



UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin –Vol.15

Friday, December 11, 2020



201 Town Centre Blvd.
 Markham, ON
 L3R 8G5
 (P) 905-479-2787
 (F) 905-479-1539

Extensions:
 Reception - 431
 Attendance - 230
 Guidance - 458

Principal
 Suelyn Cheong
suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)
andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Patrick Belmonte (M-Z)
patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca

Superintendent
 Becky Green
becky.green@yrdsb.ca

Board Trustee
 Ron Lynn ron.lynn@yrdsb.ca

Email:
unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

School Website:
[Click here](#)

Tweets
[@UHSupdates](#)

Rotation - 6	Nov 27 - Dec 14	Rotation - 7	Dec 15 - Jan 13
In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 2	In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 3
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch	11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch
Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 1	Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 4
Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 3	Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 1
Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 4	Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 2

2B ¹⁴	Rotation #7 3A ¹⁵	3B ¹⁶	3A ¹⁷	3B ¹⁸
²¹ Winter Break	²² Winter Break	²³ Winter Break	²⁴ Winter Break	²⁵ Winter Break
²⁸ Winter Break	²⁹ Winter Break	³⁰ Winter Break	³¹ Winter Break	¹ Winter Break
3A ⁴	3B ⁵	3A ⁶	3B ⁷	3A ⁸

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrus Marcus Ware - SHSM Virtual Guest Speaker (3:15 PM) Rotation 6 Ends
Tuesday, December 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotation 7 Begins
Wednesday, December 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Disclosure
Thursday, December 17	
Friday, December 18	

Virtual Clubs

Name of Club:	Staff Supervisor:	Accepting new members:
The UHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance	Ms. Sara Faulkner sara.faulkner@yrdsb.ca	YES
Computer Club	Mr. Jey Anandarajan jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca	YES
UHS Robotics Team	Mr. Brian Cho & Mr. Jey Anandarajan brian.cho@yrdsb.ca jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca	YES
DECA	Mr. Don Pan & Mr. Wes Guldemon kuo.pan@yrdsb.ca wesley.guldemon@yrdsb.ca	membership closed
Student Wellness Council	Ms. Michelle Farwell michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca	YES
Environmental Council	Mr. Michael Johnston & Ms. Polina Di Francesco michael.johnston@yrdsb.ca polina.difrancesco@yrdsb.ca	YES
The Unionville Howl (Newsletter)	Ms. Ann Choi yu-kyung.choi@yrdsb.ca	membership closed
Film Club	Mr. Shiraz Rafik shiraz.rafik@yrdsb.ca	YES
Music Council	Mr. Jeff Wrigglesworth jeff.wrigglesworth@yrdsb.ca	YES
Relay for Life	Ms. Jennifer Zamperin jennifer.zamperin@yrdsb.ca	YES

Science Club	Ms. Elaine Howard Mr. Jeffrey Chan elaine.howard@yrdsb.ca jeffrey.chan@yrdsb.ca	YES
STEM for Girls	Ms. Deborah Radbourne deborah.radbourne@yrdsb.ca	YES
Math Club	Ms. Daniela Panacci daniela.panacci@yrdsb.ca	YES
Social Justice Club	Mr. Manny Sanchez manuel.sanchez@yrdsb.ca	YES
French Club	Mr. Peter Lansing peter.lansing@yrdsb.ca	YES

Welcome to our Interim Principal

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our interim principal, Mr. Brian Schouten (brian.schouten@yrdsb.ca), who will be joining us temporarily.

School Council Email Contact

Any parent/guardian wanting to contact a member of the UHS School Council can use this email address: unionville.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca

Secondary GSA Google Classroom

Secondary school students who identify as 2SLGTBQI+ and their allies are invited to join a virtual GSA secondary classroom. The classroom will be moderated by our caring and dedicated GSA advisors who will make sure the space is following ground rules, safe space guidelines and confidentiality. The classroom is now open and accepting student registrations. Students must [register](#) using their YRDSB GAPPS account.

The GSA Google classroom will offer the social and educational aspects as well as the fun of a GSA online. It will include discussion boards, community services and resources, group social sessions, and various supports.

The first GSA classroom meeting will take place on December 15, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be an opportunity to meet the moderators, introduce ourselves, and to help shape the classroom as a group.

BFCN: End-of-Year Celebration & Scholarship Application Workshop

Join BFCN for an end-of-year celebration to learn about Kwanzaa and the importance of cultural traditions on Friday, December 18 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Celebrate the start of the holiday break with an evening to remember, hosted by the phenomenal storyteller Sandra Whiting. We are also excited to welcome Kofi Morris of Holistic Foundations who will teach us about the history of Kwanzaa and practicing traditions, Yolanda Marshall who will do a book reading, and Negus Medhin of Holistic Vibrancy who will share some African drumming. There will also be games and prizes to be won!

