which will be used to purchase new books and organize author presentations for our students. This was truly a team effort and we want to thank our generous families, enthusiastic students, supportive staff, and wonderful student and parent volunteers - we couldn't have done it without you! We greatly appreciate you all for promoting reading and supporting this important literary event .



THE HOUR OF CODE

Last week, during Computer Science Education Week, our Kindergarten to Grade 8 students participated in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is the largest education event in history! Over 100 million students around the world have taken part and over 180 countries participate every year. Coding teaches people how to create the programs and apps that they use in their daily lives. It teaches problem solving and critical thinking skills, and also builds self-confidence! Coding is fun and educational for the whole family - check out the Hour of Code here: <https://hourofcode.com/us/learn>. Happy coding!



Math Learning at Home

When we support our children with math, we tend to focus on helping them with specific content areas - for example knowing their facts, measuring distances, how to calculate volume - but did you know that there are other ways we can support them in math? Recent research suggests that executive function skills play a critical role in the development of mathematical proficiency and by helping our children develop these skills, we will help them improve their math.

Executive function skills are a set of cognitive skills that help us manage behaviour, pay attention, remember and follow instructions and think flexibly. They include:

Planning
Organizing
Task initiation
Self-monitoring
Emotional control
Impulse control
Sustained attention

Here are some ideas about how to support the development of these executive function skills at home:

When building with blocks or Lego - before building, have your child plan what pieces they are going to use, have them sort pieces based on different attributes

When starting a puzzle - ask how they plan to organize the pieces to help finish the puzzle (e.g., organize the pieces by colour, separate the border pieces from the inside pieces)

When playing, encourage your child to make comparisons, look at things from a different perspective or approach the activity in different ways

When reading a book, ask questions that will encourage your child to see things from different characters' points of view

Practice taking turns when playing

Play games like Simon Says

Ask questions that will require your child to hold multiple pieces of information in their mind in order to get the answer

Play concentration card games

Help your child get started on tasks by asking questions

Support your child to come up with a plan on how to achieve a goal and break it down into smaller pieces.



Students of the Month



At the Student Success Assembly on Friday November 29st, The following students were recognized for their positive contributions to school life:

K12A Ms. Azar/Ms. Danushi

Kiki G, Krithik K.

K12B Ms. Gray/Ms. Kardam

Joanna D, Jayden C, Zainab M.

K12C Ms. Kerr/Ms. Lee

Elijah C, Kiran S, Dawood A.

Gr. 1A Ms. Ranta

Rita C, Saif G.

Gr. 1B Ms. Skilling/Mr. Lovatsis

Jingwan Y, William L.

Gr. 2A Ms. Hayat

Hamza K, Abdul R.

Gr. 2B Ms. Cheung

Hamza A, Chloe C.

Gr. 3A Ms. Grisanth/Ms. Baig

Daniyal S, Aaira N.

Gr. 3B Ms. Luke

Aayush S, Charlotte C.

Gr. 4A Ms. Kitchen

Lashmini L, Maaz J, Zunairah S.

Gr. 4/5A MS. Kurien

Charles C, Ifra I, Arangan T.

Gr. 5A Mr. Babalola

Ganj A, Ayaan Q, Aijah D.

Gr. 5/6 Ms. Chowdhury

Ayaan H, Joh L.

Gr. 6A Mr. Whitestone

Olivia R, Jacob E.

Gr. 7A Mr. Hasan

Arsh A, Zain M.

Gr. 7B Ms. Venamalla

Anoth N, Amrit C.

Gr. 8A Ms. Sanders

Muneeba S, Thurka B, Rahul N.

Gr. 8B Mr. Armoogam

Nabeeha S, Sajina S.

Ms. Gillespie

Dylan Y.

Ms. Koumarelas

Reyansh S.

**Congratulations to all! Keep showing that
Titan spirit!**



Pizza Lunch Dates

Thursday Dec 19, 2019

Thursday Jan 30, 2020



Terry Fox Walk

On September 27, our school participated in the Terry Fox Walk in our school community. We want to thank everyone for participating and donating their toonies and pledges to help raise money for cancer research. We are proud to announce that we raised \$1803.55! We are excited to share that this is one of our largest fundraisers for Terry Fox in the past 15 years!



Other Important Days

Dec 20th - Student Success Assembly

Dec 23rd, 2019 to Jan 03rd, 2020 - Winter Break (inclusive)

First day back—Monday, January 6, 2020

