



UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin –Vol.16

Friday, December 18, 2020



201 Town Centre Blvd.
 Markham, ON
 L3R 8G5
 (P) 905-479-2787
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Extensions:
 Reception - 431
 Attendance - 230
 Guidance - 458

Principal
 Suelyn Cheong
suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca
 Brian Schouten (interim)
brian.schouten@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 - 7	Dec 15 - Jan 13	Rotation - 8	Jan 14 - Jan 29
In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 3	In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 4
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch	11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch
Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 4	Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 3
Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 1	Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 1
Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 2	Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 2

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
11 3B	12 3A	13 3B	Rotation #8 14 4A	15 4B

A Message from the Board Chair and Director

Dear families,

As you know, the holiday season is quickly approaching. We hope that you and your families are healthy and in the festive spirit! As 2020 winds down, we wanted to write and wish you all the very best for the upcoming holidays.

This year's holiday season will look and feel different than in previous years, however it continues to be a time for celebration and reflection. The events of 2020 have profoundly affected our everyday lives and we want to thank you for the incredible support that you have shown in helping to keep YRDSB students, families and staff safe.

Over the winter break, please continue to follow [local public health guidelines](#), and avoid contact with people outside your immediate household to keep yourselves and your families healthy. Please wear PPE, maintain physical distancing and practice good hand hygiene. We want everyone to return after the break safe and in good health.

While the Ministry of Education has not announced an extension to the winter break and we expect all students to return on January 4, 2021, it is important that everyone bring home their belongings. Please remind your child to take tech devices, coats and any other belongings that may be needed.

Whether you celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, the winter solstice, or the start of the New Year, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

May 2021 be filled with hope, optimism and good health!

Cynthia Cordova
Chair

Louise Sirisko
Director

Health & Safety Over the Winter Break

Dear Families,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts which have made the school reopening process possible, and for adhering to public health and safety measures that have ensured schools remain a safe place for our students and staff.

Health and safety over the winter break

The holidays are going to look somewhat different this year. We understand that there may be challenges as the winter break approaches but we encourage all families to consider what we can all do to make the holidays and the return to school in January 2021 as safe as possible.

During the holidays, it is important for everyone to adhere to [the public health measures](#) in our communities. By [following public health advice](#), we can all have a safe and fun holiday season. You can check the government's [holiday web page](#) for more direct and up-to-date guidance on how individuals and families can plan for a safe holiday season, including suggestions for safer holiday activities for children and families. Anyone [travelling outside of Canada](#) must follow the Government of Canada's mandatory 14 day quarantine.

York Region District School Board continues to work closely with York Region Public Health (YRPH) to review our school operational procedures as our context continues to change and evolve. There are two new health and safety measures that YRPH has requested York Region schools implement.

While the Ministry of Education has not announced an extension to the winter break and we expect all students to return on January 4, 2021, it is important that everyone bring home their belongings. Please remind your child to take tech devices, coats and any other belongings that may be needed.

Two-layer masks

YRPH has recommended that students now wear a two-layer mask, as opposed to the previous recommendation of any kind of face covering. Parents/guardians will be expected to provide their child with a two-layer personal face covering to wear at school to reduce the spread of their own respiratory droplets to protect others. **A two-layer face mask is now recommended as per Provincial direction.**

Physical distancing for physical activities in school

YRPH has recommended that the physical distance in gymnasiums and weight rooms for all grades be increased. In indoor learning spaces, where vigorous physical activity takes place, YRPH is now recommending that students maintain a 3-metre physical distance at all times. Where a 3-metre physical distance cannot be maintained, students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear face masks at all times while in gyms and in weight rooms. YRPH has confirmed that students in Kindergarten to Grade 3, where mask wearing is optional, are not required to wear masks while in the gymnasium. All students are to continue to maintain a 2-metre physical distance in the rest of the school building and while out on the school yard at all times.

Self-screening

As a reminder, anyone feeling ill should not attend school. All children, students, staff and visitors must be [screened for symptoms of illness](#) every day before attending school or child care. Self-screening will still be a requirement when we return to school and we will continue to reinforce masking and hand hygiene as well as cohorting and physical distancing with students and staff.

