



## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

1 William F. Bell Parkway, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 2T9

Tel: 905-780-7858, Fax 905-780-1154

WEB SITE: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/richmondgreen.ss>

Email address: [richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca)

Attendance email: [richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

### RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, February 2, 2024



#### **2024 Celebrating Black History Month/BHM 365**

Black History/Heritage Month is recognized every February. Please see below for upcoming student and family events.

### Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024

\* Dates and Events subject to change

#### Student Events and Family Engagement

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of <b>Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families.</b>  <a href="#">Register Here</a>	<b>Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning</b> 36 Regatta Ave. Richmond Hill  Cafeteria

February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - <b>Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr. Joi Spencer and Dr. Kerri Ullucci</b>  <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024  5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - <b>Open to All: Student &amp; Families</b>  Light refreshments will be served.  Register In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration.  <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning 36 Regatta Ave. Richmond Hill Rm 113

## Message from Our Trustee

February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied

for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPS accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion registration](#) opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at [www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb) that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

Cindy Liang, Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

## **Guidance**

### **Night School Registration**

**For students who have registered for night school on My Blueprint:** You must print a "sign off" form and have it signed by a parent or guardian to approve your night school registration. Please then submit it to Guidance. Guidance will NOT approve your registration until we receive this sign off form. **You will risk losing your spot in the class, if you do not submit this form.**

### **For students still interested in registering for night school:**

Registration will close at noon on Thursday, February 1, 2024. It will re-open on Friday, February 2, 2024 and students can register in limited courses that show availability up until the second night of classes which is Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Traditional in class face-to-face [Night School program](#) (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a *remote* learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

First class Thursday, February 15, 2024 and the program ends Thursday, June 6, 2024. Students who register prior to Thursday February 8, 2024 will receive a Welcome email. **Students with unapproved course requests will not be registered.**

Should a course be cancelled, YRDSB students will receive an email through their gapps account.

### **Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community**

Consultations will provide an opportunity for Tamil parents/caregivers to:

- Acquire strategies for cultivating meaningful interactions and connections with their child
- Explore ways to support their child's mental health and well-being
- Understand how to request and navigate accessing support, including mental health services, for their child at school
- Discuss current difficulties and challenges experienced by their child
- Learn about resources in the York Region community to better support their child's needs

**Please see the following flyers for more information:**

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(English\).pdf](#)

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(Tamil\).pdf](#)

### **UBUNTU Healing Circle**

A virtual healing circle for Black identified students in grades 7-12 across YRDSB to join together in an inclusive affinity space, focused on supporting emotional well-being. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

[Centre for Black Excellence Newsletter – January 2024](#)

[Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – February 2024](#)

[Tune in YRDSB: Tamil Heritage Month](#)

### **School Washrooms**

Students are reminded that school washrooms are not to be used for social activities including eating. At the beginning of the year, we introduced school “zones”. The Green zones are areas

where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones are for collaborating and socializing. Red zones are spaces such as stairwells (walking through only) and washrooms (bio breaks only). The zones are for everyone's safety in the school.

### **Parent/Caregiver Series Supporting Learning about Mental Health**

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the *Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)*. The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The first session is **"Anxiety in School-Aged Youth, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers"** and will occur virtually on February 28 from 6 - 7 p.m. The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety. These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages. If your preferred language is not offered, we recommend watching with a friend or family member who is able to translate.

To register please visit [this link](#). Please Register by February 27, 2024

### **Personal Property**

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items. More information can be found in the [2023-2024 Guide to the School Year](#).

### **Engagement Fee**

We are proud at Richmond Green to host a vast number of clubs, sports teams and other activities and events for students. The Student Engagement fee supports the operation of these activities for students. The Student Engagement Fee is an optional but recommended fee on School Cash Online. Please note that there is differentiated pricing for school events based on payment of the Student Engagement fee.

### **Best Buddies Prom Fundraising**



Best Buddies will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts to fundraise for the Best Buddies Prom coming up! Orders will open on January 16, 2024 and close on February 6, 2024. Pick up will be on

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. We are selling them by the dozen for \$15.00. Orders can be placed on School Cash Online. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best Buddies Canada is a national charity that helps promote inclusion and reduce bullying through friendship for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). For the past 28 years, Best Buddies Canada has been in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, and colleges nationwide. Richmond Green students with an IDD are paired in one to-one friendships with a peer buddy. Students get to know one another and develop lasting friendships.

The Best Buddies group at Richmond Green Secondary School will be attending the York Region Prom which is for all of the Best Buddies schools in the region, reaching schools from across the school board and hundreds of students. This event gives students the opportunity to have a prom that is safe, inclusive, and fun. They can connect with other Best Buddies chapters across the region.

