



Middlefield Collegiate Institute

E-Bulletin

Issue No.16 | Jan 29, 2024

Principal: A.Higgins Wright | Vice-Principal: J.Bordonali | Vice-Principal: H. Brar
Alpha A-M Alpha N-Z

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this email finds you and your family well.

In this email, you will find information about:

1. [Professional Activity Day for Staff Members](#)
2. [Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community](#)
3. [Message from Our Trustee- February 2024](#)
4. [Updates from the Math Department](#)
5. [Updates from the Computer Studies Department](#)
6. [Updates from our Guidance Department](#)

Selected Previous Information:

7. [Free Family Activities at Varley Art Gallery](#)
8. [Exam Review Day- Feb 1st](#)
9. [Semester 1 Exams](#)
10. [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#)
11. [Message from the Director](#)
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MCI Schedule

Please view the attached link to our [school timetable](#).

Upcoming Dates

January 29- 31- Exams/Culminating Activities

February 1- Exam Review Day

February 2- PA Day

February 5- Semester 2, Term 1 Begins

1. Professional Activity Day for Staff Members

On Friday, staff will be participating in a Professional Activity Day with the following learning:

Violence Prevention

- developing relationships and identity-affirming working and learning environments;
- identifying warning signs that a person's behaviour may be escalating;
- responding to escalations using specific strategies;
- exploring case studies;
- following reporting procedures; and
- accessing support and resources.

Equitable Assessment Practices

- implementing the fundamental principles of equitable assessment and evaluation;
- addressing self-identified barriers to equitable assessment and evaluation; and
- developing next steps within schools and/or departments.

Making Learning Accessible for MLLs (Multilingual Language Learners)

- explore approaches that create entry points to learning for learners across all subject areas

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2. Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community

This year we are piloting consultations directly with parents/caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community to enhance service access and language-specific support when seeking mental health services for their

children. Through culturally affirming consultations, we are hoping to reduce barriers to accessing mental health support and fostering stronger relationships between the students, families and schools.

Consultations will provide an opportunity for Tamil parents/caregivers to:

- Acquire strategies for cultivating meaningful interactions and connections with their child
- Explore ways to support their child's mental health and well-being
- Understand how to request and navigate accessing support, including mental health services, for their child at school
- Discuss current difficulties and challenges experienced by their child
- Learn about resources in the York Region community to better support their child's needs

To book consultations and/or for any questions please contact Nijatha Subramaniam via email at nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca or by phone at 905-727-0022 ext. 4138 (voicemail only).

Please view the flyer in [English](#) or [Tamil](#)

3. Message from Our Trustee- February 2024

The following message has been shared. Please see the [message](#).

4. Updates from our Math Department

Please view the attached link to see updates from our [Math](#) department.

5. Updates from the Computer Studies Department

Please view the attached link to see updates from our [Computer Studies](#) department.

6. Updates from Guidance Department

Please view the attached link to see updates from our [Guidance](#) department

7. Free Family Activities at Varley Art Gallery

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at Varley Art Gallery! Drop-in on February 10 and 11 for **free** family activities, and continue the celebration on February 17 and 18 with LunarFest, a community festival in partnership with the ACSEA. Don't miss the Lunar Lanterns in the courtyard from January to March, created in partnership with Indigenous artists. Experience a 2024 Lunar New Year celebration only at Varley!

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/arts/varley-art-gallery/public-programs>

8. Exam Review Day- Feb 1st

The schedule for our semester 1 Exam Review Day taking place on Thursday February 1st is outlined below

Thursday February 1, 2024	
Morning - Exam Review	
Period 1	8:30-9:10 am
Period 2	9:15-9:50 am
Period 3	9:55-10:30 am
Period 4	10:35-11:10 am
Lunch	11:10-12:05 pm
Afternoon - No Classes	

9. Semester 1 Exams

Semester 1 Exams are scheduled between January 25th to the 30th. As mentioned in a previous email all students are expected to be present. Please see [link](#) of exam schedule.

10. Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

Student Mental Health and Addictions is pleased to provide monthly newsletters that focus on various pertinent mental health topics. Please view the [newsletter](#).

11. Message from the Director

The following message has been shared with families via email. Please see the [message](#).

