



# Unionville High School



201 Town Centre Blvd. Markham, Ontario, L3R 8G5

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Arts: 431  
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## Parent Bulletin V20 January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Club List 2019-2020

Please click the link below to find out about clubs at UHS. Students who are interested in joining a club should speak to the teacher advisor or attend the scheduled meeting. The link below includes teacher contact names and meeting times.

[Club List 2019-2020](#)

### NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS JANUARY 27-31st

January 27 Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exams (Period 5)</li><li>AU Auditions</li></ul>
January 28 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exams (Period 3)</li><li>AU Auditions</li></ul>
January 29 Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exams (Period 4)</li><li>AU Auditions</li><li>PEAK to Stiver Mill Community Centre</li></ul>
January 30 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exam Review Day (Modified Schedule)</li><li>International Student Registration (8:30 am – 12:00pm)</li></ul>
January 31 Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>P.D. Day</li></ul>

### UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7th

February 3 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Semester 2 Begins</li></ul>
February 4 Day 1	
February 5 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PEAK to Stiver Mill Community Centre</li><li>Jr. Boys Basketball (Home Game – 4:45-6:45pm)</li></ul>
February 6 Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sr. Girls Volleyball to Markham District (2:30-5:30pm)</li><li>DECA Ontario Provincials (Toronto Sheraton Centre)</li></ul>
February 7 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Safety Assemblies</li><li>DECA Ontario Provincials (Toronto Sheraton Centre)</li></ul>

### Letter to Families

[NOVEL CORONA VIRUS - FAQ](#)



## UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

201 Town Centre BLVD., Markham, Ontario L3R-8G5 Tel: (905) 479-2787

Monday, January 27, 2020

Dear families:

Further to our correspondence last week, we are aware of confirmation by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in Toronto. At this time, Public Health agencies have not communicated any concern or connection between this case and any school in York Region, including ours.

Our school board is in communication with public health agencies, including a conference call today with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. They continue to reiterate that risk to Ontarians remains low and that additional measures at the school level are not necessary. Our school will continue to operate as normal. We depend on you as our closest partners in education to respond based on scientific medical advice and reinforce the following healthy practices by children during the peak flu season:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and warm water.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough; cough and sneeze into your sleeve or arm or a tissue and discard the tissue after use.
- Contact your health practitioner and stay at home if you are ill.

York Region Public Health is not advising the wearing of masks. Please do not send your child to school wearing a mask, as this may unnecessarily elevate concerns among students and may cause increased risk of infection to the user. You can read more information about [recommendations from Ontario's Ministry of Health on what you can do to protect yourself](#).

As you are aware, there is heightened sensitivity and some misinformation on social media regarding the novel coronavirus. You are encouraged to focus on the messages coming from our public health agencies as trusted sources of information. We are in close contact with York Region Public Health and are fully prepared to respond to advice and direction aimed at protecting the health of our school community. Our caretakers continue to provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfection as part of their routine duties. York Region Public Health has stated that no enhanced cleaning or disinfecting is recommended at this time.

As per standard school practice, all school staff are encouraged to be vigilant for students who are ill and to report any concerns to the principal. Students who are ill should remain at home and families should contact their health care practitioner.

For up to date information, please visit [www.york.ca/coronavirus](http://www.york.ca/coronavirus), [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus) or [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus).

As we receive additional information from public health agencies, we will pass it on to our families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653.

We look forward to supporting your child during this exam time and wish them the best.

Sincerely,

Suelyn Cheong  
Principal

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## GRADE 9 EQAO MATH TEST POSTPONED

Dear families of Grade 9 students,

On Thursday, January 9, 2020, York Region District School Board announced that it would be postponing the Grade 9 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment for first semester Applied and Academic Math. This is a result of the job sanctions currently underway by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

We appreciate that you may have questions regarding the rescheduling of the test. We anticipate receiving more information from the Ministry of Education and will update you as soon as we do.

Our school has also considered the options for the 5 per cent EQAO portion of the students' final mark for the Grade 9 Mathematics course. After careful consideration, we have decided to do the following:

- Add 5% to the weight of an existing summative for students in Grade 9 Applied Math
- Add 5% to the weight of the exam for students in Grade 9 Academic Math

This decision was made in the best interest of students and with the intent of being fair, transparent and equitable in all assessment and evaluation of student work.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's education, please feel free to contact your teacher or the school directly.

