



# UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin

## Volume 15

Friday, December 17th, 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)

**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**  
Michael Cohen  
[michael.cohen@yrdsb.ca](mailto:michael.cohen@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**  
[@UHSupdate](#)



**Winter Break: Monday, December 20 - Friday, December 31, 2021**

## REMINDERS

- Please check your email and follow media channels to find out about any updates regarding the return to school.
- So far, we are scheduled to return to school on Monday, January 3. However, students were asked to take their technology, learning resources and personal belongings home in case we have to switch to remote learning.
- When we return to school, students will be expected to complete the daily screening confirmation. Students will need to show their email response which will include a colour code specific to the day of the week. (See topic below.)
- In case the first day back is declared an inclement weather day, as per our "First Inclement Weather Day Instructions," we will be remote.

January	3	4	5	6	7
	Staff Meeting (2:50 PM)	Jr Boys Basketball at Father McGivney (3:10 - 5:10 PM)	Science Club Virtual Guest Speaker Cassidy O'Kopniak (3:30 - 4:30 PM)	Sr Boys Basketball home game (4:00 - 5:30 PM)	CLN4U1-01 - Justice Mara Greene (1:30 - 2:30 PM)  Sr Girls Volleyball host Father McGivney and Bur Oak (3:30 - 5:30 PM)  Ski Team to Mount St. Louis Moonstone (7:00 AM- 4:00 PM)

## Winter Break Message from YRDSB

As we go into the winter break, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership over the first half of the school year. We know this year, our second year in a pandemic, has created challenges for families and we appreciate your collaboration to ensure the continuity of learning for our students.

We also want to share some important reminders with families:

### **Rapid Antigen Tests**

The Ministry of Education has provided one box of Rapid Antigen Tests to all students attending school in person. They are encouraging students to use these optional tests to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 upon the return to school on January 3, 2022. Schools distributed tests to students along with information about when and how to take these tests. Please see the [letter from York Region's Medical Officer of Health](#) with some advice for the tests.

### **Public Health Guidelines**

It is essential that we all continue to adhere to public health guidelines over the break, particularly with the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and information about the omicron variant. As always, we will continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available.

### **Returning from Travel**

We appreciate that many families have planned vacations over the break, and encourage you to continue to check travel advisories and requirements from the Government of Canada. It is important that families adhere to all testing and self-isolation requirements following travel, to help us protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

### **Screening Requirements upon Return to School**

The Ministry of Education is requiring that students provide confirmation of COVID-19 screening when families return from the winter break. Similar to the start of the year, students and families will be required to complete the confirmation of screening before coming to school each morning. The forms can be found on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](#). (See topic below for more details.)

### **Message from the Minister of Education**

In addition, please read this [Message from the Minister of Education](#).

### **Messages from York Region Public Health**

Please read the following messages and updates from York Region Public Health:

- [Letter to Families](#)
- [Backpack Health Chat Newsletter](#)
- [Information about the Beary Beachy COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic December 18-19](#)

### **Return to School in January**

We are working on the plan that schools will reopen in January; however, we are prepared to move to virtual learning if that announcement is made. Should the provincial government make an announcement regarding the timing of the winter break, we will communicate it to families as we receive information. Please remind your children to bring home all personal belongings, including personally owned technology, they will need over the winter break.

We wish you all a healthy, safe and restful winter break, and if you and your family are celebrating, we wish you a very happy holiday season.

## Daily On-Site Confirmation of Student Screening Upon Return to School

The Ministry has recently directed school boards to implement the **daily-on-site confirmation** of self-screening for all secondary students commencing in January 2022.

**Note:** A communication will be sent to all secondary students/parents/guardians with the information outlined below (along with the requisite links).

### Process:

Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to entering the school on a daily basis.

Step 2: Upon completion of the self-assessment, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the Confirmation [Form](#).

