



Markham Gateway

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

- April 16 - Gr. 7 Immunization
- April 19 - Good Friday
- April 22 - Easter Monday
- April 24 - Math Night @ 6 pm
- April 24 - Pizza Lunch
- April 25 - Student Success Assembly @10:40am
- April 29 to May 1 Gr. 8 Cedar Glen Trip.
- May 2 - Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation 6 - 7pm

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

Message from the Administration

Please visit [Google Translate](#) to translate the contents of this message.

Each month in our Administrators' Message we try our best to highlight and celebrate many of the exciting things happening at M.G.P.S. with and for our students. We have a very dedicated staff and strong student leadership groups who work together to bring these opportunities to the school community.

This month, however, we need to use this space to share and address some issues happening recently at M.G.P.S. that have been negatively impacting some of our students. Sadly, some students have been making, among other comments, racial slurs, homophobic slurs, and/or negative comments that mock physical appearance and/or intelligence. These comments have been made by students face-to-face at school, on social media platforms such as Instagram, and out in the community while walking to and from school and at the local community centre. These types of comments are unacceptable, are very hurtful and deeply upsetting to the people they are directed towards.

Discriminatory behaviour and comments (such as those that promote antisemitism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, homophobia, Islamophobia and transphobia) and comments that make fun of others based on appearance and intelligence will not be tolerated at M.G.P.S. We have been sharing our expectations with students at assemblies, on the daily announcements, in class conversations and in other settings to help convey this message and address this concern. We are encouraging our students to "Stand Up and Stand Together" to help get these behaviours to stop. We need to send the message that as a school community we are not going to tolerate discrimination and physical or verbal bullying.

As a staff, we have been reviewing how we respond when these types of situations occur. We have a common response and protocol, using carefully chosen vocabulary, when dealing with various types of behavioural concerns. This is an effort to ensure that we are dealing with these situations in a consistent, thorough manner. We will be using a restorative practice approach to deal with specific issues. Restorative Practices support a preventative and reactive approach to building caring, safe and inclusive communities by focusing on strengthening relationships and repairing harm experienced by others. This practice is a valued part of the progressive discipline model and is widely used throughout the York Region District School Board.

Progressive discipline considers three factors when determining the appropriate course of action for inappropriate behaviour: (1) the particular student and the circumstances, (2) the nature and severity of the behaviour, and (3) the impact on the school climate (i.e., the harm done to relationships within the school). Because of these factors, the resolution and consequences for certain actions may differ from student to student.

Inspire Learning!

In each situation, we work with students to address the behaviour, restore relationships if required, and determine consequences if appropriate. Consequences may range from a review of expectations to verbal reminders, detentions, written work with a learning component, contact with parents, etc. Please note, in some cases, formal consequences (e.g.: suspension) may be required as outlined in section 306(1) of the Education Act.

We have also engaged staff from the York Region District School Board's Inclusive Schools and Community Services department, and asked them to do some capacity building work with both students and staff members in the areas of discrimination and bullying prevention.

We are asking that families have supportive conversations with their child(ren) to review our collective school community expectations for respectful behaviour and interactions, both in person and online.

As mentioned, some of these described behaviours have occurred online, particularly through the use of group chats on social media platforms such as Instagram. We have found that personal devices have increasingly become a distraction to students. To help maintain a focused and positive learning environment, students are being asked to put their devices away during the day unless directly invited to use them by their teacher. The school has many laptops that students can use to support their learning, so personal devices are not needed. We will be communicating directly with the families of students who are not following our established technology rules. Please make sure that you are monitoring your child's online activities while at home to ensure they are being positive digital citizens and making appropriate choices when communicating with others.

We have wonderful students at M.G.P.S. and it is a great place for them to learn. We have no doubt that by working together, we can address the concerns we have shared to ensure that all of our students feel valued, safe and included at all times as members of our school community.

Kindergarten Registration

We are pleased to announce that you can register your child for [Kindergarten ONLINE](#).

Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2019-20 school year. Children born in 2015 are eligible for Year 1 kindergarten this September 2019. Children born in 2014 and are currently attending public school are eligible for Year 2 kindergarten in September 2019.

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** *****

York Region Vaping Information Sessions

Acknowledging the growing issue of vaping in our schools and the health risks associated with e-cigarettes and vaping, Caring and Safe Schools and York Region Public Health are hosting Vaping Information Sessions for families and members of your school communities.

The session will discuss:

- What are vapes and e-cigarettes?
- Why do youth vape and try e-cigarettes?
- What are the negative health effects of vaping?
- Vaping and the law and school progressive discipline



Two sessions are available:

April 15, 2019, 7PM at Vaughan Secondary School

April 29, 2019, 7PM at Newmarket High School

To register, please RSVP by April 8 using bit.ly/aprilvaping.

Our Board is committed to creating and maintaining caring, safe and inclusive environments that support the social and emotional well-being of all our students and employees. As outlined in the Board Plan (BIPSA): Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, schools are ideal settings for mental health promotion, addiction awareness education, resiliency development, and connecting those in need to care pathways.

