



PRINCIPAL
PAUL BATTLER

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CAMILLE LOGAN ***

SCHOOL TRUSTEE
JUANITA NATHAN
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Markham Gateway P.S.

30~ Fonda Road, Markham, Ontario L3S $3\mathrm{X}3$

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

Markham.gateway.ps@yrdsb.ca

Home of the Titans

Courtesy Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

Message from the Administration

Please visit Google Translate to translate the contents of this message.

As I sit to write this message to you, I think about how much and how fast things have changed over the past seven weeks. But the most important thought that keeps coming to mind is that I hope you are all staying healthy and doing well as we adjust to the changes in our day-to-day lives.

I want to share some resources and information that might be helpful during these difficult times. The Ministry of Education is providing financial support to parents to assist with the costs of educational resources during school and child care closures as a result of COVID-19. Please click here to go to the webpage that has the application information. Hand Up Toronto is also providing \$25 worth of food per child in the home for those in need. Please complete the form at this link, and consent to being contacted by Hand Up Toronto to arrange food delivery.

With the closure of Ontario schools extended until May 29th, and possibly longer, our staff are implementing our school board's Learning and Caring Plan. Teachers are providing teacher-directed online learning opportunities for students in all grades. One of the biggest questions many have about the Learning and Caring Plan is around how students' work will be assessed. All Grade 1 to Grade 8 students will receive a final report card at the end of the 2019-20 school year and Kindergarten students will receive Communication of Learning reports. Assessment information gathered before March 13th will be used to inform these **documents**. Elementary students will continue to be assessed through the remainder of the school year to support their ongoing learning. Teachers will use a variety of Assessment for/as Learning (formative) approaches to gather evidence of how students are progressing in their learning. In order to accomplish this, under the direction of the school board and the Ministry of Education, teachers will provide feedback to students on their progress, but specific letter and numerical grades cannot be provided for specific tasks. In order to continue with academic growth and new learning, we encourage all students and families to engage in the teacher-directed learning opportunities as best possible.

You may also be concerned about your child's emotional well-being. You can find tips on how to speak to your child about COVID-19, as well as some well-being resources on the YRDSB website, by clicking here. We know this situation is affecting families in different ways and we have a list of COVID-19 related community supports at: www.yrdsb.ca/covid19.

We recognize you likely have many other questions about what the ongoing school closure will mean for students and when schools may reopen for staff and students. As we learn more, we will continue to update and keep in contact with families. For up-to-date information, please monitor your email and the Board's Twitter feed: <u>@YRDSB</u>. For general information, visit the Board's website: <u>www.yrdsb.ca./covid19</u>.

By working together, we will ensure that Markham Gateway P.S. remains a supportive and caring place for our students and families. We will get through this together!

2020—2021 CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS

This is the time of year that school staff begin the collaborative process of class placement decisions. Classroom teachers, in cooperation with support staff, administration, and parental input work diligently to create balanced classes for the upcoming school year. School staff consider the academic, social, and emotional strengths, needs and interests, and more of each student when preparing class lists. The ultimate goal of class placement is to support and enhance the learning of all students. We welcome any input you wish to share about your child's strengths, needs and learning styles. However, requests for specific teachers cannot be considered. The responsibility for final decisions lies with administration.

Please send any information you would like considered about your child's placement for next year to Mr. Battler (<u>paul.battler@yrdsb.ca</u>) no later than May 12th.

MOVING? CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Are you moving before September, or have you recently moved? Families who are planning to move before the start of the next school year are asked to please contact the school office through email (markham.gateway.ps@yrdsb.ca) as soon as possible. Families in York Region are eligible to attend specific schools based on their residential address. School staff can help you locate your child's new school and also can assist

you with the student transfer process. In addition to helping make your child's transition to a new school a smooth and hassle-free process, by informing the school of your plans to move, you are helping us ensure that our school is organized for September with the most up-to-date information. Thank you for your cooperation!



Contacting the School and School Staff

Please remember that all school buildings are closed to students and staff alike and as a result phone extensions in the school are not being monitored on a regular basis. Families can still contact the school by email at markham.gateway.ps@yrdsb.ca.

Kindergarten Registration is Still Happening

Even though school buildings are closed for right now, Kindergarten registration for the 2020-21 school year is still happening at **Kindergarten ONLINE**.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2020, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for Kindergarten. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website: www.yrdsb.ca.

After you register, you will be contacted to come to the office with the following documents once the school closures end.

Documents that are required for registration are as follows:

Proof of child's age:

- Birth Certificate, if child is 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/Tennant Lease Agreement
- Bank statement/Utility Bill

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

****** Please note that handwritten letters will not be accepted ******



Have you had a chance to visit our MGPS Google Office Classroom yet? Are you and your children listening to the announcements posted there on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays?

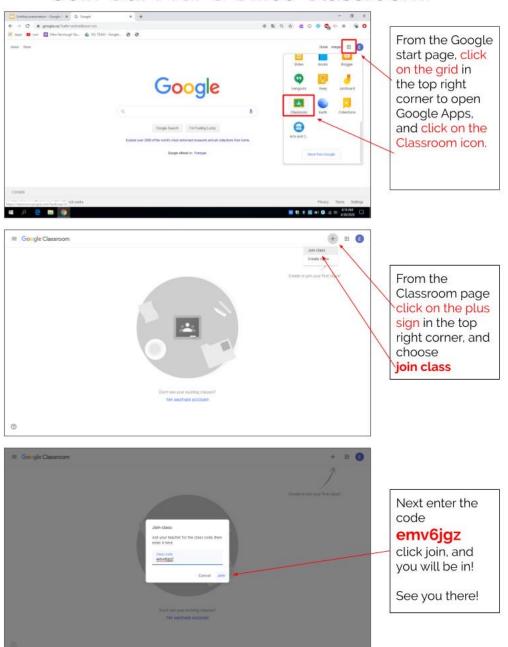
To access this classroom, you need only to follow this link:

https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/NjY1OTU3NDg0Nzha

Then enter this code: emv6jgz

Please note you must be logged in under an "@gapps.yrdsb.ca" account to access this classroom.

Join Our MGPS Office Classroom!



Once you get into the MGPS Office Classroom, the following video links are available to support you in learning how to navigate around a Google Classroom. Please also note the Learning Common classroom link at the bottom. We hope you enjoy the great resources that can be accessed in this classroom!