- The student receives an email response when they respond "Yes". The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**

- In the Period 1 classroom, students are to provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening by way of:
  - ❖ Smartphone – email or picture of email from their computer
  - ❖ Hard copy of email
  - ❖ If neither option is available, they can provide a verbal response confirming completion.

## Rapid Antigen Test Kits Sent Home

In an effort to promote a safer return to the classroom after the winter break, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, **our school distributed rapid antigen screening kits as of Tuesday, December 14, 2021**. Use of the screening kit is voluntary.

The rapid antigen screening kits are intended for use by any child who attends a publicly funded school, regardless of their vaccination status. Rapid antigen screening kits are to be distributed to students who participate in in-person learning. This testing option is **not** available to students who have been learning remotely.

Please note that your child's participation in this rapid antigen screening is **voluntary**. Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom after the winter break.

While providing students with rapid antigen screening kits is an important tool for managing the spread of COVID-19, vaccination remains the most effective protection against the virus and its variants. Ensuring that children and youth are vaccinated will provide them with a strong level of protection and help to keep schools open and as safe as possible.

It also is important to remember that we all need to continue with key public health advice, including staying home when sick, getting tested if you have symptoms, washing your hands frequently and wearing a face covering as required.

Please read the important information below prior to using the rapid antigen screening kit.

### **When to Use the Rapid Antigen Screening Kit (distributed prior to the winter break):**

- For students who choose to use rapid antigen screening kits, **it is recommended students conduct the rapid antigen tests every 3-4 days over the holiday break**, on every Monday and Thursday beginning December 23, until all five tests have been used.
- Rapid antigen screening kits are only to be used when a child is **asymptomatic** (i.e. does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and has not had any exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19).
- Anyone with symptoms or who is identified as a close contact of a case should still get PCR testing. Rapid antigen screening tests should not be used as a substitute for PCR tests for people with symptoms or for people who are close contacts of cases.

### **Using the Take-Home Rapid Antigen Screening Kit:**

- The BTNX Rapid Response™ can be performed using anterior nasal swabbing (per the package insert, as approved by Health Canada) or using deep nasal swabbing (as recommended by Public Health Ontario in this document, given higher sensitivity compared to anterior nasal swabbing). Both types of specimen collection can be performed using the NP swab provided with the kit.
- Please follow the instructions provided with the kit.
- **Important note:** Parents or guardians may choose to administer this screening on children who may need help (i.e., younger children).

### **What to do after your test:**

- You will know the outcome of the test within 15 minutes. If test results conducted so far are negative, your child may return to school as usual. Even if your child tests negative, they should continue to adhere to all relevant public health guidance, such as guidance on gathering, distancing, and masking.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen screening test is considered a preliminary positive. A child that receives a positive result on a rapid antigen screening test should seek a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) at a [local testing site](#) or pharmacy that offers testing and isolate themselves until the result of that confirmatory PCR test is known.

### **Walk-In Vaccination Clinic**

City of Markham	Unionville High School <a href="#">201 Town Centre Blvd</a> <a href="#">Markham, ON L3R 8G5</a>	December 18 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Pfizer - 12 years of age and older
		December 19 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	

### **Before you walk-in or book an appointment, please be advised of the following:**

- Vaccines for **children 5 to 11 years of age** and **third/booster doses** are available **by appointment only**.
- **Walk-ins** are accepted for individuals **12 years of age and older** requiring a **first or second dose**; appointments for first and second doses are available for those who prefer to book in advance.
- A health card is **not** required to book an appointment, except when booking through the [Provincial Booking System](#).

- We continue to ask residents not to engage in any disrespectful behaviour toward our staff; any form of harassment or abuse will not be tolerated.

You will enter through the gym doors, on the Warden side of the school. For more information, visit the [York Public Health website](#).

## A Message from OUAC & OCAS Regarding Holiday Closures

### Attention Graduates: A message from OUAC and OCAS regarding *holiday closures*:

The **OUAC** is officially closed for the holidays from **December 22, 2021 to January 2, 2022**, inclusive. The OUAC website and online applications will be available during this time.

