



# UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin

## Volume 17

Friday, January 14, 2022

**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](#)

Block 1	8:30 – 9:50 AM
Break	9:50 – 9:55 AM
Block 3	9:55 – 11:10 AM
Lunch	11:10 AM – 12:00 PM
Block 2	12:00 – 1:15 PM
Break	1:15 – 1:20 PM
Block 4	1:20 – 2:35 PM

January	17	18	19	20	21
		ATM3MM/4MM Virtual Contemporary Dance Workshop (8:40 - 9:40 AM)			
		ATM2OM - Virtual Contemporary Dance Workshop (12:05 - 1:05 PM)			
January	24	25	26	27	28
	School Council Meeting (7:00 - 8:30 PM)				

## Schools Reopening January 17 to In-Person Learning

As we prepare for schools to reopen for in-person learning, there are a few important updates we want to share with you.

### ❖ Potential class and school closures

As staff members and students are [required to self-isolate](#) with increased cases of COVID-19, schools may encounter operational challenges. Please be aware that there may be occasions when classrooms or schools are required to close to in-person learning and move to virtual learning for a period of time. Schools will notify families as soon as possible when this is the case. Families are asked to develop a routine of checking email regularly at the start and end of every day for important communication from the school and Board given our circumstances.

### ❖ Information from York Region Public Health

Please read this [update from York Region Public Health](#) that includes important information about:

- COVID-19 screening
- What to do if your child develops symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19
- Vaccines
- Public health measures

### ❖ Daily Screening

The Ministry has directed school boards to implement the **daily-on-site confirmation** of self-screening for all secondary students commencing January 17, 2022.

#### Process:

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

Step 2: After they finish the self-assessment, they respond to the question, “Have you completed the self-screening test?” in the Confirmation [Form](#).

- The student receives an email 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 self-screening using one of the following:
  - a) Smartphone – email (or a picture of the email from their computer)
  - b) Hard copy of the email
  - c) If neither of the above options is available, they can provide a verbal response confirming completion.

### ❖ Masks

Masks must be worn by all students. Three-layer masks are recommended. For those students who don't have at least a three-ply cloth mask, the school can provide one to the family. Three-ply cloth masks will be distributed to students next week at school. Families should continue to ensure their child is wearing an appropriate mask.

## ❖ Reporting of Cases

We know families have many questions about the public reporting of school cases, following the Government of Ontario's announcement that [school cases will no longer be reported](#). In place of reporting COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Education is requiring schools to monitor and report on the number of student and staff absences (personal information will not be shared). The Ministry will be sharing these numbers publicly beginning the week of January 24. We remain committed to being transparent with our families and will ensure this information is accessible on the [COVID-19 reporting page on our Board website](#).

In addition, as noted above, there may be occasions when classrooms or schools are required to close to in-person learning as a result of isolation requirements. We will also share data on classroom and school closures on the [COVID-19 reporting page on our Board website](#).

## ❖ Transportation

Transportation schedules for students will be the same as the schedules followed September to December (before the school closures). Students who were attending school and transported during the closure period will revert to their schedule prior to school closure. For more information about your route, please visit: [net.schoolbuscity.com](http://net.schoolbuscity.com).

As bus drivers are also [required to isolate](#) with increased cases of COVID-19, bus routes may encounter challenges obtaining replacement driver coverage. Please be aware that there may be **occasions when bus routes may be canceled and families will need to make alternate transportation arrangements or shift to virtual learning for a period of time**. Schools will notify families as soon as possible when this is the case. Families of bused students are asked to check [net.schoolbuscity.com](http://net.schoolbuscity.com) every morning to verify bus runs and cancellations.

## Learning Model Change Requests

Due to the ever changing conditions of the pandemic and the individual circumstances affecting families, we recognize that you may want to switch the learning model of your child at this time. If you wish to make a model change **for the duration of semester one** (up to and including Friday, February 4, 2022), [please complete and submit this form](#).

