

Makham Gateway

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Home of the Titans



PRINCIPAL
GARY YOUNG

VICE PRINCIPAL
RIMA ISHTIAQUE

SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
RASHMI SWARUP

SCHOOL TRUSTEE
JUANITA NATHAN

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

March 2015

Message from the Administration

Staff and students continue to work hard to make Markham Gateway the best place it can be. We are constantly amazed by the boundless energy our students have leading and coming up with ideas to build school spirit. Our student council is currently leading an exciting school wide winter bingo activity that has classes across the school eagerly listening to morning announcements, hoping to complete a row on their winter word card. Later this week, they are hosting a Beach Day to help fight our winter blues! Please remind your child to wear some beach-themed clothing for this much needed spirit day on March 6th. You're also invited to attend our Spirit Assemblies, the next one being this Friday, March 6th, at 11:00am. Our Me to We team is currently organizing a school wide campaign that fundraises to purchase goats for developing countries. Each \$50 raised purchases one goat for a family and the goats are a sustainable way for families to have an income source. The teacher's passion for extending our students learning beyond the physical classroom is also noteworthy through the many ongoing field trips and excursions such as to the Royal Ontario Museum and the Science Centre as well as upcoming

trips to the Pickering Museum and Ripley's Aquarium. We are looking forward to our Arts Night Celebration in April to showcase the students learning in the Arts. Please watch for more information. In athletics, our intermediate boys and girls' basketball teams have just finished their season, playing very well, and the junior teams are ready to go! As well, mixed badminton is starting soon. We want to thank and appreciate the staff and students for all the ways they make Markham Gateway such a special place.

We continue to ask for your support in ensuring the parking lot is a safe area for students coming to, or leaving school. Please remember that safety comes before convenience. You can help by ensuring children are only exiting from the passenger side of the vehicle so that they are stepping safely onto a curb. Also, please drive all the way through the kiss n' ride lanes so that the cars behind you have a safe distance to stop and let out their passengers. Stopping right at the start of the kiss n' ride not only creates tremendous parking jams, but more importantly, it creates dangerous traffic situations that children and our staff on duty have to navigate. If we all take a few extra minutes to do the "safe" thing, it will help in creating the safest environment for our children.

It is with excitement that we all look to our upcoming March Break. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to engage in shared activities. From arts and crafts, home projects, reading and research on the Internet, exploring the city through museums and special programs, there is much learning and fun to be had!

Wishing our Markham Gateway families a wonderful and enjoyable March Break!

Holidays & Observances

- April 03—Good Friday/Holy Friday
- April 06—Easter Monday
- April 14—Vaisakhi
- April 15—Pesach
- April 21—Ridvan

Important Dates

- April 27—Gr.7&8 Immunization
- April—15,22,& 29 swim to survive
- May 01—Gr.3 Pickering Museum

Next School Council

Wednesday, April 1
Thursday, May 6
Thursday, June 11

6:00—7:00 pm in the Library

Council Executive 2014-2015

Lisa Volpe-Brehaspatt—Chair
Ratna Muralitharan—Treasurer
Sathi Satkunanantharajah—Secretary



Inspire Learning!

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 *****

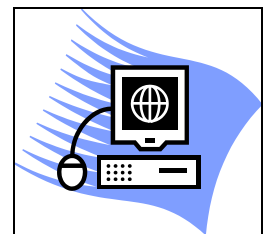


The *Scholastic Book Fair* is coming soon to our school! This is a wonderful way to promote reading for our students! The Book Fair will run from **March 23rd – March 27th**. Students will have the opportunity to visit the fair with their class during that week. Families are invited to join us on the evening of **March 26th from 6:00 – 7:30**. There will be a special Family Event Draw and much more! Hundreds of quality resources will be at our Book Fair including books from a wide range of reading levels. Posters, bookmarks, and additional items will be for sale too. Cash and credit will be accepted. Your support of this literacy event is greatly appreciated and will help us obtain new books and resources for our library and classrooms. Please mark the date on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you on March 26th! J

Positive Parenting TIP

With the cold weather outside, our children are spending more and more time inside playing on computers or watching television.

