

InspireLearning!



## Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin



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Friday, June 05, 2020

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Good afternoon, dear families,

We are at the end of quite a difficult week, with the tragic events in the US, as well as the many protests there and in Canada. Markville joins our Director in our commitment to anti-Black racism. You can find the link to Director Louise Sirisko's message to our families and community below. We unite our voices to fight racist incidents. Silence is not an option. If you are aware of any incident involving any type of discrimination or prejudice, whether face-to-face or in social media, please reach out to me or to one of our Vice-Principals so we can immediately address it and respond, as such occurrences will not be tolerated. While we continue teaching and learning at a distance, the safety and well-being of our students remains even more of a priority during these difficult times. I appreciate your partnership.

Patricia Obadia

### TRUSTEE GREETING

Dear Families,

The past few months has been challenging in many aspects within the system and particularly in the community I serve. First and foremost, I want to applaud your perseverance and resilience demonstrated as a parent and as a community member. As a father with a child in the system, I can relate to each and every single one of you how much we have contributed together thus far. I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well and are healthy.

As a Board of Trustees, we know that our families have experienced this pandemic and the school closures in different ways, and I want you to know that my thoughts have been with you all.

With your voices and inputs, PPEs narratives has come a long way since February to date both in a public health domain to local domain, as I brought your voice to board. You know the most as a community. I want to thank you for both yours and the board concerting effort.

Since the extension of March Break, the school board moved quickly to introduce an equitable and comprehensive [Learning and Caring Plan](#) through an intentionally phased approach. Our plan focused on both supporting student well-being and providing continuation of learning for more than 127,000 students. A plan was developed that respected each family's unique situation and focused on maintaining a caring, safe, and inclusive learning environment. To support this, over 20,000 pieces of technology were distributed to ensure that all of our students could access the learning opportunities available to them, and resources and plans were put in place to support all of our learners, including students with special education needs and English language learners.

More information about the Learning and Caring plan as well as tips, resources and supports for students and families to support well-being and online learning can be found at [www.yrdsb.ca/covid19](http://www.yrdsb.ca/covid19) and it is continuing to be updated to find best serve our students across the system.

We are all part of a larger community and I am inspired to see the many different ways schools, families, and students have maintained their connections with one another. It was also moving to see the many inspiring ways our school board, students, staff, and families acknowledged our frontline workers and made contributions to the fight against COVID-19. As a school board, for example, we [donated over 145,000 pieces of personal protective equipment](#), including gloves, masks and more. Also, we have both [students](#) and [teachers](#) taking an initiating and innovative role in combating COVID-19

Each and every one of us has made a difference - in staying home as much as possible and following [public health guidelines](#). I know that this has meant making sacrifices.

To our graduating class of 2020, I know this is not the graduating year you had hoped for. I appreciate that the school closures will not affect your ability to graduate, however this unique situation and the need to postpone graduations has been disappointing. I remain tremendously proud of all of our graduates and look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you as soon as we are able to reschedule the graduation ceremonies.

In addition, I know that you have missed out on field trips, awards events, athletic banquets, spirit days, assemblies, our annual [Celebrating Student Success awards](#) and the many other ways we extend learning, connect as a community and celebrate the achievements of our students.

We have also been unable to gather together as we normally would in our schools and communities to celebrate or recognize important dates, including Sikh Heritage Month, Pesach, Good Friday, Easter (Western), Vaisakhi, Holy Friday, Orthodox Easter (Eastern), Ridvan, Jewish Heritage Month, Asian/South Asian Heritage Month, Ramadan, Pride, National Indigenous History Month, Italian Heritage Month and Portuguese Heritage Month. As a Board, these dates of significance are important for us to acknowledge and we will continue to celebrate and value the wealth of diversity in our community.

While this learn-at-home experience is unprecedented to all of our students, I trust and believe that this undesired but necessary extended school closure is prudent and best to our community, for the safety and well-being for the students we serve.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy summer. I look forward to a time when we can welcome your children back into our schools again. We know that families have questions about what the return to school will look like. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following public health guidelines and to stay connected.

**Ron LYNN**

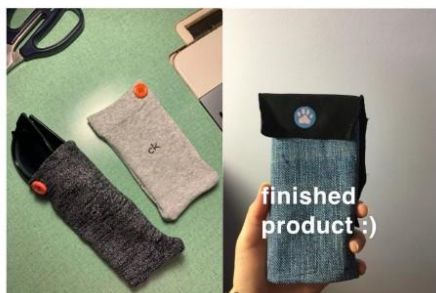
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**STUDENT AND STAFF VOICES**

**FAMILY STUDIES**

Students in Ms. Gupta's Grade 9 Individual and Family Living classes have been using their creativity and working on some upcycling projects. Students were to find clothing or fabrics from around the house and re-purpose it into something new. Here are some examples:

Phone and sunglasses pouches  
from socks and spare fabric



Turning a scarf into a teddy



Another teddy bear



A stuffed owl from a blanket and fabric scraps



Scrunchies made from old t-shirts



Face masks



A bucket hat out of old jeans



A drawstring bag  
out of a handkerchief





Turning an oversized shirt into a crop top



A tote bag out of an old t-shirt



### MARKVILLE STAFF AND SAC (STUDENT ACTIVITY COUNCIL)

In an effort to show students how much they are missed, the staff at Markville along with SAC have put together a little [video message](#). While you are at home practising social and physical distancing, remember that we are in this together, and we will get through this together! Stay healthy, stay positive, and enjoy the video message! This video was put together as part of the #don'trushchallenge.



