

Parent/Guardian Community E-Bulletin



Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin

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January 31st, 2025

Please keep in mind any information provided in this bulletin is subject to change and is accurate at the time of distribution.

Message from Our Trustee

February 2025

Welcome to the start of the second half of the school year.

Congratulations to secondary school students who have completed exams and culminating activities and are ready to start a new semester, and to elementary school students for all their hard work in the first term. I want to remind families that when report cards are available, you can now access your child's report card through the [Family Dashboard](#).

For students looking at [course selection](#) for next year, the [Experience YRDSB pages](#) on our website will let you explore the areas that interest you and learn more about the courses, programs and opportunities available in your secondary school.

At the end of January, we recognized [Lunar New Year](#), commemorating the first day of the Lunar calendar. Throughout the month, we also recognized [Tamil Heritage Month](#). In February, we recognize Black History Month, I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#) for upcoming events to celebrate Black excellence and recognize the contributions made by Black Canadians. You can also find information about other upcoming significant dates and events for families.

The [Student Trustee election process](#) is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Student Trustees play an essential role in our system, representing student voices at the Board table when we are making important decisions, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to our discussions. I would like to congratulate all of the students

who put their names forward for the position and encourage all students in Grades 5-12 to take the time to vote.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank current Student Trustees Hayden Lai and Mitusaan Kugathasan and Indigenous Student Trustee Natalie Pitawanakwat for their hard work, leadership and commitment to student voice.

As a Board of Trustees, we have several important roles that affect the daily life in our schools and Board.

One of those responsibilities is to set the [policies](#) that govern the operation of schools in YRDSB. Policies cover important topics, such as [assessment and evaluation](#), [field trips](#), [homework](#), [dress code](#), [caring and safe schools](#), [health supports](#), [student leadership](#) and more.

We regularly review Board policies to ensure they are updated and reflect the current context, [priorities](#) and needs of our community and system. An important part of this process is inviting feedback from the community, including families. You can find a [list of all policies and those currently out for comment](#) on our Board website and I encourage you to take a look.

Trustees are also responsible for setting the Board [budget](#). As we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 school year budget, we will be once again reaching out to families and inviting you to share your input and feedback. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it; your voice is an important part of the process.

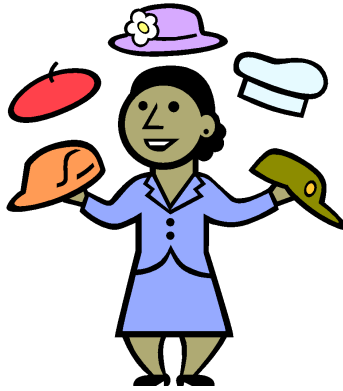
We are also working through the District Action Plan to reflect and align with the new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan outlines how we will achieve the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan and focus on serving all students.

I wish everyone all the best as we go into the second half of the school year.

Ed Law

Trustee, Markham Wards 3 and 4

Co-op Spotlight



From the Cooperative Education Department!

In this edition of the newsletter, the Co-op department would like to answer some FAQ's about the program:

What is Co-op?

Co-op is a unique program for Grade 11 and 12 students to experience a career choice while earning either two or four elective credits. Students can be at a Co-op placement for either half of the day (2 credits) or for the full day (4 credits). A Co-op teacher will work with students to find a placement that suits the individual's interests and abilities. The teacher is there to support the student every step of the way!

What are the benefits of this program?

Explore a career interest now to make informed choices for post-secondary destinations. **In doing so, students add valuable career experience to their resume, make connections in their chosen profession/trade, and network within the industry.** Many post-secondary institutions require a certain amount of hours and experience before students can apply to their programs. Students also gain resume, interview and communication skills that will give them a competitive edge now and in the future.

What is OYAP?

OYAP is the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and is offered through the Co-op program. **Students who are interested in working in a skilled trade join the Co-op program first and can then apply for OYAP.** If a student qualifies for OYAP, all hours worked can count towards an apprenticeship upon graduation.