But how much time is too much time spent in these activities?



According to British researchers in the journal *Pediatrics*, more than two hours a day spent watching television or playing computer games could put a child at a greater risk for motional, behavioural and social problems. The risk of significant psychological difficulties was about 60% higher for children spending longer than two hours a day in front of either a computer or television screen as compared to those children exposed to less than two hours a day. Setting reasonable limits around activities like “screen time” is one way to help our children grow into healthy and happy adults!



Games

Prizes

Math Literacy Night

Thursday, March 26 from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Come and enjoy a fun evening of math!

You are invited to come and discover more about how your children learn math. You will have an opportunity to play math games, listen to math related stories, solve mathematical problems, explore math related web sites and code with your children. There will be activities for students from kindergarten to grade six.

Please come and enjoy an interactive mathematical experience with your child.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Math!!!

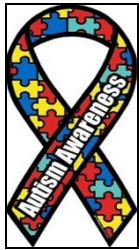


Eco Update



This year we have saved over 7000 plastic water bottles by using our water bottle refilling station. Imagine how much more waste we could reduce by switching to reusable snack bags! Stay tuned for our upcoming reusable snack bag fundraiser. They are better for our planet, are safe for the washing machine, and also come in a variety of fun patterns!





APRIL 2nd IS ...

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



April 2nd is World Autism Awareness day. Many people are affected by Autism. One in sixty - four children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Markham Gateway P.S. is fortunate to have 2 Community Classes to help support children who are touched by Autism. Individuals with Autism may experience challenges with social interactions, verbal and nonverbal communication, and may display some repetitive behaviours. From March 23-April 3, 2015, the Community Classes will be **selling bracelet bands and buttons for only \$2 each** to help raise awareness and money in support of Autism research. For every \$2 donation, your child can choose from receiving a bracelet, designing their very own button, or selecting one of the uniquely designed buttons. Please help support our efforts, while we work towards increasing awareness and acceptance of individuals touched by Autism. Thank you!



News from the Markham Gateway

Parenting and Family Literacy Centre



“March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!”

This Old English proverb describes the unpredictable weather in the month of March.

.But it is always warm and welcoming in the Markham Gateway PFLC.

You can bring your children aged (0 – 3 years) to Room 127 every school day to play, learn, sing, read, and dance together. For those children heading to Kindergarten in the fall, coming to the PFLC is a chance to start school today!

**Special March Event: Pancake Breakfast
On March 27, 2015
Closed during March Break**

Parent Worker: Carlene Nembhard Open: Every school day between 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

No cost or registration required Snacks are provided for the children

February Newsletter- Student Council Update

Dear Families,

The past month has been a great period of spirit days, Bingo, and contests for MGPS! Valentine's Day was celebrated on February 13 by wearing pink, red, or white. In the past weeks, classes have been competing in 'Beat the Winter Blues Bingo'. Each class has selected 25 winter related words (i.e., heater, snow, coat) to write down on their giant Bingo card. Classes are keeping their fingers crossed every morning as a Student Council executive share the word of the day. The first three classes to have 2 lines on their Bingo card will be our winners!

As the entire school is frustrated with the cold weather, all everyone wants is for summer to arrive. That's why Student Council is bringing the sweet warmth of summer to Gateway, with our next spirit day, Beach Day! Wear any beach wear, summer clothing, sun hats, or sunglasses on March 6th. You should also get prepared with crazy hats and crazy hair, because next, we're having Crazy Hat and Hair Day!

Student Council has a lot planned for the months to come, but we're still open to any recommendations for spirit days, contests, or events! If you have any super cool ideas you'd like to kick off with the help of Student Council, feel free to speak with any of the executives or our advisors, Ms. Lee and Ms. Kolar.

Sincerely,
Saada P - Minister of Communication

Pathways to Success for MGPS Grade 8 Students

The transition to high school is a significant milestone for students and their parents. Responding to our Parent/Guardian School Climate Survey from last year, we held an evening on Wednesday February 11th. To address student and parent questions around Transitions and Pathways to high school and post-secondary places of learning.

