



## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

1 William F. Bell Parkway, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 2T9

Tel: 905-780-7858, Fax 905-780-1154

WEB SITE: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/richmondgreen.ss>

Email address: [richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca)

Attendance email: [richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

Instagram: @rgssofficial

### RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, April 12, 2024



We extend good wishes to all staff, students and members of the Sikh and Indian communities who will be celebrating Vaisakhi this weekend. We wish you a very happy celebration.

#### **Family Engagement Evening: Understanding the Ontario Education Systems – Part 2**

Welcome to our second SEAS “Family Engagement Evening” event supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System.

In this session, we are discussing report cards, assessment and evaluation, at both elementary and secondary levels.

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm

Location: Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham, ON L3P 7P5

Please use this link to [register](#) by Monday, April 23, 2024

Please also see [this flyer](#) for more information

### **Small Steps Can Make Big Change This Earth Month**

It's Earth Month and there are steps we can all take to help reduce our environmental footprint.

**Use active travel.** Taking the school bus and walking, riding or biking to school helps reduce pollution and traffic congestion in our neighbourhoods. It's also great for your mental health, well-being and academic performance.

- If you drive, consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules). Even this small change can make a difference.
- The walk to school is also a great time to connect, look for signs of spring and appreciate the changing season.

**Reduce your energy and water use.** Turn off lights, TVs, computers, when you do not need them. Turn off the tap when you're not using the water.

**Reduce your waste.** Using a refillable water bottle for example, helps to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. Bring your own bags to the store. Reuse whatever items you can. Repair items that are broken instead of throwing them away. Recycle wherever possible instead of contributing to the landfill.

**Plant a tree, native plant or vegetable garden.** Learn about native species and plants that attract birds, bees and butterflies.

**Explore the outdoors!** There is no better way to celebrate Earth Week than going for a walk. Check out [York Regional Forest](#) to discover nature in your backyard. Want to take your Earth Day celebrations out of the classroom? Why not visit one of Ontario's 290 conservation areas? [Here's a map](#) to help you locate the one nearest to you. Don't forget to check [Whose Land](#) to acknowledge whose territory you are on.

**For inspiration** on using nature as a classroom, Resources for Rethinking offers a [Step Outside guide](#) that highlights what's happening in nature seasonally

**To amplify the effects,** turn Earth Day into Earth Week or Earth Month and select a variety of activities to support collective learning and action for a week or month.

Working together, we can all help to take steps to protect this beautiful planet we live on.

### **Parent/caregiver Series Supporting Students of Chinese Heritage**

The YRDSB Community Care Social Work series will provide a number of parent/caregiver virtual events to build community, support mental health, and promote healing.

The first session in the series is offered for any parent/guardian of students of Chinese Heritage. Parents, caregivers are invited to join this workshop and engage meaningful conversations that help students thrive at school. Tips on ways that help strengthen family relationships and emotional wellbeing will be shared. This will be a free virtual event.

**Keep the Door Open (Repeated Session): Understand Your Child's Inner World**

April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm-7:00pm Mandarin Session

[Registration for Mandarin Session](#)

April 23, 2024 at 7:00pm-8:00pm Cantonese Session

[Registration for Cantonese Session](#)

Please email [charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca](mailto:charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca) if you have any questions or difficulties in accessing the registration link. Thank you

## **Sikh Heritage Month**

Please join us to commemorate our Sikh Heritage Month Celebration with the Sikh Educators Voice Alliance and Sikh Student Association.

Our focus is on **Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes**. At this event, the Sikh Educators Voice Alliance (SEVA) and Sikh Student Association (SSA) will provide time and space to highlight and promote Sikh histories, language and identity and to build unity through community.

### **Exhibits:**

- Keynote Speaker: Kulvir Singh Gill
- Artifacts
- Artwork / Spoken Word by YRDSB Students
- Gatka Performance
- Bhangra Performance
- Community Partners and Vendors

All are welcome to come learn, celebrate, and grow with us.

### **When:**

Saturday, April 27, 2024

1- 4 p.m.

### **Where:**

Middlefield Collegiate Institute

525 Highglen Ave, Markham, ON L3S 3L5

This event is an opportunity for parents, families and YRDSB staff members to network, share, and learn about ways to affirm and create positive spaces for students of Sikh identity.

Light refreshments will be served. Please fill out the [Registration Form](#) by April 22, 2024

If you wish to view this memo translated into Punjabi, please see the [Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes Punjabi flyer](#).

## **April is World Autism Awareness Acceptance Month**

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) is officially launching a month-long World Autism Acceptance campaign alongside our community partners from [Autism Ontario](#), a member of our Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

This campaign will launch on April 2, 2024. The purpose of [Autism Ontario's Celebrate the Spectrum](#) campaign is to bring attention to the triumphs, contributions and experiences of people from the Autistic community. By fostering acceptance, we can build stronger and more inclusive communities and learning environments for students with Autism.

