



## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

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### **RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, December 22, 2023**



December is a time of many holidays and observances. These include, amongst others, Christmas, Bodi Day, Chanukah/ Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, and Pancha Ganapati. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

### **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. We appreciate your support.

### **Guidance Updates**

Semester 2 Night School registration has opened. Students can login to MyPathwayPlanner and click on "Continuing Education" to apply. A signed parent permission form needs to be submitted to the Guidance Office in order to complete the registration. Please be advised that [Night School program](#) classes (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

Semester 2 course changes – the last day to make a request, with your Guidance Counsellor, is Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Students should book an appointment via Teachassist if they need to speak with a Counsellor.

University Applications are due January 15, 2024 via the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC). Students should consider finalizing their applications over the winter break.

College applications are due February 1, 2024 via the Ontario Colleges Application Services.

### **Semester 1 Exam Timetable**

The semester 1 exam timetable has been shared with students and parent/guardians this week. It is also available on the [school website](#).



Best Buddies will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts to fundraise for the Best Buddies Prom coming up! Orders will open on January 16, 2024 and close on February 6, 2024. Pick up will be on Tuesday, February 27th! We are selling them by the dozen for \$15.00. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Best Buddies Canada is a national charity that helps promote inclusion and reduce bullying through friendship for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). For the past 28 years, Best Buddies Canada has been in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, and colleges nationwide. Richmond Green students with an IDD are paired in one to-one friendships with a peer buddy. Students get to know one another and develop lasting friendships.

The Best Buddies group at Richmond Green Secondary School will be attending the York Region Prom which is for all of the Best Buddies schools in the region, reaching schools from across the school board and hundreds of students. This event gives students the opportunity to have a prom that is safe, inclusive, and fun. They can connect with other Best Buddies chapters across the region.

### **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).

### [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – January 2024](#)

This month's newsletter touches on exam stress and includes a variety of community supports and programs.

### [Message from Trustee Liang - December 2023](#)

#### **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.

#### **Richmond Green Library Opportunity**

The RHPL Community Engagement team will be running a new program, [Teen Community Leaders](#) at Richmond Green branch starting in the January.

It will run bi-weekly, and participating teens will have an opportunity to **earn volunteer hours** for attending. During the program, teens will have an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the community and develop leadership skills alongside their peers. For the January – February session, they will have a couple speakers come in and talk about leadership and confidence, as well as an initiative with the Yellow Brick House. The Eventbrite registration link is: <https://teencommunityleaders.eventbrite.ca>

This event is open to all teens. The Richmond Hill Public Library chose the Richmond Green Library to host this program as an opportunity for RGSS Students.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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**

- Winter Break – Monday, December 25, 2023 – Friday, January 5, 2024
- EQAO Math Grade 9 – Monday, January 22, 2024 and Tuesday, January 23, 2024
- Exams – Semester 1 – Thursday, January 25, 2024 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024

- Instructional Day/Mark Review Day – Thursday, February 1, 2024
- P.A. Day – Friday, February 2, 2024
- Semester Two begins - Monday, February 5, 2024
- Family Day – Monday, February 19, 2024