### **Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector**

A new collection of webpages will let students explore [16 different career sectors](#).

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit [www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb).

### **RGSS is on Instagram!**

Follow @rgssofficial to receive updates on school news, events, student achievement, and more!

### **Student Expectations in the Community**

We are lucky to have positive relationships with community vendors. Many students enjoy eating lunch at the Costco food court. Costco has asked if students could please:

- purchase their food and leave once done eating
- use debit and credit as preferred payment methods (for speed of transactions)

- stay in the food court only unless entering the store with a membership card
- Following these guidelines will ensure students enjoy continued access to the food court.

## **Bussing**

Bussing is provided to eligible students through Student Transportation Services (STS). STS operates bus routes for students in JK-12 for both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com). Please note, it is important that students ride **only on their designated route**. This is for everyone's safety and security.

## **School Start Up Forms**

School start up forms were sent to families and students this week. Please see the [Resources and FAQs for families](#) for more information. Secondary students received the following message:

### ***School Start-Up Forms (Message to Secondary Students)***

*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.*

## **Updating Contact Information**

If you need to update any contact information (e.g., home or email address, telephone number, etc.,) please email: [richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca)

## **School Safety**

Please be reminded that all visitors to the school must sign in at the main office and get a visitor tag. This tag should be clearly visible while in the building on business. Students are reminded not to bring guests anywhere on school property (indoors and outdoors) as well as to the library during school hours.

## **Attendance**



Students are expected to be in their scheduled classes each period. If you sign your child out of school, they need to leave school property. This includes the library during school hours, as it is

considered to be school property during the school day. Please do not give your child permission without calling and giving the office notice for them to be in the library during the day. If your child is going to be absent or away from any of their classes, please contact the Main Office **email is preferred** - [richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca) or by phone 905-780-7858, press option 1. Please let us know your child's student number, full name and grade.

### **TeachAssist Parent Portal**

Students in Secondary School use TeachAssist to view their schedules and ongoing assessment. They can also schedule guidance appointments. Parent/guardians may also register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s marks, and book interviews with teachers for the Interview evenings held each semester (more information on this semester's interview evening will come closer to the date).

To register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal, please visit:

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/parents/index.php>

You will need to enter the email address you have on file at the school. You will then be sent a one-time email to confirm your registration.

### **Notice From Richmond Green Library**

In recent years, we have faced recurring challenges in our library washrooms, including issues such as vaping, eating, and disruptive gathering during school hours. Despite the diligent efforts of both the library and RGSS, it's hard to maintain continuous monitoring due to limited staff availability.

After a thorough review of the situations, the library and RGSS will start to implement new measures to address these concerns. Effective November 9, 2023, the library will enforce restricted access to the washrooms during school hours.

1. Locking washrooms: Both library washrooms will remain locked during school hours.
2. Key sign-out procedure: Students may obtain a washroom key by leaving their student cards at the service desk. Student cards will be returned upon key return. **Only one student is permitted at a time.**
3. Limited occupancy: A maximum of two users will be allowed to enter the same washroom simultaneously.
4. Reporting disruptions: Any disruptive behaviours observed will be reported to both the library and RGSS administration for appropriate action.

We hope these measures will help create a more conducive and respectful environment within our library facilities, and promote a better learning atmosphere for all RGSS students.

## **Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program**

Social support network and mentoring program for Black students. Please see [the flyer](#) for more information.

## **Medical Information**

A reminder if your child has a serious medical condition and has not received the medical forms, please fill out the appropriate form(s) below and return to the Main Office. **Please complete new forms each school year.**

<a href="#">Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</a>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<a href="#">Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</a>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<a href="#">Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</a>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<a href="#">Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</a>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<a href="#">Health Care Plan (Other)</a>	This from should be completed for all other serious and potentially life threatening health conditions that are not already specifically addressed (Asthma, anaphylactic, diabetes, and seizure health care plans).

## **COVID Health and Safety Protocols for 2023-2024**

York Region Public Health has advised that schools continue to be required to follow the [Ministry's COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools](#).

All students, staff and visitors need to complete the self-screening tool. Students should complete the [COVID-19 self screening tool](#) and follow instructions and next steps. Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.

Surfaces in the school building will continue to be disinfected and hand sanitizer is available. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted throughout the day.

**Key Dates**

- Semester Two begins - Monday, February 5, 2024
- Lunar New Year – Saturday, February 10
- Family Day – Monday, February 19, 2024
- Photo Day for Semester 2 New Students – Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 28, 2024
- Mid-Winter Break – Monday, March 11, 2024 to Friday, March 15, 2024
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Interim Reports Distributed – beginning Monday, March 25, 2024
- Good Friday – Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 1, 2024