





THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

60 Wellington Street West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3J2  
**Tel:** 905.722.3251 905.895.7216 905.727.3141 416.969.8131  
**Fax:** 905.727.1931  
**Website:** [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

November 2019

Dear Families,

As we go into the winter months, it is important that families are aware that there may be rare occasions when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations.

**Emergency winter weather**

Emergency closures will be considered when facilities may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site, or causes widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines.

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and after care programs will also not operate if schools are closed.

**Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.**

**School transportation cancellations**

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled for the afternoon. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated.

Families can use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school. For safety reasons, you are required to let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

**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 are introducing a new communications system that will send **text messages to parents/guardians for emergency purposes only**. This includes the rare event of a school closure. Parents/guardians will have the ability to opt-out of receiving text messages should they choose.

**The Board will be testing this communications system on Tuesday, November 19.** If the school has your cell phone number (documented as your cell and not your home phone number), you will receive a test text message. This message will also include the option to opt-out of this system. If you do not receive a text and wish to participate in the program, please ensure that your school has your cell phone number.

We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. 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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- [Board website](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on [severe weather days](#), please visit our website [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko  
Director of Education



Vaughan Secondary School - School Council Meeting  
Monday, November 18, 2019  
Library – 7:00 p.m.

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Welcome/Greetings             | Guy Peer, Chair   |
| 2. Student Council               | TBD   |
| 3. Video – Human Trafficking     | Maria   |
| 4. Applying to Post<br>Secondary | Anna Flikas, Head of Guidance   |
| 5. Principal Report              | Maria Maiato, Principal<br>Anton Skerritt, Vice Principal<br>Raymond Fung, Vice Principal |

Next Meeting: January 20, 2020

Notes:



**Drama Department:** Welcome to the Wild West!! This week in drama Grade 9 students worked on scripts from the Western Genre. Students worked collaboratively to create their original Western scripts and developed unique characters with incredible western accents. Good work team!



# LOWER YOUR FLU RISK



## FLU SEASON IS HERE. GET THE FLU SHOT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

The first and best step to prevent influenza, the flu, is to get the flu shot every year. The flu is contagious and anyone can get it. Getting the flu shot can protect you, your family and those around you.

The flu shot is especially important for people who are at **high risk** of flu-related complications, and for people in contact with those at high risk, including:

- All children six months to five years of age
- People 65 years of age and older
- All pregnant women
- People with chronic health conditions (including diabetes, heart or lung disease, conditions affecting the immune system, neurodevelopmental conditions)

It is important to get the flu shot as early as possible as it can take nearly **two weeks** for the vaccine to provide the greatest protection.

In addition to getting the flu shot, here are some other health tips that can help prevent the spread of the flu:



Wash your hands well and often with either soap and water or alcohol based hand rub (don't forget to wash your wrists, under your fingernails and in between your fingers).



Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and throw the tissue out immediately. Wash your hands afterwards.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Avoid large crowds and stay home when you are sick.



Clean and disinfect surfaces and shared items.

To learn more about the flu and flu vaccine, visit [york.ca/flu](http://york.ca/flu)

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
1-800-361-5653  
TTY 1-866-252-9933

  
**York Region**

# Guidance News

Gap Year Scholarship (provided by Mobilize Jobs) - \$1,000

Deadline: May 31st 2020 (Winner selected in June 2020; payout once the gap year is done and proof of enrolment is supplied).

## About the Scholarship

Taking a gap year between high school and college or university has so many benefits. It gives students a chance to mature, to travel, to have new experiences and gain new perspectives. The Mobilize Gap Year Scholarship makes it a little easier to spend time on personal growth – and go back to school with greater energy and motivation.

<https://scholartree.ca/scholarship/gap-year-scholarship/NY66Mzk3f0>

Parenting your teen can be wonderful and can also be somewhat challenging. Check out the attached PDF provided for by the Teen Mental Health Organization.

[http://teenmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/parentyourteen\\_October-29th-2019.pdf](http://teenmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/parentyourteen_October-29th-2019.pdf)

Have a look at more resources at their website: <http://teenmentalhealth.org/>

## Mindful Breathing Technique

Check out these simple instructions for Mindful Breathing:

<https://www.get.gg/docs/MindfulBreathing.pdf>

Reminder to all students and their families: All universities and colleges have Open Houses at their campuses but they also provide individually scheduled school tours and visits, which can usually be booked online on the college or university website. The post-secondary pathway is an informed decision based on program availability, academic achievement, but also a very important component, the environment your youth will be learning in.

November



WHAT'S IN • WHAT'S OUT