We encourage you to visit [Ontario.ca/covidresponse](https://www.ontario.ca/covidresponse) to learn what public health measures are in place in our community. Please be aware that these could change depending on the most current public health advice. We also suggest checking out the [York.ca/covid19](https://www.york.ca/covid19) website for additional resources and support.

Please review these new protocols with your child(ren). Thank you for your assistance in implementing these new safety measures. The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.

Thank you, and happy holidays.

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: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- 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 for more information.
- Markham Stouffville Hospital www.msh.on.ca: 905-472-7000
- Poison Control www.ontariopoisoncentre.ca: 1-800-268-9017
- Lesbian Gay BI Trans Youth Line www.youthline.ca: 1-888-687-9689
- Trans Lifeline www.translifeline.org: 1-877-330-6366
- Black Youth Helpline www.blackyouth.ca: 1-833-294-8650
- York Region Children's Aid Society www.yorkcas.org: 905-895-2318
- York Region Abuse Program www.centralhealthline.ca: 905-895-3646
- Police-Fire-Ambulance 911

School Council Subcommittees

If you have an interest in joining one of the following school council subcommittees, please send your questions and expressions of interest to our school council executive: unionville.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca. The executive looks forward to hearing from you.

Arts Unionville Subcommittee

Role: to keep the school council informed of issues and developments related to the Arts Unionville program (Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art).

Objectives:

- to focus on the interests of the students enrolled in the Arts Unionville program
- to be a liaison between the parents and the Arts Unionville program
- to assist the Arts Unionville program when required
- to call upon parents to join our subcommittee when extra help is required

Parent Social Engagement Subcommittee

Role: This Subcommittee provides a platform for parents to engage with one another in the community, share ideas and work as a team.

Objectives:

- Welcoming new parents to the High School community; work on “get to know your school” template
- Relationship building amongst parents; create an inclusive environment recognizing the diversity in the community
- Overcome language barriers amongst parents and elevate parent voice
- Encourage and look for opportunities for parents to be involved in school life as partners
- Liaise with the Graduation Committee for Grade 12 parents
- Expand communication and outreach strategies such as Pro Grants to increase parent engagement

Health & Wellness Subcommittee

Role: to support the health and well-being of all members of the UHS community

Objectives:

- to develop, promote, and implement health and wellness initiatives that will help support student, parent and teacher physical and mental well-being
- to collaborate with the student Wellness Council to create and implement health & wellness projects and strategies including those listed below that will benefit all members of the UHS community:

-Stress tool kit

-Virtual Wellness Summit

-Gratitude Project

-Healthy body, healthy mind & mood

-Sleep challenge

-Eat smart

-Mindfulness meditation

-Let's Talk (Bell Canada)

STEM Subcommittee

Role: find resources and speakers among UHS parents and the city of Markham that would enhance STEM programming

Objectives:

- share current job market trends with STEM students to support their pathway planning
- help augment UHS learning experiences for STEM students with activities, resources and/or speakers related to the following topics that would be of benefit to the instructional program:

-Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

-Quantum Computing

-Math Concepts and Problems

-Robotics

-Bio-Technology

-Engineering

Virtual Clubs

Name of Club:	Staff Supervisor:	Accepting new members:
The UHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance	Ms. Sara Faulkner sara.faulkner@yrdsb.ca	YES
Article Club	Ms. Alyssa Chankseliani alyssa.chankseliani@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

UHS Wellness Council Break Challenge

UHS Wellness Council is celebrating the holidays by holding a winter break challenge! Make sure to follow the @uhshealthandwellness Instagram page and join our members by doing the daily challenges for a chance to win the opportunity to donate \$50 to a charity of your choice! Head over to the @uhshealthandwellness page for more information and to stay tuned for future initiatives.

Secondary GSA Google Classroom

Secondary school students who identify as 2SLGBTQI+ 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.

BFCN: Scholarship Application Workshop

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. 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 for more information and to apply for the one-time financial support. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

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.

