



# UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin –Vol.18

Friday, January 15, 2021



**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](mailto:suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca)  
 Brian Schouten (interim)  
[brian.schouten@yrdsb.ca](mailto:brian.schouten@yrdsb.ca)

**Vice-Principal**

Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)  
[andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca)

**Vice-Principal**

Patrick Belmonte (M-Z)  
[patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca](mailto:patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca)

**Superintendent**

Becky Green  
[becky.green@yrdsb.ca](mailto:becky.green@yrdsb.ca)

**Board Trustee**

Ron Lynn [ron.lynn@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ron.lynn@yrdsb.ca)

**Email:**

[unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca)

**School Website:**

[Click here](#)

**Tweets**

[@UHSupdates](#)

Rotation - 8	Jan 14 - Jan 29
Morning Block (virtual) 8:30-11:00	Period 4
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch
Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 3
Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 1
Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 2

	18	19	20	21	22
	4A	4B	4A	4B	4A
	25	26	27	28	29
	4B	4A	4B	4A	4B

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, January 18	
Tuesday, January 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Sharks: Nutrition Certification (HFN201, SHSM) 8:30 AM</li> </ul>
Wednesday, January 20	
Thursday, January 21	
Friday, January 22	

## Extension of School Closure Until February

We have received notice from the Ontario Ministry of Education that the closure of all Ontario schools will be extended as outlined below. During this period, all students will continue to participate in online learning. This is in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**All elementary and secondary schools will be closed to students until February 10, 2021. All students will participate in online learning during this time. Schools are expected to reopen to students for in-person learning on February 10, 2021.**

**Before and after care programs will not operate while schools are closed to students. For child care programs, please check with your child care provider.**

### Special Education

For students whose significant needs cannot be accommodated with online learning, provisions for in-person learning previously communicated will continue.

### Resources for Families

Families looking for assistance in navigating online tools can find [resources available on the Board website](#). Families looking for virtual school IT support are encouraged to visit our [Virtual School IT Support page](#) for FAQs and a student tech help form. The provincial government has also established financial support for families during this temporary remote learning period through its [Support for Learners](#) program.

You may be concerned about your child's emotional well-being. You can find [tips on how to speak to your child about COVID-19 on our website](#) as well as [mental health supports](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. We will continue to share updates and information with you as it becomes available. You can also follow the Board's Twitter feed: [@YRDSB](#), or for information about YRDSB's reopening plan, visit: [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

## School Council Meeting: Monday, January 25

To determine needs and topics of interest for the January 25, 2021 School Council Meeting, and to help us keep you informed, the UHS Administration is seeking your questions regarding school operations.

Examples of topics include (but are not limited to) the following:

- School Programs
- Semester 1 Achievement
- Semester 2 Scheduling
- Course Selection for 2021-22

Please submit your questions before 8 a.m. on January 21, 2021 using the following form: <https://forms.gle/CTzqYeUqPCnux97w9>

You can contact a member of the School Council Executive using the following email: [unionville.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:unionville.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca)

## Thoughtexchange Feedback

Thank you for your ongoing support this school year as we continue to adjust to changing circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The York Region District School Board is committed to ensuring our students continue to have effective teaching and learning through access to technology, resources and engaging learning experiences and environments.

To further support students and families, the Board will continue to gather parent/guardian and student feedback on learning environments. We want to hear from families and students to better understand best practices and suggestions for student learning and well-being support.

We are using an online tool called Thoughtexchange to invite meaningful feedback from our students and families. The current Thoughtexchange asks:

### [Students](#)

What successes have you experienced this school year? What supports do you feel will increase your learning and engagement experiences? Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you feel may help us when considering the improvement of your learning experiences.

### [Families](#)

What successes has your child experienced this school year? What supports do you feel will increase your child's learning and engagement experiences? Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you feel may help us when considering the improvement of your child's learning experience.

To participate and learn more, please visit the [YRDSB website](#).

This opportunity closes on **Wednesday, January 20 at 11:59 p.m.**

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

As always, please continue to visit [www.yrdsb.ca/covid19](http://www.yrdsb.ca/covid19) for school-board information and [www.york.ca/coronavirus](http://www.york.ca/coronavirus) for public health information.

