

InspireLearning!



Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin



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Thursday, April 09, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

These are challenging times, indeed. Social and physical distancing is what we must do to keep ourselves, our families, friends, and neighbours safe. However, physical distancing is irrelevant to what defines us as human beings: kindness, respect, care, empathy, integrity. Our staff at Markville Secondary School misses your children, misses the classroom, and misses the face-to-face interaction. We have now moved to an online environment with new and varied learning opportunities. What has not changed is the commitment and dedication that our staff displays every day so that our students can feel supported and cared for. We know that this is a difficult time also at home. Every family is experiencing this reality in a different manner and sometimes the learning at home may be more complex. Please know that there are supports for you. If you feel that your child is in need of support, just connect with a teacher or with myself. We can assist you in getting the supports and/or resources that you may need. We are in this together. Thank you for your partnership.

Patricia Obadia, Principal

HELPFUL RESOURCES

KIDS HELP PHONE



Text

Get support right now through our texting service

[LEARN MORE →](#)



Phone

Call us for support through our phone service

[LEARN MORE →](#)



Resources Around Me

Find a youth program near you

[GO NOW →](#)

[COVID 19 GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESOURCES](#)



GREEN LIGHT (SAFE TO DO)

- ▶ Greet with a wave from a distance
- ▶ Go outside - run, bike, walk the dog at least 2 metres away from other people*
- ▶ Read, draw, paint, listen to music, dance, play games, watch a movie at home
- ▶ Cook a meal
- ▶ Group video chats
- ▶ Food delivery services
- ▶ Online shopping
- ▶ Online learning
- ▶ Virtual tours of museums



YELLOW LIGHT (USE CAUTION)

- ▶ Getting groceries (once a week)*
- ▶ Picking up take-out food*
- ▶ Attending essential medical appointments
- ▶ Picking up medication*



RED LIGHT (AVOID)

- ▶ Going to work, unless absolutely necessary*
- ▶ Playdates, sleepovers, coffee dates
- ▶ Visitors to your home, except for individuals providing care or delivering food/supplies, and in that case, maintain a distance of 2 metres
- ▶ Group gatherings, even if outside
- ▶ Playgrounds, busy public parks
- ▶ Gyms, bars, shopping malls
- ▶ Peak shopping and public transit hours*
- ▶ Non-essential appointments (such as hair & nails)
- ▶ Non-essential workers in your home

*If you are in **isolation** or **quarantine (self-isolation)**, your guidelines will differ. Please follow specific guidelines relating to your situation.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES GRANT

The Ministry of Education recently announced a credit of \$250 for each student with a Special need. This includes students who have learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, autism, developmental disabilities, behavioural diagnosis, language impairments, deaf & hard of hearing, and blind or low vision. If your child is supported with an IEP and IPRC at Markville, you can apply for the credit.

<https://www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/FamilyAppWeb/public/index.xhtml>

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support. The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

Who is eligible?

The benefit will be available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

How to apply:

To deliver payments to Canadians in a fast and easy way, the CERB is being jointly delivered by Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency.

To begin the application process, please answer a few simple questions. The answers you provide will help us direct you to the service option that best fits your situation.

Please read these [questions and answers](#) for more details.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

YRDSB LEARNING AND CARING PLAN

The York Region District School Board has put together a plan to continue your child's learning online for the time being. Courses will be adapted and we ask for patience and understanding for your students and our staff as we all adjust to this new reality. YRDSB's website has many resources to help us all through this transition. YRDSB has posted an overview of the [Learning and Caring Plan](#) on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/covid19, along with a [FAQs section](#) that provides the most up-to-date answers that are frequently asked.

If your student has any technology needs that have not already been identified, please let us know as soon as possible. This may include reliable access to Wi-Fi, or access to a computer. You may fill out the YRDSB [technology survey](#), or contact us directly in the case of a temporary need at: markville.ss@yrdsb.ca

Students in Grades 9-12 will have three hours of work per course per week for semestered students. This includes lesson delivery and any homework. We ask that students regularly check their Gmail accounts for communications.

ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING DURING COVID-19

Secondary: All secondary students will receive a final report card at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Teachers will continue to assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities that will be assessed to inform students about progress and marked for the purposes of evaluation. Teachers will communicate results of these marked assignments to students. Results will be used by teachers to inform students' final course marks.

Grade 12 Student Midterm Marks: This year, midterm marks are only required for graduating students. Teachers will use their professional judgement and interpretation of evidence of student learning when determining a midterm mark for potential graduates. Under the current circumstances, teachers are asked to use the full body of assessment evidence available to them based on work assigned up until March 13 to determine a midterm mark that reflects a student's learning and achievement to date. The midterm marks will be submitted to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) on April 23.

Graduation Requirements: The Government of Ontario has stated that no student will have their graduation compromised by COVID-19. The Ministry of Education continues to work with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure that there will be no barriers to accessing post-secondary education.

LEARNING FROM HOME

As part of learning from home, most students and staff will engage in learning that is not required in real time. This means they will engage in activities at different times of the day and evening to best suit their individual needs. Teachers will develop learning opportunities (e.g., tasks, assignments, or projects) for students that may involve engagement both online and offline. Teachers will plan opportunities to assess student learning and provide feedback to students throughout the remainder of the school year. At this time, there is no requirement for teacher-led instruction with groups of students, or classes occurring online at the same time. We understand that many household schedules have been greatly disrupted during the past few weeks.

Flexibility and patience are incredibly important for our students who will all be adapting to these changes every day. It will not be unusual for them to do their homework and lessons at all different times of the day and evening. Getting enough sleep and looking after their mental and physical health are of the utmost importance. They will likely complain of being bored. This is completely normal. They are not necessarily looking for suggestions of activities to occupy their time, just for some understanding and acknowledgement that their daily realities have completely changed.

Teachers have set up daily office hours during which they will respond to emails. While they may respond to emails outside of these hours, please understand that they are also at home with their own families, sometimes assisting their own children, and will not be expected to answer questions or requests outside of the stated office hours.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Any books that have been borrowed by students and staff from Markville's Library Learning Commons will have their due dates extended. No late fees or fines will be collected. Our [online resources](#) are still available including databases for research and the YRDSB collection of Ebooks, and Audio Books accessed through [SORA](#) (students can log in with a 0 in front of their student number). Visit the [Library](#) page of the school website for more info. Please email ann.cape@yrdsb.ca, michelle.e.wilson@yrdsb.ca, or bobbi.sabatini@yrdsb.ca for any passwords required. Reading for pleasure is an excellent way to reduce stress and take a break from the day to day.

[Markham Public Library](#) has many online resources that residents can access right from home. Thousands of ebooks, databases, newspapers, magazines, consumer reports, and much more are available. If you do not already have a library card, you can [apply online](#) for an Overdrive / Libby account in order to access their Ebook and Audiobook collection. Many public libraries are offering new content online to address the needs of people at home. Instructional videos, online book discussions, book talks, and technology help are just some examples. Visit the website of your local public library for more information, or follow them on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

STRESS RELIEF

TRY SOMETHING NEW – LIVE CAMERA FEEDS

Many zoos and aquariums are offering live camera feeds from select animals. Destress by watching some jellyfish, sharks, penguins, etc. from the comfort of your home. Check out the [shark cam](#) from Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto, or the [live cams](#) of a variety of different species from the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Watching the jellyfish float can be very relaxing.



[NASA](#) also has live streams scheduled of upcoming events. Watch a docking with the International Space Station, change of command ceremony, undocking, deorbit burn, and landing coverage of the 63/Soyuz MS-16 this coming week.



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>