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

#### IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT TIMETABLES FOR 2020-2021

Guidance is currently beginning to work on resolving timetable issues for next year.

**It is urgent that all students check their GAPPS email on a daily basis during the month of June for messages entitled: TIMETABLE CONFLICT.**

Guidance will be sending this message to students who have timetable issues. We will resolve them through either email communication or through a Google Meet format. However, we need each student to respond to our emails right away. Failure to check GAPPS emails may mean you will not get your choice of available courses because space may be taken up by other students. Delays can also affect your placement on waiting lists.

Next year's Grade 12 students who only want to drop a course and replace it with a spare can email their guidance counsellor directly at any time. **Currently, no other timetable changes can occur.**

Guidance appointments are not available for the week of June 8-12 due to timetable conflict work being done. However, any student with urgent concerns, questions or emotional issues are welcome to email their guidance counsellor at any time as those concerns will be prioritized.

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION REGARDING ANTI-BLACK RACISM

*I would like to update you on our commitment to anti-Black racism. Regrettably, anti-Black racism exists in Canada and in our communities. We know that racist incidents also occur in our schools and how we address them is critical in our work to reduce them and address systemic barriers. Discrimination and oppression of racialized individuals has occurred for hundreds of years. I believe we are in an historic period where the world is uniting to say oppression will not be tolerated further. York Region District School Board is raising its voice and reinforcing its commitment to equity in solidarity of this moment in time. [Click here](#) to access the rest of the letter.*



### JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

June has been chosen around the globe to recognize and celebrate our 2SLGBTQ+ communities (2 Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Questioning, + all other identities). Markville and many other YRDSB schools are flying the Pride Flag for the month of June. We would like to say that our schools are a safe space for our 2SLGBTQ+ students, however, we realize this isn't always the case. We are working on doing better and providing resources, safe spaces, and safe adults, for students to reach out to when they need help or just need to talk. Join in the celebration this month, by checking out this list of [all the virtual pride events happening in Canada this June](#).



**[IT'S ON! WE CELEBRATE: CLASS OF 2020](#)**

CTV and [WE](#) are presenting WE Celebrate: Class of 2020, a party for the ages that will give students back the opportunity to celebrate the end of the school year with their classmates, communities, and peers across Canada. WE Celebrate: Class of 2020 kicks off with a week-long virtual coast-to-coast-to-coast road trip across Canada to commemorate the social impacts students have made. culminating with the final stop – the biggest living room party of the school year airing Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm wherever CTV content can be found.

The one-hour special features a star-studded lineup delivering Canada's 2020 valedictorian addresses, one-of-a-kind performances, and heartfelt surprises to celebrate students and educators who have been making a difference throughout the school year and who continue to step up to support their communities during COVID-19.



#### **GRADUATION STAFF & COMMUNITY AWARDS APPLICATION**

Markville's graduation ceremony is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our grads including earning all credits necessary to graduate, school spirit, shining characters, and exceptional achievements. This year our ceremony has been postponed due to current events and we hope to celebrate our grads in the fall. Once we learn more information regarding what this celebration can look like, we will share with our grads and their families.

We are continuing to prepare for graduation which includes designating special awards to deserving students. [This link](#) has a list of "Staff & Community Award" descriptions and application forms. This document has also been shared on the graduation Google classroom for your child to access and can also be found under the [News & Events](#) tab on our website. **The deadline for students to apply for these awards is today, June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **ATTENTION GRADE 11 & 12s!**

On-line Dual Credit Summer courses are currently being offered by some of our College partners for students to take in July. All courses are being offered using an online delivery model.

Priority for the summer program will be given to students currently in Grade 12 who need one or two credits to graduate. However, any current senior student who faces challenges in graduating or who is in a SHSM (Specialist High School Major) or OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) can also apply (NOTE: SHSM and OYAP students will be placed on a waitlist before being approved).

See the flyer [here](#) for information on summer courses, dates, FAQs, etc. Students can apply here: <http://bit.ly/yrdbssummerdc> using their Gapps email, however, if interested, please reach out to a Guidance Counsellor before applying.

### GRADE 11 SHSM BUSINESS AND ICT STUDENTS!

In collaboration with York Universities' Yspace, YRDSB is pleased to offer: *Innovation Course IDC4U/40* again this summer!

