

RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – PARENT BULLETIN

Where Tomorrow Begins

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RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, October 13, 2023

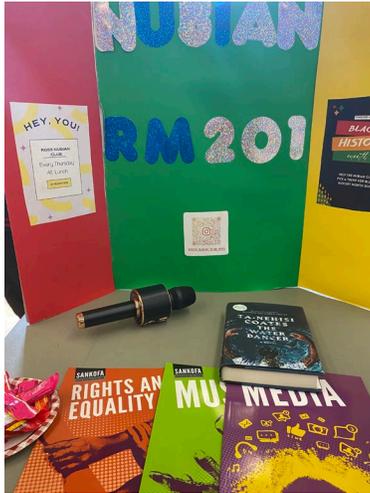


School Council

Our first School Council meeting of the year will take place on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from 7 -9 pm**. This will be a face-to-face event and will take place in the cafeteria. All are welcome. This is everyone's opportunity to be part of the school community, share your voice and work with the school as partners in your child's success. In addition, elections will be held for the School Council executive. Please contact Mr. Bharucha (daraius.bharucha@yrdsb.ca) if you would like more information.

Clubs Fair

Richmond Green Secondary School has over 30 clubs and interest groups (in addition to school sports teams). The annual Clubs Fair took place in the gym on October 11th. Students had an opportunity to learn about different clubs from club leaders and get a sense of what each club does. Thank you to all students and staff who participated. Please see below for just a few of the many incredible poster presentations.



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](#). Without sufficient funds, we have to charge higher fees for club/team participation and transportation. We appreciate your support.

Student Council Presents Fright Night

On October 30th from 6-9pm Richmond Green's student council will present Fright Night. This is an evening where students can purchase a ticket and attend a scary

movie in the comfort of the school's drama room. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase during the event. This year's Fight Night will feature the animated horror movie, Coraline. Please be advised that the evening is Halloween themed and will feature decorations accompanied with a PG rated movie with dystopian and fantasy themes. There will be adult supervision throughout the entire evening.

Computer Purchase Program

Renewed Computer Technology (RTC) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology, skill development and learning opportunities, in a social and environmentally responsible manner. Please see the [attached letter](#) with information flyer to learn more.

Parent/Guardian Teacher Interview Evening

Our interview evening will take place on Thursday, October 26th, from 6:30 pm -8:00 pm. Appointment bookings start on October 19th at 9 am. Please see [this letter](#) for more information and instructions.

Media Resources

A variety of digital resources are available for students through YRDSB Media Services. Please see this [slide deck outlining digital resources](#) available for student use.

OYAP Open House

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (Accelerated OYAP) Information Session

Hello Parents/Guardians and Students,

If your child is interested in pursuing a career in the Skilled Trades, we invite you to have a look at the [YRDSB OYAP Video](#) and the [YRDSB OYAP Webpage](#) to find out more information about the exciting apprenticeship opportunities available through YRDSB and our College and Training Center partners. The Skilled Trades offer excellent employment opportunities, training in state of the art facilities, higher than average career satisfaction and many other opportunities for a rewarding career.

We are holding a Virtual Open House on **Thursday October 26th @ 7:00pm** in collaboration with our College / Training Centre partners, please [REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#) at <https://yrdsb.cc/OYAP-OpenHouse> to find out more about the Skilled Trades. Hope to see you there! Please also see the attached [flyer](#).

Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter – October 2023

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – October 2023

PA Day Agenda for October 20

Schools will be sharing the agenda for all PA days. Here is the agenda for Friday, October 20th.

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Curriculum Implementation Learning

Entity Hosting: All Regular Start and Early Start Secondary Schools (regular SYC)

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel

Description: Equitable Assessment Practices Professional Learning Series #1

Details: School teams will engage in professional learning facilitated by school administrators focusing on:

- identifying the tenets of equitable assessment; and
- exploring concrete shifts and changes to classroom assessment, evaluation and communication practices.

SIP/Department Meetings

Details: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders. Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- embedding equitable assessment practices into subject evaluations;
- subject specific integration of high-impact instructional practices to support student improvement in alignment with the curriculum;
- developing resources and learning plans to consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in de-streamed grade 9 courses including English, Mathematics and Science and across the curriculum;
- data analysis for school improvement; and
- curriculum implementation of new curriculum

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

Entity Hosting: All Regular Start and Early Start Secondary Schools (regular SYC)

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel

Description: Planning with Multilingual Language Learners at the Forefront

Details: The purpose and goals of the STEP Framework are introduced, followed by time to explore both the structure and components within the Oral, Reading and Writing ESL Continua.

This module focuses on:

- Foundational principles in teaching multilingual language learners
- Introduction to STEP framework

OCT Professionalism Module

Details: Staff will engage in learning regarding professionalism through the OCT Professionalism Module.

SIP/Department Meetings

Details: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders. Topics will vary by subject and may include

- embedding strategies to support teaching multilingual language learners into the curriculum.
- embedding subject specific high yield strategies into instruction and assessment
- data analysis for school improvement

Additional professional activities for EAs and Library Technicians

Latin Heritage Month Meet and Greet

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. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information and registration.

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

Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program

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

In the Community

We are fortunate at Richmond Green Secondary School to have so many community resources near our school, including the park and various plazas. We remind students that their behaviour and actions in the community should reflect the same expectations that we have within the school building. Student behaviour off school property reflects on the school community. Egregious behaviour will be addressed by the school and consequences will be put in place for students whose behaviour does not create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment as presented to students in our start up presentations.

GIVE Information Session

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education. Develop Skills to Support School Communities. This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. Please see [this flyer](#) for more details and registration.

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.

Attendance



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 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.

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.**

<u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<u>Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).

<u>Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<u>Health Care Plan (Other)</u>	This form 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).

School Zones

Students will see colour-coded zones in different areas of the school. The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones will be for collaborating and socializing. Red zones will be for walking through only (e.g, stairwells). This system will allow space for students during lunch and spare periods.

Caring and Safe Schools Information

Dear Families,

At the start of the new school year, students attended Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Inappropriate Behaviour

In the Start-Up Presentation, students learned about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students were also reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

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).



Mental Health

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

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.

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. During the first few days of schools, bus routes are being refined to ensure efficiency and service. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com.

It is important that students ride **only on their designated route**. This is for everyone's safety and security.

Key Dates

- Interim Reports Distributed Electronically beginning – Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- Bookings for Parent/Guardian Teacher interviews via TeachAssist – Thursday, October 19 - 9:00 a.m.
- P.A. Day – Friday, October 20, 2023 – **Students do not come to school.**
- Parent/Guardian Interview Night – Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (updated time)
- Photo Retake Day – Monday, October 30 (for students who missed having their photos taken in September)
- Take Our Kids to Work Day – Wednesday, November 1, 2023
- Last day of Term 1 (Civics and Careers) – November 8, 2023