Please share with your friends and family and encourage them to save the date. The online workshop is free but there is limited space available so please register via Eventbrite ASAP: bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopDecember18.

Also, Black students and their families are invited to join us for another online edition of the BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 7 PM - 9 PM. The workshop is offered free of charge as the goal is to share our collective knowledge so that Black students and their families can make informed decisions about post-secondary education. Note that the Scholarship Program Coordinator will also be present to answer any questions. Please share with your friends and family and encourage them to save the date. The online workshop is free but there is limited space available so please register via Eventbrite ASAP: bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22.

Registration via Eventbrite is mandatory in order to participate for both workshops. A Zoom link and further details will be sent to all those who register.

For more information or to share accessibility needs, please contact us at info@bfcn.ca or 416-566-2731.

Community Partnership Developers

The Community Partnership Developers (CPD) provide direct support for students and families through partnerships with community organizations and social service agencies. We support students and families with:

- community outreach and engagement
- nutrition and food supports
- parenting supports and education
- student and parent engagement
- early years and transition to high school
- locating services and/or community resources
- mental health
- basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)

If at any time, you are facing difficulties or challenges, we invite you to contact a member of your CPD East Area Team directly. We support all students and families of elementary and secondary schools in the Markham area.

Community Partnership Developers (CPD) East Area Team:

NAGESWARY SRIKUMARAGURU - Specialization (Regional): Tamil Community
Email: nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca; Phone: 905-727-0022 Ext. 2449

SHANI BLAKE - Specialization (Regional): Performance Plus Schools
Email: shani.blake@yrdsb.ca; Phone: 416-554-0362

SHARON ZHANG - Specialization (Regional): Chinese Community
Email: sharon.zhang@yrdsb.ca; Phone: 905-884-2046 Ext. 2447

YASMIN MAWANI - Specialization (Regional): South Asian Community
Email: yasmin.mawani@yrdsb.ca; Phone: 416-727-8179

Financial Support for Parents/Guardians

The government is providing financial support to help parents and guardians with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year during the second wave of COVID-19.

Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of...

- \$200 for each child up to age 12;
- \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs.

This is a new program, and all parents or guardians who are residents of Ontario with eligible children will need to submit a new application for each child.

As of today, eligible parents or guardians can go to [Ontario.ca/SupportforLearners](https://ontario.ca/supportforlearners) for more information and to apply for the one-time financial support. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.



Tamil Heritage Month 2021

Poster Competition

Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action presents Poster Competition for Tamil Heritage Month 2021

Topic: Remembrance, Resilience & Resistance

Due Date: December 14, 2020

Submission: Please send poster submission to

Nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca

Further information:

Srikumaraguru Nageswary, Community and Partnership Developer-CEC East
Inclusive Schools and Community Services, YRDSB
905 727 0022, ext. 228

Nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca



Our Existence is Our Resistance

A Tamil Heritage Month Workshop Series

In recognition of Tamil Heritage Month, students are invited to participate in **two free workshops** in January which focus on aspects of Tamil Identity: Traditional Tamil Cuisine and Spoken Word

Traditional Tamil Cuisine Workshop

When: Monday January 11, 2021 from 6pm-7pm EST

Where: Zoom (link provided upon registration)

Ages: Grade 5-12

Overview: A family workshop designed to provide an opportunity for YRDSB students to learn more about their culture through food and practice making their own dish through the support and guidance of our facilitator, Chef Sarmel

Spoken Word Workshop

When: Tuesday January 12, 2021 from 6pm-7:30pm EST

Where: Zoom (link provided upon registration)

Ages: Grade 9-12

Overview: An interactive workshop for YRDSB students to explore themes of identity and resistance through writing and performing Spoken Word with the support of our facilitator, Spoken Word Artist Nirosha Balakumar

Please register for either workshops using the following [Google Form](#)

For more information email momtha.sivapathasundram@yrdsb.ca or niyomi.raveenthiran@yrdsb.ca

December 22nd, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm | [Enroll today to join the fun!](#) | Праздновать вместе

Winter break is around the corner! Let's get together, make friends and talk about what we love most about the holidays! [Sign up today to join the fun!](#) Please fill out the [online registration form](#) to sign up. You will receive a zoom link and passcode once you have registered.

ПРАЗДНИК ДЛЯ ПОДРОСТКОВ (9–12 классы) | [зарегистрироваться Сегодня!](#)

22 декабря в 17:00 | Зарегистрируйтесь сегодня, чтобы присоединиться к нам!