Sincerely,

Suelyn Cheong

Principal

### Immunization Clinic

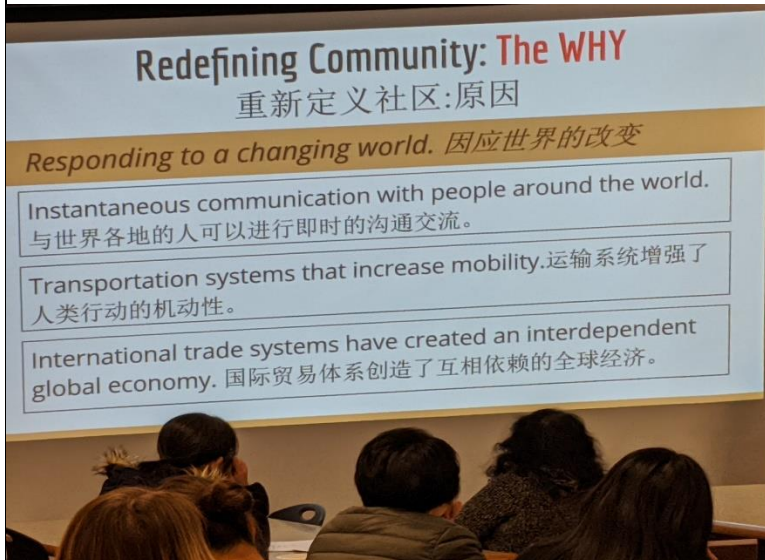
There will be an immunization clinic at UHS on Tuesday, February 11 in the library for students requiring vaccinations. The library will not be available for quiet study or classes on this day due to the clinic.

### New Registration Photos and Grad Photo Retakes

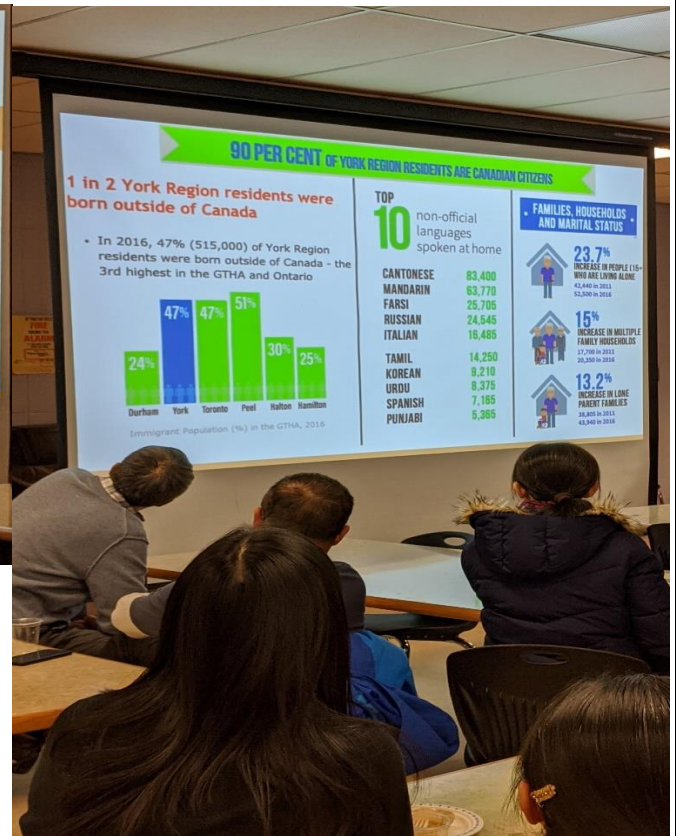
On **Thursday, February 20**, Edge Imaging will be set up in our cafeteria for new registration photos and graduation re-takes. Students who are new to the school will have their pictures taken in the morning. Grad re-take photos are by appointment only.

### School Council Meeting

On Monday, January 20, many of our parents and guardians gathered for a very productive School Council Meeting. Parents/Guardians had the opportunity to socialize, connect, and discuss what *community* means to them. Then, they divided themselves into breakout groups to discuss what UHS staff should know about their children, family experiences, and community's strengths and challenges. The administration also presented information on exams, upcoming course offerings, and our STEM program.



