

Parent/Guardian Community E-Bulletin



Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin

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January 27th, 2023

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 2023

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is **communicating with the public**. I hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate my role as trustee and how I can support you, and to answer some of the questions I am often asked as a trustee.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families, but also ensuring I am available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. I am happy to assist you.

As I settle in my new role, I look forward to visit our schools in the coming weeks and meet in person our staff and parent councils to make myself available to them for any support.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of 12 trustees elected during the municipal election process, and one Indigenous trustee appointed through a separate process. As one of the new trustees, I am looking forward to connecting with families and fulfilling my roles to support student achievement and well-being.

What do Trustees Do?

In addition to communicating with the public, we are also responsible for:

Establishing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This [plan](#) sets out our priorities as a school board and guides our direction and decision making as a system.

Setting policy. [Policies](#) govern the operation of our schools and organization, including field trips, school transportation, homework, caring and safe schools and much more. You can find out which policies are up for review in our [meeting agendas](#), or which [policies are out for comment](#) on the website. Your participation in this process is important to ensuring our policies are serving our communities and align with our priorities.

Setting an annual budget. I look forward to sharing more information about this process with you in the coming months as we engage in [budget](#) consultations.

Participating on Board and Advisory Committees. You can find the dates and agendas for these meetings on the Board website. You are welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory and Board Committee meetings](#).

Hiring the Director of Education. This process is governed by the [Director of Education Selection Policy](#), and we will keep you updated as this process progresses. In the meantime, I am deeply grateful to Interim Director of Education Scott Yake for his commitment and service.

Advocating for quality public education. I became a school board trustee because I believe in public education. I believe in the potential of each and every one of our students and our responsibility to nurture their learning, growth and achievement. Our decisions as a board are centred on our commitment to deliver the best for our students.

What's Happening in YRDSB

[Kindergarten](#) registration opened January 20 for families with children who will start Kindergarten in September 2023.

[French Immersion registration](#) is open from January 20-February 6 for students entering Grade 1 in September 2023.

[Student trustee elections](#) are currently underway. All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the student trustees who will represent them next school year.

In February, we recognize Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black people to the fabric of our society. I encourage you to visit the Board's [Centre for Black Student Excellence webpage](#) and [newsletter](#) to learn more about upcoming events during Black History Month and what's happening in the Board to celebrate Black excellence.

Family Day and the March Break are also approaching and we hope everyone enjoys the break.

There are a number of other events for families coming up and I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#).

New Schools

One of the other questions I am asked, particularly in growing communities is about new schools or capital projects. I can let you know that in our municipality the following [capital projects](#) have received approval:

- [Markham Centre Elementary School](#), proposed to open September 2026

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in our school board. Visit the [newsroom](#) or website homepage at www.yrdsb.ca. Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow the Board on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#). Read your school newsletters and emails. I look forward to staying connected with you.