## [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – April 2024: Connection Between Physical and Mental Health](#)

### Indigenous Self-Identification

The York Region District School Board is committed to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students' success. We continue to support Indigenous students and work to provide a curriculum that facilitates learning about contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures, histories and perspectives among all students. To continue supporting self-identified students, the [First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Ancestry Self-Identification brochure](#) was updated in 2022. Current students can self-identify by completing [this form](#) and submitting it to the principal.

### Guidance

**Registration for 2024 Summer School opened on MyBlueprint on April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Please review this [LINK](#) for details about registration, online and in-person course offerings, and important dates/deadlines.

### U.S. College Expo

Understand all aspects of the US Admissions process, from selection, application, financing and student athlete considerations. **All parents and students are welcome!**

Speak with U.S. College representatives and ask about student life, the admissions process, tuition and much more.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

10:00AM – 2:00PM

Toronto - Roy Thomson Hall

pre-register at [USCollegeExpo.com/register](https://USCollegeExpo.com/register) (Free Admission).

## **K2i Academy – Summer 2024**

This year, the YRDSB will collaborate with York University to offer the K2i Academy – Summer 2024 Bringing STEM to Life Program in Physics for another summer. This program provides the unique opportunity for students (priority will be given to female students who identify as Black and/or Indigenous) to work with the K2i Academy on a STEM research project while pursuing a Grade 11 (3U) or Grade 12 (4C) Physics credit. Students will also be paid which will allow them to be employed during the summer while working towards a science credit. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

Interested students should see their guidance counsellor for registration. Submissions must be made by **April 29, 2024**.

## **Supports for Students with Autism and their Families**

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis
- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please **register** by April 28, 2024.

This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board. For more information, please email [shani.blake@yrdsb.ca](mailto:shani.blake@yrdsb.ca) or [pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca)  
Please note that Childcare will not be provided.

## **Free Recreation, Sport Programs, Summer and Overnight Camps:**

For Children and Youth ages 4-18 whose families participate in one of the following:

- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Rent Subsidy (including STAR and Ontario Housing Benefit)
- Childcare Fee Subsidy (income below \$43,000)

Some programs are only eligible to families in York Region Housing Communities

- Housing York Inc.
- Non-Profit Housing

- Cooperative Housing

For More Program Information and Eligibility:

Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit [york.ca/recreationsubsidies](http://york.ca/recreationsubsidies)

## **Tune in YRDSB**

Two new podcasts are available on the YRDSB podcast network:

[Shine Episode 6: Heather Greenwood Davis](#)

In this episode of Shine, we're joined by the remarkable Heather Greenwood Davis, the trailblazing freelance travel writer who holds the distinction of being the first & only black woman to have column in both Canadian national newspapers.

[Welcome to Experience YRDSB](#)

Welcome to a new sub-series of Tune In YRDSB. In this episode, we are introducing Experience YRDSB and delving into the courses and programs that let students explore their interests, and gain skills, experience, credits and certifications.

## **Children's Mental Health Awareness Week – May 6 - 10, 2024**

Mark your calendars! Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is the first week in May.

Please see [this link](#) for a series of workshops for caregivers.

## **Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community**

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

Please see the following flyers for more information:

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(English\).pdf](#)

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(Tamil\).pdf](#)

## **School Washrooms**

Students are reminded that school washrooms are not to be used for social activities including eating. At the beginning of the year, we introduced school “zones”. The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones are for collaborating and socializing. Red zones are spaces such as stairwells (walking through only) and washrooms (bio breaks only). The zones are for everyone’s safety in the school.

## **Personal Property**

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items. More information can be found in the [2023-2024 Guide to the School Year](#).

## **Engagement Fee**

We are proud at Richmond Green to host a vast number of clubs, sports teams and other activities and events for students. The Student Engagement fee supports the operation of these activities for students. The Student Engagement Fee is an optional but recommended fee on School Cash Online. Please note that there is differentiated pricing for school events based on payment of the Student Engagement fee.

## **Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector**

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

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit [www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb).

## **RGSS is on Instagram!**

Follow @rgssofficial to receive updates on school news, events, student achievement, and more!



## **Student Expectations in the Community**

We are lucky to have positive relationships with community vendors. Many students enjoy eating lunch at the Costco food court. Costco has asked if students could please:

- purchase their food and leave once done eating
- use debit and credit as preferred payment methods (for speed of transactions)
- stay in the food court only unless entering the store with a membership card

Following these guidelines will ensure students enjoy continued access to the food court.