## **TVO Virtual Supports**

Please click [here](#) to access TVO Supports for Virtual Learning.

Further information and support can be found at the following:

Request an online session: [bit.ly/TVOEventRequest](https://bit.ly/TVOEventRequest)

Explore TVO's Digital Resources: <https://www.tvo.org/education-tools>

## **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

January 7 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This date was designated by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in November 2005. The day reaffirms "that the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice" (UN General Assembly A/60/L.12). This day serves as an international memorial day for the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, which saw the murder of 6 million Jews, 2 million Roma people, and 15,000 people who were 2SLGBTQ+. January 27 marks the date when the Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945.

## **Student Mental Health & Addictions Newsletter**

As a result of a provincially mandated lockdown due to rising COVID -19 cases across the province, we end the Winter Break with a return to virtual learning. Although this will present a challenge for some and disappointment for others, our focus will be on how to keep one another physically healthy and maintain social connections and mental health while distance learning. This month's edition of our Mental Health newsletter will focus on ways to stay socially connected during this continued time of physical distancing. To view the January 2021 newsletter, please click [here](#).

## Student Trustee Election Dates

**Student Trustee Applications:** January 15 to February 1, 2021; closes @ 11:59 am

**Interview Selection of (4) Area Representative Candidates:** February 17-19, 2021

**The Campaign Period:** February 22 - March 7, 2021; closes @ 11:59 p.m.

**Online Voting:** March 8-11, 2021; closes @ 8 p.m.

**Election Results Announced:** March 12, 2021

For further information and election resources, please visit the [Student Trustee website](#). Questions may be submitted to [trustee.services@yrdsb.ca](mailto:trustee.services@yrdsb.ca).

## 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.

Please note: Scholarship information is intended for graduating students that plan to attend a post secondary institution in 2021-2022.

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](https://bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22).

Registration via Eventbrite is mandatory. 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](mailto:info@bfcn.ca) or 416-566-2731.

## Continuing Education

- A. **Night school** is now open for registration through My Pathway Planner. Only students who cannot get the course at UHS qualify. All courses will be offered through the virtual synchronous (real-time) platform. Interested students must print off a registration form and submit it to Guidance for approval. The first class begins on February 18th. More information can be found here: [Pages - Night School Credit Courses](#).
- B. 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>

## Crisis Mental Health Support for Students

For a variety of support services and agencies, please refer to the following list:

- 310-COPE [www.yssn.ca](http://www.yssn.ca): 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- [www.KidsHelpPhone.ca](http://www.KidsHelpPhone.ca): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7

- Mental Health Helpline <https://www.ontario.ca/page/mental-health-services>: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30-4:00 pm; for children & youth (0-18 years), parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit [www.yorkhills.ca](http://www.yorkhills.ca) for more information.
- Markham Stouffville Hospital [www.msh.on.ca](http://www.msh.on.ca): 905-472-7000
- Poison Control [www.ontariopoisoncentre.ca](http://www.ontariopoisoncentre.ca): 1-800-268-9017
- Lesbian Gay BI Trans Youth Line [www.youthline.ca](http://www.youthline.ca): 1-888-687-9689
- Trans Lifeline [www.translifeline.org](http://www.translifeline.org): 1-877-330-6366
- Black Youth Helpline [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca): 1-833-294-8650
- York Region Children's Aid Society [www.yorkcas.org](http://www.yorkcas.org): 905-895-2318
- York Region Abuse Program [www.centralhealthline.ca](http://www.centralhealthline.ca): 905-895-3646
- Police-Fire-Ambulance 911