Ed Law

Trustee, Markham Wards 3 and 4

FP@MSS Spotlight

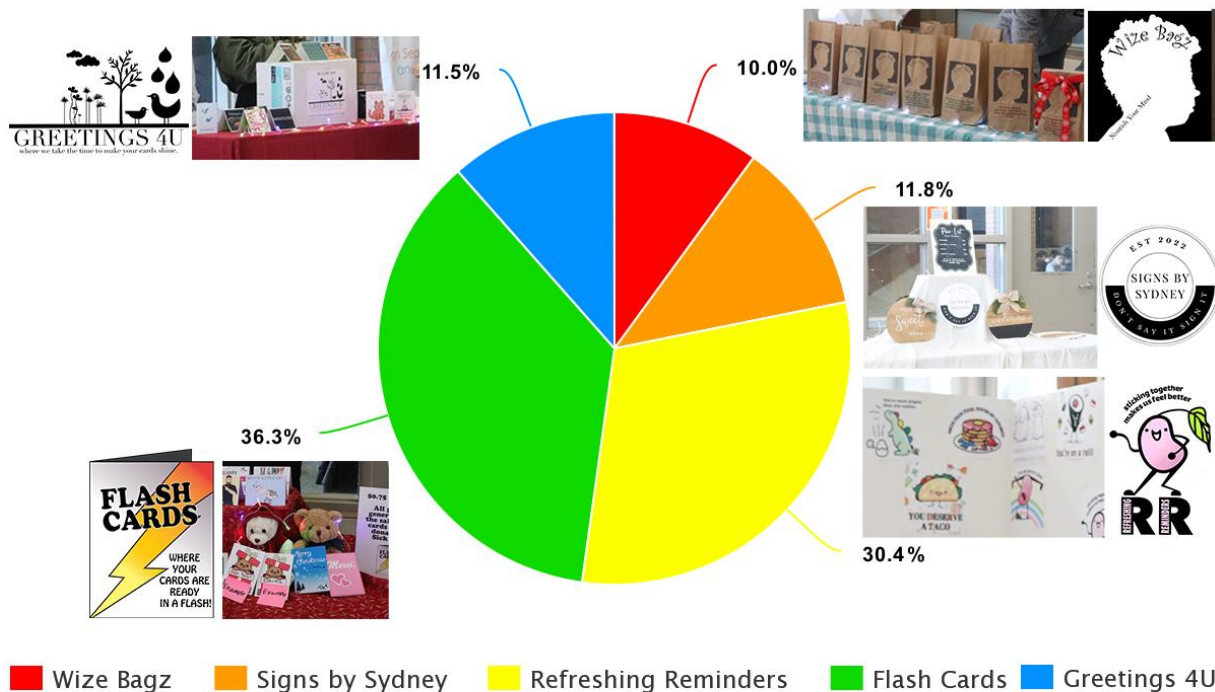
In December 2022, Flash Print @ MSS hosted 8 ventures who offered design services and sold their goods in the atrium over 10 lunch periods. 5 of the 8 ventures posted strong profits. These ventures sold stickers, home décor/signs, greeting cards and special paper bags. Exercising their customer service skills and persevering

through the two weeks of sales and production, student entrepreneurs raised a total of \$203.05. This profit will be donated to Sick Kids Hospital on behalf of these 5 ventures and Markville Secondary School.

To extend this entrepreneurial journey at Flash Print, and to conclude the semester, Ms. Joanna Bull, YRDSB's Experiential Learning Consultant, has been invited to visit MSS. She will inform students about an entrepreneurial grant that YRDSB is offering. Students will not only learn how to access this grant but also have an opportunity for Ms. Bull to assess some of the ideas that students may already have.

This session will occur at Flash Print (portable 2) on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023** at **1:45 PM to 3:00 PM**. In order to attend this session, FP@MSS and SHSM students must complete a field trip form (space is limited). Check the SHSM Google Classroom or come by Flash Print.

Donation by Percentage by Ventures that Posted Profits



Tamil Students Association Spotlight

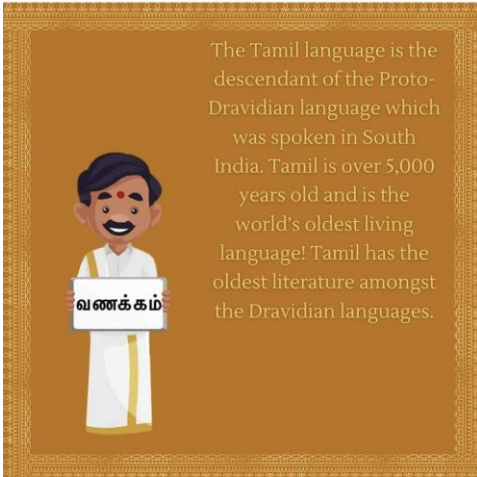
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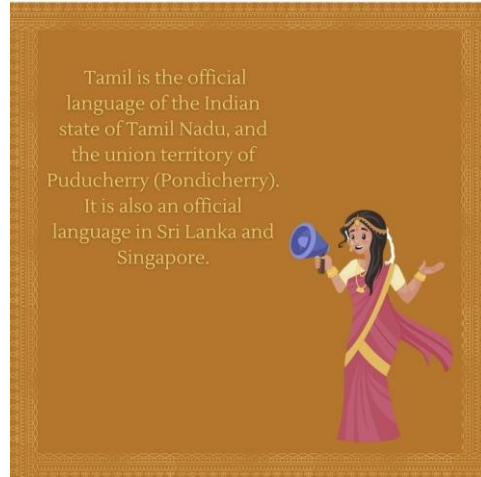
Tamil Heritage Month happens yearly during the month of January, to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Tamil people, as well as various aspects of Tamil culture and history. This month is especially significant because it is an opportunity for Tamils across Canada to connect with their rich culture and history, and to pay tribute to the traditions, values, and customs that have been passed down from generation to generation. It is also a time to commemorate achievements made by Tamil-Canadians. This month, Markville's TSA created a social media campaign on their Instagram page, @markvilletsa. Each week, members of the TSA created posts to educate others about the Tamil language, as well as important cultural

