



## RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – PARENT BULLETIN

*Where Tomorrow Begins*

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### **RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, September 22, 2023**



#### **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)

#### **Safety Week**

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, building occupants and visitors in the

event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 25 to 29, 2023) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practice various safety drills including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to Board Policy #669.0 for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management. Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

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 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit [www.yorkhills.ca](http://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/>

## **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.

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](#).

## **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.

## **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – September 2023**

### **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](#). We appreciate your support.

### **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](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.

## Safety Week

The York Region District School Board's priority is to provide and maintain safe and healthy environments for all students and staff. Each year, Safety Week provides an opportunity to practise safety drills and to draw attention to our roles in providing a safe learning and working environment. Safety Week is scheduled from Monday, September 25 to Friday, September 29, 2023. During this week, we will conduct both Lockdown and Hold and Secure drills. Additionally, we will practice a bomb threat drill, as the Ministry of Education requires each school board to have a set of emergency procedures, which includes bomb threats. Finally, we will have an accident awareness presentation for grade 11 students.

## 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.**

<a href="#"><u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<a href="#"><u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u></a>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.

<u><a href="#">Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</a></u>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<u><a href="#">Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</a></u>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<u><a href="#">Health Care Plan (Other)</a></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).

## Guidance

### College/University Fair

Aurora Public library will hold a College/University Fair on October 2 from 4:00 to 7:00pm. There will be over 40 institutions from different parts of the world participating this year.

The link of the event and list of participating institutions can be accessed here:

<https://aurora.bibliocommons.com/events/64dbac7f5a7c6130008c42c8>



**US COLLEGE CONNECT EVENING**  
MISSISSAUGA, ON / SEPT 28, 2023

“Thank you for hosting the US College Expo. We found it very informative and convenient. Being able to speak with multiple schools all in one place – Awesome!”  
- VITO & LAURIE B., PARENTS

**Join us at St. Francis Xavier SS!**  
**All parents and students are welcome!**

Speak with US College representatives and ask about student life, the admissions process, tuition and so much more!

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**  
**St. Francis Xavier SS**  
50 Bristol Road West, Mississauga, ON  
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Scan to RSVP

Connect with US college representatives and understand all aspects of the US college admissions process, including:

- ★ Admissions timelines and eligibility requirements for International Students
- ★ Student-Athlete Recruitment
- ★ Early Action/Decision vs. Regular Decision
- ★ The Common Application
- ★ Financial Aid & Merit-Based Scholarships

REFER A FRIEND FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$1,000 USD SCHOLARSHIP!

**FREE ADMISSION | Pre-registration required**  
[www.USCollegeExpo.com/register](http://www.USCollegeExpo.com/register)

prepskills

The public US College Connect Evening on Thursday, September 28 is for students interested in pursuing higher education in the United States.

**Event:** U.S. College Connect Evening

**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2023

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** St. Francis Xavier SS, 50 Bristol Rd W, Mississauga, ON

QLEAD is an annual four-day conference held in November where select grade 11 and 12 students

across Canada get the opportunity to learn about business and develop their leadership capabilities.

Applications to attend QLEAD are open until **September 30, 2023, at 11:59pm** at the following link: <https://www.qleadofficial.com/delegates>.

## QLEAD

### **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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

### **Key Dates**

- Thanksgiving Day – Monday, October 9, 2023 – **Students do not come to school.**
- Clubs Fair – Wednesday, October 11, 2023 (lunchtime) – **new date**
- Pathway Fairs – Monday, October 16, 2023
- Interim Reports Distributed Electronically beginning – Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- P.A. Day – Friday, October 20, 2023 – **Students do not come to school.**
- Parent/Guardian Interview Night – Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Take Your Kid to Work Day – Wednesday, November 1, 2023