



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Parent Bulletin for Friday, June 5, 2020

Student Material Retrieval and Return Process

Dear Families,

Parents/Guardians may now arrange to safely pick up items they left at school and return items that belong to the YRDSB during the week of **June 15th - June 19th**. In order to book a time at the school, families will be given instructions on how to use EDSBY. Click here for [EDSBY Instructions](#). You will be able to start booking appointments using EDSBY once our booking system goes live on **Tuesday, June 9**. Each student will receive a 15 minute time slot and will only be permitted entry during this pre-arranged time. Families who are unable to sign up for a scheduled time should email unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca and school office staff will help.

Safety protocols will be in place as you enter the school building and will include the following:

- practice social distancing by staying two metres apart
- wear a mask (if you choose) - *see below
- use hand sanitizer as you enter the building
- use the designated entry/exit doors only on Town Centre Blvd. - no access via the Warden entrance
- expect that retrieval/return time slots will be 15 MINUTES ONLY

***You are encouraged to wear a personal face covering (non-medical mask such as a cloth mask or bandana) to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets to protect others. For more information about how to use face coverings properly, visit www.york.ca/covid19. Masks and gloves will not be provided.**

If you are currently using a board-issued laptop and you **are returning to a YRDSB school in the fall**, please keep your laptop for use over the summer. If you **are not returning to a YRDSB school in September**, you must return all YRDSB technology (e.g. laptop, chromebook, etc.). All students are expected to return the following items which belong to the school:

- School library books
- Teacher classroom library books
- Classroom supplies
- Musical instruments
- Textbooks
- Athletic uniforms and equipment
- Anything else that is property of the YRDSB

Guidelines for Visit

- Visits to the school must be conducted within the Public Health Guidelines. Physical distancing, single entry point and hand sanitization are expected to be strictly adhered to by anyone

entering our buildings. Further, a [self-screening](#) must be conducted prior to entering the building.

- Secondary school students must retrieve items individually (with the exception of Community Class students).
- If the student has medication at the school, it can be bagged, labeled and available for pick up as you enter the building.
- Lockers must be cleared out, as all remaining items will be discarded. Lockers should be left open and school locks may remain.
- Students will be told where to return items. There will be no walking from room to room.

Our ultimate goal is to provide a safe and supportive process to allow for the retrieval of materials and return of school property. We know this has been a most challenging year, and we thank you for your cooperation as we facilitate a safe and organized process.

Sincerely,

Suelyn Cheong
Principal

Being Responsive to Racial Trauma

As members of a school community, we share a deep sense of sadness, frustration and anger about the death of George Floyd recently reported in the media. We know that this and other incidents of anti-Black racism may be causing significant upset and fear for our students and families. We recognize that, as educators, we have a role to play in not only naming incidents of racism, but also in helping students understand the impact that race as a social construct has on different social identities. In reflecting on [Ontario's Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) and the Ontario [Anti-Racism Act](#) (2017), we take seriously our duty to target “systemic racism in policies, decisions and programs” in order to enable society to “move toward long-term systemic change.”

If your child is struggling as a result of recent events, we are able to connect them to support and resources, now or in the future. You can speak with your child's alpha Vice-Principal or Guidance Counsellor about questions you might have related to accessing support:

Vice-Principals:

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

Patrick Belmonte (M - Z) patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca

Guidance Counselors:

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

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

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

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

Please find a list of helplines below:

310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7

KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7

York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.

If you have concerns regarding possible suicidal ideation for students, please refer to the Board's [Student Suicide Intervention Response Guidelines for the Period of COVID-19 School Closures](#).

Culturally Relevant Mental Health Supports:

[Black Youth Helpline](#): 1-833-294-8650

[Taibu Community Health Centre](#): 416-644-3536

[Tropicana Community Services](#): 416-439-9009

[Look 2 the Light Counselling](#): Upcoming Free Webinar

Reading Recommendations

Here are some highly recommended non-fiction titles to support learning about and fighting against anti-Black racism. These titles are all available as e-books and/or audiobooks at both the Markham Public Library (MPL) and Sora, unless otherwise noted. More information about accessing Sora and getting an MPL card is posted at the end of this list.

1. *The Yellow House: A Memoir* by Sarah M. Broom
2. *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown (Sora only)
3. *I've Been Meaning to Tell You: A Letter to My Daughter* by David Chariandy (MPL only)
4. *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
5. *The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole (so good this is the second time I am recommending it)
6. *White Fragility; Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo
7. *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi
8. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele
9. *They Said This Would be Fun: Race, Campus Life and Growing Up* by Eternity Martis (MPL only)
10. *Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present* by Robyn Maynard (MPL only)
11. *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
12. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
13. *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
14. *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad (MPL only)
15. *Is Everyone Really Equal?* by Özlem Sensoy and Robin DiAngelo

Sora is the YRDSB's digital lending platform. Students may sign in using 0 + their student number. Many of the titles listed above can be borrowed now in Sora or have shorter waiting lists than other library systems. Access Sora [here](#).

If you don't currently have a library card, the Markham Public Library is offering all residents of Markham a temporary digital library card. Sign up [here](#).

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)

AEBS invites Black students graduating from high school in the York Region District School Board to apply for a scholarship.

