

“Where Everyone Matters & Everyone Belongs”

June 2020



By order of the Minister of Education, all publicly funded schools in Ontario will be closed until the end of this school year to interrupt the spread of COVID-19. Transportation services, continuing education, permit activities, before and after care programs and daycare are also closed. **All school site amenities, including outdoor fields and play structures are closed to the public.** Please visit the Board website for [more information](#).

Dear Rouge Park families,

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe, healthy and well. The Rouge Park staff and I miss seeing our students and families in person at school. We look forward to seeing everyone as soon as it's safe to do so and in the meantime, we are committed to staying connected and supporting student learning and well-being virtually until the end of this school year and beyond.

May 27, 2020 - Learning and Caring at Home Survey

As we respond to the announced extended closure, we are seeking information from families to support students in the next stage of our continuity of learning and caring at home. Your voice is important to us and we are asking for you to share your thoughts through a quick, [online survey](#). We are hoping to learn your thoughts and ideas in real-time about the [Learning and Caring Plan](#), until the end of this school year and to inform decision making for our return in September.

You can participate anonymously and your responses will be confidential. As always, your participation is voluntary.

Your responses will help our Board assess and inform best practices related to our programs and services.

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Parent Input Form for Class Placements

Thank you to all families who were able to complete the **Parent Input Form for Class Placements 2020-2021**. Teachers were provided with access to your responses and used this valued information during the placement process in discussions with their grade team and me. With all the teacher and parent data, we were able to create what we believe are the best possible placements for our students.


Retrieval of Students’ Personal Belongings

On March 12 and 13, students were asked to clean out their cubbies or lockers and take home all their extra clothing, their indoor shoes and other belongings with them due to the announcement regarding the extended school closure post-March Break.

As it has now been determined that school buildings will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we are developing a plan in place for families to retrieve any remaining personal belongings needed that were left at the school (including medications, such as EpiPens and inhalers). More information regarding the Board and school’s plan will be communicated shortly.

School Council Meeting

In collaboration with the Rouge Park School Council Chairs, we will be hosting a School Council meeting for interested community members on **Thursday, June 11, 2020 from 7:00-7:30 pm via an online platform**. Please complete the link to register to attend this virtual meeting and a link will be sent to you in advance via email. Pre-registration will be required in order to participate and there will be an opportunity for you to share your school-wide questions using the Google Form. I’m looking forward to connecting with you soon. Thank you!

For regular updates and school or Board-related information, please visit our website or follow us on Twitter [@RougeParkPS](https://twitter.com/RougeParkPS). 

Thank you,

Fawzia Durrani

Principal

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Rouge Park LLC

Ms. Russell and Ms. Maggiras are happy to share that our **Rouge Park PS Library Learning Commons (LLC)** has gone virtual! Click the link to join the [Rouge Park LLC](#). Please join us to view the wonderful read alouds and activities shared here. There are many pages to explore!

In the [Rouge Park LLC](#), your child can access read alouds through our Bitmoji scene as well as through the e-resources. You can also enjoy reading books through **Sora**, which is our board e-book collection. We have also incorporated a wonderful **dual language** site where you and your child can read a book in over 45 languages! On our **STEAM** page you can find fun hands on activities you can try at home as well as coding websites. Visit the **mindfulness page** for some videos on relaxation. Finally, if you want to try something fun, connect to the links page where you can find **virtual field trips and escape rooms** to enjoy!

Rouge Park PS LLC

Home

Reading at Home

STEAM

More ▾



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June 2020 – Trustee Greetings from Allan Tam, Trustee, Markham, Wards 4 and 5

Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well and are healthy. The past few months have been full of change and uncertainty as we respond to the global pandemic and try to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a Board of Trustees, we know that our families have experienced this pandemic and the school closures in different ways, and we want you to know that our thoughts have been with you all.

Our school board moved quickly to introduce our [Learning and Caring Plan](#) through an intentionally phased approach. Our plan focused on both supporting student well-being and providing continuation of learning for more than 127,000 students. A plan was developed that respected each family’s unique situations and focused on maintaining a caring, safe and inclusive learning environment. To support this, over 20,000 pieces of technology were distributed to ensure that all of our students could access the learning opportunities available to them, and resources and plans were put in place to support all of our learners, including students with special education needs and English language learners.

More information about the Learning and Caring plan as well as tips, resources and supports for students and families to support well-being and online learning can be found at www.yrdsb.ca/covid19.

