



UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin

Volume 12

Friday, November 19, 2021

201 Town Centre Blvd.
 Markham, ON
 L3R 8G5
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Extensions:
 Reception - 431
 Attendance - 230
 Guidance - 458

Principal
 Suelyn Cheong
suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)
andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Patrick Belmonte (M-Z)
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Superintendent
 Michael Cohen
michael.cohen@yrdsb.ca

Board Trustee
 Ron Lynn
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Email:
unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

School Website:
[Click here](#)

Tweets
[@UHSupdate](#)

2021-2022 Student Schedule

School begins:	8:30 a.m.
Homeroom (5 min):	8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.
Block One (150 min):	8:35 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
Travel time (5 min):	11:05 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
Lunch (50 min):	11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Travel time (5 min):	12:00 p.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Block Two (150 min):	12:05 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.
School ends:	2:35 p.m.

November	22	23	24	25	26
Week 1 (periods 1,2)	ADA2OM-01 - Virtual Clown Workshop (9:15 - 10:45 AM)	ADA2OM-01 - Virtual Clown Workshop (9:15 - 10:45 AM) HFC3M1-01 - Virtual Guest Speaker Shawn Adler (12:30 - 1:30 PM)		Midterm Report Cards distributed electronically Nov 25-Nov 30 ADA2OM-01 - Virtual Clown Workshop (9:15 - 10:45 AM) AMV1/20/3/4MM - Virtual Guest Speaker Elizabeth McDonald	
November	29	30	1 December	2	3
Week 2 (periods 3,4)	Photo Day for Grade 9 and 10 Students	Photo Day for Grade 11 and 12 Students CLN4U1-01 - Virtual Viewing of Criminal Court Case		CLN4U1-01 - Virtual Viewing of Criminal Court Case	

Updates for Families

● Inclement Weather Days

As we enter the colder months, we wanted to inform families that 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. Please do not send your child to school when an inclement weather day is declared.**

This decision has been made in consultation with Public Health to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support the health and safety of our students, staff members and families. Prior to the pandemic, schools remained open when school transportation was cancelled. This year, given the importance of adhering to our [health and safety guidelines](#), we are unable to guarantee appropriate coverage for students on inclement weather days when school transportation is closed and classes cannot be combined.

Please take the time to make plans in the event of an inclement weather day school closure. Please note that before and after care programs will not be operating on inclement weather days. For on-site, full-day child care, please confirm with your childcare operator. We recognize that this may be an inconvenience for some families. This decision was not made lightly and made to prioritize the health and safety of students, staff members and families.

All students will be provided with asynchronous learning activities for the day. We recognize that each family's situation is unique. As with inclement weather days in the past, the learning will be optional and supplementary to help students continue learning. New material will not be introduced.

There are rare occasions when school transportation is cancelled due to extreme cold weather and not road conditions, and schools will remain open for students.

● Communication to Families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: www.schoolbuscity.com
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- [Board website](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

Families who have provided the school with their cell phone will also receive a text message, unless you have opted out of this service. Please contact your school if you have any questions.

For more information on inclement weather days, please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.

● Screening

York Region Public Health has asked us to remind all staff and students that screening must be completed every day using the [Ontario School Screening Tool](#) for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The tool indicates when individuals should be isolating at home and when they should be getting tested.

- **Winter Break**

The [Ministry of Education has announced](#) that, prior to the winter break, all students will receive a Rapid Antigen Test kit. These kits will include five tests with instructions for students to voluntarily complete the testing prior to returning to the school. We will provide more information on this initiative as it is received.

Families choosing to travel over the winter break are reminded to consult federal and provincial government requirements for testing, quarantine and other appropriate protocols required upon arrival and prior to returning to school. We gratefully appreciate everyone's cooperation with these regulations to ensure the safe return from the winter break on January 3.

- **Secondary School Timetables**

The [Ministry of Education also announced](#) that, with approval from local Public Health Units, school boards may transition secondary school timetables to a traditional semester model as soon as they can do so, or for February 2022. This would mean returning to 75-minute periods. We are currently in discussion with York Region Public Health and will continue to share updates with you. Once approved, we will make the transition to the traditional semester model as soon as possible.

- **COVID19 Vaccination Clinics**

The Board continues to work in partnership with York Region Public Health to provide access to COVID19 vaccines for all those eligible. Pending approval for vaccines for 5-11 year olds, the Board is actively working with public health for in-school clinics. More information on school community-based clinics and other options will be provided to families as it becomes available.