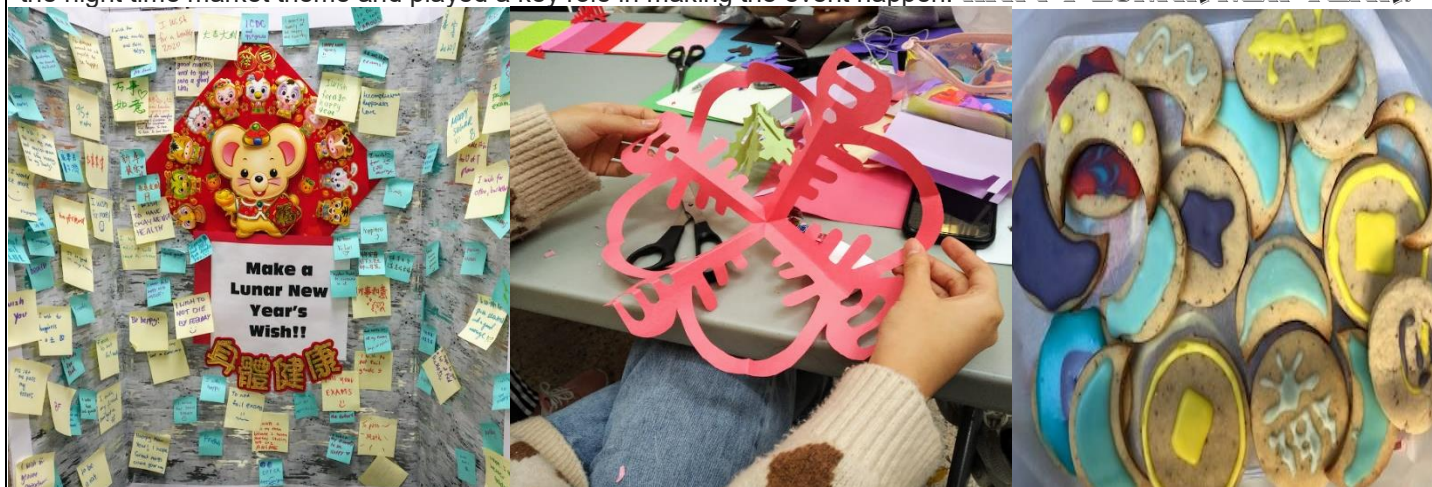
Please join us for our next School Council meeting on Monday, February 10. More information and an RSVP link will be shared with you in an upcoming bulletin.





## Festive Lunar New Year

UHS celebrated Lunar New Year on January 20 and 21. We would like to thank all of the staff and students who made this grand celebration possible! The cookies were delicious and the students really enjoyed all of the activities. The hanging lights set the perfect stage. We would especially like to thank our student Shanzay Kamran who came up with the night time market theme and played a key role in making the event happen. **HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!**



## UHS Course Offerings

The course selection process will begin in February. Students, parents and guardians can begin viewing UHS course offerings by visiting the following sites:

Courses and descriptions:

<https://app.myblueprint.ca/public/courses/yrdsb/unionville1>

[Click here for Courses at a Glance](#)

Students will be using My Pathway Planner to complete their course requests.

(<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Pages/default.aspx>). Students can begin to 'lock-in' their course requests starting February 12<sup>th</sup>. The final day to submit courses will be **February 24<sup>th</sup>**. Students will receive more information about course selection in the first week of February during grade assemblies.

## Tamil Heritage Month

On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed in the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming January of every year as Tamil Heritage Month (THM). Thus, we are pleased to invite you to join us in acknowledging and celebrating Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, as well as to highlight the vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures of Tamil Canadians. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.

According to the Tamil calendar, January 14 begins the month of "Thai" and the start of the Tamil New Year. On this day Tamils around the diaspora will be celebrating Tamil New Year and Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the blessings of the previous year and a time to look forward to the New Year.

Pongal refers to rice cooked in milk and sweetened with chakkarai (brown cane sugar). On Thai Pongal, members of the family wake up early in the morning, dress in new clothes and gather together to cook the traditional Pongal meal. Additional ingredients used in this special dish include milk-roasted green gram (payaru), raisins, cashew nuts (optional), and cardamom. Pongal is

served with fruits (banana and mango) on a banana leaf, and the family gives thanks to the sun and the farmers for a bountiful harvest before sharing the special dish with family members, friends and neighbours.

