



VAUGHAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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December 2nd, 2016

December 2016 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

Message From Our Trustee

As we near the end of 2016, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school.

It is wonderful to have opportunities to see not only what our students are learning, but to see how they are learning – collaborating and problem solving, using technology in exciting new ways, and engaged in hands-on activities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff members, students, families and community members across our Board. Thanks to all of the great people we have in our system, we continue to advance student achievement and well-being.

Our Board continues to have a strong commitment to creating welcoming, inclusive learning environments that enable all of our students to thrive. Engaging families in your child's education and the school community is in an important part of creating that environment.

There are resources for families available on our Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/parents, including information on Board programs and supports, and tips for parents to support your child's learning at home and at school.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2017. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

Verification of Absence from School

Attendance at school plays an important role in student achievement and is monitored to support both success and safety. Thank you for notifying the school when your child will be away. When your child has been late or absent and you have not verified the absence through the attendance office, you should receive a phone call and an email notification daily to inform you. Please check your email accounts regularly (including sent and spam mailboxes) as we are updating our records all the time. If your phone number, and/or email information changes, please inform the office to ensure that you are not missing communications from the school. We value working with all of our families in supporting our students' safety and success.

Drama Department: Working cooperatively is a key component to building community within the drama classroom. Check out our fine young actors working together and having fun!!!



Guidance News

Hello parents and guardians,

Wednesday evening, the Vaughan Secondary School Music Council ran its annual Coffee house and it was a huge success. The Music Council and our other clubs and teams give students opportunities to have fun and connect with their peers outside the classroom. Research shows that students who are involved in extra-curricular activities are happier, more engaged in their learning, and they report lower incidences of mental health issues.

Here is a list of **some** of our clubs: Announcement Team, Art Club, Athletic Council (SAA), Best Buddies, Black History Club, Bully-Prevention Club, Chess Club, Cinema Club, Comedy Club, Debate Club, DECA (Business Club), Empowered Student Partnerships, Hack2Action, Fish Club, Free the Children, Future Leaders of Tomorrow, Green Team, Hip Hop Club, HOSA (Science Club), Model United Nations, Music Council, Programming Club, Prom Committee, Search of the Cure, Short-Film Club, Spectrum Club (GSA), Student Activity Council (SAC), Vaughan Aquatic Society, World Action Council...

Many of these groups have rolling entry – which means students can show up to meetings and join. Please encourage your child to listen to announcements, find a group, and get connected.



[Waterloo Unlimited](#), is a program hosted by the University of Waterloo; it brings together curious, motivated, well-rounded teens from across the country.

Grade 11 | Theme of "Design" | March 13 - 17, 2017 | 5-day program

From engineering and the environment to science fiction and virtual reality, grade 11 students will spend a week exploring the theme of "Design" with a community of like-minded peers.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, December 14th, 2016

- For students applying to university, application PINS are now available. Students can pick up their PIN in the guidance office before/after school or during their assigned lunch or spare. Students must bring photo ID in order to pick up their PINS. To access the slides from my university application presentation, please visit <https://goo.gl/M64Vad> (your child will have to log in through their GAPPs account in order to access the slides (<https://google.yrdsb.ca/>)).
- Students applying to college do not require a separate PIN. To access the slides from my college application presentation, please visit <https://goo.gl/VzCsbF> (your child will have to log in through their GAPPs account in order to access the slides (<https://google.yrdsb.ca/>)).
- As a reminder, the guidance office sends out information on Twitter @vaughanguidance (<https://twitter.com/VaughanGuidance>). Alternatively, you can receive texts of important guidance news items by texting @vguidance to 289-270-4159.

Have a great weekend!

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You Are Cordially Invited To

TED^x Youth @ BOSS

x = independently organized TED event

JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE THEME

“WHAT NOW?”

This event will give students the opportunity to collectively engage in conversations about where we are today and where we want to be tomorrow, in school and beyond.

DATE: December 14th 2016

TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Bur Oak Secondary School

RSVP LINK

**LISTEN TO THE
VOICE OF YOUTH**





Parents for Children's Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Monday, December 12, 2016

PARENTS' Support Group

Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behaviour challenges make parenting difficult?

Benefits of PCMH Support Group:

- meet other parents with children who have similar challenges
 - find encouragement and emotional support
- learn strategies to help your child or youth at home/school
 - learn how to access resources in the community

When	Second Monday of every month NO pre-registration. Free childcare sign up parentengagement@kinark.on.ca Meetings run every month all year. Chapter leader email york@pcmh.ca	Second Tuesday of every month NO pre-registration info@theyorkcentre.ca Meetings run every month except August.
Time	6:30-8:00pm	7:00- 9:00 pm
Where	Aurora Kinark Office at 24 Orchard Heights Blvd. Unit 101A Aurora. (Entrance is at east side of grocery store) Free parking & very close to Yonge St for public transit.	The York Center at 11225 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill. Free parking.
Next Meeting	Monday, January 9, 2017	To be announced

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centred principles of care. PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit www.pcmh.ca.