We are all part of a larger community and I am inspired to see the many different ways schools, families and students maintained their connections with one another. It was also moving to see the many inspiring ways our school board, students, staff and families acknowledged our frontline workers and made contributions to the fight against COVID-19. As a school board, for example, we [donated over 145,000 pieces of personal protective equipment](#), including gloves, masks and more.

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Each and every one of us has made a difference - in staying home as much as possible and following [public health guidelines](#). I know that this has meant making sacrifices.

To our graduating class of 2020, I know this is not the graduating year you had hoped for. I appreciate that the school closures will not affect your ability to graduate, however this unique situation and the need to postpone graduations has been disappointing. I remain tremendously proud of all of our graduates and look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you as soon as we are able to reschedule the graduation ceremonies.

In addition, I know that you have missed out on field trips, awards events, athletic banquets, spirit days, assemblies, our annual [Celebrating Student Success awards](#) and the many other ways we extend learning, connect as a community and celebrate the achievements of our students.

We have also been unable to gather together as we normally would in our schools and communities to celebrate or recognize important dates, including Sikh Heritage Month, Pesach, Good Friday, Easter (Western), Vaisakhi, Holy Friday, Orthodox Easter (Eastern), Ridvan, Jewish Heritage Month, Asian/South Asian Heritage Month, Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr, National Indigenous History Month, Pride, Italian Heritage Month and Portuguese Heritage Month. As a Board, these dates of significance are important for us to acknowledge and we will continue to celebrate and value the wealth of diversity in our community.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer. I look forward to a time when we can welcome your children back into our schools again. We know that families have questions about what the return to school will look like. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following public health guidelines and to stay connected.

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2020 Grade 6, 7 and 8 Summer School

See YRDSB Page (URL linked here) for more information regarding summer courses and registration: [Pages - 2020 Grade 6, 7 and 8 Summer School](#)

Registration is now open and closes June 19, 2020:

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Continuing Education Services is adjusting its Summer Learning program offerings to align with public health guidelines. Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face summer programs will move to a **remote learning delivery model** as per Ministry direction. We will continue to follow Ministry direction and if there are any changes to our program delivery model, we will communicate those changes to the system.

Teachers will be providing synchronous learning for all our programs.

As these are unprecedented times, we encourage staff and students to continue to monitor our Board's website and monitor the [Board's Twitter account @YRDSB](#) as updated information will be posted in those forums.

The following programs will be offered:

- Language and Math reinforcement for students who do not have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an English Language Learner (ELL) designation.
- Language and Math reinforcement for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- English Language Learner (ELL) Language for students who are ELL Stage 1 or 2 learners. The focus is on reading, writing and speaking.

Student registration is attached to one of the following locations:

- Bayview S.S. (Richmond Hill)
- Bur Oak S.S. (Markham)
- Emily Carr S.S. (Woodbridge)
- Keswick H.S. (Keswick)
- Markville SS (Markham)
- Newmarket H.S. (Newmarket)

Registration is now open and closes June 19, 2020:

[YRDSB Students](#)



1. Register on-line by [my Pathway Planner Student Tip Sheet](#), please refer to the [my Pathway Planner Student Tip Sheet](#) on how to register.

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York Region District School Board Summer Institute 2020

Cancelled - Refunds are being/have already been issued to families directly through YRDSB.

- To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the YRDSB is cancelling Summer Institute programming for Summer 2020. This is in line with Public Health guidelines
- Refunds will be remitted to those who had already registered and paid. If you have not received your refund by June 1, please contact Performanceplus.si@yrdsb.ca

Welcome to Kindergarten



We are very excited to welcome our incoming **Year 1 Kindergarten** learners to Rouge Park! This year, we will be sharing information with families online and emailing an 'Introduction to Kindergarten' package with some to help families transition our youngest learners to school for 2020-21. Please expect to receive an email from Rouge Park on Friday, June 5 if your child is registered to start **Year 1 Kindergarten in September 2020**. If you have not registered your Year 1 Kindergarten child for this coming school year, you can still do so online.

We are pleased to offer [online Kindergarten registration](#) at all of our elementary schools. Online registration is optional. Families can continue to register using paper documentation.

