

December 2021

Engagement Matters

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PEAC)

Advisory Committee Newsletter

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- PRO Grant Updates



Let's Connect!

It is with pleasure that we congratulate and welcome our 2021-2022 PEAC members! For a list of members, please refer to the [2021-2022 PEAC member list](#).

If you would like to connect with a member in your CEC region, please [use this form](#). For general messages to the committee, you may reach us by phone through the Leadership Development and Engagement office at 905-727-0022 ext. 3650, or via email at leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca.

We would also like to say farewell to our out-going PEAC members. We sincerely thank you for your time, input and efforts and wish you the best with your future accomplishments.

Save the date! Our next public meeting will be on **January 20, 2022**. School council chairs and administrators will receive an email with more details closer to the date.

Who...

PEAC

What...

Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas

How...

Email:

leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca

Website: [YRDSB PEAC Website](#), Contact form

Phone: 905-727-0022 ext. 3650

Twitter: @leadershipyrdsb

Instagram: ld_yrdsb

Virtual Winter Activities

With the colder months approaching and families taking to the warmth of the indoors, the winter months are an ideal time to engage your school community through virtual events. Below is a list of some activities that you and your school council may want to consider planning this year.

Activity Descriptions and Resources

What

How

Bingo Night



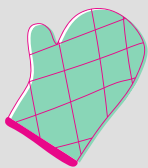
Have families pre-register using a Google Form. Do you want personalized bingo cards? On the form, have a section for families to submit words for the bingo cards, and then use [this template](#) to create your cards. Remember to print and cut the bingo card words before the event. Google Meet is a good platform for this event.

Trivia Night



Create a [Kahoot!](#) game for your school. Have families pre-register via email, send them the link for the platform download, then have fun testing everyone's knowledge on a set date and time.

Cooking Class



Have families pre-register via email. Send them the shopping list at least one week before the event, and provide them with directions for any prep work that might be required. Gather via Google Meet, and have a host take families through the cooking class. Consider asking a local chef or a foodie parent to be your event host.

Martial Arts Class



Contact your local dojo, and ask if they would be willing to host a free session just for your school. Many of the martial arts schools are setup for online classes, and they may welcome the opportunity to connect with your families by hosting an event that is both fun and healthy.

Tips for planning successful virtual events....

- Give participants plenty of advanced notice to prepare for the event
- Have guests pre-register so you know how many participants to expect
- Start and end on time

DIVERSITY, ENGAGEMENT AND YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Excerpt from the article **Gathering Community in the New Normal**

by Sara Leung, Scott Milne, Dr. John Ippolito, May 27th 2021

In 2005, York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and the Faculty of Education at York University partnered to pilot a new model of community engagement called the Gathering Model. The Gathering Model goes beyond community engagement to explore the potential for family voices – including the voices of marginalized parents – to support school and community improvement.

A fundamental component of the Gathering Model is a formalized planning team consisting of staff, families, and community partners. A model of community engagement is where schools evolve in relation to family needs and where the community shares responsibility and power in determining agendas (Ippolito, 2010).

The questions used to collect data for school and system improvement must be generated with community input, as with the following:

- What is bullying, and how do we make sure it doesn't happen in our school?
- What strategies and approaches can we use to communicate with children about their learning?

Community is more than just a physical and geographic similarity. It is also a feeling of safety and belonging. Identity and community cannot be separate and belonging must be defined through a lens of equity and justice. These priorities are well-served by the open exchange enabled by the Gathering Model and will prove useful to us in the new normal.

To read more on the topic, please access the full article here -

<https://www.edcan.ca/articles/gathering-community-in-the-new-normal/>

To request support and participate in this experience, please refer to the following forms:

Family & Student Support - Parent / Guardian and Student Form

<https://forms.gle/sV38a8LY81uf92u3A>

Equity, Family & Student Support - YRDSB Employee Form - <https://bit.ly/3EWYLtB>

School Council Forum Recap

In the month of November, we held four school council forums, one for each of the Community Education Centres (CECs). This was the first time in well over a year that our school council members were able to come together to learn new information about current topics through a live forum. Each event was well attended by both parents, guardians, and staff members, who not only listened in on the presentations, but also asked questions and shared ideas from their own school experiences.

We wish to thank the PEAC School Council Fall Forum organizing team for their hard work planning these sessions and to our presenters for sharing their knowledge with us. Summaries of the presentation topics may be viewed on the [school council forum webpage](#).

The presentation topics discussed at the forum included:

- School Council Fundraising
- Parents Reaching Out Grant 101
- Supporting the ABCs of Mental Health at Home
- Championing Equity and Inclusivity: Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy

Supporting the ABCs of Mental Health at Home

The December edition of the [Student Mental Health and Addiction](#) newsletter focuses on the "bridging" and "connecting" aspect of the ABC mental health framework, and includes an invitation for a free seminar with Triple P called "Getting Teenagers Connected." For full details, please refer to the newsletter.



YRDSB PRO Grant Update: Deadline Extension

The deadline for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant applications has been extended and the value of the grant has increased. The last day to submit an application is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022**. Each school council is now eligible for funding up to \$800 based on YRDSB and Ministry criteria. To submit an application, please use the [proposal submission form](#). Remember that if approved, your final report must be submitted by June 24, 2022. Good luck!