



# UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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

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## ***Parent Bulletin for Friday, April 17***

### **A Message from Ms. Cheong**

These last two weeks, our staff worked very hard to ensure that families' technology needs were fulfilled. The successful **distribution of technology** was made possible as a result of the coordinated efforts of a number of staff including our secretaries, caretakers, teachers, educational assistants, child and youth workers and the administration team. I want to thank families and staff for their kindness, patience and perseverance as we develop a robust distance learning model under unprecedented conditions. Congratulations to everyone for your support in allowing the learning journey to continue.

### **Office Hours**

**All teachers have posted an official time when they can be reached by students each day.** If you are having difficulty making contact with a teacher, please do not hesitate to contact us and we would be happy to assist you:

Mr. Gazaneo; vice-principal (A-L): [andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca)  
Mr. Belmonte; vice-principal (M-Z): [patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca](mailto:patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca)  
Ms. Cheong; principal: [suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca](mailto:suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca)

If you have concerns about how your child is coping with learning from home, including possible concerns for their **mental health**, help is available. Resources and supports related to student mental health can be accessed through [YRDSB COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#). Students who would like support from their alpha Guidance Counselor can book an appointment through TeachAssist:

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

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

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

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

Students experiencing difficulty booking an appointment can contact Ms. Louie, the Guidance secretary:  
[linda.louie@yrdsb.ca](mailto:linda.louie@yrdsb.ca)

### Access to the School

Unfortunately, at this time, as per health regulations, **students and families may not have access to the school to retrieve any personal items**. If you have questions about this directive, please speak to a member of the administration team.

### Using Google Classroom

Earlier today, the Google EdTech Team in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the York Region District School Board offered a **free webinar showing parents how to use Google Classroom**. [Please click here to view this webinar if you were unable to view it earlier](#). We encourage you to sit with your child and allow them to show you how they are navigating the world of online learning. We appreciate the support you are giving at home to allow your children to engage with our teachers who continue to find creative ways for their students to feel included, safe, and productive online.

### What Our Students Have to Say

Here is what some of our students posted this past week in response to Ms. Vanderveen's inclusion activities (Thanks Ms. V!).

*Ahhhh I miss Writer's Craft a lot!!*

*I'm keeping myself busy with either work or reading or watching YouTube vidéos at home. I work in a grocery store and I'm there a lot so I can't really say that I am fully engulfed in the quarantine experience BUT I do respect all of you who are staying inside to the best of your abilities!!*

A.

*What I've Been Doing*

- *Watching everything there is on Netflix*
- *Sleeping*
- *Playing the uke*
- *Organizing my very messy room*
- *Playing cards online*
- *Learning to drive → something I should have done forever ago*

P.

*hello!! i hope everyone is surviving these unpredictable and really ~uncomfy times~! i have been spending (wasting) my time watching the same 5 disney movies over and over again...and then memorizing all the lyrics to all the songs. honestly, i'm not at all ashamed of that—the day someone openly challenges me to a disney lip sync battle, i will be at peak performance. just kidding - anyway - i recently finished recording my university audition tape for my live auditions that were sacrificed in the name of public health.*

*N.*

*I've been desperately trying to keep my thirteen, six, and four-year-old cousins entertained. We have also been celebrating my grandmother's 87th birthday (week) by watching her favourite Madea movies.*

*F.*

*I've been pretty bored. Video games and walks can only get me so far. I've gotten to the point where I'm so bored I'm working out. It needs to stop. I miss my dysfunctional yet amazingly fun class. I just can't wait till we're back in the class learning and causing mass chaos. My parents can only take so much chaos as is.*

*M.*

Hope everyone's doing alright. I dress to go to the supermarket like I'm about to attend a black-tie event.

R.

*At this point I am doing everything in my power to kill time. I want this quarantine to be over already because I really want to hang out with my friends or have someone to talk to.*

*A.*

*I have been doing gas runs, grocery and Costco shops and deliveries for my family, neighbours, and friends. It has taken up a lot of my time but I like that I can help keep people (especially those most vulnerable) safe at home.*

*Ms. V.*

## Important Dates

April 17 – 22	Students may contact their alpha Guidance Counselor, by booking an appointment through TeachAssist to discuss their post-secondary destination and/or drop a course if needed. An email from a parent/guardian giving permission is required if the student is under the age of 18 and would like to drop a course in addition to the google form that will be completed by the student. We ask that once the student books his/her appointment, they will need to email the counsellor with contact information (e.g. phone number) where the student can be reached. Please note that the counsellor will be calling from a 'blocked' or 'unknown caller' number. (See above for counselor alpha list.)
April 22	This is the last day that a student may drop a course in order for it <b>not</b> to be reported to universities or colleges. Midterm marks for all courses not dropped by this date will be reported to post-secondary institutions, as applicable.
April 23	Midterm marks are reported to OUAC and OCAS for those students who have applied to universities and/or colleges.

## End of Year Events

Thank you for your patience as we monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community and how it might affect graduation, prom and other year end banquets and celebrations. As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve on a daily basis, our top priority during this challenging time remains the health and safety of our students and staff.

It is therefore with much regret and after careful consideration, that the board has made the difficult decision to **postpone graduation** that was scheduled for Thursday, June 25. We will plan to recognize this important milestone in the fall and will be in contact with you regarding fees and arrangements once we have more details.

**We also regret that prom, music and athletic banquets, and our annual Arts celebration will be cancelled.**

The postponement or cancellation of the aforementioned events is in line with measures currently being taken by health authorities and various levels of government to stop the spread of COVID-19.

We recognize that this is disappointing news. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through this evolving situation.

## **News from the Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)**

We hope that you and your family are safe and are managing. We are into the fourth week of physical distancing and isolation not quite knowing when we can return to in-person gatherings and social events.

The AEBS executive members met to discuss options for AEBS events for the remainder of the 2020 school year. Given the COVID-19 Pandemic, **AEBS will be cancelling all planned events. Unfortunately this also means that we have to cancel the June 10th, 2020 AEBS Achievement Awards Ceremony.** We know that the Annual Ceremony was a time to positively affirm the identities of Black students of African Canadian heritage in the York Region District School Board and to celebrate their accomplishments at their schools and in the community. Every year for almost two decades, AEBS has given awards and scholarships to approximately 200 students for academics, the arts, community involvement, and athletics. We know that “this too shall pass” but it is very much with a heavy heart that this event has been cancelled.

The Sankofa Mentorship Program is continuing and the staff will now be using an online platform to offer mentoring, workshops and tutoring. Laptops and cell phones will be provided to support student participation. During this current period of physical distancing, the program will be delivered only on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for York Region students. 40 students can participate. The current students will continue to participate; however, support will focus more on leadership development through technology once we resume our in-person sessions. For registration and consent forms or to ask questions, please contact Claudia: [pgmmgr@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:pgmmgr@yorkregionaacc.ca)

AEBS recognizes that this is a very challenging time for all families. Because our mandate is to support Black students, we are interested in questions or concerns that you may have at this time. If we are able to assist you with an answer, we will call or follow up with an email. Please post your question(s) or concern(s) at the following site: [CLICK HERE](#)