### Virtual Clubs

<b>Name of Club:</b>	<b>Staff Supervisor:</b>	<b>Accepting new members:</b>
<b>The UHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance</b>	Ms. Sara Faulkner <a href="mailto:sara.faulkner@yrdsb.ca">sara.faulkner@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Article Club</b>	Ms. Alyssa Chankseliani <a href="mailto:alyssa.chankseliani@yrdsb.ca">alyssa.chankseliani@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Announcements Team</b>	Mr. Nathan Struk <a href="mailto:nathan.struk@yrdsb.ca">nathan.struk@yrdsb.ca</a>	membership paused
<b>Computer Club</b>	Mr. Jey Anandarajan <a href="mailto:jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca">jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>UHS Robotics Team</b>	Mr. Brian Cho & Mr. Jey Anandarajan <a href="mailto:brian.cho@yrdsb.ca">brian.cho@yrdsb.ca</a> <a href="mailto:jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca">jey.anandarajan@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>DECA</b>	Mr. Don Pan & Mr. Wes Guldemon <a href="mailto:kuo.pan@yrdsb.ca">kuo.pan@yrdsb.ca</a> <a href="mailto:wesley.guldemon@yrdsb.ca">wesley.guldemon@yrdsb.ca</a>	membership closed
<b>Experience Unionville High School - International Students</b>	Ms. Erika Yu <a href="mailto:shan-chen.yu@yrdsb.ca">shan-chen.yu@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Student Wellness Council</b>	Ms. Michelle Farwell <a href="mailto:michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca">michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES

<b>Environmental Council</b>	Mr. Michael Johnston & Ms. Polina Di Francesco <a href="mailto:michael.johnston@yrdsb.ca">michael.johnston@yrdsb.ca</a> <a href="mailto:polina.difrancesco@yrdsb.ca">polina.difrancesco@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>The Unionville Howl (Newsletter)</b>	Ms. Ann Choi <a href="mailto:yu-kyung.choi@yrdsb.ca">yu-kyung.choi@yrdsb.ca</a>	membership closed
<b>Film Club</b>	Mr. Shiraz Rafik <a href="mailto:shiraz.rafik@yrdsb.ca">shiraz.rafik@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Music Council</b>	Mr. Jeff Wrigglesworth <a href="mailto:jeff.wrigglesworth@yrdsb.ca">jeff.wrigglesworth@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Relay for Life</b>	Ms. Jennifer Zamperin <a href="mailto:jennifer.zamperin@yrdsb.ca">jennifer.zamperin@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Science Club</b>	Ms. Elaine Howard  Mr. Jeffrey Chan  <a href="mailto:elaine.howard@yrdsb.ca">elaine.howard@yrdsb.ca</a>  <a href="mailto:jeffrey.chan@yrdsb.ca">jeffrey.chan@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>STEM for Girls</b>	Ms. Deborah Radbourne <a href="mailto:deborah.radbourne@yrdsb.ca">deborah.radbourne@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Math Club</b>	Ms. Daniela Panacci <a href="mailto:daniela.panacci@yrdsb.ca">daniela.panacci@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>Social Justice Club</b>	Mr. Manny Sanchez <a href="mailto:manuel.sanchez@yrdsb.ca">manuel.sanchez@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES
<b>French Club</b>	Mr. Peter Lansing <a href="mailto:peter.lansing@yrdsb.ca">peter.lansing@yrdsb.ca</a>	YES

### 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](mailto:nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca); Phone: 905-727-0022 Ext. 2449

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

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

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

### Financial Support for Parents/Guardians

You can get financial support to help with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19.

Eligible applicants will receive a one-time payment of:

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

The deadline to apply is **February 8, 2021**.

You are eligible to apply if you live in Ontario and are a:

- parent or guardian to a child or youth up to Grade 12
- secondary school student over the age of 18
- parent or guardian to a child or youth that is 21 or younger and has special needs

[Click here to apply for Support for Learners Funding.](#)

## Ongoing Open Registration for 2020-2021 Adult ESL, LINC & LBS Programs

### English as a Second Language (ESL); Language Instruction for New Comers (LINC); and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Classes

YRDSB offers Adult **English as a Second Language (ESL)** programs for those who want to develop effective language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for daily life in Canada. We also offer specialized classes in *Citizenship* and *Conversation*.

#### Adult ESL Program Registration – In person and online options available!

1. Email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call **905-731-9557** with the following information:
  - your first and last name
  - your telephone number
  - CLARS identification number (those without a CLARS number will require an assessment, please contact us for further assistance).
2. Our office will contact you if additional documentation is required.
3. Visitors to Canada may also register and attend for a fee of \$10 per day, per class.

**For an assessment or to register, please call: 905-731-9557**



If you are interested in improving your digital skills, want to work on your resume or interview skills, or prepare to take your GED exam, our Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program is for you!