Process

1. Confirm if you need to visit the [Reception Centre](#).
2. [Find your school](#).
3. Register [online](#).

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Learning Resources Shared to Support Families

- [Online Learning Resources for Parents, Families and Students](#)
- [Online Resources to Support Students with Special Education Needs](#)
- [Tips for Families to Support Online Learning](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities for Students - Tip Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [K-12 Online Learning Platform Resources - Using Google, Edsby and D2L](#)
- [Learn at Home](#) - Ontario's Ministry of Education resources
- [Student Tech Help form](#)
- [Supporting and Securing Student Privacy Online](#)
- [Ontario's Framework for Continued Learning](#)

Communication to Families

[Letter to Parents from the Ministry of Education \(PDF\)](#) - May 19, 2020



MOVING? - Student Relocation

Please be sure to contact the office ASAP at rouge.park.ps@yrdsb.ca if you have a student who will **not** be returning to RPPS in September 2020.

New Student Registration -2020

We are continuing to **register** new students, and our school is growing. Please contact the office at rouge.park.ps@yrdsb.ca if you have a **new** student starting at RPPS in September.



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Supporting Well-Being

- [Tips for Speaking with your Child about COVID-19](#)
- [Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#) (COVID-19)
- [Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#)

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc. Mental Health Lead

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Gisella Ragno, MSW, RSW Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

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Epi-pens and Medication Pick-up

A schedule will be available to allow parents to book a time to pick up medication that was stored in the school office, such as EPI-pens.

Please wait for more information and scheduled times.

Busing for Rouge Park P.S. - 2020-2021

Busing information for 2020-21 will be available directly from School Bus City. Please check the website at <http://net.schoolbuscity.com/> for further information. Staff members will supervise students as they embark and disembark the bus daily. ***If your child is eligible*** and will be taking the bus to and from Rouge Park P.S., please remind them about the behaviour expectations to ensure the safety of all.



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Upcoming Faith Days:

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

June 21

A day declared by the Assembly of First Nations. All First Nations' organizations cease work during this day. This is a day where all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Indigenous peoples have made to Canada. This day was chosen because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, many Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. For more information about the day's activities, visit the Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Website at www.inac.gc.ca and look in the "Culture and History" section. Additional resources on First Nation, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) can be found on the [Equity page](#), as well as on the [Ontario Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Strategy](#)

SIKHISM

June 16

Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The fifth Guru (1563 - 1606 C.E.), who built the Temple of God in Amristar, was martyred on this day.

WICCA

June 20

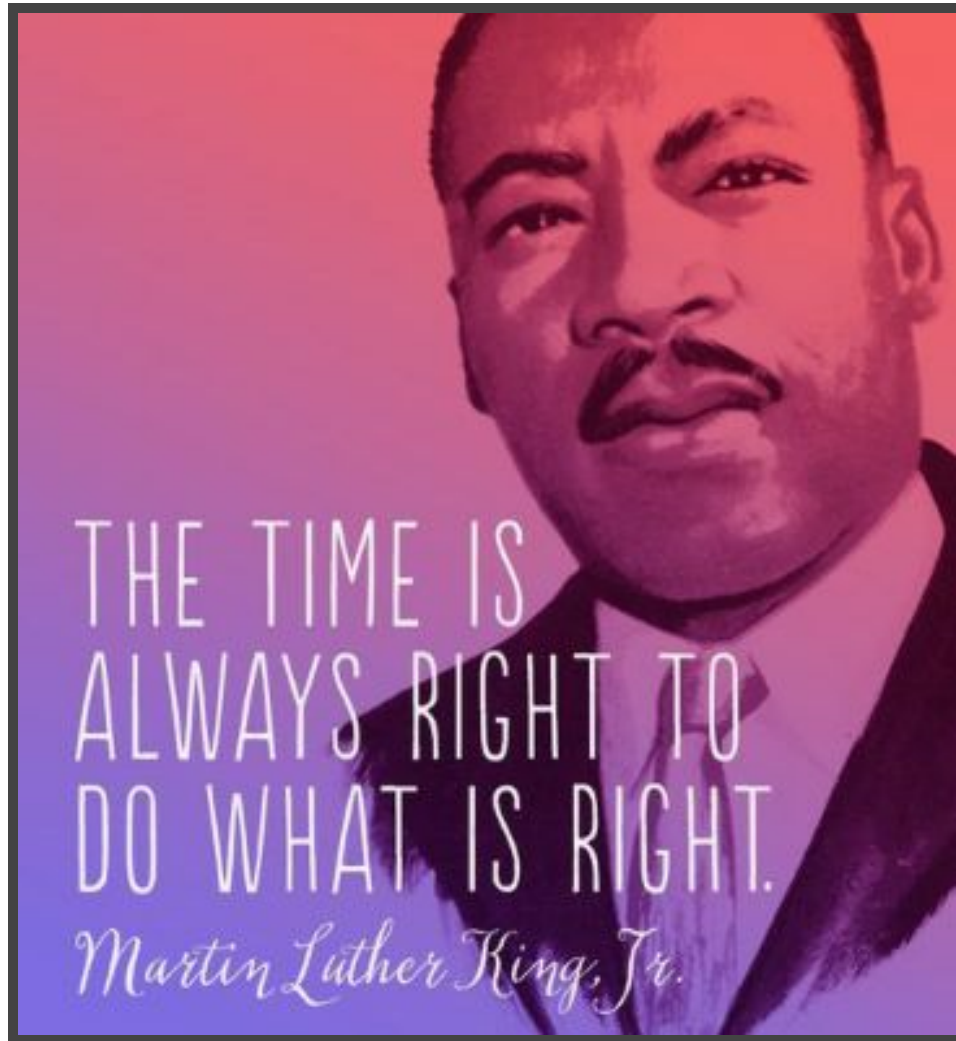
Litha is the name given to the Wiccan Sabbat celebrated at the Summer Solstice. This is the longest day and shortest night of the year, marking the pinnacle of the Sun's power to fuel the growing season. From here on out, the Sun will set a little earlier each night until Yule, and so we recognize and give thanks for its warmth.

