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Friday, February 14, 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](#)

We have created a new page on our website under the [News & Events](#) tab named [Health and Wellness](#). Any resources relating to mental and / or physical health and wellness will be available there. YRDSB publishes a monthly Student Mental Health newsletter for parents, guardians, and families with helpful information to support their child's mental health. All newsletters are available on the YRDSB website, under the [Programs & Services](#) tab, on the [Mental Health](#) page. These newsletters will be added to our website on the [Health and Wellness](#) page for easy access.

COURSE SELECTION PRESENTATION

Thank you to all parents and/or guardians who were able to join us on Wednesday evening for our [course selection presentation](#). Students must have courses for the 2020 – 2021 school year selected and submitted using [My Pathway Planner](#) (myBlueprint) by Monday, February 24th at 3:00pm. Parents/Guardians must sign the printed course selection form and have students hand it in to their homeroom teacher during the week of February 24th. The [course selection presentation](#) has been added to our website under the News & Events tab. Please contact our Guidance department with any questions.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION

From Friday, February 21, 2020 to Wednesday, February 26, 2020 students in Grades 5 through to Grade 11 will have an opportunity to cast their vote to select their Student Trustees for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be able to vote for two of the four student trustee candidates. Information about the candidates, process and timelines is available on the [Student Trustee website](#). Student trustees represent over 124,000 students in the York Region District School Board. They network with students, staff, and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice. Information about the Student Trustee Election Process and voting instructions will be emailed to all students directly through their GAPPs account on Thursday, February 13, 2020 and Friday February 21, 2020.

2020 MARCH BREAK YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The York Regional Police would like to invite YRDSB students to apply to be part of a Youth Engagement Program during the upcoming March Break. Interested students can expect to have a week of learning and get to experience a small portion of what the recruitment process may be like when applying to York Regional Police. The week includes a physical fitness component which all participants will be involved in. This program is designed to assist students in gaining self-confidence, self-discipline, self-awareness, and resiliency. Students must complete an essay with their application and have their own transportation to the program, public transit is not an option.

Interested applicants can email csv@yvp.ca to request an application form.

For more information or further questions, please contact: Debbie Robinson #5459, Supervisor, Community Safety Village, York Regional Police. (email: csv@yvp.ca)

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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.

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 SS](#) @Markville_YRDSB

[#ValentinesDay2020](#) [#rubikmosaics](#)
[#Surprise](#) [#WhoCouldItBe](#)



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

COMPASSIONATE SCHOOLS

Students from the Compassionate Schools group partnered with Compassionate Communities Markham, a group dedicated to helping isolated Seniors in the Markham area, to prepare and serve a hot meal to homeless seniors in Toronto. During the afternoon and evening the students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful and interesting conversations with the Seniors. This experience for the students not only opened their eyes to food security issues for the vulnerable homeless population, but gave them an opportunity to show compassion and empathy while learning about the lives of those we served. The club is open to all students at Markville and over the semester we will be working with the Seniors at Cedar Crest Manor in Markham in addition to one more trip downtown to serve lunch to the homeless seniors in Toronto. Any interested students can get more information from Ms. Ruffo or Ms. Achong.



TAC (TRANSITION ACTIVITY COUNCIL) COURSE SELECTION SEMINARS

This past Wednesday, TAC mentors facilitated engaging course selection seminars to assist fellow students with their course selection process. There was a short presentation to start, followed by a question and answer period where students were able to ask mentors any questions related to subjects or courses they were interested in. Our goal was to highlight all the amazing elective courses Markville has to offer, as well as discuss the various pathways students can take. If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to reach out to any of the mentors. We wish everyone the best of luck with course selection (due February 24th)!



Upcoming Events

DATE	School News	Student Life	Arts	Sports & Clubs	Academics
MONDAY, FEB. 17 th	• FAMILY DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF				
TUESDAY, FEB. 18 th	• Taj Mahotsav				
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19 th	• Literacy Blitz #1 (Period 2) (9:45am – 11:00am)				
	• Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team (5:30am – 5:00pm)				
	• Junior Girls Volleyball Team (3:30pm – 5:30pm)				
THURSDAY, FEB. 20 th	• World Day of Social Justice				
FRIDAY, FEB. 21 st	• OSSTF Strike Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS				

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



[Student Volunteer Opportunities](#)



[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Lunch Time Tutoring – Library Learning Commons, Mondays and Wednesdays – Periods 3 and 4

After School Tutoring – Room 345, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00pm – 4:00 pm

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>