## **Bussing**

Bussing is provided to eligible students through Student Transportation Services (STS). STS operates bus routes for students in JK-12 for both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com). Please note, it is important that students ride **only on their designated route**. This is for everyone's safety and security.

## **School Start Up Forms**

School start up forms were sent to families and students this week. Please see the [Resources and FAQs for families](#) for more information. Secondary students received the following message:

### **School Start-Up Forms (Message to Secondary Students)**

*Each year, we ask secondary school students to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information. Students are asked to [complete this form](#) online. If you have any questions about the information in the form, please speak with your teacher, principal or vice-principal.*

*It is important that all students complete and submit these forms as soon as possible at the start of the school year.*

## **Updating Contact Information**

If you need to update any contact information (e.g., home or email address, telephone number, etc.,) please email: [richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca)

## **School Safety**

Please be reminded that all visitors to the school must sign in at the main office and get a visitor tag. This tag should be clearly visible while in the building on business. Students are reminded not to bring guests anywhere on school property (indoors and outdoors) as well as to the library during school hours.



## **Attendance**



Students are expected to be in their scheduled classes each period. If you sign your child out of school, they need to leave school property. This includes the library during school hours, as it is considered to be school property during the school day. Please do not give your child permission without calling and giving the office notice for them to be in the library during the day. If your child is going to be absent or away from any of their classes, please contact the Main Office **email is preferred** - [richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca) or by phone 905-780- 7858, press option 1. Please let us know your child's student number, full name and grade.

## **TeachAssist Parent Portal**

Students in Secondary School use TeachAssist to view their schedules and ongoing assessment. They can also schedule guidance appointments. Parent/guardians may also register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s marks, and book interviews with teachers for the Interview evenings held each semester (more information on this semester's interview evening will come closer to the date).

To register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal, please visit:

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/parents/index.php>

You will need to enter the email address you have on file at the school. You will then be sent a one-time email to confirm your registration.

## **Notice From Richmond Green Library**

In recent years, we have faced recurring challenges in our library washrooms, including issues such as vaping, eating, and disruptive gathering during school hours. Despite the diligent efforts of both the library and RGSS, it's hard to maintain continuous monitoring due to limited staff availability.

After a thorough review of the situations, the library and RGSS will start to implement new measures to address these concerns. Effective November 9, 2023, the library will enforce restricted access to the washrooms during school hours.

1. Locking washrooms: Both library washrooms will remain locked during school hours.
2. Key sign-out procedure: Students may obtain a washroom key by leaving their student cards at the service desk. Student cards will be returned upon key return. **Only one student is permitted at a time.**
3. Limited occupancy: A maximum of two users will be allowed to enter the same washroom simultaneously.

4. Reporting disruptions: Any disruptive behaviours observed will be reported to both the library and RGSS administration for appropriate action.

We hope these measures will help create a more conducive and respectful environment within our library facilities, and promote a better learning atmosphere for all RGSS students.

### **Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program**

Social support network and mentoring program for Black students. Please see [the flyer](#) for more information.

### **Medical Information**

A reminder if your child has a serious medical condition and has not received the medical forms, please fill out the appropriate form(s) below and return to the Main Office. **Please complete new forms each school year.**

<a href="#"><u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<a href="#"><u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<a href="#"><u>Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<a href="#"><u>Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<a href="#"><u>Health Care Plan (Other)</u></a>	This from should be completed for all other serious and potentially life threatening health conditions that are not already specifically addressed (Asthma, anaphylactic, diabetes, and seizure health care plans).

### **COVID Health and Safety Protocols for 2023-2024**

York Region Public Health has advised that schools continue to be required to follow the [Ministry's COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools](#).

All students, staff and visitors need to complete the self-screening tool. Students should complete the [COVID-19 self screening tool](#) and follow instructions and next steps. Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.

Surfaces in the school building will continue to be disinfected and hand sanitizer is available. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted throughout the day.

### **Key Dates**

- OSSLT – Tuesday, April 16, & Wednesday, April 17, 2024
- Mid-Term Report Cards Distributed Electronically Beginning – Thursday, April 25, 2024
- Relationspaces: Transforming Relationships with our Children–Tuesday, April 30, 2024
- P.A. Day – Monday, May 6, 2024
- RGSS Musical – Tuesday, May 7, 2024 & Wednesday, May 8, 2024
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 20, 2024 (No School)
- RGSS Prom – Thursday, May 30, 2024
- Birthday Bash – Friday, June 7, 2024
- Exams – Wednesday, June 19, 2024 to Tuesday, June 25, 2024
- RGSS Graduation – Tuesday, June 25, 2024
- Mark Review Day - Instructional Day – Wednesday, June 26, 2024
- P. A. Day – Thursday, June 27, 2024 and Friday, June 28, 2024