



Unionville High School Weekly Parent Bulletin

September 29, 2023

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905-479-2787
Reception 431/Attendance 230/Guidance 458

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|--|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Principal Susie Nunes | Vice-Principal (Shek - Z) Patrick Belmonte | Vice-Principal (A-J) Dawn Imada-Chan | Vice-Principal (K-Shas) Raymond Luong | Superintendent Kien Nam Luu | Trustee Ron Lynn |
|--|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|

TECH REQUEST FORM – 2023-2024

CLUBS

GUIDANCE UPDATES

Character Matters Trait of the Month: Respect

“If you own this story you get to write the ending.”
—Brene Brown

Upcoming Events

| DATE | EVENT |
|-----------------------|---|
| MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 | Thanksgiving (No classes) |
| WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 | Fall Fest |
| MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 | School Council Meeting (7:00 pm) |
| FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 | Professional Development Day (No classes) |

Orange Shirt Day

The Orange Shirt Day movement started in 2013 to highlight the pain and suffering of thousands of Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools throughout the last century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, BC, in 1973.

Six-years old at the time, Phyllis went to her first day of school wearing a new bright orange shirt. However, upon arriving at the school, the nuns stripped her of the shirt, forcing her to wear the school’s institutional uniform.

Webstad has felt the impact of that event long after it occurred, “that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don’t matter.”

The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that every child matters.

Recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors by wearing an orange shirt on **September 29 and 30**.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

In the next few days, schools across York Region will be raising an Every Child Matters Flag for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

We raise the flag to honour the thousands of lives lost and harmed in residential schools. We raise the flag to recognize the legacy of this dark chapter on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families and communities. We raise the flag to recognize that we are living on the traditional lands of the First Peoples of this land. And we raise the flag as a symbol of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

It is important that we recognize that raising the flag is a symbol - and an important one - but without action, it is no more than that.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, continued

I encourage us all to take the time this week to reflect on what actions we can take in our individual and professional lives to learn the truth and to engage in the work of reconciliation.

Are we taking the time to learn about this part of Canada's history, as well as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, histories and cultures? How are we embedding the actions from the [Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy](#) into our system, school and classroom planning? How are we embedding this knowledge into our work in a good way? How are we reflecting on the meaning of the [land acknowledgement](#) when we read it? And how are we fulfilling the call to action within the land acknowledgement? How are we working to build trust and relationships?

As an educational organization, we are in a unique position and have a responsibility to undertake the work of Truth and Reconciliation.

If you have not done so, I encourage you to read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission reports and calls to action](#). [Calls to action 57, 62 and 63](#) relate most closely to our work as an education institution, but every call to action is significant and necessary.

At the annual leaders' launch, Elder Mandakwe, Shelley Charles, reminded us to take a moment for gratitude. We are grateful for our partnership with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, our partner in education and closest First Nation community. We are grateful for the opportunities we have to learn and to continue building trust and relationships with Indigenous students, families and community. With this gratitude, we acknowledge our responsibilities.

As a board, we will continue to build on our commitment to truth and reconciliation. Our Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy will help to guide this work but it is incumbent upon us as a school board to continue dismantling oppressive colonial practices and institutions as we move forward on the path of reconciliation. We are proud of the steps we have taken but this work will continue for generations to come and we are helping to lay the foundation.

Sincerely,

Bill Cober (he/him/his)
Director of Education
Education Centre – Aurora
director@yrdsb.ca

Guidance

Post-secondary Application Information Session

Graduating students are asked to attend the university and college application sessions hosted by the Guidance department. It will take place on **Thursday, October 12**, each period of the day to accommodate all student schedules.

Students are asked to attend during their lunch or study hall. Students will not be excused for missing classes. Students who cannot attend will have access to the presentation via the grad google classroom later in the day (classroom enrollment: u6vpsca).

Scholarship News

Students are encouraged to continue to check the Scholarship Google Classroom, as items will be updated as they become available. Please review for various scholarship opportunities. The classroom code is: 6fdb6l3

Upcoming Scholarships:

Direct Applications:

October 3rd - Loran Scholarship

November 15th - TD Bank Scholarship

School Sponsored:

October 11th - Lester B Pearson (for International Students)

All eligibility criteria and application details are available for students on the 2023-2024 Scholarship Google Classroom.

Islamic Heritage Month Launch Event

Join us at the [Islamic Heritage Month Launch Event](#) to celebrate our rich heritage and diverse cultures. Special guest speakers, student activities - including basketball and art workshops, henna and face painting.

Thursday, October 12 - 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School - 90 Bur Oak Avenue, Markham.

Latin Heritage Month Meet and Greet

Bienvenidos! The York Region District School Board's Latine Educators Network is hosting its first [meet and greet](#) for all Latine/o/a/x families and staff.

You can look forward to community booths hosted by CCSY (Catholic Community Services of York Region) as well as music, fun activities for the whole family and an opportunity to meet other Latine/Latino families. Please join us on **Thursday, October 19** from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Julliard Public School - 61 Julliard Dr, Maple.