How do students sign up for the program?

Students can sign up for Co-op like any other course. **During course selection week in February, select Co-op on myPathwayPlanner.** Once students have signed up, they will be sent a package to complete and scheduled for an interview for April/May. Students are screened for aptitude, ability and suitability for the placement request.

During January and the beginning of February, the Co-op teachers gave presentations in all Grade 10 Careers and Civics classes about applying to the Co-op/OYAP program for Grade 11 or Grade 12. **If you would like more information about the program, please see our school website or contact Ms. Vrensen, Department Head of Community Based Education at kimberly.vrensen@yrdsb.ca.**

What do the students say?

Looking back over this past semester, I have a great amount of new knowledge. One of the most important things I know now is what the atmosphere in a pharmacy is like and how these establishments run. I think this is important because I can transfer this knowledge and newfound skills into any future healthcare work setting I find myself in. I am hoping to keep in touch with my supervisor to continue taking up the occasional shift! **--Diya Rangrej, former Grade 11 Pharmacy Co-op Student**



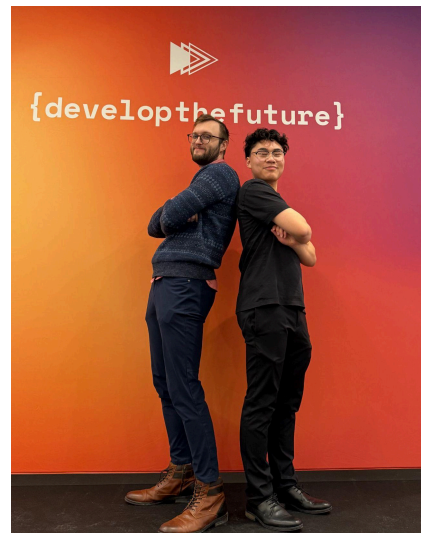
Although there is a saying that “all good things must come to an end,” I disagree as this Co-op experience is an advancement to secure my future: my full scope of understanding of this healthcare occupation, my trusted relationship with the staff, or the immense experience I have gained. All in all, my time at my Co-op placement has been extremely eye-opening, and I can only believe that this was the best way for me to truly gain this experience.

--Inniya Umaibalan, former Grade 11 Medical Clinic Co-op Student

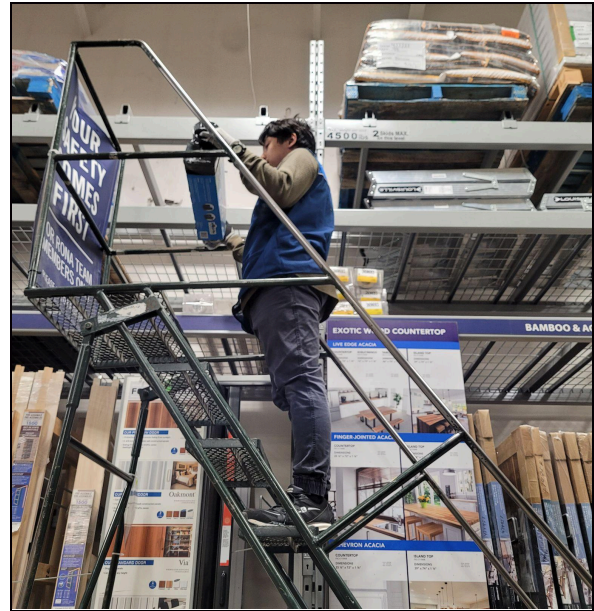


Placement Photos from this Past Semester

Apple/CEC



Rona



Dog Groomer



MSH - Therapeutic Recreation



Automotive



Dentistry



Message from Guidance

Apologies, it's a LOT of info, but all important:).....

FAMILY NIGHT WEBINAR SERIES

The next Family Night presentation is quickly approaching on **February 5th @ 6:30pm**, to support families in **Course Selection** for next year. This is a big one. We will start right on time. Please join a few minutes early. **The link to the February 5th presentation** will be found on [Family Night Agenda](#), and includes information on Closed Captioning in a preferred language. Students will receive Course Selection information assemblies during school hours on February 7th and 10th.

