Parent/Guardian Community E-Bulletin

Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin

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January 20th, 2023

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

ComSci & clubs Spotlight
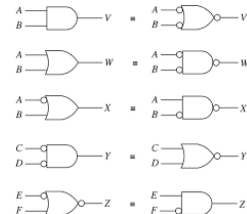
Computer Science

Throughout the first semester of the 2022/23 school year, many of our Markville students are involved in various competitions and Computer Science-related clubs. These clubs are all student-led and are running in virtual environments once a week.

Computer Science Competitions

Canadian Computing Competition: On February 15th, many of our students will be participating in the annual programming competition organized by University of Waterloo. Since September, many of these participants have been spending every Friday after school in the Computer Science Education club preparing for this competition. We wish them all the best of luck!

American Computer Science League: From November to May, this is a competition that runs globally, along with over 3000 other students across the world. Through four rounds of competitions, 60 of our students learn about topics such as number systems, digital electronics, Lisp programming, and graph theory. This opportunity allows students to discover and explore various Computer Science and Engineering-related topics.

Computer Science Club

Computer Science Education Club: The main goal of this club is to prepare students for the Canadian Computing Competition (CCC) hosted by Waterloo in February. The club has two divisions respective to the junior and senior divisions of the CCC, with the junior requiring no previous programming experience. The senior club focuses on advanced concepts that are necessary to succeed in the competition.
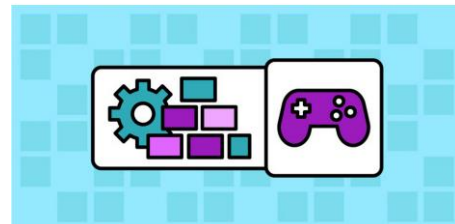
App and Web Development Club: This club teaches web and app development skills to prepare them for the real-world with in-demand software engineering skills. Students begin by building websites with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, before diving deeper with React and React Native. They'll also learn about effective design, version control in a team environment, and more. The club aims to instill a passion for software development in students and to display their work on GitHub and app stores.

Cybersecurity Club: Students are trained in a variety of information security concepts, from cracking ciphers to reversing programs to hacking login forms. Students practice fun challenges designed to introduce cybersecurity to beginners, in preparation for the annual two-week Canhack competition held in March. Aside from cybersecurity, a lot of skills students learn in the club are applicable and useful for other computer science-related studies, such as software development and digital forensics.

Game Development Club: This club involves creating games using Unity. Students are taught the basics on using this program, and by the end of the school year, everyone in the club will collaborate to create a larger-scaled game project.
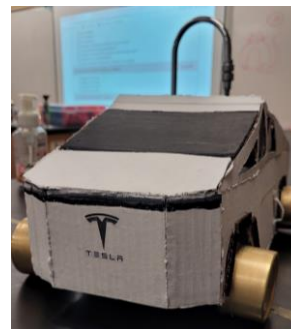
Science Spotlight

Science students across all grades continue to be actively engaged in their development as every day and professional scientists! They have participated in learning and activities that have challenged them to think critically, take risks, and explore important issues such as climate change. Our students have also benefited from the wisdom and expertise of various guest speakers that facilitated workshops at Markville. Here are some highlights from this semester!
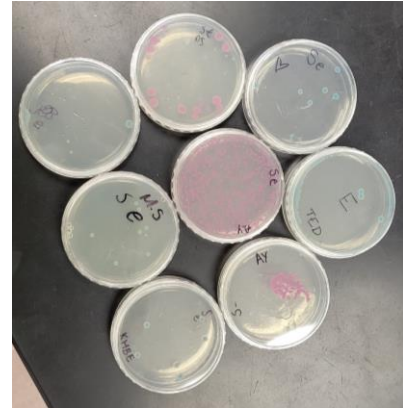

In October, Jack, Sarah, and Hiruni from A&J Energy Consultants spoke to our Grade 9 students about high performance homes. Jack demonstrated the use of HOT2000, a tool used in the housing industry to determine the energy efficiency of homes. Sarah and Hiruni introduced the students to various jobs in the housing industry. Hiruni is also an alumna of Markville! Using what they have learned in this workshop and in the course, the grade 9 students are now designing their own sustainable home as their culminating project.