Space for this unique opportunity is limited. Click [here](#) for more information and registration instructions. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Guidance Department.

### MESSAGE TO UNIVERSITY APPLICANTS

If you have not yet received an offer for university admission or are curious about what programs still have available spots, the [Admission Information Service \(AIS\)](#) opens on June 5, 2020.

The AIS allows Ontario high school students to determine **which universities have places remaining in specific programs**.

Visit the [OUAC website](#), on the [Undergrad \(101\) page](#) and select Search Open Programs to access the AIS, or review the Admission Information Service flyer for more information.



### YRDSB - SUPPORTING ONLINE LEARNING

While schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We know that learning at home looks different for each family. We have developed a number of resources and tips to help students and families, including:

- [How to log in and use online learning platforms](#), including Google, Edsby, and D2L. Short videos are also available.
- [Tips for families to support online learning](#).
- [Student Tech Help Form](#) for support with student technology provided by the Board and accessing online learning platforms.
- [Mental health](#) and [community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources](#) for students with special education needs.

To learn more about our Learning and Caring Plan, access these resources and more, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/covid19](http://www.yrdsb.ca/covid19). Google translate is available on our website. YRDSB has also sent out an anonymous [survey](#) this week for input on the Learning and Caring Plan. Please share your thoughts and experiences, both students and parents / guardians may complete the survey.

### ONLINE SAFETY WEBINARS FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS AND SCHOOL LEADERS



The Ontario Principal's Council, in collaboration with the Healthy Relationships Project, is offering some online safety webinars for parents / guardians to share strategies in response to cyberbullying and cyberviolence in schools and on social media. These webinars are free but do require you to register.

- [Navigating Cyberbullying and Cyberviolence for Parents/Guardians of Grades 7-12 Students](#)
  - June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm – 3:00pm OR June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

### **COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

YRDSB has put together a page on their website dedicated to resources to support the mental health of students and their families. If you have concerns about the mental health of your child(ren) or yourself, please do not hesitate to reach out for help.

## **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 →**

### **SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ONTARIO**



**Do you have questions about how to support student mental health during the COVID-19 response? We've put together some answers.**

**Learn More**



## COVID 19 GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESOURCES

How to Wear a Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering Properly:



## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT – PUBLIC HEALTH



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## **Take Care of Yourself and Each Other**

Physical distancing will help limit the spread of COVID-19, but it may also lead to changes in the ways you connect with others. Physical distancing does not necessarily mean becoming socially isolated. Find new ways to connect with others and practice self-care during this time. For the list of resources that support mental health see [Resources for Ontarians Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions Issues during the Pandemic.](#)

### **Keep in touch**

- If you are able to, use technology to communicate with your friends and family. Make phone calls, send texts and have video chats.
- If you are well, be creative when connecting with neighbours. Speak to them over a fence or from your balcony, while keeping two metres (or 6 feet) apart.
- Leave a message of support in your window, yard or condo message board.



### CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides \$2000 per month for Canadians who have lost employment, have significantly reduced hours of work, or are unable to work due to COVID-19. Eligibility requirements have changed over the past few weeks, opening up to many more people. Check the link above if you are eligible to receive this benefit. The CERB is taxable income, however, no tax will be taken off at the time the payments are distributed.

### CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT

The federal government has officially passed the new [Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act](#) into legislation. Students attending post-secondary, or who have recently graduated from post-secondary, and students who graduate secondary school in 2020 who have applied and intend to begin post-secondary by Feb., 2021, will be eligible for \$1250 per month from May – August or \$2000 per month for students with dependents or a disability. Students must be willing to and looking for work, but unable to find a job due to COVID-19. The federal government has also increased funding to the Canada Student Summer Jobs program, which will provide 100% of funding for 76,000 student jobs this summer. Post-Secondary students can [apply](#) through their CRA My Account starting May 15<sup>th</sup>. **High School students who will be eligible to graduate in June, may apply for the benefit for July and August.**

## STRESS RELIEF

### THEATRE IN PLACE

Theater in Place is an online, interactive theater for children (and adults) of all ages, and those who love adventures – featuring actors and circus performers from around the world.

Theater in Place is performing original skits based on classic and timeless stories, such as Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, and Sherlock Holmes.

Children and adults can watch, solve puzzles and riddles, participate (if they choose) in challenges, and have multiple chances to win valuable prizes.



### DISCOVER ONTARIO – VIRTUAL TOURS AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Travel through time and across borders. Ride a rollercoaster, dive into shark infested waters, explore the world of science and discovery and admire great works of art. All without leaving your home. Until

physical travel is safe again, satisfy your family's wanderlust with a daily dose of digital art, culture, and entertainment. Here is just a small sample of where you can virtually visit:



**CCM FROM  
HOME** 

At-home printables, activities,  
resources & more!



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

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