

InspireLearning!



Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin



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Friday, February 07, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to semester 2 at Markville Secondary School if you are a new family joining our supportive community; welcome back to those of you who have been with us for a while! Our students have completed half of the school year, working diligently to achieve success. Now, at the beginning of a new semester, they can take the opportunity to reflect and identify the successes they experienced as well as the challenges they encountered along the way, whether in their academics, their social interactions, or in the care of their well-being.

Parents / Guardians, please take time to read, review, and peruse the information shared with you on this e-bulletin and, remember, you are always welcome to ask any questions you may have, to provide feedback, or just to come for a visit. Our doors are always open!

We look forward to another semester filled with collaboration, excitement, engagement, and learning!

~Patricia Obadia, Principal



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](#)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).
- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Ron Lynn
Trustee, Markham, Wards 2, 3 and 6

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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH POSTER CONTEST

In honour of Black History Month, York Region District School Board will be hosting a student poster contest. YRDSB students will have the opportunity to submit an original poster design that centres around the theme of Celebrating Black Excellence. In order to participate, contestants must be a current student of YRDSB and must submit an original design of their making.

Submissions can be made throughout the month of February with voting taking place on social media and the winner will be announced in early March. The winners design will be used as the official poster for Black History Month at YRDSB in 2021 and the winner will receive a prize pack.

In order to be considered, all submissions must include:

- Student name
- School
- Grade

Please note – any submissions that do not include this information or are submitted by a non-YRDSB student will not be considered eligible for this contest.

All submissions must be made by completing [this form](#) and must be submitted by Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Submissions should not incorporate the YRDSB logo in the poster design. It will be added once the winner is selected. Designs can be digital or illustrated by hand and must be a portrait orientation.

Please keep in mind that the submissions must be high resolution as they will be printed. If you have any questions, please email communications@yrdsb.ca.

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**

TWEET OF THE WEEK



[@Markville_YRDSB](https://twitter.com/Markville_YRDSB)

[Markville SS](https://twitter.com/Markville_SS)
[@Markville_YRDSB](https://twitter.com/Markville_YRDSB)

[#cubemosaic](#)
[#rubiksmosaic](#)
[#geometry](#) [#design](#)
[#community](#) [#pixels](#)



@YouCanDoRubiks
@ycdtc_rubiksca



[Markville SS](#)@Markville_YRDSB

Introducing Markville's Cheer Squad!

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2020-2021

Students will once again choose their courses for next year electronically on their [MyPathwayPlanner](#) located on the [Markville](#) Secondary School home page.

There will be grade assemblies for all students on Monday, February 10th. Grade 9 and 10 assemblies will take place during Period 1 and Grade 11 assemblies during Period 2. Guidance will visit Grade 12 classes to discuss how to indicate that they are graduating on [MyPathwayPlanner](#) and give details for students who wish to return for a semester.

To inform parents, Guidance will be holding a Course Selection Evening Information Session on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Please attend if you are able. If you cannot attend, the slides from this presentation will be posted on the Markville website after the presentation.

IMPORTANT DATES:

[My Pathway Planner](#) is open now for all students to be investigating possible courses and doing preliminary planning. However, students cannot SUBMIT THEIR CHOICES at this time.

[My Pathway Planner](#) will be open for students to SUBMIT their final course choices beginning on **Wednesday, February 12th until Monday, February 24th**. On Monday, February 24th, Course Selection locks for all students and they will no longer have access to make changes. It is extremely important that all students choose their courses by this deadline. Please ensure that you have reviewed your student's choices before they select SUBMIT.

Guidance will also be visiting certain classrooms to help students with course selection, i.e. Learning Strategies and ESL classes. We will also have many guidance appointments available for students to book a session with a counsellor to discuss course selection and ask questions. We also encourage students to ask subject teachers questions about courses and get their opinion on best choices as well.

After each student submits their choices, they must print a paper copy and have it signed by a Parent / Guardian. The paper copy is to be immediately returned to their homeroom teacher or directly to Guidance if a student has a Period 1 spare.

Upcoming Events

DATE	School News	Student Life	Arts	Sports & Clubs	Academics
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MONDAY, FEB. 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Selection Assemblies • Junior Girls Volleyball Team (3:30pm – 5:30pm)
TUESDAY, FEB. 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization Clinic in the Library (8:00am – 12:00pm) • OBA Concert Band Festival (5:00pm – 9:00pm)
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunar New Year Activities (9:45am – 1:40pm) • Waterloo Programming Competition (9:45am – 12:45pm) • TAC Course Selection Seminars (Periods 3 and 4) (11:00am – 1:40pm) • Lunar New Year Celebration (3:00pm – 5:00pm) • OBA Concert Band Festival (5:00pm – 7:30pm) • Parent Course Selection Evening (6:30pm – 7:30pm)
THURSDAY, FEB. 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team (5:30am – 5:00pm)
FRIDAY, FEB. 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Day for Semester 2 • SAC Rep Your Grade

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>