



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Parent Bulletin for Friday, May 22, 2020

Extended Closure: A Message from the Board Chair and Director

Dear families,

We have received notice from the Premier and Minister of Education that the current closure of all Ontario schools will be extended until the end of this school year, as part of the ongoing effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. All schools in York Region District School Board will continue to be closed for the rest of the school year.

It is critically important at this time to continue to follow the direction of public health to practise social distancing to flatten the curve of this pandemic virus. Please note that, in accordance with the Provincial Emergency Declaration, school grounds remain closed and inaccessible to the public, which includes playgrounds and school yards.

Items in the Schools

The provincial emergency order requires that schools be closed to students, however we know families will have questions about picking up items left at school. We are working with public health on a safe process for families to pick up these items. As soon as we have information, we will share this with families.

Online Learning

We will continue to support your child's education through online teacher-led learning, and I thank you for your patience as we have been implementing new ways of teaching and learning on this scale. If you have any questions about your child's online learning, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher. While our schools may be closed, we remain dedicated to supporting your child's learning and well-being.

Mental Health

We also continue to prioritize the mental health and well-being of our students and families, and have supports and resources available. Please speak with your child's teacher, principal or visit our website www.yrdsb.ca/covid19 for more information.

Report Cards

I'm sure you have a lot of questions and concerns about what these closures mean for your child's education. The Minister of Education continues to reassure Ontarians that school closures will not affect students' ability to graduate and that Ontario students will not lose this school year. As the Premier mentioned today and we had previously communicated, students will receive an end-of-year report card. More details will follow as we receive them.

Summer Learning Programs

The Premier and Minister of Education also announced enhanced summer learning opportunities. At this time, we don't have additional information on the implementation of this announcement. We will send more details as soon as we are able.

Graduations and Celebrations

I know many students are also concerned about the postponement or cancellation of graduations and other important milestone events. Due to the extension of the closures, we have made the difficult decision to cancel end-of-year celebrations such as proms and semi-formals. In addition, we are regrettably postponing June graduations with a goal to reschedule for the fall of 2020. More information will be made available as soon as logistics are finalized, including information on how graduates may obtain a copy of their diploma.

On our website www.yrdsb.ca/covid19 you can find information about school closures, answers to many of the questions you may have about school closures as well as resources to support student learning and student and family well-being. You can also follow the Board's twitter feed [@yrdsb](https://twitter.com/yrdsb) for up-to-date information.

I wish you continued health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Juanita Nathan, Chair

Louise Sirisko, Director of Education

Summer School

Students must submit summer school sign-off forms to their alpha counsellors as soon as possible in order to be approved for summer school. Students who are considering summer e-learning must schedule an appointment with the alpha counsellor in TeachAssist to determine if this is an option prior to registering through the board site.

Ms. Farwell (A-H): michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Riolo (I-N): rita.riolo@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Hawkins (O-Yo): stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Choi (Yu-Z): yu-kyung.choi@yrdsb.ca

Reading Recommendations from Our Librarian, Ms. Celeste Lawton

This week's reading recommendations all feature Muslim main characters. These books are also written by YRDSB teachers.

Love from A to Z by S.K. Ali--The A in this story is Adam and the Z is Zayneb. Adam and Zayneb meet when Zayneb is visiting her aunt in Doha, Qatar over spring break. Adam is coping with his newly diagnosed multiple sclerosis, and Zayneb is dealing with the Islamophobia at her school. I loved how their friendship develops and the descriptions of Doha will make you dream of travelling there.

Saints and Misfits by S.K. Ali--The main character is Janna, a high school student. She has great friendships and an amazing family. She also has to deal with an incident of sexual assault from a well-respected member of her mosque. I really loved how strong Janna is and how proud she is to be herself.

Ayesha at Last by Uzma Jalaluddin--Many reviews described this book as a Muslim version of *Pride and Prejudice*. Ayesha wants to be a poet, but she takes a job as a teacher in order to pay her student loans. She meets Khalid, who she finds too conservative for her liking. Do opposites attract? I fell in love with both Ayesha and Khalid and kept thinking about both of them long after I had finished reading.