### **What is Arts Camp?**

For over thirty years, on the shores of a private lake in the Haliburton Highlands, Camp White Pine hosts a unique yearly camp for York Region District School Board students. Arts Camp is an intensive one-week immersion in performance-based and product-generating art programs and experiences. To ensure the student experience is memorable, dynamic and fun, teachers, local and regional artists as well as student counsellors plan and facilitate amazing art programs and support a unique, inclusive environment for campers. 250 students ranging from Grade 7 to Grade 12 from across York Region attend morning and afternoon arts-based programs augmented by other daily workshops and activities. The week-long camp culminates with an on-site Art Show/Gallery Tour and Performance Night.

For information on how to apply, visit the board

website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/arts/Pages/Arts-Camp.aspx>

### **In-Class Night School**

In-class night school is now open for registration until February 6<sup>th</sup> through My Pathway Planner. Only students who cannot get the course at UHS qualify. All courses are offered at the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning in Richmond Hill. Interested students must print off a registration form and submit it to Guidance for approval.

### **Night School E-Learning**

Night School E-Learning registration is now open for Grade 11 and 12 courses offered in Semester 2. Please see your Guidance Counselor to complete the application form. Only students who cannot get the course in day school are eligible.

### **No Parking Zone**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please be advised that there is a No Parking Zone located in front of the main entrance of the school on Town Centre Boulevard. This area is for buses and pick up and drop offs only. Most importantly this is a fire route. For safety reasons we cannot have cars parked or idling in this spot even if occupied by a driver or passenger.

### **Semester 2 Timetables**

#### **Semester 2 Timetables**

Semester 2 timetables will be emailed to students' gapps accounts and to parents/guardians who have an email address registered with the school on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Please note, no elective changes will be completed.** Any timetable changes made in the first week of semester 2 will be completed for students who were not successful in their semester 1 courses. Guidance will be contacting these students.

## AEBS Newsletters

### SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020 for the**

**Alliance of Educators for Black Students Dinner and Dance Fundraiser at the  
Crystal Fountain Event Venue, 60 McDowell Gate in Markham**

**Theme: Motown**

**For Full AEBS Newsletter click [here](#)**

### **BFNC Scholarship Application Workshop & Pathway Planning**

An interactive workshop is being offered to show Black students and their parents how to search, apply and win scholarships and bursaries. If you are in High School or Grade 7/8/9 this workshop is for you.

Please click this link: [BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop & Path Way Planning](#)

### **A Different Booklist**

Please click [this link to the events page on the A Different Booklist site](#).

### **Parent Presentations**

Join us to share, learn and build a school culture where mental health and well-being is valued and promoted.

Please click this link: [Parent Presentations](#)

### **Sankofa Mentoring Program for Black Youth between 12 - 18**

Now that the December break is over, the program is starting up again. New applications are now being processed. Please note that there is no cost and dinner is provided for the students who attend the program. See the flyer for more details. [Sankofa Mentoring Program](#)

### **Exam Schedule**

Please click the link for the Exam Schedule. [Exam Schedule - January 2020](#)

### **Winter Weather Notice**

Dear Families,

As we go into the winter months, it is important that families are aware that there may be rare occasions when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations.

#### *Emergency winter weather*

Emergency closures will be considered when facilities may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site, or cause widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines.

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and after care programs will also not operate if schools are closed. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

#### *School transportation cancellations*

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled for the afternoon. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated.

Families can use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on inclement weather

days. Students will not be penalized for missing school. For safety reasons, you are required to let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

#### *Communication to families*

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m.

We are introducing a new communications system that will send **text messages to parents/guardians for emergency purposes only**. This includes the rare event of a school closure. Parents/guardians have the ability to opt-out of receiving text messages should they choose.

We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- [Board website](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Sincerely,



Louise Sirisko Director of  
Education

### **Aquatic Leadership Program – Winter 2020**

Please click [here](#) for the Aquatic Leadership Program for Winter 2020.

### **English as a Second Language Classes for Adults**

Classes available for registration. Please click [here](#).

### **Upgrade Your Employment Skills**

Upgrade your skills for employment. Please click [here](#).

### **2020 March Break Youth Engagement Program**

This program is for mature students in Grades 9-12 who may be interested in Policing or working within a Police service. For more information please click [here](#).

### **Ontario Educational Leadership Centre**

Transformative leadership courses are available for grade 6-12 students interested in developing foundational leadership skills, making a difference in their schools and communities, and becoming agents of change. Please click the link for more Information. [OELC Leadership Courses](#).