



Middlefield Collegiate Institute

E-Bulletin

Issue No.9 | November 6, 2023

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. [Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test \(OSSLT\)](#)
2. [Student Trustee Elections](#)
3. [The Education and Community Partnership Program \(ECP\)](#)
4. [Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Series Supporting Students of Chinese Heritage Community](#)

Selected Previous Information:

5. [Hindu Heritage Month](#)
6. [Sikh Educators Voice \(SEVA\)- Group Launch Invitation](#)
7. [Student Mental Health and Addictions November Newsletter](#)
8. [Treaties Recognition Week](#)
9. [Vaping Awareness and Prevention Resources](#)
10. [Youth Gambling Awareness Series](#)
11. [DHH Caregiver Support Group](#)
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14. [2023-2024 School Start-Up Packages](#)
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MCI Schedule

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

Upcoming Dates

*November 21 - 24 - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Window for Grade 10s that are eligible

November 23- Semi Formal

*November 28 - 29 - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Window for Grade 11/12 students

*detailed information will be sent to students this week

November 30- Grade 8 Open House (evening)

1. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is administered by the Government of Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). This test is administered to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy skills expected in the Ontario Curriculum, up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of this literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

EQAO is administering the OSSLT in a fully online platform. Eligible **Grade 10** students will be writing the week of **November 20th**. Eligible **Grade 11 and 12** students will be writing the week of **November 27th**. Students will receive an email this week to their GAPPS account with their scheduled date and location.

Students who are successful on the OSSLT will have satisfied the OSSD graduation requirement. Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the online test and its platform through EQAO's [online practice test](#) as well as through the MCI OSSLT Google Classroom. For more information about EQAO and to view the full practice test, you are encouraged to visit EQAO's website www.eqao.com

2. Student Trustee Elections

If you will be in grade 11 or 12 next school year and are passionate about student voice, consider becoming a student trustee, and representing students across YRDSB.

Student trustees network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice. Learn more about the role and how you can apply at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

Applications can be submitted between November 27-December 11. The deadline to apply is December 11, 2023 11:59 p.m.

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

3. 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.

4. Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Series Supporting Students of the Chinese Heritage Community

In the YRDSB's ongoing effort to support achievement and well-being for students who are racialized and/or marginalized, and in support of the actions and goals set out in the Director's Action Plan, as well as the Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy, we have collaborated with our CRES Partners at the Hong Fook Mental Health Association to develop a Parent/caregiver series supporting students of Chinese Heritage. The series will provide a number of parent/caregiver in person and web events to build community, support mental health, and promote healing.

Please view the attached [flyer](#) for more information.

5. Hindu Heritage Month

On December 8, 2016, the province of Ontario designated November as Hindu Heritage Month outlined in the [Hindu Heritage Month Act](#). November 2022 marked Canada's first official Hindu Heritage month.

MCI looks forward to celebrating the month ahead.

6. Sikh Educators Voice Alliance (SEVA)- Group Launch Invitation

Sikh staff and community members are invited to the SEVA Affinity Group Launch. All are welcome to come learn, celebrate and grow with us. Please see [flyer](#) for more info,

7. Student Mental Health and Addictions November Newsletter

Fall is officially upon us. Symbolically, Fall represents change – leaves changing hues, cooler temperatures and an Earth preparing to rest. Fall is also a season of changes. Our abilities to embrace and adjust to change vary – some may approach change with ease, while for others adapting to change may be stressful. Attached are some support services offered- see [flyer](#) here.

8. Treaties Recognition Week

During the week of November 5-11, 2023, we recognize the importance of treaties and bring awareness to the treaty relationships between First Nations, Métis and Inuit and non-Indigenous people throughout the province. There are 46 treaties in Ontario, and we all have a responsibility to recognize, learn about and honour these treaties. For more information visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week>

9. 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](#)

10. Youth Gambling Awareness Series

This workshop series offers educational prevention sessions to parents and caregivers. Participants will engage in learning on gambling awareness, including potential risks, making informed decisions, and healthy and active living. Please see [flyer](#) for information.

11. DHH Caregiver Support Group

If you are caring for a loved one with a life-limiting condition, this 8 week group may be for you. Caregivers will have the opportunity to learn and share in a supportive peer group facilitated by experienced Hospice Volunteers.

Please see the attached [flyer](#) for more info.

12. Updates from our Visual Arts Department

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

13. Updates from our Guidance Department

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

14. 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

15. 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.

13. Medical Health Care Forms

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

14. 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>