- **Other Recommended Reading Lists**

List #1: [25 YA Books Under 200 Pages \(great for reluctant readers\)](#) (Source: MPL)

List #2: [2019 Top 25 Circulating Teen Fiction](#) (Source: MPL)

List #3: [Suggested Reads for High School English](#) (Mix of contemporary and classic; Source: MPL)

List #4: [Books That Promote Tolerance and Diversity](#) (Suggestions for youth of all ages; Source: Common Sense Media)

Distance Learning Adult Programs Available

We are still offering adult programs through distance learning. Improve your skills at home. Courses available include the following:

- [Adult Literacy and Basic Skills](#)
- [English as a Second Language](#)
- [Citizenship Classes](#)
- [Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada](#)

You can access learning by phone or online. You can register and start learning at any time. If you have a question or would like to register for a class, please contact us by email or phone:

- uplands@yrdsb.ca
- 905-731-9557 or 905-305-4122 (leave a message)

AEBS 2020 Scholarships for Black Students Graduating from YRDSB High Schools

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) is dedicated to the success of Black students of African Canadian heritage in schools in the YRDSB. Unfortunately, AEBS had to cancel the 2020 Achievement Awards Ceremony due to COVID-19. However, AEBS believes it is important for students to have access to funds to help pay for their post-secondary education.

AEBS invites Black students who are graduating to [apply for a scholarship online](#). The deadline to apply is Monday, June 15, 2020.

More [information about AEBS Scholarships](#) is available online or by contacting the following:

- Charlotte Reid: charlotte.reid@yrdsb.ca
- Elaine Ricketts: elaine.ricketts@yrdsb.ca
- Jaymyi Lesmond: jaymyi.lesmond@yrdsb.ca

Black History Month Poster Contest

During the month of February, York Region District School Board held a student poster contest to determine our official Black History Month poster for 2021. We received over 250 submissions, and a panel of experts has narrowed it down to four finalists. In order to determine the winner, the Board will be holding a virtual vote open to all YRDSB students and staff. Voting will take place [via this Google form](#) that will also be distributed over social media. Voting is limited to one vote per person and will take place from June 3-5.

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association 2020 Scholarship

The Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) will be awarding Scholarships of \$1,000 to each selected recipient. Selection is based on students' involvement and dedication to their community and academic achievements. One outstanding student that excels in these areas and demonstrates that they have gone above and beyond will receive the President's award. For an application form please contact the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) or download it from the website: www.macca1987.com

A complete application should be mailed to MACCA by Friday, June 26, 2020. Interviews will be conducted during the week of July 13 to 17, 2020, and successful candidates will be notified by Friday, August 7, 2020.



DESIGN YOUR FUTURE
BLACK YOUTH LEGACY CONFERENCE

Register for FREE tickets on Eventbrite at: MACCA's Design Your Future: Black Youth Legacy Conference
Every Wednesday - 7:00pm: May27th- June17th 2020

@flexoriginal

@warriorohenewa

@Randeladjei

@mentor.whiwh

Moderator - Amanda Maitland aijam.amanda
Youth Program Manager - MACCA

Moderator - Ryan Chung [erdotchung](https://www.instagram.com/erdotchung)- G98.7

YOUTHREX
Research & Evaluation eXchange

MARKHAM AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

Canadian Heritage **Patrimoine canadien**

Black Youth Legacy Conference 2020

Digital Career Expo

As a parent or guardian of a young woman in grades 7 to 12, you are invited to attend the Build a Dream Digital Career Discovery Expo on Wednesday May 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Build a Dream 'at Home Edition' will give you and your daughter(s) the chance to explore a wide range of career paths in the skilled trades, science, technology, engineering, and emergency services. This FREE event will be packed with panelists, on-demand video libraries, DIY activities, games, prizes and more!

To register for this free event please visit the following site: dreamathome.eventbrite.ca. Please note that registration is required and that space is limited.

Live Well, Take Action

Join us in celebrating our students' efforts in participating in the "Live Well, Take Action: Ambassador Program for East Asian Youth!" This Online Celebration taking place on Thursday, May 28 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm will showcase student projects with a particular focus on issues that affect Asian communities. The featured guest speaker will be Jenna Tenn-Yuk who is a writer, speaker and facilitator. She has spoken internationally at Harvard, The Walrus Talks and TEDx. Her writing has been featured in Broadview, CBC, Ottawa Citizen and The Huffington Post.

To register for this event, [please click here](#).