A representative from Skills Ontario started our evening off by presenting information through slides and video clips about careers in the skilled trades. Intermediate staff from Markham Gateway P.S. and Ellen Fairclough P.S. partnered with local Middlefield Collegiate Institute (MCI) math teachers to answer questions about math prerequisites for college and university. Two social work students also shared their educational pathways. The students then took the families on hands on experience through career cruising in the school lab. By the end of the evening, parents and students were more knowledgeable about, and excited by, the many pathways available to them. Our Teacher Liaison from the Tamil community was also on hand to lend her support. Many thanks to Mr. Whitestone, Mr. Yoshiki, Mr. Hasan and Ms. Lee for their support of this event. Based on the positive feedback from parents and students, we are already planning a Grade 8 Transition Night for next fall!



York Region District School Board Student Surveys

In order to provide information for Board and School planning, York Region District School Board students in Grades 5 to 12 will be invited to participate in a school survey. The survey, which is anonymous and confidential, will be conducted from **April 7 to May 15, 2015** and will take place at school. The information from this survey will be used to identify areas to be addressed, monitor progress and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. Aligned with Board priorities, the survey will address topics including equity and inclusion, school safety, learning environment, student well-being and other priorities. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

York Region District School Board School Climate Survey for Parents Key Findings

In May and June 2014, parents were invited to complete a questionnaire to collect perception data about their child's school environment and learning. The survey addressed topics including equity and inclusion, school safety, learning environment, student well-being and parent engagement. More than 14,000 parents participated in the survey.

Overall, parents tended to have positive perceptions of school safety, the learning environment at their child's school, and reported that the school environment was welcoming, equitable and inclusive. Parent responses indicated some areas for attention, specifically in areas related to parent engagement, the provision of information related to mental health supports and community agencies and services, and the steps taken by the school to prevent and address bullying.

Parent and Student Voice Matters!



March 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 School Council meeting 6:00pm Author visit - Eric Walters! | 6 Spirit and Character Assembly 11:00 am | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 PA day No school | 14 |
| 15 | 16 March Break | 17 March Break | 18 March Break | 19 March Break | 20 March Break | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Scholastic Book Fair | 24 | 25 | 26 Pizza Day  Math Literacy Night! 6.00 pm to 7:15 pm | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Spring Activity Day! Grades 5—8 | | | | |



Please join the York Region District School Board Psychological Services Department for:
An Evening Presentation for PARENTS
with **Dr. Debra Pepler**
Promoting Resiliency Through Healthy Relationships

The symposium will be of interest to parents/guardians in promoting caring and supportive relationships within their family.

Healthy relationships are critical for the development of resiliency in children and youth.

These relationships start at home and then extend to school, peers and the community.

Recent research is showing that the quality of children's relationships is important for many outcomes: healthy DNA and the expression of genes in cells, brain development, behaviour, learning and physical, mental, and social health.

This workshop will:

- Provide a deeper understanding of how healthy development depends on healthy relationships, which sets the groundwork for developing resiliency and well-being;
- Focus on strategies to support children and youth's healthy development;
- Focus on strategies to support the development of resilience; and
- Describe the work being done within PREVNET (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network) to promote healthy relationships in all places that children and youth live, learn and play.

When: Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Where: Riviera Parque Convention Centre
2800 Hwy. #7 West
(Hwy. #7 & Creditstone Road/ between Keele and Jane, North Side)
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person **or** \$15.00 per Family (parents or guardians of student(s))
(no refund if unable to attend)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU VIA YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED.

Name(s): _____ Contact Phone #: _____
(Please print clearly, name or names of each Parent/Guardian attending)

E-mail: _____ Number Attending: _____ Amt. Attached: \$ _____

Please **return this portion** of the flyer with your **CHEQUE only**. **(ABSOLUTELY NO CASH)**
made payable to York Region District School Board by April 30, 2015

By Mail: Elizabeth Iarocci, Psychological Services, York Region District School Board,
300 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8E2

By YRDSB Board Courier: Attn.: Elizabeth Iarocci - Psychological Services - C.L.L. - Newmarket

A confirmation of registration will be sent to you on receipt of payment.