Welcome to Canada Orientation Day

Newcomers to Canada: there will be a '[Welcome to Canada](#)' Orientation Day on **Saturday, October 14** at Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic HS (Richmond Hill) from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. It is an annual event for all newcomer families in York Region which serves as a one-stop shop with workshops for students and parents along with an opportunity to learn from community resource booths and meet the board leadership team. You can see the agenda [here](#).

School Council

Looking forward to seeing everyone in person at our next School Council Meeting on **Monday, October 16** at 7:00 pm.

Our [School Council Meeting #1 PowerPoint Presentation](#) is posted on the Unionville HS website under the School Council tab for you to view.

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

Research shows that parent and community engagement increases student achievement, well-being and success. This [information session](#) for new Canadians at the Richmond Hill and Markham South Welcome Centres provides information on how to volunteer in education and gain valuable skills.

Photo Retake Day

If you missed having your school photo taken, fear not! Photographers will be back for a photo retake day on **Monday, October 23**.

Library Information

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is on **Saturday, September 30**. Learn more by borrowing some of these books from the UHS Library. Click links for more details.

[Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality](#) by Bob Joseph

[The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America](#) by Thomas King

[My Conversations with Canadians](#) by Lee Maracle

[The Witness Blanket: Truth, Art and Reconciliation](#) by Carey Newman

[With Our Orange Hearts](#) by Phyllis Webstad

Parking Lot Safety

Please remind your children to be careful and vigilant as they make their way through the parking lot. The parking lots are very busy, especially before school begins.

Those driving to make drop offs or to park are also reminded to drive slowly, following signage and expected routes of traffic. The parking lots are monitored by video surveillance.

Please be mindful of our students who are travelling by various means through the lots. We appreciate your patience and care.

Parking at UHS

Please don't drive through or park at the Markham Civic Centre. Please use the UHS main entrance and the drop off area to drop off your student. By-law officers are patrolling to ensure the safety of our community. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe!

All student and visitor parking is coordinated by the office. Any unauthorized parked vehicles will be tagged and/or towed. All vehicles must have the Unionville HS student or visitor parking tag clearly visible on the rear view mirror.

Cafeteria Update

The cafeteria opened their doors this last week. Food service will begin with breakfast and end off with lunch service. Please join us in the cafeteria!

Breakfast Boost

We are thrilled to announce that Breakfast Boost is back and an excellent way to kick-start your day. Students can head to the atrium to select two snacks from 8:00 am until the bell before Period 1.

No Smoking

UHS is a smoke free area. Please do not smoke or vape on school property.

Skilled Trades Career Fair

Introducing [Level Up!](#), the Ontario-wide, multi-day career fair events that bring together the best in skilled trades professionals. This interactive, hands on career fair will take place at the International Centre on **November 15 & 16, 2023**.

GAPPS Profile Images

Between **October 10-13, 2023**, students may customize their YRDSB Google Apps (GAPPS) profile pictures [within parameters established by the YRDSB](#). This will enable students to express or represent themselves in their profile images, while prioritizing safe and inclusive learning and working environments for all of our students and staff.

What does this mean for my child?

- Students will have an opportunity to select a customized profile picture that meets [YRDSB guidelines](#).
- Students will receive guidelines and considerations based on their grade level to support them in selecting and/or creating an appropriate profile picture.
- This is optional. Students who do not select an image will continue to have their first initial as their GAPPS profile image.
- Students will have two opportunities each year, during the fall and again in the spring, to change their images.

GAPPS Profile Images, continued

YRDSB does not tolerate any forms of hate or discrimination. In the past, it came to the Board's attention that YRDSB Google Apps (GAPPS) profile pictures were being used to spread online hate through racist imagery shared and uploaded to GAPPS accounts. These images cause pain and can make other students and staff members feel unsafe, marginalized and unwelcome in our learning environments.

Appropriate actions were taken to address this issue, including a mandatory learning series for all students, mandatory training for all YRDSB staff, and temporarily removing access to customizing profile images. YRDSB will be continuing to implement measures that support student safety over the course of this school year. These measures include providing teachers with ongoing access to resources and support for addressing issues of hate.

Students are also encouraged to report problematic images that perpetuate hate or cause harm by speaking with a caring adult or by making use of the YRDSB's [ReportIT tool](#).

More information about GAPPS profile images is [available on the Board website](#).

Ignite Technology Grants

YRDSB has partnered with LEARNstyle Ltd., one of our assistive technology training providers, to offer [Ignite Technology Grants](#) for students with Special Equipment Amount (SEA) equipment. The Ignite Technology Grant is designed to create leadership opportunities, hone communication skills, and increase self-esteem for students with SEA equipment within their school community. The goal is to bring awareness to the effective and successful use of technology for modern learning. Applications open: **October 10, 2023**.

Peer Tutoring

The Peer Tutoring program is starting up again! If you would like to be a tutor or have a tutor help you, please see the attached [flyer](#).