Присоединяйтесь к нам для проведения радостных праздников и знакомства друг с другом! Во время нашей встречи будет доступен перевод на русский язык. [зарегистрироваться Сегодня!](#)

If you have any questions or would like additional information:

Olga Joukova | Settlement Worker (SEPYR) | 416-616-6789 | ojoukova@ccsyrr.org

Leonora Buskin | Community Partnership Developer (CPD) | 416-605-1137 | leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca



HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

JOIN FOR A RUSSIAN & HEBREW
SPEAKING NEWCOMER TEEN
GET TOGETHER (GRADES 9—12)

WHEN: Tuesday, DECEMBER 22, 2020

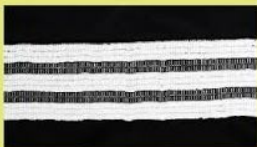
TIME: 5:00 PM—6:00 PM

TOPIC: Spending the holidays together!

To register, please fill out the [online registration form](#) or contact:

Olga Joukova, Settlement Worker (SEPYR)
416-616-6789 | ojoukova@ccsyrr.org

Leonora Buskin | Community Partnership Developer (CPD, YRDSB)
416-605-1137 | leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL INDIGENOUS EDUCATION BULLETIN

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

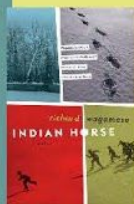
Land Acknowledgements

It has become common for cultural events, business gatherings and even schools to publish or declare “land acknowledgements”, as we chose to do at Unionville High School a few years ago. Designed to be more than empty gestures of meaningless rhetoric, a land acknowledgement—ideally—is a heartfelt, personal, sincere and ever-changing statement. The Mohawk playwright and broadcaster Falen Johnson puts it this way: “Acknowledgment is an active thing. You need to be situated in that acknowledgment or it’s lip service. If people don’t know what they’re doing or why they are doing it, then my suggestion is, don’t do it.” In our acknowledgements, we commonly refer to the Wendat, Huron, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas of the Credit. When Johnson spoke with representatives from those communities about Land Acknowledgements, they said “it felt like a eulogy: We were there, now we’re not, and now it’s yours.” There’s a wonderful article by a group of Kingston-area First Nations writers entitled *Rethinking the Practice and Performance of Indigenous Land Acknowledgement* in which they pose a number of questions that we should ask ourselves here at UHS: “Does the acknowledgement of Indigenous lands and waterways elide with the acknowledgement of other forms of structural and epistemic violence within the specific contexts we work in as academics and artists? How might acknowledgement be aligned with a politics of recognition that is a continuation of settler colonial logics rather than a break from them? What must occur for acts of acknowledgement to transform into actions that effect Indigenous sovereignty? How can standardized forms of acknowledgement give way to context- and site-specific forms of redress?”



Norma Rabbitskin and the Native Studies program at Trent University

Sturgeon Lake First Nation nurse Norma Rabbitskin is a force of nature. She has been a nurse for 31 years and recently won an award for “incorporating cultural practices into primary care”. In 2017, Rabbitskin was quoted as saying “leadership is about being grounded by our principles rooted in the values and practices of our culture.” When we talk about Indigenous Education and it being a strong foundation of our professional practice in York Region, we would do well to start with that statement. As part of our Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy, we are charged to “build a collective understanding of the on-going effect of colonialism and oppression” and that our classrooms should be places where “Indigenous perspectives, beliefs and ways of doing things are respected and valued and Indigenous ways of thinking are promoted and integrated into practice.” There’s a helpful preamble in a management report by Native Studies professors at Trent University that reads “Aboriginal organizations which are based upon traditional Aboriginal values are managed differently from organizations in the mainstream of Canadian society. Their management scheme is based upon a collectivist orientation to life which gives rise to a group oriented, non-hierarchical organization which operates by consensus and encourages holistic employee development. The organization is also likely to involve Elders as advisors and teachers. **It is important for educators, both institutionally and non-institutionally based, to ensure that these differences are reflected in management training and education curricula”.**



INDIAN HORSE (Richard Wagamese)

From the first page of this exquisite novel, a profoundly moving account of the tragedy of Canada’s Residential Schools: “Our talk rolls and tumbles like the rivers that served as our roads. Our legends tell of how we emerged from the womb of our Mother the Earth: Aki is the name we have for her. We sprang forth intact, with Aki’s heartbeat thrumming in our ears, prepared to become her stewards and protectors. When I was born our people still talked this way. We had not yet stepped beyond the influence of our legends. That was a border my generation crossed, and we pine for a return that has never come to be.” The only thing that matters is that heartbeat; that rolling and tumbling; that stewardship; those legends.