Tamil Heritage Month

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



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

The Unionville Howl

An Informative Newsletter



Autumn's Dusk, Winter's Dawn (2020) by Lois Chan



*Left: Holiday Shopping (2019)
by Candy Eliza Hua*

In this December issue, we will be touching upon the cultural and social significance of a few holidays and events. Celebrations such as Hanukkah, Christmas and Diwali, along with causes such as Transgender Remembrance Day and Movember have or will occur this season. The team at The Unionville Howl believes it is important to embrace diversity and inform one another about the history and experiences that come with these events.

In addition, a new section called 'Get to Know Your Teacher' will give the readers a chance to learn more about Unionville High School's faculty!

We wish everyone happy holidays and a wonderful winter break.

BY SYEDA SHANZAY KAMRAN & LOIS CHAN



@theunionvillehowl



theunionvillehowl@gmail.com

Transgender Remembrance Day

By Syeda Shanzay Kamran

Transgender Remembrance Day is a reminder that we need to amplify transgender people's voices and acknowledge the significance of their existence and experiences. On November 20th, we officially commemorate the names of the victims who have lost their lives due to the discrimination and prejudice transgender people face; at least 350 transgender and gender non-conforming people were murdered in the near past (Transrespect Versus Transphobia Worldwide). In light of these statistics, we should remember that we need to support the trans community not only on this day but all year round. It is important to educate ourselves and one other about trans-related matters.

By Alexander Challenger

In my experience as a trans guy, discrimination, judgement and discomfort are all things I'm unfortunately used to. I did not choose to be transgender, but I can choose to make myself feel comfortable and live authentically as myself. A few years ago, I experienced something that changed my life forever. I had just come out to my family and my father reacted negatively; he was against me identifying as transgender. Even so, nothing he did could change who I am. Due to this treatment, I moved out of his house and cut off all contact with him, but unfortunately, there are so many other trans people who don't have this option.

Here are some resources that readers might be interested in:

LGBT Youthline: 647-694-4275

Trans Lifeline's Hotline: 877-330-6366

Family Services - York Region: 905-415-9719

Gender Affirming Health Clinic: 905-841-3911

York Rainbow Information, Referral and Support Line: 1.888.967.5542

MOVEMBER

By Aieshaa Vykunthan

Movember is a yearly event that takes place in the month of November. During this month men are encouraged to grow a moustache in order to establish awareness of men's health concerns, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. An organization that supports this cause is Movember as they operate diligently to raise money attempting to maintain men's health. This movement commenced in 2013 and is managed by the Movember Foundation located in Melbourne, Australia. In the course of the pandemic, the Peel Region Paramedic team demonstrated a method to raise awareness by wearing masks with mustaches on them.

By Mr. Johnston

Movember is an important call to action. It is an event that reminds men to do their part to protect their health and in doing so ease the strain on the healthcare system with early detection. The growing of a simple mustache is the least we can do to support this cause.

Shout out to all the staff that participated in Movember this year!

MR. RICCI

MR. LANSING

MR. STRUK

MR. SANCHEZ

MR. RAYNER

MR. JOHNSTON

MR. ANANDARAJAN

Hanukkah

By Lois Chan

Hanukkah is a traditional Jewish celebration that occurs in December. It follows the Jewish calendar, therefore it doesn't necessarily occur during the winter break. The word 'Hanukkah' means rededication. After the Maccabees (Jewish warriors) victory in battle against the odds, the Jewish people wanted to rededicate the holy temple that they reclaimed from their enemy. To do so, they had to light a menorah (lampstand), but could only find enough oil to keep the flame burning for one night. Despite that, a miracle occurred and the light kept burning for eight days.

By Sarah Cloughley

To honour this event, we light the candles on the menorah one by one for eight consecutive days. We play dreidel, which is a game where we spin a four sided top to win tokens. Many families get together to feast, as mine does— but we also like to collect Toblerone pieces and \$5 from our Mickey Mouse hanging organizer each night. Pictures are taken with the cats for memories, but we tend to drop them every year (they're not big fans of the menorah)! Hanukkah is one of the only holidays that doesn't serve to remind us of our people's suffering in one way or another. It is a joyous occasion to celebrate.

