



## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

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### RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, November 24, 2023



#### OSSLT

At the end of the month, some of our students will be writing the Ontario Secondary Literacy Test. Students who have been identified as writers received emails to their gapps accounts.

Below, you will find information for the successful completion of the OSSLT:

- a. **Dates: November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**. Students will need to be present on BOTH days for OSSLT completion.
- b.
- c. **i. Where: Students in a grade 10 homeroom will write in their homerooms starting at 10:45 (unless alternative arrangements have been made through SERTS).**  
**ii. Where: Students who are not in a grade 10 homeroom class will be writing in the cafeteria starting at 9:25 (unless alternative arrangements have been made through SERTS).**
- d. The timetable will be changed for the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for **ALL** students. The school day will run as follows:
  - P2: 9:20-10:40
  - P1: 10:45-12:00
  - Lunch: 12:00-1:00 (no time change)
  - P3: 1:00-2:15 (no time change)
  - P4: 2:20-3:35 (no time change)

Other important information:

- a. Students will need to have a charged personal device for test administration. Please charge your devices the night before. In case of an emergency, the school has a limited number of back up devices.
- b. Login information will be provided to all students.
- c. For your reference, the teachers have created an "[OSSLT at a Glance Guide](#)". You can access it [here](#) through your student's gapps account:
- d. When students finish their writing of the OSSLT each day, they will continue with their regular schedule.

For further information, please connect with your child's homeroom teacher, call the main office or Ms. Chowdhury (VP) in the main office.

### **Black Excellence Program**

The Black Excellence Program for students has returned for the 2023-2024 school year. The vision of the Black Excellence Program (BEP) is to advance the achievement, well-being, and sense of belonging of Black students in YRDSB schools through responsive programming that affirms identity, builds on their strengths, and enhances access to academic opportunities after high school. Students will have opportunities to learn from each other, experts from diverse fields, and mentors who will uplift, inspire and encourage them.

The YRDSB Black Excellence program's next **Master Class on November 30** at Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre. The Master Class involves students interacting with Black students of other YRDSB schools, sharing in activities, and listening to and interacting with a specialist of African Heritage in a chosen field. The Master Class intentionally teaches Black students overtly or covertly about Black History, resistance, and self-awareness. Please contact the school if you are interested in your child attending.

### **Student Trustee Applications Open**

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](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees).

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

All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the candidate who represents our area of the Board. There are four areas of the Board (central, east, north and west). Once

the four final candidates are announced, students can vote for two of the four candidates to represent them as student trustees in the 2024-2025 school year.

Students will receive information on how to vote in the election during the campaign and voting period.

Please see this video for more information: [Roles and Responsibilities Video](#)

### **Midterm Report Cards**

Midterm report cards will be distributed soon. Please note, grade 12 marks will be submitted to OCAS/OUAC on time as per their schedule.

### **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.

### **EcoSpark Changing Currents Math Field Trip**

Students in grades 9- 12 math classes participated in Ecospark's Changing Currents Field trip.



Using their knowledge of basic shapes and identification keys, the students identified Benthic MacroInvertebrate (BMI) organisms. Applying their knowledge of proportion and percent, students contributed to citizen science. When collecting data students reviewed randomization, tallying, and calculations of percent. They applied their knowledge of measuring in metric units by measuring the depth of a Secchi disc to correlate their measurements with water quality. Using a mobile microscope, students applied the concept of scale and enlargement in real life. They saw the BMI organisms magnified! Just before Halloween, the students experienced a fair share of scary looking organisms. The students had fun with water in the year of water while collecting and organizing data! They greatly appreciated the subsidy from Ecospark that was obtained by Ms. Wan.

### **Network Outage Update**

Please see the [YRDSB website](#) for updates on the network outage.

## **Graduation Photos**

Edge Imaging will be at RGSS to take grad photos beginning Monday, December 11, 2023. Students can book their appointment online at [www.bookmygrad.ca](http://www.bookmygrad.ca). Our school code is: RGS

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

## **Richmond Green Library Resources**

*The Richmond Hill Public Library staff would like to share the following library resources with families. You will be asked to enter your Richmond Green Public Library card information to access the tools:*

- G1.ca – Everything you need to prepare for the G1 Driver’s Test, including practice tests. Access here: <https://rhpl.g1.ca/>
- LifeSpeak – A digital wellness platform that curates content around improving your physical and mental health, including expert-led videos on meditation, digital addiction, the impacts of racism on mental health, and many more topics. Access here: [https://rhpl.ent.sirsidynix.net/client/en\\_US/lifespeak](https://rhpl.ent.sirsidynix.net/client/en_US/lifespeak)
- CreativeBug – This resource offers expert-led award-winning instructional videos on drawing, painting, sewing, knitting, quilting, baking and more. Access here: <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/richmondhill>

## **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.

### **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.

### **Sikh Educators Voice Alliance**

This event on November 30 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. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information and registration information.

### **York Region Public Health**



### **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – November 2023**

November's Mental Health Newsletter for families and caregivers has a focus on "Stress and Resilience."

### **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 [this flyer](#) for more information and registration.

## **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.

## **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)

## **Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program**

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

## **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.

## **Attendance**



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.

## **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**

- Full Disclosure – Wednesday, November 29, 2023
- Graduation Photos – Monday, December 11, 2023 – Friday, December 22, 2023
- Winter Break – Monday, December 25, 2023 – Friday, January 5, 2024
- Exams – Semester 1 – Thursday, January 25, 2024 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024
- P.A. Day – Friday, February 2, 2024
- Semester 2 begins Monday, February 5, 2024