**Please do NOT submit this form if you have already contacted the main office or a vice principal to request a change. Families who have already requested a change should have received an email confirmation.**

**All model change requests at this time will apply only for the duration of semester one (up to Friday, February 4, 2022).**

Please note: [This Google Form](#) must be completed by a parent/guardian or adult student (18+). Your email will be recorded when you submit. Your request will be approved, and you will receive a copy of your response form as a receipt.

By the first week of February, we will be in contact with all families again asking them about a model change for semester two, which commences on Monday, February 7, 2022.

If you have specific questions about short and long term model change requests, please contact the alpha vice-principal:

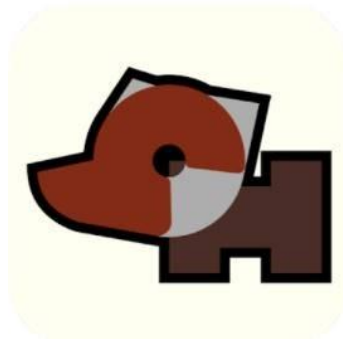
[andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca) (A-L)

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

## Inclement Weather

Please note that, currently, the forecast for Monday, January 17, includes the potential for significant snowfall. Similar to last school year, we have made the decision to [close schools to students when an inclement weather day is declared](#) and school transportation is cancelled. If an Inclement Weather day is declared, all students will be provided with asynchronous learning activities for the day. Please do not send your child to school when an inclement weather day is declared.

## UHS introduces the wolfpackapp!



Download the wolfpackapp, now available in the App Store for Apple and Google Play Store for Android!

Wolfpackapp is designed to be a one-stop-shop so that **Unionville High School students, parents and staff** can get their daily info at a glance. With quick access to links, built in calendars, and live announcements, wolfpackapp will keep you up to date. Download wolfpackapp now and explore its exciting features!

## Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit Extended

The CRCB is extending until **May 7, 2022**. The maximum number of weeks you can apply for also increases to **44 weeks**. You can apply retroactively until February 16, 2022 if you are eligible.

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. This applies if their school, regular program or facility is closed or unavailable to them due to COVID-19, or because they are sick, self-isolating, or at risk of serious health complications due to COVID-19. The CRCB is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

If you are eligible for the CRCB, your household can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period.

If your situation continues, you will need to apply again. Each household may apply for up to a total of 44 weeks between September 27, 2020 and May 7, 2022.

For more information on how to apply, please click the link below:

[Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#)

If you have any questions please contact Yvonne Kelly ([yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca); 416-697-4208)

## Guidance Updates

The UHS Guidance Department is here to support all students and families.

To learn who your teen's Guidance counsellor is, please see below:

- Ms. Michelle Farwell: A – He ([michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca](mailto:michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca))
- Ms. Rita Riolo: Hi – Lo ([rita.riolo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:rita.riolo@yrdsb.ca))

- Ms. Stephanie Hawkins: Lu – V ([stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca](mailto:stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca))
- Mr. Jonathan Tam: W – Z ([jonathan.tam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jonathan.tam@yrdsb.ca))

To schedule an appointment with a Guidance counsellor:

1. Log into your Teachassist account: <https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb>.
2. Under the sub-heading select, "Appointment Bookings".
3. Choose your counsellor (based on your last name).
4. Click on the day and time you want to have your appointment.
5. The alpha Counsellor will send a Google Meet link to the student's GAPPS email prior to the appointment time. Should you prefer a phone call, please email the counsellor directly with the contact number.
6. If you need to cancel your appointment for any reason, click "Cancel". If you have any trouble making your appointment, please let the Guidance Department know.

Students or families requiring assistance can contact the Guidance secretary, Ms. Simtikidis. ([nellie.simtikidis@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nellie.simtikidis@yrdsb.ca)).

### **Post-Secondary Information and Links**

In lieu of an in-person event, the Guidance department has compiled information related to virtual tours and panel presentations from a variety of post-secondary institutions. Links have been included to make it easier to locate the information/event.

Please click on this [link](#) to view the schedule. The chart will be updated as we continue to receive more information, links and dates related to post-secondary tours and presentations, so be sure to check periodically. This link and other important information can also be found on the Grad Google Classroom. (enrollment key: [ijra6wp](#)).