In December, students in Grade 10 completed a project using the Climate Action Kits. Their goal was to build an automatic seed planter to help combat deforestation. They embraced the engineering design process as they constructed multiple prototypes before finalizing their designs. Each group's seed planter was also specific to a particular biome and climate region. Students collectively celebrated as they watched their code and hardware come to life in their final products!

Furthermore, Grade 11 Chemistry students participated in a workshop offered by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and its Watershed on Wheels program. Students worked in small groups to clean dirty water. They learned about the importance and value of clean water along with the issues and costs associated with cleaning polluted water. This workshop engaged students in exploring some of the causes, solutions, and alternatives to these issues!

In Grade 12 Biology, students conducted hands-on, cutting-edge genetic engineering experiments as part of their biotechnology studies for their molecular genetics unit. In one particular activity, students were tasked with getting their bacterial cells to accept genetically engineered plasmids that were programmed with a gene that would exhibit a specific color. In genetic engineering, this process is called 'transformation' and can be quite tricky to do. If the bacteria have successfully transformed, the colonies on the petri dish will exhibit various colors!

All of the teachers in the science department wish their students good luck and great success on semester 1 culminating tasks and final exams and look forward to welcoming a new group of students as they continue to explore concepts and applications of science in semester 2.

Message from Guidance

FAMILY NIGHT WEBINAR SERIES: The next Family Webinar evening will be on **January 25th @ 6:30**, where Markville staff will present information on **Markville's Specialty Programs**. This webinar will include information on **Co-operative Education (Co-op), Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), Dual Credit and Advanced Placement (Pre-AP & AP).** This presentation will be particularly relevant to f*amilies with students entering Gr 11 & 12*, and is strategically placed prior to February's Course Selection timelines.
The link to this presentation can be found on Family Night Agenda (includes instructions for Closed Captioning), which can always be accessible on the Markville Guidance website's Family Night Page.

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION
Our next **Family Night Webinar**, **"Course Selection"** has been changed in format to meet the needs of as many parents/guardians as possible. It had been scheduled as a live presentation on February 1st but we have decided to **pre-record** this important presentation and **post it on the Markville website so it can be viewed at your convenience** during the early days of February. Students will receive a **Course Selection Presentation** through a live assembly during school hours on February 10th either in period 1 or period 2.

All Students must complete their course selections in **My Pathway Planner (MyBlueprint)** between **Thursday, February 16th at 9 am until Friday, February 24th at 4:00 pm**. It is urgent that students do not miss this deadline. Course selection will be locked after this time. Students who are not returning to Markville next year because they are moving to another board or are graduating must click on the **"NOT RETURNING"** feature on My Pathway

Planner. There is no benefit to being first to submit, so please choose carefully, and where needed, speak to teachers, as well as Guidance.

POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION:
Applications to OCAS (Ontario Colleges) are due February 1st. Be sure if applying, that your student chooses 5 programs and a start date of September 2023.

NIGHT SCHOOL / ONLINE LEARNING (grades 11 and 12)
Please note that students can only register for YRDSB Continuing Education courses (Night School or eLearning) **if we are UNABLE to schedule the credit at Markville.**

Night school at YRDSB runs virtually through 2 models. The **synchronous (real time) session is now open for student registration on MyBlueprint.** The **online learning/asynchronous night school session will open for registration on January 31** also on MyBlueprint.
In order to obtain parent/guardian consent for night school registration and to address any changes to your current Markville timetable, **students registering for night school must complete this Google Form, in addition to registering on MyBlueprint**
Registration Form for Approval
Remember a full course load is a total of 4 courses in a semester. If you are signing up for night school, you may need to drop a day school course to maintain a manageable course load. Remember that if we can schedule a course for you, we cannot approve it for night school.