Students should [CLICK HERE](#) to apply. The deadline is Monday, June 15, 2020

Design Your Future Black Youth Legacy Conference

Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm from May 27 to June 17, Black youth in Grades 8 to 12 are invited to attend the "[Design Your Future: Black Youth Legacy Conference](#)" online. We are thrilled to announce that the conference is part of a 3-year anti-racism strategy funded by Canadian Heritage-Government of Canada and is part of Connecting the Dots, a national strategy aimed at connecting the African Caribbean diaspora across Canada.

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association 2020 Scholarships

The Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) will be awarding [Scholarships](#) of \$1,000 to each selected recipient. Selection is based on students' involvement and dedication to their community and academic achievements. One outstanding student that excels in these areas and demonstrates that they have gone above and beyond will receive the President's award. For an application form please contact the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) or download it from the website: www.macca1987.com

A complete application should be mailed to MACCA by Friday, June 26, 2020. Interviews will be conducted during the week of July 13 to 17, 2020, and successful candidates will be notified by Friday, August 7, 2020.

A Message from the Director: Your Input on the Learning and Caring Plan

I hope you and your families are healthy and well. Our staff miss seeing our students in person each day. I know I speak on behalf of all staff when I say, we look forward to seeing everyone as soon as it's safe to do so.

Your voice is important to us and we are asking for you to share your thoughts through a quick, [online survey](#) (translated version available when you click this link). We are hoping to learn your thoughts and ideas in real-time about the [Learning and Caring Plan](#), until the end of this school year and to inform decision making for our return in September.

You can participate anonymously and your responses will be confidential. As always, your participation is voluntary.

Your responses will help our Board assess and inform best practices related to our programs and services.

Louise Sirisko, Director of Education

End of Year Celebrations and Fall Graduation

Some staff have received invitations to participate in end of year celebrations arranged by families in the school community. We thank you for your kind invitations. However, the safety and well-being of our students, families, staff and community members is our main priority. It is important that we follow the guidance provided by our public health experts. This means we should not be congregating in groups larger than five people or taking trips that are considered non-essential. While our staff care deeply about celebrating our students and their accomplishments, there are various reasons why they cannot participate.

We all recognize the importance of honouring and celebrating these important milestones and bringing closure to the school year. We are all looking forward to our graduation ceremonies in the fall, and are also finding other ways to celebrate the hard work of our students at the end of this challenging school year. I hope you can understand our difficult position. We are so incredibly proud of all of our students and graduates and can't wait to celebrate with everyone in the fall.

Lawn signs may not be purchased or distributed to students to ensure we are following the provincial guidelines of physical distancing and to respect the privacy of our families.

Because graduation has been postponed, students still have time to pay their graduation fee if they have not already done so using School Cash Online. These funds will be used in the fall. Students' caps and gowns, photo composites, yearbooks and certificates will be held at the school for distribution in the fall of 2020. Direction on the printing and distribution of transcripts is yet to be determined. We thank you for your patience as we continue to make arrangements in accordance with Public Health regulations.

Attention Grads: Upcoming Scholarship News!

Please check the Guidance Moodle for scholarship information. The Scholarship Report lists various scholarships with due dates from now until the end of August 2020.

Upcoming Scholarship Due Dates:

- June 12th, 2020 (students can submit their application via email to Ms. Hawkins) The **Southeast Collector Environmental Services Award** (\$1000 Bursary) is available for current Grade 12 students pursuing post-secondary studies in the environmental field in universities, colleges and certificate or apprenticeship programs leading to an environmental trade.
- June 12th, 2020 (students can submit their application via email to Ms. Hawkins) **Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students**
- June 30th, 2020 (apply directly): **Jean Lumb Awards** (\$1,000)
- July 5th, 2020 (apply directly): **Mon Sheong Foundation Golden Jubilee Awards of Excellence** (\$1,000)

COVID-19 Testing

The Ministry of Education has asked all school boards to share information about Ontario's new COVID-19 testing plan, including the availability of free testing for any Ontarian who would like it.

Tests are free and do not require an OHIP card. Referrals are no longer required to visit an assessment centre and no Ontarian will be declined a test.

To learn more about this plan, including when you should get tested and the process, please visit our website to see a [message from the Ministry of Education regarding COVID-19 testing](#).

Indigenous History Month

The Canadian Government unanimously declared June as [Indigenous History Month](#) in 2009 through a motion in the House of Commons. The month, which includes National Indigenous Peoples Day, is a perfect time to reflect upon the long relationship between the many different Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island and Canadians throughout history.

For students and teachers, it is a good time to become better acquainted with the different First Peoples who share this land with us. June 21 was declared [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#) in 1996 by then Governor General Romeo Leblanc. The day was chosen in consultation with some national organizations for Indigenous people, including the Assembly of First Nations, and coincides with the summer solstice, which is significant for some First Nations. The day is a provincial statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Live Well, Take Action

Last Thursday, there was incredible energy from our program's final event, despite our circumstances! Here's a quick summary of our success:

- More than 140 people joined us online to watch the debut of student projects and listen to wonderful presentations by community guest speaker, Jenna Tenn-Yuk, and several participants;
- About 30 student projects were showcased, all of which highlighted a social issue affecting Asian communities;
- 3 superintendents and the Director Education from the York Region District School Board were present;
- School administrators from each of the 4 high schools were also attending to support their respective students.

We are going to continue sharing our student projects with our networks and we hope you can do the same! We also welcome you to take a look at their projects to recognize their efforts and see how Asian youth are articulating today's social issues. [Please visit our website for all student projects.](#) Be sure to give them comments using the [Project Feedback Form](#) so you can encourage our student participants to continue having these critical conversations while striving to make an impact on their communities.