### **Cap and Gown Orders for Graduates**

If you would like to book a graduation photo session in April (currently scheduled for April 19-29), 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 will be expected to wear a cap and gown for your school graduation photo session.**

### **Community Involvement Hours**

Students are reminded that they must have their volunteer activity approved prior to completion. **All graduating students** are encouraged to have all their community involvement hours completed and submitted to the Guidance secretary ([nellie.simtikidis@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nellie.simtikidis@yrdsb.ca)) 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](#).

## **De-Streaming and Course Selection**

The goal of de-streaming is to eliminate identity-based disproportionalities in achievement, well-being, graduation and post-secondary acceptance in YRDSB. - Louise Sirisko

The [de-streaming page](#) on the [board's website](#) includes information about updates to course offerings in Grades 9 and 10 as well as a document called [What Families Want to Know About De-Streaming](#). This document has been translated into a variety of languages. The Guidance Department will be providing support and information to classes regarding de-streamed courses in January and February as students complete course selection for next year. Ms. Riolo, the Head of Guidance, will present on the topic of de-streaming and course selection at the next School Council Meeting on Monday, January 24.

If UHS students are having difficulty selecting courses or are noticing discrepancies in their Pathway Planner, they can schedule an appointment via Teachassist with their alpha Guidance Counselor.

## **Night School**

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

Registration opened on 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](#).

## **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.
<b>All-Candidates Debate</b>	February 2, 2022

<b>Online Voting Period</b>	February 14-22, 2022, closes @ 8 p.m.
<b>Election Day</b>	February 23, 2022
<b>Election Results Announced</b>	February 24, 2022





Unionville High School's School Council Presents...

## ***Conversations on Identity & Belonging: A Three-Part Series***



**Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 7:45 to 8:30 PM – Dr. Brenda Wastasecoot**

Dr. Brenda Wastasecoot, Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, Arts & Science Faculty at University of Toronto. Brenda is Innu (Cree) and a member of the York Factory First Nation. She was raised in Churchill, Manitoba, in a little village known as The Flats. After studying and teaching at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, she came to Toronto to do her PhD at OISE - Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Her thesis dissertation tells the story of her family and the impacts of Indian Residential schools. "Showing and Telling the Story of Nikis; Arts Based, Auto-Ethnographic Journeying of a Cree Adult Educator."

**Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 7:15 to 8:00 PM – Ms. Gen-Ling Chang**

Gen-Ling Chang is the deputy executive director with ALPHA Education committed to social justice, humanity and global peace; after she retired as associate director, Toronto District School Board. She also serves as chair of school and community relations with the Asian Canadian Educators Network. With years of experience on addressing the impact of systemic racism in policy and practice on individuals and communities, Gen-Ling continues to work with youth, educators, leaders, and communities on authentic inclusive participation, representation, and diversity.



**Monday, April 25, 2022 @ 7:15 to 8:00 PM – Dr. Ann E. Lopez**

Dr. Ann E. Lopez, is a professor of educational leadership and policy in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. She is the Director of the Center for Leadership and Diversity and Provostial Advisor, Access Programs. Dr. Lopez is the immediate past president of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME). Her research and teaching focuses on antiracist education, school leadership across contexts, decolonizing and socially just leadership, issues of equity in education and schooling, and most recently developing concepts of what she describes as "*ProLovePedagogy*". Dr. Lopez has published several articles and written 5 books including her most recent book entitled *Decolonizing Educational Leadership: Alternative Approach to Leading Schools*. Dr. Lopez is co-Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of School Leadership, Co-Series Editor, Studies in Educational Administration, and the recipient of the 2020 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

**Unionville High School**  
201 Town Centre Blvd.  
Markham, ON L3R 8G5  
Phone: 905-479-2787  
Fax: 905-479-1539  
Email: unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

On each of the following dates, an email will be sent to all parents and guardians with the link to join our school council meetings and take part in our three-part series on *Conversations on Identity and Belonging*.