ZOROASTRIANISM

June 29 - July 3

Ghambar Maidyoshem celebrates the creation of water, the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.

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THE TIME IS
ALWAYS RIGHT TO
DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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May 30, 2020

We have all seen the disturbing and heart-wrenching video of the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died while in police custody in the city of Minneapolis. Many may also have seen coverage of the resulting protests that erupted in Minneapolis and across the US.



While this incident of anti-Black racism occurred in the US, we know we have to face the truth of anti-Black racism in Canada, in York Region and in our schools. Incidents of anti-Black racism have a profound effect on members of our York Region District School Board family, particularly on our Black staff, students and community. These feelings run the gamut from sadness to anger to fear for safety. We want you to know that we here at the YRDSB remain resolute in our stand against anti-Black racism and against all forms of hate and oppression.

We want all families to also know that we remain vigilant in our conviction to stand together to confront anti-Black racism and violence wherever and whenever it occurs. We know how important it is to support our students and families during this painful time. We also appreciate the importance of creating a safe space where our students can speak freely about their feelings and how events of anti-Black racism affect them. Therefore, we will be reaching out to our Black community partners and working with our professional staff to create these spaces. Under the current circumstances, this means securing a technology solution that works best to create this space. We will spend the next few days to find this solution and will announce details as soon as they are available. We recognize and appreciate the importance of having identity-specific support available whenever required and, as such, are working to identify and retain the services of Black professionals for such a session. Our board is fortunate to have a strong Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) and partnerships with community agencies, including those that work with the Black community who we know will support those affected. We'll work to pool these resources for our students and their families.

Even though we remain physically apart at this time, we will all stand together in our determination to confront racism, hate and violence. Former US President Barack Obama said in response to this tragic event, “If we want our children to grow up in a nation that lives up to its highest ideals, we can and must do better.” We know anti-Black racism is not confined to American society, as it is unfortunately the lived experience of many here in Canada. At the YRDSB, we are firmly committed to strengthening our resolve in working toward removing systemic barriers that prevent our students from growing up and thriving in a nation that lives up to its highest ideals. We also want all our students and staff to learn and work in environments that are identity affirming. Currently, if you

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have concerns about your child’s emotional well-being, please do not hesitate to contact your school so that we may arrange for the appropriate supports to be put in place.

We remain united as a community in the face of these upsetting incidents of anti-Black racism. Together, we must name these acts of hate as deplorable because they are just that. Each of our students and staff needs to feel safe and be safe and everyone has a responsibility to create these environments. By bringing these hateful acts to the forefront of discussion, supporting each other and taking action, we reinforce our commitment and dedication to the equitable world that we must build together.

Sincerely,

Juanita Nathan
Board Chair

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

Thank you for your continued understanding
and support as a school community.

This is a challenging and uncertain time
for our local and global community.

Take care of yourselves, your families and our community at-large.