New Contact Information?

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH US

Have you changed your address, phone number or email? Please notify us if your contact information has changed:

School Phone: 905 479 2787

School Email: unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

This will ensure that you receive important communications from us and that we can contact you in case of an emergency. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

School Start Up Forms

At the start of each school year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Please ensure you review this important information. Families are also encouraged to review the online [Guide to the School Year](#).

We also ask families to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account. Translations are available.

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.
- Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms).

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students. Your child's school will access the information. Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact your school office.

Student School Start-Up Forms

Each year, we ask secondary school students to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information. Students are asked to [complete this form](#) online. If you have any questions about the information in the form, please speak with your teacher, principal or vice-principal.

It is important that all students complete and submit these forms as soon as possible at the start of the school year.

World Mental Health Day

Over the past month, our students have made many adjustments to: new classes, grades, classmates, teachers and new learning. On **Tuesday, October 10**, we recognize [World Mental Health day](#). This year's theme "Mental Health is a Universal Right" seeks to "improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone's mental health as a universal human right" (WHO, 2023). YRDSB mental health and Ontario mental health resources can be found [here](#).

General Supports for Emotional Well-Being

- 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, <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.
- Trans Lifeline: <https://translifeline.org/>
- Black Youth Helpline: <https://blackyouth.ca/>
- Naseeha Helpline: <https://naseeha.org/>
- 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: <https://www.youthline.ca>

Aquatic Leadership

The Aquatic Leadership Program is offered in partnership between the York Region District School Board, Continuing Education, the Town of Aurora, and the Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan. The program uses a blended learning format consisting of pool instruction, face-to-face instruction and on-line learning to deliver Ministry of Education credits and Swim, Lifeguarding and Instructor Certifications. For more information, please click [here](#).



Faith Accommodations - Semester 1

Please be advised of our regular daily prayer room during semester 1: Central Prayer Room Location: Room 346 during periods 3, 4 & 5. Information about a prayer space and religious accommodations has been electronically shared in our start-up package. The start-up package contains a "Religious Accommodations Form." Families who did not receive/submit the electronic package/form can receive a hard copy in the main office.

Students who require access to the prayer room should come to the main office we can share more information with them.

UHS Yearbook

Hi Wolves! The 2023-24 Yearbook is now available for pre-order. Order your Yearbook on [School Cash Online](#) now!



Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)

Tune In YRDSB Podcast

Hear Indigenous student trustees share their experiences and perspectives on Indigenous education in York Region on the latest episode of [Tune In YRDSB](#).



KINNECTYOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

Aaniin Community Centre (Youth Room)
5665 14th Ave, Markham, ON L3S 3K5

Weekly-in person meetings on Wednesdays 3:30pm-7pm

Our Mission

To educate and empower Black identified youth by offering innovative and culturally responsive programming, mentorship, and a social support network.

- Hands-on, interactive creativity and entrepreneurship workshops
- Opportunities to gain professional experience
- Individual and group mentorship
- Presentations from community leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs
- Access to technology
- Weekly In-person meetings

Contact Us



905-946-9998



kinnectyouth@macca1987.com



Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association

KINNECTYOUTH
MENTORING PROGRAM

Administration Student Alphas

| Administration | Alpha |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Ms. Imada-Chan | A-J |
| Mr. Luong | K-Shas |
| Mr. Belmonte | Shek - Z |

Upcoming Events

| DATE | EVENT |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| October 23 | Photo Retake Day |
| October 24 | Terry Fox Run |
| October 25 | Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| November 1 | AU Information Session (6:30 pm) |
| November 8 | Post Secondary Fair (6:30 pm) |
| November 15 | Gr. 8 Open House |
| November 23 | Semi Formal (6:30 pm) |

Unionville High School Daily Schedule

| SCHEDULE | START | END |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Homeroom (5 min) | 8:25 am | 8:30 am |
| Period 1 (75 min) | 8:30 am | 9:45 am |
| Travel Time | 9:45 am | 9:50 am |
| Period 2 (75 min) | 9:50 am | 11:05 am |
| Travel Time | 11:05 am | 11:10 am |
| Period 3 (75 min - Lunch for most Grade 9s) | 11:10 am | 12:25 pm |
| Travel Time | 12:25 pm | 12:30 pm |
| Period 4 (75 min) | 12:30 pm | 1:45 pm |
| Travel Time | 1:45 pm | 1:50 pm |
| Period 5 (75 min) | 1:50 pm | 3:05 pm |

Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12.

Elementary Language Classes

Elementary classes are extra-curricular language learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM).

Register by **Monday, September 11, 2023** to attend the full language program in its entirety.

For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL [Elementary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Secondary Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Registration is now open until the third class.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL [Secondary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- Courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
Farsi
Filipino
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Macedonian
Mandarin (Simplified)
Mandarin (Traditional)
Punjabi
Ojibwe
Russian
Sinhala
Spanish
Tamil
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese
Yoruba