- Monday, January 24, 2022
- Monday, February 28, 2022
- Monday, April 25, 2022

*We hope to see you there!*



TAMIL STUDENTS YOU ARE INVITED

# MEET & GREET WITH THE TAMIL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER LET'S TALK!



COME JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND SHARE YOUR  
THOUGHTS ON WHAT KIND OF WORKSHOPS YOU'D  
LIKE TO SEE FOR THE NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 20 | 6 PM to 8 PM

ZOOM MEETING



RSVP BY EMAILING THE SOCIAL WORKER AT  
[KAUSALYA.VIMALACHANDRAN@YRDSB.CA](mailto:KAUSALYA.VIMALACHANDRAN@YRDSB.CA)



[RSVP](#)

# 2022 TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH

JANUARY 17, 2021  
4-6PM



## WORKSHOP HOST

**KAUSALYA VIMALACHANDRAN**  
School Social Worker  
Community Care Team  
Tamil Diaspora



## GUEST SPEAKER

**NEDRA RODRIGO**  
Tamil Community Centre  
Member of Board of Directors

LEARN ABOUT TAMIL  
CULTURE/TRADITIONS/FOOD/LANGUAGE/ARTS/  
MUSIC/HISTORY & AND MORE  
TO REGISTER EMAIL:  
[KAUSALYA.VIMALACHANDRAN@YRDSB.CA](mailto:KAUSALYA.VIMALACHANDRAN@YRDSB.CA)

# TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH

[RSVP](#)



## Triple P Parenting Seminar

### Parenting During Challenging Times

This is a time of uncertainty for everyone and many children and young people are feeling anxious and worried.

This is a normal response to the situation we are all experiencing.

This session will provide information and practical strategies to help families learn about:

- The importance of caring for our mental health
- Indicators of mental health
- How to help and support children and youth

**[Register](#) Now!**

## Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers!

Join us to share, learn and build a school culture where mental health and well-being is valued and promoted.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

**Facilitator:** Uma Bhatt, R.S.W.  
York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

### More Information:

Oksana Majaski  
Community & Partnership Developer  
[Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

This free Parent Presentation is brought to you in partnership with York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families and York Region District School Board



**[Register](#) - [Contact](#)**



## Triple P Parenting Seminar

### Nurturing Healthy Self Esteem

As children grow and develop they form views of themselves as a person, their value as an individual, and how good they are at doing things. This view of their self-worth is called self-esteem.

An important part of being a parent involves building confidence in children and supporting them in and developing a healthy sense of self-esteem, which includes children having a true sense of their strengths and challenges

This session will focus on:

- How to create a supportive and engaging environment in developing and maintaining your child's healthy self-esteem.

[Register](#) today!

### Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers!

Join us to share, learn and build a school culture where mental health and well-being is valued and promoted.

**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Zoom Link will be provided

**Facilitator:** Uma Bhatt, R.S.W.  
York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

#### More Information:

Oksana Majaski  
Community Partnership Developer  
[Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

**This free Parent Presentation is brought to you in partnership with York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families and York Region District School Board**



[Register](#) - [Contact](#)



## **Career Discovery Expo: Dream Big York**

On behalf of Build a Dream and in partnership with York Region District School Board, you are invited to a **FREE, VIRTUAL CAREER DISCOVERY EXPO** on

**Thursday, February 3rd, 2021 from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm EST** for parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 to 12.

This online event will highlight opportunities in a number of careers along with OYAP/Pre-apprenticeship opportunities to better assist students to make informed career choices. This event will include information on:

**Skilled Trades**

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)**

**Entrepreneurship**

**Advancing Women**

This is an opportunity for families to learn collaboratively about the many careers in the growing sectors. It's career exploration from the comfort of your home!

### **The event features:**

- ★ Pathways Presentation: Discover opportunities you can access in high school
- ★ Dream Makers: Hear inspirational women share their career journeys
- ★ Industry Secrets: Learn what companies look for & how to get an edge
  - ★ Breakout rooms, games, and prizes!

### **REGISTER TODAY AT:**

<https://www.webuildadream.com/event/york22>