Christmas

By Candy Eliza Hua

Christmas is celebrated in over 160 countries around the world. Generally observed by Christians, it is also universally acknowledged as a festival with secular traditions. Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, known as the son of God in Christianity. The first day of festivities begins on December 24th and is known as Christmas Eve. The second day is Christmas Day, which is celebrated on December 25th. On Christmas, many people visit family and friends and open their gifts.

As a person of both Catholic and Buddhist faith, my family and I celebrate Christmas by going to mass and praying. People in my church exchange Secret Santa gifts, sing Christmas carols and play games. We also decorate our home with Christmas trees, lights and wreaths. We celebrate with a large feast which consists of turkey, mashed potatoes, casserole, gravy, cake and figgy pudding. We also spend time watching classic Christmas movies like Home Alone and Elf. Even though my family practices two religions, we embrace both by focusing on what matters most to us, our family and friends.

DIWALI

By Candy Eliza Hua

Diwali is India's biggest and most important holiday. Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The exact dates change every year and are determined by the position of the moon. For many people, celebrating Diwali is to honour the Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth and purity. During the festival, homes are decorated with oil lamps called diyas. The lamps are said to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes, bringing prosperity for the upcoming year. Hindus gather at a place of worship called mandir to leave offerings to deities and to celebrate this festive holiday together.

By Sonya Sankaran

Despite living in Canada and not being able to take part in some of the grander festivities, Diwali is an extremely important time for my family. It is a time when we, under normal circumstances, are able to gather, mingle, pray and make Indian sweets together. Diwali signifies the 'victory of light over darkness'. It is also a time to remember our strengths.

Get to Know your Teacher: Mr. Cao

BY SYEDA SHANZAY KAMRAN

1. What are your hobbies?
 - a. Some of my hobbies are working out, running, soccer, hanging out with friends and snowboarding.
2. Do you collect anything?
 - a. I used to collect sneakers. My most valuable pair would be my Yeezys.
3. Would you rather live in the city or the countryside?
 - a. I would rather live in a city because I enjoy a fast-paced environment. Also because everything is very convenient and there is more diversity in the city compared to the countryside.
4. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?
 - a. Southern Portugal, especially The Algarve because of the warm weather, beaches, food and lifestyle.
5. What motivates you to work hard?
 - a. I want to repay all my mom's hard work and self-drive is what motivates me.

"LOOK IN THE MIRROR, THAT'S YOUR COMPETITION." – MICK KREMLING

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!

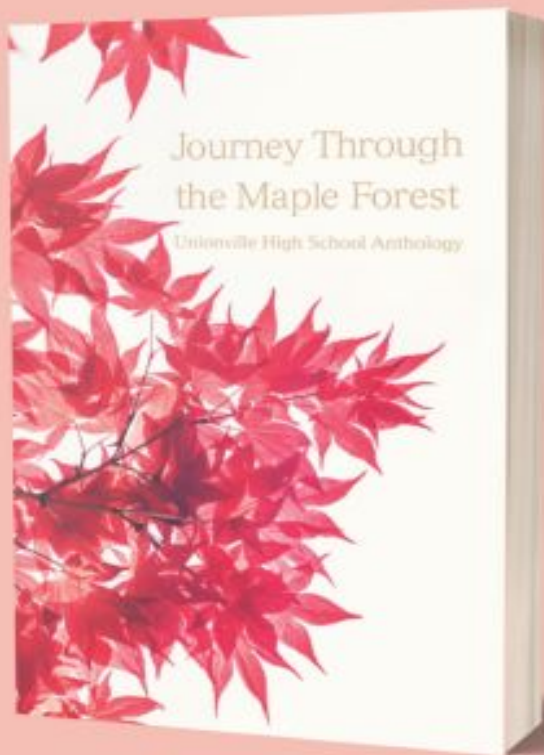
To register, please fill out the [online registration form](#) or contact:

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

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