May the Creator give strength to the progress of Indigenous Education, sincere acknowledgement, enlightened leadership, artistic expression and academic freedom in the unique community that is Unionville High School.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (2015)

Read the reports and calls to action at <http://nctr.ca/reports2.php>

Larry Beckwith • Unionville High School • larry.beckwith@yrdsb.ca • 905-479-2787 x 538

Scholarship News

Continue to check the Guidance Moodle for upcoming scholarship information as well as application and eligibility details, including the November - January Scholarship Report.

Upcoming school sponsored scholarships are due to Ms. Hawkins (stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca) by 3 pm. Applications can be submitted to the drop box outside the Guidance office.

January 8th, 2021 (school sponsored) - **Schulich Leaders Scholarship** (student must be pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering or Math)

January 8th, 2021 (school sponsored) - **University of Western Ontario** - National Scholarship Program (open to Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents and International Students)

Volunteering Opportunities: Online/virtual opportunities have been added to the Volunteering Google Classroom. Please continue to look for eligible nonprofit organization volunteer opportunities to complete your hours.

Night School E-Learning

Registration is now open for students to take Night School E-Learning. Students who are enrolled in courses worth less than 4 credits in a given semester might be eligible. **Note:** Night School e-Learning + Day School credits cannot exceed a total of 8 credits in a school year. Students who are interested **must contact their Guidance Counsellor first** in order to receive permission to register.

- Registration Details:
- **Registration period:** December 7, 2020 – February 10, 2021
- **Course dates:** February 17- June 10, 2021
- **Registration fee:** No fee; the \$20 fee has been waived for the winter 2021 session
- **More information** can be found at: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/Pages/default.aspx>

Inclement Weather

For the 2020-2021 school year, when an inclement weather day is announced and all Board transportation is cancelled, **all face-to-face elementary schools and secondary schools will be closed to students**. All credit classes will be taught synchronously online for that day (a change only for Block 1 as afternoon Block 2 – 4 classes are already online). The schedule for the day will remain as set for that rotation. Teachers of Community Classes will provide asynchronous learning by posting/sharing age, grade, learning appropriate activities and/or assignments aligned with current student learning, while being available to students through the day as per their schedule.

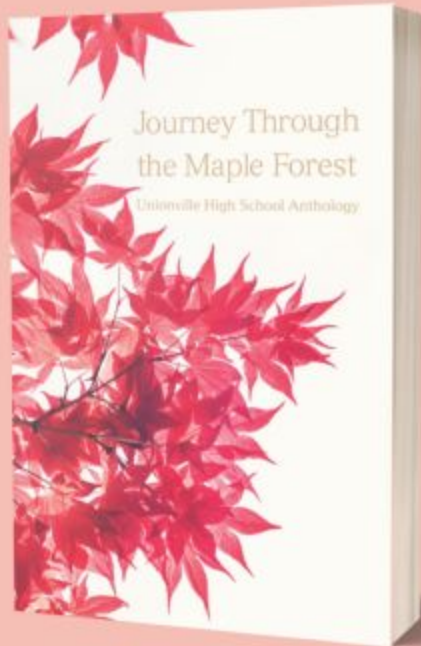
Inclement weather announcements will be communicated through local media outlets, the [Student Transportation Services](#) website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330- 3001, the Board's website and Twitter account, and on the Board's and school's voicemail recording.

Arts Unionville

We want to thank everyone who registered to apply for our Arts 2021-2022 program. Registration is now closed. The e-portfolio instructions for each discipline have been shared with all applicants. Applicants requiring an interview will be contacted by January 8. The e-portfolio submission deadline is Monday, January 11.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE MAPLE FOREST

Unionville Highschool Anthology



Support our students by sharing their stories with friends and families!

Journey Through the Maple Forest is a collection of personal stories, poems, and artwork by the students in **Ms. Kapeluch, Mr. Pan, Ms. Mitharu, and Ms. Yu's** ESL classes (2019-2020).

Order your copy at
thesoapboxpress.com

\$18 per book or use the code
UHSANTH
to get two copies for \$30.

All proceeds raised will help fund our next anthology which will welcome submissions from all students at UHS.

These students are resilient, vulnerable, and insightful. Their views matter to our schools because they each bring new perspectives, appreciations, and insight into Canadian aspirations and traditions. This anthology is meaningful to the York Region District School Board because we all need to hear the voices of our new students as they represent how their cohorts are feeling and experiencing their new lives in Canada. These voices have the power to impact, change, and influence ways to build more inclusive and supportive practices and learning environments for our students.

Becky Green
Superintendent of Schools
York Region District School Board