To reduce the chance of delays and slower online response times, we encourage university-bound students to complete and submit their 101 applications well in advance of the January 13, 2022 deadline.

Extended Applicant Services hours will be available before the 101 application deadline:

- Tuesday, January 11 and Wednesday, January 12: 9:30 am to 7 pm (ET)
- Thursday, January 13: 10:00 am to 7 pm (ET)

Applicant Services Phone: 519-823-1063

The **OCAS** office will be closed from **noon on December 24, 2021, to 8:30 am on January 4, 2022**. The Contact Centre will be closed all day on December 24 and will reopen at 8:30 am on January 3, 2022.

During the closure, all our systems and services will be monitored and available for use. All reports will continue to be updated daily. We'd like to remind you to ensure any outstanding transcript requests are processed and sent via eTMS before the winter break.

While our Contact Centre will be closed, we'll be checking our inbox to support urgent inquiries. If you have any questions leading up to the holidays, please contact us at [service@ocas.ca](mailto:service@ocas.ca).

## Scholarship News

Continue to check the Scholarship Google classroom for upcoming scholarship information and application details, including the Scholarship Report.

Please make sure you read all application instructions and eligibility criteria carefully before you apply.

Upcoming school sponsored:

Western - National Scholarship (for International students) - due January 7th, 2022

Western - National Scholarship (for domestic students) - due January 7th, 2022

Schulich Leaders Scholarship (STEM) - due January 7th, 2022 (UHS Application on Google Classroom)

For school designate name, please enter the following: Ms. Hawkins ([stephanie.hawkins@yrsd.ca](mailto:stephanie.hawkins@yrsd.ca)).

## Message for Graduating Students: Graduation Photos

Graduating students will be given the opportunity to take their graduation photos at Unionville High School. Grad Photo Days are scheduled to take place from **April 19 to April 29, 2022**. In early spring, communication regarding booking dates and times will be provided.

According to York Public Health guidelines, **students must wear their own graduation cap and gown for their photo session and cannot use one provided by Edge Imaging.**

If you would like to book a graduation photo session in April, please pay the graduation fee on School Cash Online **by February 17, 2022**. This is to allow for delivery and distribution of the graduation cap and gown by the Grad Photo Day date. The graduation fee is required for students participating in the graduation ceremony being held on June 27, 2022, at the Hilton Markham (8500 Warden Ave.). The cost includes the souvenir cap & gown, venue rental, refreshments and two guest tickets to the ceremony. Please be aware that the in-person graduation ceremony may only take place if permitted by York Region Public Health. The souvenir cap and gown portion of the graduation fee is not refundable.

[Click here to pay the graduation fee](#) so that your cap and gown order is placed by February 17, 2022. Meeting this deadline is required to ensure your cap and gown arrive prior to graduation photo days. **You are expected to wear a cap and gown for your school graduation photo session.**

## Night School

### Remote Night School (formerly in-person)

Registration opens January 4. Classes are synchronous and virtual. Students can register on My Pathway Planner. The course must be approved by the alpha Guidance Counsellor. For more information check out [Night School Credit Courses](#).

### Online Night School

Registration opens January 25. Classes are asynchronous and online. Students can register on My Pathway Planner. The course must be approved by the alpha Guidance Counsellor. For more information check out [Online Learning Night School](#).

## 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

## Community Involvement Hours

The Winter Break is a great time for students to work on completing Community Involvement Hours. Students are reminded that they must have their activity approved prior to completion. **All graduating students** are encouraged to have all their community involvement hours completed and submitted to the Guidance secretary by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Students can learn more about volunteer opportunities by joining the 'UHS Volunteer and Program Opportunities' Google Classroom using the following classroom code: [gsrz264](#) .

## EBSCO's Online Magazine Trial

The Library has a one-month trial of Flipster, EBSCO's service for reading magazines online. Flipster has hundreds of magazines available. Click [here](#) to access Flipster. Sign-on using this username and password:

**username:** unionvilletrial

**password:** flipster22!

Season's Readings!