Please note: **THE E-MAIL CONFIRMATION IS YOUR TICKET FOR ENTRANCE TO THE SESSION.**

Spring 2015 Social Skills Program



ldayr • Learning Disabilities
Association of York Region
The right to learn, the power to achieve

Registration is Now Open

For more information or registration please contact *Nina Safary, Program Coordinator*, at 905.884.7933 extension 21 or resource@ldayr.org

****First time participants must provide a copy of child's Psycho-educational Assessment****

Last day to Register is March 12th, 2015

Designed for children aged 5 through 16 years with a primary diagnosis of a Learning Disability and/or ADHD

Children will be placed in the appropriate age group.
Class size is limited to 8 participants per class.
Child to Facilitator Ratio = 4 to 1

Richmond Hill

Classes are held *Mondays or Wednesday* at 11181 Yonge Street starting March 23rd or March 25th, 2015

Newmarket

Classes are held *Tuesdays* - Location TBA starting March 24th, 2015

\$200.00 for members
\$250.00 for non-members
(Includes program supplies and tax)

Learning disabilities are specific; they are not global impairments and as such are distinct from intellectual or developmental disabilities. We only enroll children with Learning Disabilities (LD) and / or ADHD (ADHD). If you are unsure of your child's diagnosis we will gladly assist you, but we cannot guarantee enrollment prior to reviewing your child's psychological assessment.



Additional learning & support opportunities for parents available upon request.
Please call 905-884-7933 ext. 21



Ldao • Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

The right to learn, the power to achieve

11181 Yonge Street, Unit 221
 Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1L2
 Tel: 905-884-7933
 Fax: 905-770-9377
 Email: info@ldayr.org
 Website: www.ldayr.org



About the Course

- 8 week program
- Classes are minimum 1 hour and 15 minutes per week
- Maximum of 8 children per class
- 2 accredited group leaders
- Fall, Winter, and Spring programs

Who is the program designed for?

Children diagnosed with a Learning Disability and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

who may:

- Avoid social contact
- Behave immaturely
- Be shy or timid in groups
- Frequently fight with peers
- Display a lack of self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enjoy meeting other children with LD and/or ADHD

Strategies Used

- Games
- Stories
- Discussions
- Sharing
- Energizers
- Activities
- Crafts
- Role Playing

Topics Covered

There is an emerging awareness that many children with learning disabilities and/or ADHD have social deficits. Some children need to be explicitly taught social skills, which would lead to self-esteem and self-confidence. The following are topics addressed in the program:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Communication | • Bullying |
| • Anger Management | • Co-operation |
| • Listening | • Respect |
| • Making friends and keeping them | • Problem solving strategies |



Summer Camp



July 13th to July 17th, 2015
or
August 17th to August 21st, 2015



Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Ages: 7-12

\$300 for Members
\$350 for Non-Members

Location: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
484 Water Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 1M5

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region's

SUMMER CAMP

Designed For

**Children Diagnosed with
Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD**

****First time participants must provide a copy of child's
Psycho-educational Assessment****

In a safe, encouraging and positive environment, our camp meets the needs of your child. Learning social skills has never been so much fun!

Skills learned include communication and listening, problem solving, friendship, self-esteem and more.

Activities include swimming, arts and crafts, sports and more!

Space is Limited

For more information or to register contact Nina Safary, Program Coordinator:

Phone: 905-884-7933, extension 21 or Email: resource@ldayr.org



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 |
|------------|---------------------|---|---|
| 09/02/2015 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Armadale Community Centre 2401 Denison Street, Markham, Ontario L3S 1G3 |
| 21/02/2015 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Welcome Centre - Markham South Hollywood Plaza, 7220 Kennedy Road, Markham, ON L3R 7P2 |
| 08/03/2015 | 2:30 PM -4:30 PM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lakshmi Narayan Mandir 1 Morningview Trail, Scarborough, ON M1B 5A8 |
| 28/03/2015 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Armadale Community Centre 2401 Denison Street, Markham, Ontario L3S 1G3 |

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 Team & funding in part by



Collaborating Organizations