Night school synchronous classes are held on **Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:45 pm, and begin February 21st, 2023.**
Before the start of the program, students will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class on the first day. YRDSB students will log in with their GAPPS accounts.

Happy weekend!
Your Guidance Team~

School Notices

Exam Schedule

Period 1 Exam	January 26 (9AM Start)
Period 2 Exam	January 27 (9AM Start)
Period 3 Exam	January 30 (9AM Start)
Period 4 Exam	January 31 (9AM Start)
Period 5 Exam	February 1 (9AM Start)

Upcoming Dates

Jan 22	Lunar New Year
Jan 23	Lost and Found Tables (Atrium)
Jan 23-27	Grade 8 Guidance Visits
Jan 24	School Council in Library (2nd Floor) (7:00 - 8:30 pm)
Jan 25	Guidance Family Night: Specialty Programs (CO-OP, SHSM, etc.) (6:30 – 7:30pm)
Jan 26 - Feb 1	Exams/Culminating Days
Feb 2	Exam/Culminating Review Day
Feb 3	PA Day (School closed to students)
Feb 10	Lunar New Year Variety Show (3:15 - 4:45pm)
Feb 13	Grad Photo Retake Day

Let's Talk Day

In acknowledgement of "Let's Talk" day on Wednesday January 25, 2023, the Mental Health Team has gathered resources that can support child and youth mental health. Let's Talk and reduce the stigma by promoting awareness and understanding!

YRDSB Resources

- Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy
- Your child(ren)'s School Social Work and Psychology Professionals
- Mental Health Newsletters
- YRDSB Mental Health Resources

Resources to Support Families at Home

- School Mental Health Ontario- Parents and Caregivers, Talking to your child about Mental Health, Fun Activities for Home
- Understanding Mental Health Concerns
- At Home Field Trips Building Coping Skills

External Resources

- Collaborative Relationships with External Services for Mental Health
- Catholic Community Services of York Region- Farsi speaking Counseling Services, Settlement Services in Schools, Youth Employment Support
- Family Services of York Region- Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Mandarin/Cantonese, Punjabi speaking Counseling (Individual, Group) and Parenting Programs
- Family Services of York Region- Groups for Parents and Youth
- York Hills- Calendar for Parent Webinars, Here to help line (Single Session Counseling Services)
- LGBTQ Resources in York Region
- Parents for Children's Mental Health

Mental Health Education- Videos and Webinars

- Video: What is Mental Health
- Video: How Mindfulness Affects our Thinking
- Video: It's Not about the Nail- Understanding Validation for your child
- Webinars provided by Psychology Canada: Various Mental Health Topics

When
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 - 00:00 to Wednesday, January 25, 2023 - 23:59

CF CF Markville ∨

Visit us and experience our new immersive and vibrant décor display, inspired by Singapore Marina Bay's Supertrees for Lunar New Year.

The installation is located in Centre Court from by Uniqlo January 13 - February 7.

Musical Performances
Enjoy live music during the two weeks leading up to our event date. We will be joined by members of the Toronto Chinese Orchestra on the following dates:

Friday, January 13th from 4-6 PM
Saturday, January 14th from 2-4 pm
Friday, January 20th from 4-6 pm
Saturday, January 21st from 2-4 pm

Join us on **Sunday, January 22 at 2 PM** in Centre Court to enjoy a festive Lunar New Year celebration hosted by A1 Radio's Happy Trio – Winnie, Anthony, and Tyrone.

The exclusive event will include a traditional Lion dance, special theatrical singing performances, God of Fortune, and so much more.

Traditional Lion Dance
Symbolizes good fortune and energy at the beginning of the new year.

Theatrical Dance Performance
Enjoy an unforgettable theatrical dance performance by Palace Banquet in Tang Dynasty showcasing traditional cultural heritage with dance and music bringing the history alive.

God of Fortune
Meet the God of Fortune as he shares his wealth and luck with the community to kick off the new year.

Centre court is located on the lower level by Uniqlo.

Happy Lunar New Year! We wish you a joyful and prosperous new year!