## Student Trustees

If you will be in grade 11 or 12 in the next school year and are passionate about student voice, consider becoming a student trustee, and representing students across YRDSB.

Student trustees network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice. Learn more about the role and how you can apply at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees).

**The deadline to apply is January 21.** Four candidates will be selected to run for the two student trustee positions and all students will have an opportunity to vote. Students will receive information on how to vote in the election during the campaign and voting period (see below).

### Student Trustee Election Key Dates:

<b>Student Trustee <a href="#">Applications</a></b>	January 10-21, 2022, closes @ 11:59 p.m.
<b>Interview Selection of (4) Area Representative Candidates</b>	January 25-27, 2022
<b>The Campaign Period</b>	January 31 – February 11, 2022, closes @ 11:59 p.m.

All-Candidates Debate	February 2, 2022
Online Voting Period	February 14-22, 2022, closes @ 8 p.m.
Election Day	February 23, 2022
Election Results Announced	February 24, 2022

## CANCELLATION OF STUDENT CATCH UP VACCINATION CLINICS

December 16, 2021

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

In response to the COVID-19 vaccination demands of booster and third doses and COVID-19 vaccinations for children, our routine student vaccinations/student catch up vaccination clinics are being suspended until further notice as public health staff are being redeployed to work in COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Program	Details
York Region Public Health Student "Catch up" Vaccine clinics	Student catch-up clinics are cancelled effective December 17, 2021. These clinics were offering Hepatitis B, HPV and Meningococcal ACYW vaccine.

We will share details with schools and parents when clinics for catching up students will be resuming

For more information contact York Region Public Health:

- Phone **1-877-464-9675**
- Online at [www.york.ca/immunizations](http://www.york.ca/immunizations)





December 2021

# Engagement Matters

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PEAC)

Advisory Committee Newsletter

- Contacting PEAC
- Virtual Winter Activities
- Involvement vs. Engagement
- School Council Forum Recap
- Mental Health Newsletter
- PRO Grant Updates



## Let's Connect!

It is with pleasure that we congratulate and welcome our 2021-2022 PEAC members!

For a list of members, please refer to the [2021-2022 PEAC member list](#).

If you would like to connect with a member in your CEC region, please [use this form](#). For general messages to the committee, you may reach us by phone through the Leadership Development and Engagement office at 905-727-0022 ext. 3650, or via email at [leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca).

We would also like to say farewell to our out-going PEAC members. We sincerely thank you for your time, input and efforts and wish you the best with your future accomplishments.

Save the date! Our next public meeting will be on **January 20, 2022**. School council chairs and administrators will receive an email with more details closer to the date.

Who...	What...	How...
PEAC	Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas	Email: <a href="mailto:leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca">leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca</a> Website: <a href="#">YRDSB PEAC Website</a> , Contact form Phone: 905-727-0022 ext. 3650 Twitter: @leadershipyrdbs Instagram: ld_yrdsb

Page 1

# Virtual Winter Activities



With the colder months approaching and families taking to the warmth of the indoors, the winter months are an ideal time to engage your school community through virtual events. Below is a list of some activities that you and your school council may want to consider planning this year.

## Activity Descriptions and Resources

What	How
<b>Bingo Night</b> 	Have families pre-register using a Google Form. Do you want personalized bingo cards? On the form, have a section for families to submit words for the bingo cards, and then use <a href="#">this template</a> to create your cards. Remember to print and cut the bingo card words before the event. Google Meet is a good platform for this event.
<b>Trivia Night</b> 	Create a <a href="#">Kahoot!</a> game for your school. Have families pre-register via email, send them the link for the platform download, then have fun testing everyone's knowledge on a set date and time.
<b>Cooking Class</b> 	Have families pre-register via email. Send them the shopping list at least one week before the event, and provide them with directions for any prep work that might be required. Gather via Google Meet, and have a host take families through the cooking class. Consider asking a local chef or a foodie parent to be your event host.
<b>Martial Arts Class</b> 	Contact your local dojo, and ask if they would be willing to host a free session just for your school. Many of the martial arts schools are setup for online classes, and they may welcome the opportunity to connect with your families by hosting an event that is both fun and healthy.

