



1000 Carlton Road
Markham, Ontario
L3P 7P5
Principal: Patricia Obadia

Tel: (905) 940-8840
Fax: (905) 940-8895
Email: markville.ss@yrdsb.ca
Website: <http://markville.ss.yrdsb.ca>



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Friday, January 24, 2020

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

In an effort to support our students and families in Mental Wellness, please [click here](#) to access an informational document outlining various signs, strategies, and community Mental Health resources. Of course, please always feel free to connect with a Caring Adult at MSS for support, as wellness in ourselves and our loved ones 'takes a village'. This document is also available on our school website under [News & Events](#)

EXAM SCHEDULE AND GUIDELINES

The [exam schedule](#) and [exam day guidelines](#) are now available. The schedule is posted around the school, and an updated copy is always available in the Library. The [schedule](#) and guidelines are also on our [website](#), under the News & Events tab. Period 3 exams will be held on Monday, January 27th, Period 4 exams on Tuesday, January 28th, and Period 5 exams on Wednesday, January 29th. Exam Review Day will be on Thursday, January 30th, followed by a PA day on Friday, January 31st.

The Library Learning Commons will be open each day for Silent Study from 8:00am – 3:00pm, closing at 9:30am on Wednesday, January 29th. The large gym is open all exam days from 11:00 – 1:00pm, except for Monday, January 27th. When students have completed writing their exam each day, they are welcome to go to the Library for Silent Study or to the gym for games; otherwise, they are asked to leave school property. Students who congregate in the Atrium or other areas of the school will be asked to leave. This is to ensure that students still writing their exams have the best possible environment for success.

In the event of an inclement weather day (snow day) happening during the exam period, that exam day would then be held on Thursday, January 30th. Exam review would then occur at a later date.

So, **for example**, if Monday, January 27th was declared an inclement weather day, Period 3 exams would then be held on Thursday, January 30th. All other exams would proceed as scheduled. A notification would be sent out to all parents / guardians advising them of the change.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO E-BULLETIN DISTRIBUTED NEXT FRIDAY

MESSAGE FROM GUIDANCE FOR ALL MARKVILLE STUDENTS

Please note that there are not going to be regular Guidance appointments during exams. However, Guidance counsellors are available to see students who are experiencing social / emotional issues at any time. In addition, assistance with college applications will be prioritized (see below).

During exams, Guidance counsellors will be working on wait lists. It is, therefore, extremely important that students check their GAPPs email on a regular basis for messages from Guidance, especially if they are on a wait list for a particular course. In a few rare cases, some student timetables had to be slightly altered. It is important that in the morning of the first day of classes every student log onto Teach Assist to ensure that they are following the correct schedule.

Course Selection information will be shared at an assembly on February 10th. In the meanwhile, it is recommended that all students spend time planning courses on [My Pathway Planner](#) after exams are completed. Submission Dates for [Course Selection](#) are February 12 – 24, 2020.

FOR STUDENTS APPLYING TO COLLEGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2020: The deadline for application (ontariocolleges.ca) is on Saturday, February 1st. Any students requiring help with the application should come into Guidance at any time between now and this date.

FIRE ROUTE SAFETY REMINDER

The City of Markham would like us to remind parents and guardians about some key safety measures that need to be in place at all area schools. **Every school has designated fire routes that must be kept clear at all times.** Any vehicles parked in an area marked as a fire route are subject to a Penalty Notice (Fine). The Drop Off area is for **immediate** drop offs and pick-ups only. This means that in the morning, when parents are dropping students off, they pull over, the student gets out, and the vehicle pulls away without delay. When picking students up at the end of the day, parents are to make sure the student(s) are at the curb before pulling into the drop off loop. **Vehicles are NOT permitted to park in the loop** and wait for school to end, for students to gather their things, and to finally make their way outside. This blocks the fire route and is in violation of the Parking Control Bylaw 2005-188 which can result in a hefty fine (\$200).

If you have arrived prior to the end of the school day, or the student you are waiting for is not waiting outside at the curb, please park your vehicle in the parking lot section until they have exited the building. At that point, you may turn right from the parking lot into the drop off loop and pick up your student.

School staff have no authority over tickets issued by the City of Markham. Please note, bylaw officers may conduct enforcement at school zones by recording license plates, without stepping out of their vehicle, and mail Penalty Notices to the registered owners of improperly parked vehicles.

Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a **Fire Route**. Fire Routes are the roads, laneways, or driveways that provide access to a building and may also include areas within a parking lot. A driver is **in violation** of this parking regulation if he/she is stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – **there cannot be a delay**. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away.

When this sign is displayed, drivers are not permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or
2. Leave their vehicle (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

School Council Hosts



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020
Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Place: Markham District High School
Library

- Youth mental health and its impact
- Treatment and importance of self-care
- Open discussion

**Guest speakers from Sunnybrook Hospital, Family
Navigation Project**

**Miriam Blond, Family Navigator
Tracey Addison, Parent Advocate with Lived Experience
(PAL)**

**Markham District High School
89 Church Street
Markham, ON**

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE

The [deadline](#) to get an application in for college is fast approaching. Apply on or before February 1st, 2020 for equal consideration. After this date, colleges consider applications on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

May 1st, 2020 is the deadline to confirm an offer of admission to an Ontario College. A tuition deposit will be due in June 2020.