celebrations such as Thai Pongal. During the final week of Tamil Heritage Month, students created a spotlight series. Tamil students and teachers from Markville were invited to share their experiences about being Tamil. Markville's TSA hopes to continue showcasing the knowledge and lived experiences of those within the Tamil culture!

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markvilletsa



Message from Guidance

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Just a quick reminder for all students who are applying for college admission for the 2023-24 school year, the deadline for application is Wednesday, February 1st. Students can come to the guidance office during exams if you are having any trouble with your application.

FAMILY NIGHT WEBINAR SERIES

We would like to thank all families who attended our last Family Webinar evening on **January 25th** where we presented information on **Markville's Specialty Programs**. Many thanks to Ms. Vrensen, Ms. Shah, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Liu for sharing this information with families.

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. We will **pre-record this presentation** and **post it on the Markville website** so it can be viewed at your convenience. It will be posted on **Friday, February 10th** which is the **same day on which Guidance will be conducting grade assemblies to review the Course Selection process live at school with all students**. **These assemblies will occur during period 1 for Grade 9 and Grade 11 students and period 2 for Grade 10 students.**

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**.

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.

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. **We have been informed that there will be very few spaces available for online/asynchronous night school.** In order to obtain parent/guardian consent for night school registration **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.

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

Upcoming Dates

Jan 26 - Feb 2	Exams/Culminating Days
Feb 3	PA Day (School closed to students)
Feb 6	Exam/Culminating Review Day
Feb 10	Grade Course Selection Presentations
Feb 10	Lunar New Year Variety Show (3:15 - 4:45pm)
Feb 13	Grad Photo Retake Day

markville's

PEER TUTORING

is back!

drop-in also offered!
*no sign-up required

for 1-on-1 tutoring

QR code for 1-on-1



request a tutor:

bit.ly/msspeertutor2022

rooms **308/311**
mon & thur: p3/p4
tue & wed: p3

Social Media of the Week



Study Skills for Exams From Algonquin College Libraries

Skills Categories



Time Management



Stress Management



Studying & Test-Taking



Reading & Note-Taking



Presentation Skills



Career & Program
Choice



Resilience



Sleep



Group Project



Studying in Groups

<https://algonquincollege.libguides.com/studyskills/home>

YRDSB Communications



Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Guardian/Parent Engagement Event

Advocacy and Allyship

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

1. Understanding and Challenging our Bias

Learn how to understand and challenge our biases. Challenge our Comfort Zones in order to change and grow in a positive direction. Connect with other parents and caregivers and share our ideas and experiences.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: January 31st 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2. Recognizing and Responding to Hate

Learn how to recognize and respond to hate and discrimination, through looking at data, talking through examples and further understanding bias.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: February 22nd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

3. Becoming an Ally

Learn how to become an ally through engaging and listening to lived experiences of discrimination and hate.

Presented by: Soha Mohammad from Working Women

When: March 22nd 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Registration at <http://bit.ly/3VZpttx>

Registration closes: January 27th, 2023

Please reach out to Harpinder Kaur or Kenzie Wass if you have any questions Harpinder.kaur@yrdsb.ca, Kenzie.Wass@yrdsb.ca



**Inclusive School and Community Services
Parent/Guardian Virtual Workshops**

Poverty in York Region 2023

All parents, guardians and staff are welcome to attend any **or all** of the free virtual workshops about poverty, housing rights and resources in York Region.

1. Making Ends Meet during COVID, Inflation and a Housing Crisis – Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Tuesday, January 24th 7:00pm - 8:30 pm

2. Tenant Rights to Housing – Guest Speaker Margaret Flynn with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights

Wednesday, Feb 8th, 7:00pm-8:30pm

3. The Impact of Poverty, Intersectionality and Classism on our Students, Parents and Family Engagement - Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello

Monday, February 27th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

[Register](#) for any or all three workshops.

A virtual link will be provided prior to the each event.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Kelly at

yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca