

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Secondary Schools Closed to Students on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 due to OSSTF Strike

Notice has been provided by OSSTF, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, that all YRDSB secondary school teachers will be conducting a one day strike affecting secondary schools on **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**.

If the strike proceeds, on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, secondary schools will be closed to students for the day. Please do not send students to secondary school on December 4. Elementary schools will not be affected and will remain open. All secondary school transportation services (including buses, taxis, etc.) will not be running. Independent childcare programs in secondary schools are expected to continue - please confirm with your provider.

School will resume on Thursday, December 5, 2019, and students are expected to return to their regular timetables for the day.

Please continue to monitor media, www.yrdsb.ca or Twitter: [@YRDSB](https://twitter.com/YRDSB) for up to date information.



Unionville High School

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



905-479-2787
Attendance: 230
Arts: 431
Unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca
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PRINCIPAL
Suelyn Cheong
suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca

VICE PRINCIPALS
Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)
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SUPERINTENDENT
Becky Green
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BOARD TRUSTEE
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Parent Bulletin V14 November 29, 2019

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

December 2 Day 1	•
December 3 Day 2	•
December 4 Day 1	•
December 5 Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade 11 AU Drama Performance at UHS Periods 3 and 4• Grade 11 AU Drama Performance at UHS (7:00-9:00pm)• Expo Culture (3:30-7:00pm)
December 6 Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Class and PEAK Visit to Promenade Mall

Message from Our Trustee

December 2019 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and being successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

- Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

I have had the opportunity to attend various school meetings including School Councils, Regional School Council Forum, Quest Conference and York Regional labour market information night. I have also spoken to parents, students and educators first hand. It is important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. In the recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region, we learned and shared together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and problematic gaming. It was wonderful to see so many family members there. I have visited no less than eight school council meetings so far this year and it is my mandate to visit every school council in the school year as it provides me with great opportunities to listen to and interact with families. As a pilot project commencing since the beginning of the year, a few schools piloted Active School Travel, which promotes students to walk or cycle to schools with their families. It was well received and feedback was also received from families.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Ron Lynn

Trustee, Markham, Wards 2, 3 and 6

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
- 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.

Sincerely,



Louise Sirisko Director of
Education

LIVE WELL TAKE ACTION PROGRAM

Looking for Student Participants: The "Live Well, Take Action: Ambassador Program for East Asian Youth" is currently accepting applications from East Asian youth who are interested in or have the potential to engage in social activism, current issues and community development. Prospective students may not necessarily be holding leadership roles or considered to be "loud" or outspoken. Workshops will focus on wellness, critical thinking and communication skills, and students will apply their learning by creating group projects that will be presented at various events. Volunteer hours and snacks will be provided! For more info, visit our website at: livewelltakeaction.com or contact Ms. Farwell, Guidance Counsellor, at michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca. Deadline to apply is **Friday, January 17th, 2020**.

Grad. Google Classroom

Grade 12 students are encouraged to join the UHS Grad Google Classroom to receive important up-to-date information about graduation and post-secondary planning. Students can sign up using this **Google Classroom code**: rhg0eyg

MOVEMBER

Great work to everyone who participated in Wednesday's 'Move for Movember' Event, organized by students in Mr. Ricci's Leadership class, and supported by the Phys Ed Department. Students and staff alike walked, ran, biked, and rowed to raise funds and awareness for the Movember Campaign which supports men's health. Our group collectively covered over 2500 km over the course of the day, going the distance to change the face of men's health!

Donations are still being accepted on the team's Mo' Space here --> <https://moteam.co/unionville-mo-s?mc=1>



MOVEMBER®

Intersecting Identities Show

As part of the Intersecting Identities Show at YRDSB's Education Centre in Aurora, our visual art students will have their organic ink works displayed from December 2 to January 8. The artwork reflects student voice and addresses issues such as power and privilege, colonialism, identity and marginalization. It was created in a workshop called [#LandIsSacred](#), [#WaterIsLife](#) at the [McMichael Gallery](#). This thought-provoking studio was developed in collaboration with Michif artist Christi Belcourt.



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.

Dreaming the (Im)possible



Photo by: The Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan

Dreaming the (Im)possible

Legalization of same-sex marriage in Taiwan and LGBTQ+ rights across Asia today

Let's learn from the movement in Taiwan – the first nation in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. Join prominent LGBTQ+ activists for an exciting day about dreaming the (im)possible.

- Talk by Jennifer Lu, Chief Coordinator of Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan
- Documentary screening
- Panel discussion with East and South Asian LGBTQ+ activists
- Photo exhibition and more

This is a free event and everyone is welcome. Lunch will be served.

Saturday, November 30, 2019 • 10:30am-4pm

at **The 519** [519 Church St.]

RSVP at bit.ly/519taiwan

(RSVP is optional but nice)

For more information, contact Organizing@The519.org.

The 519 is an accessible facility with a ramp, elevator, and all-gender washrooms.



[The519.org](https://www.the519.org) ☎ 416-392-6874 [f](https://www.facebook.com/the519) [i](https://www.instagram.com/the519) [t](https://www.tumblr.com/the519) [y](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC519) The519