Important Reminders from York Region Public Health

- For those with COVID19 symptoms identified through the screening tool, testing should not be delayed if symptoms persist or worsen. Delaying testing means children may be out of school longer as public health may need to use the date tested when confirming isolation periods if it is too far removed from the first symptom onset date.
- Individuals with symptoms should be tested right away with a PCR test through a COVID-19 Assessment Centre or take-home PCR tests once available from the province; if children are part of a dismissed cohort or otherwise a close contact of a confirmed case, communication from York Region Public Health will outline the specific testing information to follow; staff and students with mild symptoms (runny nose or sore throat) not on the screening tool must stay home until symptoms are improving for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms). Rapid antigen tests should not be used if individuals are experiencing any symptoms OR are part of a dismissed cohort/close contact of a confirmed case; antigen testing should only be used by unvaccinated asymptomatic persons who are not part of a dismissed cohort; positive antigen tests must also be confirmed via PCR testing at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre.
- Continue to adhere to public health measures when out in the community. While we have a large proportion of our age 12 and older population fully vaccinated, individuals under the age of 12 remain susceptible. We are seeing cases and outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools attributed to social gatherings, sports and other activities and exposures occurring outside of school. Continue to keep your loved ones safe by practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, performing hand hygiene and avoiding large gatherings, especially if the vaccination status of these individuals is unknown. Vaccination opportunities are around the corner for our five to 11-year-old children.
- School-wide assemblies and other large congregations of students across cohorts should continue to remain on hold until the number of cases in the community trend downward and this is sustained for a period of time.

UHS Photo Days

Location: The Large Gym

- **Monday, November 29, 2021 (week 2)**

Period 3: Grade 9 classes

Period 4: Grade 10 classes

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Remote learners

- **Tuesday, November 30, 2021 (week 2)**

Period 3: Grade 11 classes

Period 4: Grade 12 classes

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Remote learners

Trans Awareness Week - November 13 - 19, 2021

Trans Awareness Week marks a time to celebrate and honour the trans community and raise awareness around the continued adversity that trans people face in our society. The Trans flag was created by Monica Helms in 1999. It consists of five horizontal stripes. The top and bottom stripes are light blue to represent trans men. The stripes next to them are light pink to represent trans women. The white stripe in the centre represents the non-binary community.

Trans Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2021

Trans Awareness Week culminates into Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) to honour the lives taken due to anti-trans violence. On TDOR, we also call for better protection from all levels of government for those in the trans community. (from Egale.ca)

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week

From November 22-26 we recognize Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week. At our school, it is important that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. This week serves as a reminder to our school community about bullying and how to respond. During this week students will engage in learning activities that reinforce positive behaviours that respond to and prevent bullying.

Bullying is a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Bullying can take many forms. Some include:

Physical – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property

Verbal – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments

Social – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them

Electronic (commonly known as cyberbullying) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media

Bullying is never acceptable at our school. All members of our school community are encouraged to stand up and support each other. Should there be concerns about bullying or if you have any questions please contact us.

You can also report events that happen at school, at school-related activities, online or off school property if they negatively affect a student or the school climate through [YRDSB's Report It tool](#). This tool is available on the homepage of our school's website or on www.yrdsb.ca. You may also choose to make a report anonymously.

For more [information and resources on bullying and cyberbullying](#), please follow @YRDSB or visit www.yrdsb.ca.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

Scholarship News

Please continue to check the Scholarship and Enrichment Opportunities classroom (Code: bzs6yex). As more information becomes available from different organizations about their new due dates for 2021-2022, we will be updating the classroom accordingly.

Please make sure you read all application instructions and eligibility criteria carefully for any scholarship you are planning to apply to.

Upcoming direct application:

- [The Terry Fox Humanitarian Award](#) - December 1st, 2021

Reporting and Full Disclosure

Semester 1 Midterm Reporting - All students

York Region District School Board will be issuing electronic copies of the Semester 1 midterm report cards between November 25-30. The electronic copy will be sent to the student's GAPPS email and instructions on how to access the report will be emailed to all families prior to their release.

Full Disclosure for Grade 11 and Grade 12 Courses

The Full Disclosure date for Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses is December 10, 2021. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course prior to December 10, 2021, then the course will not be recorded on the Ontario Student transcript. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after the Full Disclosure date, a withdrawal (W) is entered in the credit column, and the student's mark at the time of withdrawal will be recorded as a percentage in the achievement column of the transcript.

We recognize that you and your child may have questions regarding this information. If it is helpful for you to connect with a staff member from the school, please contact a teacher, guidance counsellor or administrator to discuss your questions.

Parking at UHS & City of Markham Ticketing

Please be aware that we are setting out pylons at the front of the school to allow school vehicles to safely pick up and drop off our students. When the pylons are out, please keep this area clear for school authorized vehicles. We thank you for driving safely and respecting staff who facilitate these Board transportation services.