### Tips for planning successful virtual events....

- Give participants plenty of advanced notice to prepare for the event
- Have guests pre-register so you know how many participants to expect
- Start and end on time

## DIVERSITY, ENGAGEMENT AND YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Excerpt from the article **Gathering Community in the New Normal**

by Sara Leung, Scott Milne, Dr. John Ippolito, May 27th 2021

In 2005, York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and the Faculty of Education at York University partnered to pilot a new model of community engagement called the Gathering Model. The Gathering Model goes beyond community engagement to explore the potential for family voices – including the voices of marginalized parents – to support school and community improvement.

A fundamental component of the Gathering Model is a formalized planning team consisting of staff, families, and community partners. A model of community engagement is where schools evolve in relation to family needs and where the community shares responsibility and power in determining agendas (Ippolito, 2010).

The questions used to collect data for school and system improvement must be generated with community input, as with the following:

- What is bullying, and how do we make sure it doesn't happen in our school?
- What strategies and approaches can we use to communicate with children about their learning?

Community is more than just a physical and geographic similarity. It is also a feeling of safety and belonging. Identity and community cannot be separate and belonging must be defined through a lens of equity and justice. These priorities are well-served by the open exchange enabled by the Gathering Model and will prove useful to us in the new normal.

**To read more on the topic, please access the full article here -**

<https://www.edcan.ca/articles/gathering-community-in-the-new-normal/>

**To request support and participate in this experience, please refer to the following forms:**

**Family & Student Support** - Parent / Guardian and Student Form

<https://forms.gle/sV38a8LY8luf92u3A>

**Equity, Family & Student Support** - YRDSB Employee Form - <https://bit.ly/3EWYLtB>



## School Council Forum Recap

In the month of November, we held four school council forums, one for each of the Community Education Centres (CECs). This was the first time in well over a year that our school council members were able to come together to learn new information about current topics through a live forum. Each event was well attended by both parents, guardians, and staff members, who not only listened in on the presentations, but also asked questions and shared ideas from their own school experiences.

We wish to thank the PEAC School Council Fall Forum organizing team for their hard work planning these sessions and to our presenters for sharing their knowledge with us. Summaries of the presentation topics may be viewed on the [school council forum webpage](#).

The presentation topics discussed at the forum included:

- School Council Fundraising
- Parents Reaching Out Grant 101
- Supporting the ABCs of Mental Health at Home
- Championing Equity and Inclusivity: Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy

### Supporting the ABCs of Mental Health at Home

The December edition of the [Student Mental Health and Addiction](#) newsletter focuses on the "bridging" and "connecting" aspect of the ABC mental health framework, and includes an invitation for a free seminar with Triple P called "Getting Teenagers Connected." For full details, please refer to the newsletter.



### YRDSB PRO Grant Update: Deadline Extension

The deadline for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant applications has been extended and the value of the grant has increased. The last day to submit an application is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022**. Each school council is now eligible for funding up to \$800 based on YRDSB and Ministry criteria. To submit an application, please use the [proposal submission form](#). Remember that if approved, your final report must be submitted by June 24, 2022. Good luck!



**Japanese Language & Culture  
Competition for High School Students**

# **Japan Bowl Ontario**

The Japan Bowl Ontario is not an exam, but a game show. It asks students about their knowledge of Japanese culture, society, daily life, history, geography, and current events. Participants compete as members of 3-person teams. This year, we will meet virtually!

**Saturday, March 19, 2022**

**12:30-4:00pm**

**japanbowlontario@gmail.com**

Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/3WydLIAoB>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/japanbowlontario/?hl=ja>

The name "Japan Bowl" is used with the permission of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC.

**Event and Registration**