

Parent/Guardian Community E-Bulletin



Markville Secondary School E-Bulletin

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Principal: Anthony Hu

Vice-Principal: Angela Rodrigo (A-Lin)

Vice-Principal: Katrina Morrison (Ling-Z)



November 29th, 2024

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

December 2024

As we approach the winter break, I want to share updates from the Board of Trustees and wish you a happy holiday season.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence, focused on student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education. Developed with community feedback, this plan reflects the needs of our students and families, and we are grateful to everyone who shared their input. I invite you to [learn more about this plan](#).

Family Engagement

This fall, we hosted school council forums, fostering collaboration and recognizing the vital role of school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all who support our schools through volunteering, attending events, and participating in councils. Your partnership is invaluable. Thank you for all that you do.

Families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.

We've also introduced the Family Dashboard on the Board website, offering you secure, one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's

education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).

Partnerships and Safety

In September, York Regional Police (YRP) and our Board launched new school police programs and a new Police and School Boards Protocol. Partnership and work for elementary students include important community safety topics including road safety, bike safety and pedestrian safety. For secondary students, program may include sports, pathways to careers in policing and science behind speed and impairment enforcement.

Gratitude for Staff

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the outstanding, dedicated and professional staff members throughout our system who work hard to provide your children with clean, safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. They provide students with learning supports, resources and opportunities and collaborate with families and community partners to make a difference to student achievement and well-being. To our staff members, thank you for all that you do.

Holiday Wishes

For those celebrating, I wish you joyous celebrations. May this winter break bring rest, connection, and renewal. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

Happy Holidays!

Ed Law, Trustee, Markham Wards 3 and 4

Pride Markville Spotlight

Transgender Awareness Week took place between November 13 and November 20. Pride Markville would like to share an excerpt from Egale Canada's publication "Egale Explains - Common Myths and Misconceptions About Trans Youth".

[Misconception #1:](#)

Being trans or gender diverse is the same thing as being gay or lesbian.

Fact #1

It is a common misconception that attraction ('sexual orientation') and gender identity are the same because they both fall under the 2SLGBTQI umbrella. Attraction and gender identity are separate and distinct components of human identity and are not necessarily related. Some people may identify as BOTH trans and gay. Other trans people may identify as trans and straight. You cannot and should not jump to conclusions about how someone understands and frames their own attraction identity based solely on how they express or identify their gender.

Misconception #2

Children who haven't reached puberty do not have a fully developed sense of their own gender identity.

Fact #2

Research shows that, on average, children's sense of their own gender develops between the ages of three and five, and that this can begin as early as two years old. If a child is articulating insistently and consistently "I am a boy" or "I am a girl" or "I am both" or "I am neither" they are old enough to know the intensity at which they feel this as their truth, regardless of if they are cisgender or trans. As such, being trans is part of one's innate sense of self. That said, no two experiences of gender identity development are alike. Some may know from a very early age. Others may not have the language to articulate their sense of self until much later. There are many environmental factors that will affect how one's journey of gender identity development will unfold. For example, a person may choose not to disclose their authentic gender based on how safe and supportive their environment is to do so. Trans people all experience their body, their assigned sex, the related social expectations of their gender, and their gender identity differently. These differences will influence the ways in which each transgender person chooses to embrace their identities and move through transition.

Misconception #3

Being transgender is a choice.

Fact #3

Just as being cisgender is not a choice, being transgender is not a choice. In expressing their gender identity, youth are not trying to be trendy or rebellious.

Though being trans is not a choice, a person may make choices about the ways and extent to which they will embrace their true and authentic gender. While it is true that trans identities and experiences have gained a considerable degree of visibility in mass media in recent years, gender diversity is not a trend. In fact, gender diversity is as ancient and universal as humanity itself. What is new and more accessible, however, is the language we now have available to talk about this aspect of human diversity, owing largely to strides made by trans human rights movements.

Misconception #4

Not conforming to dominant gender norms or expressing gender in unique and diverse ways are signs that a child is trans or will identify as trans when they grow up.

Fact #4

The degree to which someone conforms to dominant social gender norms reflects a person's gender expression and not necessarily their gender identity. Gender expression is the way a person presents themselves to the world, whereas gender identity is a person's internal sense of the gender they know themselves to be. A child saying, "I prefer girl clothes" and a child saying, "I am a girl", are very different. Both transgender and cisgender children can explore clothing and expressions associated with masculinity and femininity. "I prefer boy clothes" may be a preference for any child regardless of their gender identity. However, transgender children are usually consistent and insistent with this need to be recognized for who they are. It is therefore very important to listen closely to what a child is communicating.

Message from Guidance

Message from Guidance

What a fantastic turn-out for our MSS *Grade 8 Open House*!! MSS students were INCREDIBLE at welcoming our newest cohort! **Grade 8 families that live within our boundary but do not attend an elementary feeder school**, are welcome to complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) to attend MSS (scroll down to the blue link). This form is now open.

GUIDANCE FYIs:

Gr 10 Post-Secondary RESEARCH presentation was delivered to Gr 10 students virtually on **November 25th**, to provide an abundance of information regarding post-secondary in advance of the February Course Selection. This was to ensure students are informed and can do research prior to choosing Gr 11 courses. The presentation can be found on the [Guidance website](#).