COURSE SELECTION - FOR NEXT YEAR:

Course Selection will be open in [myBlueprint/myPathwayPlanner](#) for submission on **February 13, closing on February 21, 2025**. Students can enter courses at any point now, but **MUST** be locked in by February 21st. There is no advantage to submitting

early, so please make your selection carefully, as elective changes (unless pathway changes) can be incredibly challenging.

IMPORTANT: Students in **Grade 10 and 11** should be exploring Post-Secondary interests to review program requirements, so as to be able to choose potentially required Grade 11&12 pre-requisite courses in February for next year's **Course Selection**. Course selection options/information can be found [here](#) on the Guidance website, as well as reviewing post-secondary information and links [here](#). Gr 11 research information can be examined [here](#), as well as a presentation that was delivered to Grade 10s [here](#) (scroll down in the link). Courses must be locked in by February 21st. Course selection tips and advice will be shared at the **February 5th Family Night webinar**, and many questions answered. Families making decisions about Math, in particular, may want to start to review the [Guidance Math Pathway information document](#).

Guidance will open soon after Semester 2 begins, to start meeting with families to assist with course selection. Families are welcome to join by video link, but students must be in person. Families can book via the [TeachAssist Parent Portal](#) (see appt [instructions](#), if needed). If requiring a link, please [email the counsellor](#) to let them know. We also suggest families book 2 appts in a row, as you often have excellent questions that take up more time than just one slot:)

COURSE CHANGES - SEMESTER 2:

Waitlists for courses begin in June after the timetable has been built, ensuring students who did not get a preferred course have first dibs when a course opens up. Additionally, Guidance continues to monitor, honour, and add to the waitlists in the very first week of school, *all the way up to the start of semester 2*, as it is important to us to try to meet the changing needs of students in all ways that we can. At this time, adding to a waitlist for all grades is closed, and there is no more possible movement in Gr 9 and 10. Grade 11 and 12 students received a list of available seats and were given a final opportunity to make changes. **For course must-haves in Semester 2 at this late date, students will be encouraged to work with a counsellor to find ways to support their needs.** For students who were

unsuccessful in a *compulsory course* in Semester 1, families are encouraged to connect with Guidance for planning, if this has not yet occurred.

NIGHT SCHOOL – SEMESTER 2:

YRDSB Sem 2 Night School registration is still Open, however many courses now have waitlists. Students **must register on myBlueprint, as well as complete a [Google form](#) that provides Guardian consent**. No registrations will be approved without both MBP and the form being completed. Students can review YRDSB [course options](#). **The first night of class is Thursday, February 13, 2025** and the program **ends Thursday, June 5, 2025**. Please be advised that the Night School program (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a *remote* learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

Students can also look into Night School course options at other Boards. Their registration deadlines and process will each be different. Students wishing to register externally would need to review the process for receiving permissions and seek Guidance support.

POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION

Applications to OCAS (Ontario Colleges) are due February 1st. Be sure if applying, that your student chooses the max of 5 programs and a start date of September 2025.

For Gr 12 students – as Semester 1 comes to a close, please ensure that any **Private School or alternative Board report cards** are submitted to Markville Guidance. Private schools must upload to OUAC/OCAS, but the course does not count towards a student Transcript, unless MSS uploads the report card. Private schools can email counsellors directly; TDSB, etc would need to be provided via the student. The OUAC / OCAS upload will occur on February 13th. After this date, students in external Public Board Night School will need to walk into Guidance to ensure their courses are visible in the system. Sem 2 Private courses must be made visible by the Private schools.

Guidance will present to Gr 12 students on **Accepting Your Offer** on **February 24th @ 3:30** virtually. We will post reminders in the Guidance Google Classroom. Our last presentation will be to students/families on **March 19th @ 6:30 pm** regarding **Funding Your Education – OSAP, etc.** via Family Night Webinar.