WINTER WEATHER

Now that winter has fully arrived, we would like to share some important reminders for families.

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call 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 Days** 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 websites, and on [twitter @YRDSB](#). Parents and/or Guardians who have opted in to receiving text alerts will also be notified on their mobile device.

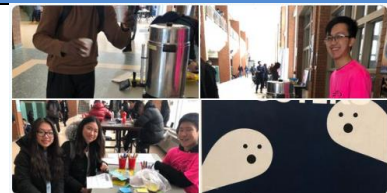
Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather, and emergency weather days is outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part 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. [Click here](#) to watch a video on how the decisions are made to declare an inclement weather or extreme cold day.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



[@Markville_YRDSB](#)

Feeling stressed before exams? Enjoy a warm drink! Relax with a friend! Thanks to all our [#TAC](#) & [#MAC](#) student volunteers for all their hard work.



Thank you to [@lwta_program](#) for supporting our [#wellness](#) activities!
[@MSSmavericks](#) [#MarkvilleCares](#)

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

New
Books!



Markville's Library Learning Commons has an impressive number of new books for our students to enjoy. Wish we could share a top ten list with you but there are just too many we are excited about! Here is a sampling in no particular order:

- *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe: Morris Award Finalist for Best Debut YA Novel of the Year!
- *SLAY* by Brittney Morris: "Morris does a fantastic job of showing diversity within the black community. . . . Gamers and black activists alike will be ready to SLAY all day." Kirkus Reviews
- *Neverworld Wake* by Marisha Pessl: "Beautifully creepy." The New York Times
- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead: "a beautiful, wrenching act of witness, a painful remembrance of an "infinite brotherhood of broken boys," and it proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Whitehead is one of the most gifted novelists in America today." NPR
- *Son of a Trickster* by Eden Robinson: One of CBC's Canada Reads 2020 books
- *By Chance Alone* by Max Eisen: CBC's Canada Reads 2019 winner
- *This Little Light* by Lori Lansens: National Bestseller
- *The Testaments: A Novel* by Margaret Atwood: Winner of the Booker Prize, Longlisted for Giller Prize, International Bestseller
- *One of Us is Lying* by Karen M. McManus: New York Times Bestseller
- *P.S. I Still Love You* by Jenny Han: Soon to be a Netflix movie
- *Catching the Light* by Susan Sinnott 2019 Atlantic Book Award winner
- *We'll Fly Away* by Bryan Bliss: Nerdy Book Club Award for Best Young Adult Fiction
- *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon: "Heather's Pick"
- *Winterwood* by Shea Ernshaw: Winter 2019 Indie Next Pick
- *Warcross* by Marie Lu: Girl Gamer!
- *I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga: Not your typical teen read!
- *Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel* by Val Emmich, Steven Levenson, & Benj Pasek: Inspired by the hit Broadway show Dear Evan Hansen
- *Dry* by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman: Student requested & recommended!
- *Empire of Wild* by Cherie Dimaline: Indigo's #1 Best Book of 2019

Students may check books out for 3 weeks at a time. We also welcome student requests for purchases. A number of these titles and many more are also available on our online platform [SORA](#), in eBook or AudioBook formats. We encourage students to take time between semesters to enjoy reading!



Upcoming Events

DATE	School News	Student Life	Arts	Sports & Clubs	Academics
MONDAY, JAN. 27 th	• PERIOD 3 EXAMS				
	• Holocaust Remembrance Day				
	• Community Living South (9:30am – 2:00pm)				
TUESDAY, JAN. 28 th	• PERIOD 4 EXAMS				
	• Luv2Play (9:00am – 1:30pm)				
	• Craft Pots (9:30am – 2:00pm)				
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29 th	• PERIOD 5 EXAMS				
THURSDAY, JAN. 30 th	• EXAM REVIEW DAY Period 1 8:20am – 9:00am Period 2 9:05am – 9:45am Period 3 9:50am – 10:30am Period 4 10:35am – 11:15am Period 5 11:20am – 12:00pm Lunch 12:00pm – 1:00pm Individual Appointments 1:00pm – 3:00pm				
FRIDAY, JAN. 31 st	• PA DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS				

MONDAY, FEB. 3 rd	• SEMESTER 2 BEGINS
	• Senior Boys Basketball Tournament (9:45am – 4:15pm)
TUESDAY, FEB. 4 th	• Senior Girls Volleyball (2:40pm – 5:35pm)
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5 th	• Lunar New Year Activities in the Atrium (9:45am – 1:45pm)
	• Lunar New Year Celebration (3:00pm – 5:00pm)
	• Senior Boys Basketball (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
THURSDAY, FEB. 6 th	• DECA Provincials (Feb. 6 th – 9 th)
	• Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team (5:30am – 5:00pm)
FRIDAY, FEB. 7 th	• DECA Provincials (Feb. 6 th – 9 th)
	• Semester 1 Report Card Distribution

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities? Come visit the Guidance Office, or check out these helpful links:

	Student Volunteer Opportunities		Volunteer Opportunities
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If you have any questions, please email your child's vice-principal: michael.vlachopoulos@yrdsb.ca for students with surnames A – LIM, or kathy.mcalpine@yrdsb.ca for students with surnames LIN– Z

Please visit our website at <http://markville.ss.yrdsb.ca>