Please be aware that the school driveways and parking areas are very busy at Town Centre Blvd and Warden in the morning (8:00-8:30 am) and in the afternoon (2:00-2:35 pm). In the morning, please do not park in staff spaces at the Warden entrance. At Town Centre Blvd, you are advised not to park for an extended period in the

“No Idle Cars” zone. This is also a Fire Route. This zone is intended only for “quick pick-up or drop-off.” Cars that are parked or left idling in this zone can be ticketed by the City of Markham.

Alternatively, in order to reduce congestion, you may consider dropping off and picking up your child further away from the school.

As well, parking passes are required for all cars in our school lots. Cars without parking passes in our school lots will be ticketed by the City of Markham.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

Start-Up Consents and Permissions

Please complete the [school start-up forms](#) that were sent to our families. It is important that these forms are completed as they contain important information and permissions. They can also be found on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources under Family Start-Up Forms, along with some [information on how to complete the forms](#). Please note, parents must be signed in to their child’s student GAPPS account to complete the form. If families would prefer to complete the forms on paper, please contact us at unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca.



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

The ABCs of Mental Health: A focus upon Bridge & Connection

In this Newsletter, we continue our focus on the [ABCs of Mental Health framework](#) with a closer look at **B-Bridge** and **C-Connect** both at school and at home.

Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect are interrelated and work one with the other. *Acknowledge* helps us center and validate the lived experiences and realities of students, staff and families. In our previous [Newsletter](#), we noted that acknowledging lived experiences and realities is the beginning, but is not enough. In this effort, *Bridge* and *Connection* aid us in creating learning environments where growth and healing can occur. As we continue to navigate COVID-19, these are important now more than ever.

B- Bridge

Bridging centers on the fact that your children/our students, staff and families possess personal, cultural and community assets and strengths. When we all learn about these assets and strengths, we can better build meaningful and affirming connections and enhance growth, healing, and shape student/family support opportunities. When we Bridge, we honour and value varying ways of knowing, being and doing in the world. Children and families are seen as the experts in their lives. Their interests, assets, unique beliefs, traditions, experiences and strengths are valued, respected and reflected in the learning environment. Beyond this, when we Bridge, we affirm that families and communities are essential and valuable allies.

C- Connect

Connect encourages us to build connections based on the strengths, assets and interests shared by our students, staff and families. Establishing positive connections is vital and fundamental to the experience of mattering and belonging. This is equally important both at school and at home. Caring is at the core of forming positive connections and relationships. We consider the difference between "caring for" and "caring about." [Geneva Gay](#) invites us to consider, "while 'caring about' conveys feelings of concern for one's state of being, 'caring for' is active engagement in doing something to positively affect it." Caring *for* encompasses a combination of concern, compassion, commitment, responsibility, and action. When we engage in the action of caring *for* one another, the outcome is a sense of mattering and belonging. It tells our children /students, staff and families that:

I belong here

I matter here

I am valued here

I am cared for here

Connection and relationships must be cultivated, and care must be actioned. By this, we mean relationships require attention, intention, and ongoing effort. Care must be seen and felt.

We invite you to consider and do One Small Thing that demonstrates **caring for someone**.

“A simple call to a friend brightens someone’s day - it’s a small thing.”

-YRDSB Student.

YRDSB Mental Health acknowledges the importance of cultivating positive relationships and building community not only with students and staff but with families and community members. We understand that to best support students and strengthen our school board’s mental health supports; we must listen, learn from, and collaborate with families and community members. In this effort, we have created a [feedback form](#) as a starting point to hear your voice as parents and caregivers and learn how we can shape and improve supports and resources that enhance students' mental health and wellbeing.

We look forward to creating pathways for caring connections and meaningful relationships with parents, caregivers, and families. Share your voice by using this [feedback form](#), and let’s pave the path forward together.

What are students saying about the ABCs of Mental Health? Have a look at this [Video](#)

To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series, please visit [YRDSB ABCs](#)

We invite you to consider the following **free seminar** focused on Connection:

Getting Teenagers Connected - Help your teenager develop good, supportive friendships. You’ll learn ways to build their confidence, encourage social skills, help them to plan and meet commitments and encourage them to take care of others. [Click here to register](#).

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health. Resources for students, parents/guardians, and community resources are listed. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts [@YRDSB](#) and [@YRDSB_SS](#).

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**ENRICHING
CHILDHOOD**
Through Education & Basketball



GENTLY USED ATHLETIC

SHOE DRIVE

Help the BSA
reach our goal
of 1000 pairs of
shoes!

In Minna Nigeria, many families live in extreme poverty. Shoes are urgently needed for children to play sports safely and to walk the miles it takes to get to school. This year, Bill Crother's **Black Student Alliance** is teaming up with **TimeOut4Africa** to help address this problem.

By donating your new and gently used athletic shoes, you are helping to ensure safe play and safe access to school for the children of Minna, Nigeria.



scan to read the impact your donation can have



SHOE DROP OFF IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE
NOV 10TH- DEC 8TH