NIGHT SCHOOL SEMESTER 2:

YRDSB Sem 2 Night School registration will open on **December 16th**. Students will be reminded that they **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](#).

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.

UPCOMING COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY & APPRENTICESHIP:

Reminders of [upcoming events](#) that are on the horizon:

- MSS will host a **College Degree Panel** for students on **December 4th from 12-1 in the MSS Library**, where we will be visited by representatives from our local colleges. This is an opportunity to investigate all of the degree options at college for students, and ask questions.

NOVEMBER STUDENT WELLNESS *Spotlight*

MENTAL-HEALTH WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY:

Please note that **York Hills offers FREE Webinars** regularly to York Region Families. Please see their [website](#) for registration and details. This is an excellent resource for families. New webinar topics are being added continuously.

["By Your Side" Mental Health and Wellness Video Series](#)

This video series is a great resource for learning more about mental health and

wellness for students, parents and caregivers alike. This time of year can be very busy for students in terms of midterm assignments and tests. These videos include tips for how to support your child/student.

[Newsletter Translation Instructions](#)

Have a wonderful weekend!

~Your Guidance Team



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

December 2nd to December 6th	Grad Photos
December 6th	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 10th	Human Rights Day
December 21 to January 5th	Winter Break (School Closed)

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 York Region District School Board logo and the school name. A navigation menu is visible. On the left, there is a calendar for November. In the center, there is a photo of students and a link to 'Grade 8 Information Sessions'. On the right, there is contact information for the school. A yellow callout box with a scroll effect points to a 'Community Opportunities' icon in the bottom right corner. The callout text reads: '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*****'

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

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*****

Message from Peer Tutoring:

"Hey Mavs! Feeling stressed about tests and assignments? Need some help with your courses? Want a fun and engaging place to learn? Look no further—Markville's Peer Tutoring Club is back and ready to support YOU! Tutoring sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Periods 3 and 4 in room 305, and on Wednesdays after school in the library.

Whether you're looking for quick help or ongoing support, we've got you covered! You can drop in whenever you need help, or sign up for weekly 1-on-1 tutoring by filling out the tutee form at bit.ly/peertutor2025

Look out for Peer Tutoring Club posters around the school, and follow @msspeertutoring on Instagram for updates! See you there!"

YRDSB Communications

■ Memo Transit Assistance Program for YR Families.pdf



ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKAN GRADUATES OF CANADA
in partnership with
YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER STUDIES

**CAREER INFORMATION WORKSHOP
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (GR.9-12) & PARENT/GUARDIAN**



Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024
Time: 9:30 - 2:00 PM
Venue: Milliken Mills HS, Markham
(7522 Kennedy Road)

Admission: FREE

Looking for information on...

- Career Choices
- University/College Selections
- Scholarship & Grant Applications
- Secondary School Course Selections

To Register
Scan QR Code



OR
Contact the following:

Mayooran Somanathan:
(647) 920-0106
Dr. V. Manivannan:
(647) 949-5205

Suganja Sinnathamby:
suganja.sinnathamby@yrdsb.ca



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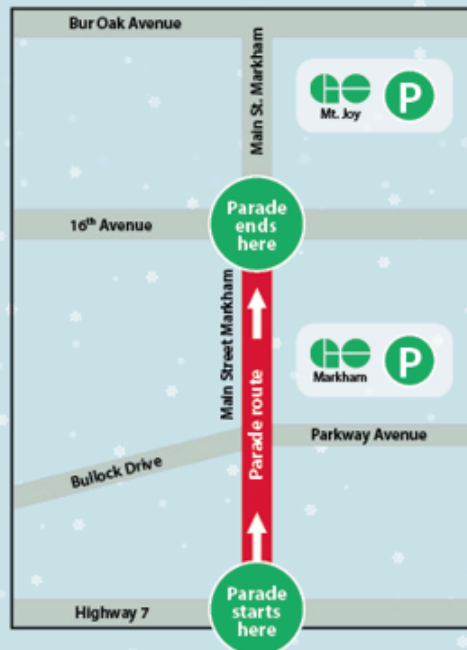
Partner Organizations
Centre For Leadership and Innovation(CFLI)
Canadian Tamil Professional Association(CTPA)
Educators for Tamil Students' Success of YRDSB(ETSS)
Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada(SAAC)

Community Events

50th Annual Markham Santa Claus Parade Route

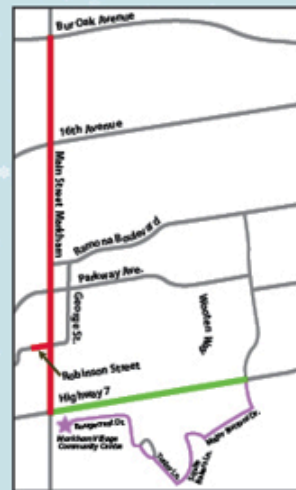


Saturday, November 30 | 11 AM to 1 PM



Road Closures:

- Roads closed from 8 AM to 2 PM
- Roads closed from 8 AM to 2 PM
- Alternate route to access Markham Village Community Centre



Presented by:

Tim Hortons

Thank you to our sponsors:

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