12. Secondary Schools Closed to Transfers for 2024

Each year the York Region District School Board staff work collaboratively to balance student enrolment and accommodation needs in secondary schools. Those students accepted on transfer into courses and/or programs outside their home school attendance area need to be accommodated without displacing or limiting opportunity for students who live locally. This letter is to inform you of secondary schools open and closed to student transfer requests for the 2024-2025 school year in order to assist students in the transfer process and their course selection and pathway choices. Please see the [message](#).

13. Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector

A new collection of webpages will let students explore [16 different career sectors](#).

These sector pages were developed in response to student feedback and will help students learn more about the options available to them, including:

- secondary school courses and programs that let students explore their interests and gain skills and experience in each sector
- career opportunities in a variety of pathways
- additional links and information

All of our secondary schools offer a variety of courses, programs and opportunities that let students gain skills and experience, explore their interests and plan for the future.

14. The Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPP)

The ECPPs are educational programs established through partnerships between school boards and government-approved facilities, such as hospitals and children mental health agencies. These programs are designed to support children and youth who cannot attend regular school because they need to access care, treatment and/or rehabilitation services. The school board provides an educational program so students can continue learning while accessing the care they need. In York Region, programs are provided for students aged 6 - 18 years. The health facility provides the required care and/or treatment support.

Please view the attached [brochure](#) for more info.

15. Vaping Awareness and Prevention Resources

There are many reasons why youth may start to use vapes. Friends may pressure others to start using vape products. Youth may see family members vape or smoke and imitate that behaviour. Additionally, the last few years may have been extraordinarily difficult for many youth and they may think that vapes and nicotine products will help them cope with [stress](#). Please view the attached [letter](#) for more information. Other resources include;

- [Partnership for Drug-Free Kids on How to Talk to Your Kids About Vaping](#)
- [Health Canada on Talking With Your Teen About Vaping](#)
- [ACT Newfoundland- Truth About Vaping](#)

16. 2023-2024 School Start-up Packages

The YRDSB is offering online start-up forms to all families for the 2023-2024 year. Forms will be sent centrally from the school board to all families. Translations are available. The Board will send a central email to all families with a link to a Google Form to complete the start-up forms.

Please note the following:

- Families will receive forms during the week of September 11
- **Start-Up Permission Form will also be sent to students' GAPPS accounts to complete online.**
- **Student GAPPS login information will be required for families to complete the forms.** If your child does not have the GAPPS login information, please contact their class teachers.
- Printable forms will be made available if hard copies is needed
- The Start-Up forms will also be accessible at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources. Families can click on the "Need Help" button under School Start-Up for [links to the start-up forms and FAQs](#) to support them in accessing the forms.
- The form will include:
 - The Start-Up Permission Form (mandatory)
 - Student Information Consent Form (mandatory)
 - Request for Faith Accommodations Form
 - School Council Nomination Form

16. Safe Arrival Program

We want to remind parents/guardians about our changes implemented to the safe arrival program last year.

A Safe Arrivals program is a series of steps which are performed together with daily school attendance taken to ensure student safety. A safe arrivals program is a mechanism that parents/guardians and schools can use to account for any student's unexplained absence.

Please note the following:

- Automated school attendance information will be sent 3 times a day for any unexplained absences:
 - End of Period 1 - report period 1 unexplained absences
 - Lunch - report period 2 unexplained absences
 - End of School Day - report the entire school day unexplained absences which includes period 3 & 4

- When a student is absent, a parent /guardian must contact the attendance office either by phone (ext. 150), written note or email (middlefield.ci.attendance@yrdsb.ca) indicating a valid reason for the absence. Please complete this before 8 a.m. on the day of the absence to ensure the absence is entered into the system.
- When replying to an automated attendance message, please specifically indicate that you are approving the absence in order to avoid any misunderstanding.

As a result, we want to remind parent(s)/guardians(s) that they should

- A. provide the school with complete and current emergency contact information during the first week of September, and throughout the school year if information changes, to the Main Office;
- B. inform the school of all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans of their child as soon as possible;
- C. (if a child is 18 years or older or have declared independence) ensure the form Consent for Information Sharing - Student of the Age of Majority is submitted to the school.

17. Medical Health Care Forms

Please access all Medical Health Care Forms on the [MCI Website](#) under health care forms.

18. Middlefield Quick Links

Middlefield C.I. Website:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/middlefield.ci>

York Region District School Board Website:

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/>

YRDSB Guide to the 2023-2024 School Year:

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/sites/default/files/2021-08/SD-GuidetotheSchoolYear.pdf>

SHSM Ministry Website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/SHSM.html>