If you have any questions about these presentations, please contact [Dawn Laliberte](#), Principal of Caring and Safe Schools, or [John Shep](#), Caring and Safe Schools Consultant.

Math Games

Spring Math: Math is Outside Too!

Spring and nice weather make for a great time to get outdoors and connect with math. Whether you are taking a walk, filling compost bags with leaves or starting to build that garden shed, there are many opportunities to engage in rich mathematical discussions with your child.

Here are some questions you can pose to your child as you engage with

nature:

What shapes do you see in that house?

How tall do you think that tree is?

How far do you think we walked today?

How many piles of leaves do you think will fit into this bag?

How many ___ did you see on our walk?

How many windows do you think are in that building

How long do you think it will take us to walk one kilometer?

If we double our pace how long do you think it will take us to get home?



So the next time you spend some time outdoors with your child, take some time to engage in some math talk!

You may also be interested in reading a new article for parents written by Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University.

[Developing Mathematical Mindsets, The Need to Interact with Numbers Flexibly and Conceptually](#)

Conversation Cafe

On Tuesday March 5th, 2019 a Conversation Cafe was held in the Learning Commons. This month's topic was "Our Kids Online: Online Gaming and Social Media". Parents had the opportunity to explore and dialogue about online social gaming and living with the realities with social media usage. We discussed appropriateness of certain video games and the rating system used in the industry and age restrictions on social media sites. We looked at the role that these technologies play in our daily lives and how to create balance. Parents left with copies of a social media and gaming contracts that they could use to set online boundaries with their children. Copies of these contracts are available attached to this newsletter. Should you have any further questions about this please feel free to contact Ethan Andersen or Sarah Kolar at 905-472-3303.





Students of the Month



At the Student Success Assembly on March 29th, the character trait of “Courage” was highlighted. The following students were recognized for their positive contributions to school life:

K1A Ms. Azar	Lucas C, Jayden L.
K1B Ms. Jaichi	Shafin U, Anthony C, Haniya U.
K1C Ms. Grisanth	Saad H, Kishana V.
Gr.1/2A Ms. Hayat	Shamiraa K, Serena W, Keesan K.
Gr.1A Mr. Lovatsis	Zara A, Shaheer A.
Gr.2/3A Ms. Luke	Roziyat M, Parmika K, Aayush S.
Gr.2A Ms. Cheung	Khola S, Lily S.
Gr.3A Ms. Skilling	Kishaanann G, Vaniya Z.
Gr.3B Ms. Ranta	Muhammad K, Faris K.
Gr.4A Ms. Kitchen	Keerthana S, Vishnu R, Mustafa M.
Gr.4/5A Ms. Kurien	Ivan H., Smreet M.
Gr.5/6A Ms. Chowdhury	Syed Abdul H, Preethi M, Fiza A.
Gr.5A Ms.Gowans/Mr. Thakur	Mujtaba A, Ricky S, Justin L.
Gr.6A Mr.Whitestone	Sageethyan S, Ayesha S.
Gr.6/7A Mr. Hasan	Jennifer C, Jennifer C.
Gr.7A Ms. Venamalla	Iqraa W, Alvin L.
Gr.8A Ms. Sanders	Rishav L, Samia M.
Gr.8B Mr. Armoogam	Yushan C, Maria F.
Gillespie, Sheri	Jasraj S. Ivan C, Frederick G, Isaac L, Aisha M, Dylan Y.
Koumarelas, Soula	Nika Z.

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

The character trait of Integrity will be highlighted in the month of April.



Pizza Lunch Dates

Thursday April 25, 2019

Thursday May 30, 2019

Thursday June 20, 2019



Summer Institute Registration



The York Region District School Board's **Summer Institute** offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum for children and youth entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Weekly Sessions

July 2, 2019 to August 9, 2019

Week A - July 2 to July 5 (4-day week)

Week B - July 8 to 12

Week C - July 15 to 19

Week D - July 22 to 26

Week E - July 29 to August 2

Week F - August 6 to 9 (4-day week)

Weekly Fees

York Region District School Board fees \$110 (4-day week), \$125 (5-day week)

Non-York Region District School Board fees \$135 (4-day week), \$160 (5-day week)

Before and after care is offered by the YMCA for an additional cost.

Cancellation Policy

Before June 1, 2019 will be fully refunded less a \$25.00 per week, per child, administration surcharge. After June 1, 2019, the full registration fee is non-refundable.

Locations

Programs are offered at [locations](#) in Richmond Hill, Markham, Stouffville, Newmarket, Woodbridge, Vaughan and Georgina from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm with extended YMCA before and aftercare programs available at all locations.

Please note that due to construction and renovation work at some school sites, some programs will be offered at different locations this year. Please review program options, electives and [program locations](#) prior to registering.

The Summer Institute is being offered to community members as a component of the [Performance Plus](#) (P+) Family of Schools.

- The "Performance" in the program's name refers to student achievement and well-being.
- The "Plus" in the program's name refers to the additional resources and leadership that can enhance learning in elementary schools in neighbourhoods affected by poverty.
- Additional resources and leadership bring school staff members, families and communities together to ensure that every child is prepared to learn.

Please [visit the Summer Institute registration page](#) for the online registration link.