

## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – PARENT BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

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### RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, October 20, 2023



#### **Grade 9 Take Our Kids to Work – Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

“Take Our Kids to Work” (TOKW) is an initiative, hosted by The Students Commission of Canada (SCC), that provides Grade 9 students with the opportunity to **OBSERVE** a work environment for one day. As suggested by the *Premier’s Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel Report*, the program will support students to begin planning their future career path by helping them better understand the world of work. On **Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**, **Grade 9 students will have an opportunity to spend the day at a workplace of a parent/guardian, relative or family friend.**

Please follow the link provided to guardian and grade 9 student gapps accounts to indicate where and how your Grade 9 student will be participating in this experiential learning day by **October 25<sup>th</sup>**. For any general inquiries, please contact the school main office for assistance or email us at [richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca)

### **School Council**

Thank you to everyone who attended our first School Council meeting of the year, and the first face-to-face meeting in four years. It was a fun and productive meeting. Many thanks to Ms. Pyke for her presentation on Experiential Learning and opportunities for students. We are also pleased to announce the RGSS School Council Executive for the 2023-2024 school year:

Hila Draper and Karim Hasham – Co-Chairs of School Council

Jaclyn Zhang and Lucy Giannotta – Co-Vice-Chairs

Ana Pad and Stefanie Hill – Co-Secretaries

Our next School Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend. More information will be provided closer to the date.

### **Photo Retake Day – October 30**

Any student who missed having their picture taken on September 18<sup>th</sup> (e.g., absence, not yet started at Richmond Green) will have the opportunity to have their picture taken on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Any student who wants to purchase a photo package may also have their picture taken on this day.

### **Halloween – October 31**

The health and safety of our students is a top priority. For students who wish to celebrate Halloween at school, please keep these reminders in mind:

- When planning costumes that no replica weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Costumes should be respectful of others. Symbols or objects representative of a person's culture or religious beliefs should not be worn as a costume.

### **Student Council Presents Fright Night**

On October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm Richmond Green's student council will present Fright Night. This is an evening where students can purchase a ticket and attend a scary movie in the comfort of the school's drama room. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase during the event. This year's Fright Night will feature the animated horror movie, Coraline. Please be advised that the evening is Halloween themed and will feature decorations accompanied with a PG rated movie with dystopian and fantasy themes. There will be adult supervision throughout the entire evening.

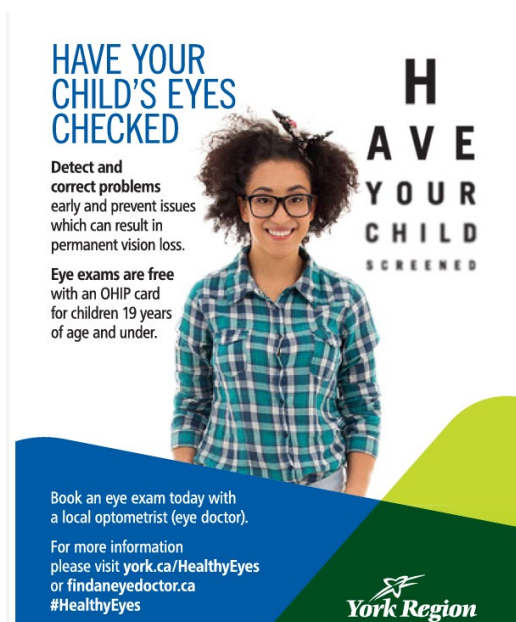
### **Guidance**

This weekend the Ontario University Fair is taking place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Please see the attached [link](#) for all the details.

### **Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fair – November 15 and 16**

Families and students will have an opportunity to learn about Ontario's 140+ trades through interactive exhibitions and hands-on activities, while hearing directly from tradespeople and local employers about life-changing career opportunities. The evening event is open to families from 7-8:30pm. Please visit [www.levelupontario.ca](http://www.levelupontario.ca) and see the attached [flyer](#).

## **York Region Vision Screening**



## **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](#). Without sufficient funds, we have to charge higher fees for club/team participation and transportation. We appreciate your support.

Moving forward, the cost of school activities will be differentiated for students who have paid the engagement fee and who have not. This includes activities such as semi-formal, prom, etc.

## **Computer Purchase Program**

Renewed Computer Technology (RTC) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology, skill development and learning opportunities, in a social and environmentally responsible manner. Please see the [attached letter](#) with information flyer to learn more.

## **Parent/Guardian Teacher Interview Evening**

Our interview evening will take place on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. The TeachAssist website experienced technical difficulties on Thursday. If you had difficulty in booking an appointment this week, please contact your child's teacher directly to make arrangements. Communication between home and school is ongoing and can occur in multiple formats. A full list of staff can be found on the Richmond Green Secondary School website, under School Information – [Staff](#).

## **Media Resources**

A variety of digital resources are available for students through YRDSB Media Services. Please see this [slide deck outlining digital resources](#) available for student use.

## **OYAP Open House**

### **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (Accelerated OYAP) Information Session**

Hello Parents/Guardians and Students,

If your child is interested in pursuing a career in the Skilled Trades, we invite you to have a look at the [YRDSB OYAP Video](#) and the [YRDSB OYAP Webpage](#) to find out more information about the exciting apprenticeship opportunities available through YRDSB and our College and Training Center partners. The Skilled Trades offer excellent employment opportunities, training in state of the art facilities, higher than average career satisfaction and many other opportunities for a rewarding career.

We are holding a Virtual Open House on **Thursday October 26th @ 7:00pm** in collaboration with our College / Training Centre partners, please [REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#) at <https://yrdsb.cc/OYAP-OpenHouse> to find out more about the Skilled Trades. Hope to see you there! Please also see the attached [flyer](#).

## **Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter – October 2023**

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

## **Tune IN YRDSB – Islamic Heritage Month**

As we recognize Islamic Heritage Month, the latest episode of Tune In YRDSB explores the importance of creating identity-affirming spaces in schools and workplaces. Hear more about the experiences of Muslim students, staff and families in York Region District School Board.

## **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.

## **In the Community**

We are fortunate at Richmond Green Secondary School to have so many community resources near our school, including the park and various plazas. We remind students that their behaviour and actions in the community should reflect the same expectations that we have within the school building. Student behaviour off school property reflects on the school community. Egregious behaviour will be addressed by the school and consequences will be put in place for students whose behaviour does not create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment as presented to students in our start up presentations.

## **GIVE Information Session**

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education. Develop Skills to Support School Communities. This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. Please see [this flyer](#) for more details and registration.

## **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).
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## **School Zones**

Students will see colour-coded zones in different areas of the school. The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones will be for collaborating and socializing. Red zones will be for walking through only (e.g, stairwells). This system will allow space for students during lunch and spare periods.

## **Caring and Safe Schools Information**

### **Dear Families,**

At the start of the new school year, students attended Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

### **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In the Start-Up Presentation, students learned about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students were also reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

### **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;



- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



### **Mental Health**

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

### **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

### **Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment**

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping](#), [electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

### **Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.



Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

### **For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

## **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.

### **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. During the first few days of schools, bus routes are being refined to ensure efficiency and service. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

It is important that students ride **only on their designated route**. This is for everyone's safety and security.

### **Key Dates**

- Parent/Guardian Interview Night – Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Photo Retake Day – Monday, October 30 (for students without school photos)
- Fright Night – Monday, October 30 6-9 pm (for students with ticket purchase)
- Take Our Kids to Work Day – Wednesday, November 1, 2023
- Last day of Term 1 (Civics and Careers) – November 8, 2023
- Remembrance Day – November 11, 2023