#### Literacy and Basic Skill Assessment – In person and online options available!

1. Email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call **905-731-9557 Ext. 307** with the following information:
  - your first and last name
  - your telephone number
  - tell us that you are "*interested in the LBS program*"

**NOTE: Due to the high volume of inquiries, it may take a few days to receive a reply communication from our office. We appreciate your patience.**

Thank you for your interest in our programs. We look forward to serving you.

2020-2021 年度

成人英语班 (ESL); 加拿大新移民语言课程 (LINC)及 基本技能进修计划(LBS)

持续开放报名

由安省政府资助·约克教育局开办·特别为成年人在社区内提供“英语为第二语言”作课程指导。课程着重聆听、会话、阅读及写作。透过教学活动学英语以提高学生英语水平，并可以深入地了解加拿大社会结构和文化，以及生活上应用技巧。此外，我们还提供公民入籍班, 英语会话班等专业课程。

成人英语班接受报名- 提供面对面上课及网课!

想了解更多相关课程资料或如何登记，请电邮到 [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) 或 致电 905-731-9557(分机 305- Christy 中文服务)

查询。

请清楚列明以下资料:

- 你的姓，名字
- 电话号码
- CLARS reference number 学习注册编号



如从未前往测试, 申请者必须透过语言评核中心 CLARS (Coordinated Language Assessments and referrals) 预约英语能力测试·完成后·评估审核员会给予学习注册编号和听、说、读、写四个范畴的测试结果以供学生注册。如需预约 请致电语言评核中心电话：1-855-330-8655 或电邮到 [ysla@tcet.com](mailto:ysla@tcet.com)。测试费用全免。

持有工作签证、旅游签证、访客身分则需要先致电 Uplands Learning Centre, 8210 Yonge Street, Thornhill 预约做英语水平测试。如需预约 请致电 905-731-9557。英语水平测试费用\$60(不能退还), 上课每日,每节课 \$10 收费。



**Black Foundation of  
Community Networks  
(BFCN)**

## **Scholarship Application Workshop**

A FREE online workshop to show Black students and their families how to search, prepare, and apply for scholarships and bursaries. If you are in high school or Grade 8, this workshop is especially for YOU!

**Friday, January 22, 2021  
7 PM - 9 PM | ONLINE (Zoom)**

To participate, download Zoom and register  
via Eventbrite at  
[bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22](https://bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22)

For more information or to share  
accessibility needs, contact Cheryl at  
[info@bfcn.ca](mailto:info@bfcn.ca) or 416-566-2731.

**Learn more about our work and how to support at [bfcn.ca](https://bfcn.ca).**



**APPLY TODAY FOR THE**  
**John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow"**  
*Scholarship Award*

The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing our Leaders of Tomorrow, who have made a positive impact in our community and inspire and give us hope for the future. This award honours youth contributions to the advancement and well-being of our community.

Graduating students who are residents of Aurora or who attend school in Aurora can win

**\$1,000**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:**  
**MAY 1, 2021**

**To Be Considered:**

- Submit a completed application by the deadline
- Be a graduating secondary student
- Be a resident of Aurora or attend school in Aurora
- Be entering your first year of full-time secondary study (college, university or equivalent)

**How To Apply:**

- Applications can be downloaded from [aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow](http://aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow)
- Completed applications can be submitted to [youth@aurora.ca](mailto:youth@aurora.ca) or the Department of Community Services at Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Aurora ON, L4G 6J1, Attention: Youth Division

Questions About Applying?



[youth@aurora.ca](mailto:youth@aurora.ca)



[aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow](http://aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow)



# COLLEGE INFORMATION WEEK

The YRDSB Graduation Coaches for Black Students, in partnership with various colleges, are hosting two College Information Nights for Black Students.



## Two Nights of Information

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

*Humber College and George Brown*

Thursday, January 21, 2021

*Seneca College, Sheridan and Centennial*

January is Tamil heritage Month in Canada. It is an occasion to recognize the many achievements and contributions of Tamil Canadians to Canadian society.

# REMEMBRANCE RESILIENCE RESISTANCE

தமிழ்  
மரபுத்  
திங்கள்  
2021



நினைவேந்தல் போராட்டம் எழுச்சி

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.