JANUARY STUDENT WELLNESS *Spotlight* **Quick mindfulness strategies and audio recordings to help manage stress and anxiety**

Many students in our school will be writing final exams for the first time next month. This can be a stressful and overwhelming experience for many. Access short audio recordings to help your child/student manage the many emotions they may be experiencing at this time of year as they prepare for final exams and assignments.

[Newsletter Translation Instructions](#)

Have a great weekend and good luck to those studying for exams!
Your Guidance Team~



KIDS HELP PHONE
1-800-668-6868
686868
KIDSHELPPHONE.CA

YSSN YOUR SUPPORT SERVICES NETWORK
1-855-310-COPE (2673)

Suicide Prevention Canada
Call 988
Text 988

Black Youth Helpline
1-833-294-8650

youthline
25 YEARS OF YOUTH RESILIENCE
647-694-4275

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

QR code linking to mental health resources



MSS Mental
Health Resource

This is a mental health resource that will appear in the E-Bulletin weekly that was created by past and present Markville students.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zxvp0ngpV22ikM7Fow2FNIMxX2wErCF5/view?usp=sharing>

Markville Guidance Website Wellness Page:

<https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/markvilleguidance/wellness>

TRANSLATE A DOCUMENT USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE - How-To Video

School Notices

Upcoming Dates

February 3rd	Semester 2 starts
February 17th	Mandatory Holiday: Family Day
February 19th	Grad photos (missed/new students)

Community Opportunities Site!

We would like to remind you of our [Community Opportunities Site](#) linked to our school home page where students, families and all community members can access up-to-date information about workshops, seminars, scholarships and more.

The screenshot shows the Markville Secondary School website. The header includes the school's name and logo, along with navigation links for Markville S.S., School Information, News & Events, Departments, Specialty Programs, Parents, Students, Guidance, Library, and School Council. A Google Translate button is visible. The main content area features a calendar for November 3rd, 6th, and 8th, with events like SR Boys Volleyball Tour, Cross Country Team Of, Varsity Hockey Game, and SR Boys Volleyball Play. A central image shows students holding books, with the text 'Grade 8 Information Sessions' overlaid. To the right, contact information is provided, including the address (1000 Carlton Rd., Markham), phone, fax, email, and bell times. Below the contact information are icons for School News, Trustee Message, and a Community Opportunities icon. A 'teachassist' icon is also present. At the bottom, there is a form for parents/guardians to subscribe to electronic communications.

Markville S.S.

Friday, 3 November
7:45am SR Boys Volleyball Tour
12:00pm Cross Country Team Of

Monday, 6 November
Guidance Event: Gr 12 Post Second
1:40pm Varsity Hockey Game @
2:20pm SR Boys Volleyball Play

Wednesday, 8 November
OSSLT Days (Library)
Sem 1 Term 1 Ends
8:00am JR Boys Volleyball Tour

Contact Information
1000 Carlton Rd., Markham L3P 7P5
Phone: (905) 940-8840, (647) 795-7652
Fax: (905) 940-8895
Email: markville.ss@yrdsb.ca
Bell Times: 8:20 AM - 3:00 PM

Grade 8 Information Sessions

Community Opportunities

Parents/Guardians: Enter your e-mail address to subscribe to electronic communications of a commercial nature.
You may also choose to unsubscribe at anytime.

Clicking on this **Community Opportunities** icon will bring families to a webpage with up-to-date links to YRDSB sponsored events and resources for students, families and community members.

*****UPDATED WEEKLY*****

YRDSB Communications

[Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - February 2025 | York Region District School Board](#)



**MARCH BREAK CAMP 2025 IN
MARKHAM AND RICHMOND HILL**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you 15 or above? Passionate about education and community programs? Have good communication and leadership skills?
Volunteer with us today!

March 10 - 14, 2025 from 8 am - 4 pm
Doncrest Public School (Richmond Hill) &
Markham Public Library

Register Today!

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE!



The sign-up sheet is [here](#) and flyers are attached.