Congratulations to all students on completion of the first half of the 2009-2010 school year. Your hard work and dedication to academics have been rewarded in that you are now that much closer to achieving your high school diploma. Whether you have just completed your first semester of high school or are entering your last, we hope that you have taken advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that our school has to offer.

The first semester was buzzing with activity as we strove to new heights in athletics, clubs, on stage and in our classrooms. Markville is filled with great students and amazing stories every day, and all of you that make up our school continue to represent us well. To the staff, thank you again for putting students first and for your continued efforts. Together, our school community continues to support the success of our students.

Our staff continues to grow and change. Special thanks to Mr. Don Hamilton for his many years of service and congratulations on his election victory and retirement. Thanks to Mr. William Dyer and Ms. Leah Harrison for all their hard work in semester one, and all the best in the future. Welcomes are extended to our new teachers Ms. Heather Trevelyan, Ms. Annamaria Aceto and Ms. Sandy Wong. Welcome to our new E.A. Patricia Quon. We also would like to welcome our new Vice- Principals Mrs. Melissa Schmidt and Mr. Phil Azzopardi. Thanks to Mr. Mark Melnyk for filling in as acting Vice-Principal and our best wishes to Vice-Principal Mrs. Krista Pummell as she prepares for the birth of twins. Congratulations are also extended to Mrs. Scagnetti on the birth of her son.

As we begin the second semester we encourage all students to work diligently, ask for help when needed, be of good character and work together to do and be their best. Get involved in school clubs, activities, athletics and other extra-curricular activities so you can get everything out of your time here.

We wish each and every one of you good health and continued success in the next semester.

Mr. Steve Bewcyk
The Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is fast approaching. This year’s test will be written on Thursday, April 8th, 2010. Our staff is committed to preparing all of our students to be literate learners. The Liter8 Program continues at Markville preparing students to build literacy skills in all subjects. All students eligible to write the OSSLT will receive practice booklets and will spend time in their classes during the Literacy Blitz reviewing the major skills required for the test. Please see the Markville website www.markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca for more information on the Liter8 Program.

Another key resource for students is a new “Literacy@Markville Moodle”. The moodle is a website that has weekly activities, sample and practice questions for the test, and various other useful resources. Students get immediate feedback and will gain a great deal of comfort with the types of questions that they will encounter on this year’s test. Markville is offering an After School Literacy Class starting in mid-February for students that feel they could benefit from more practice. Information and registration forms for the After School Literacy Class are available in the main office.
Dramatic Arts

The first semester has been a busy one for Markville Drama students.

The Drama Club meets every Thursday after school in the Drama Studio [Room 346/347]. New members are always welcome. This year’s Club Executive includes Crystal Parkes, Sarah Thomson, Jeffery Wong, Charlin Mclsaac, and Maha Dostmohamed who have been very busy organizing club meetings and events such as our very successful Halloween Costume Party and our Holiday Party.

In October grade 9 and 10 drama classes travelled to Toronto to see Theatre Gargantua’s lively and very unique production of Fibber. Students were impressed with the unique and versatile set and the creative lighting effects.

For two days in January, the grade 9 drama class entertained the students from Markville’s Community Class with Stories from Many Lands. This production featured multicultural plays written and directed by the students themselves. Students were also responsible for designing props, sets, costumes, lighting, and sound.

Also in January, the grade 10 drama students performed six original Children’s Theatre plays for the Markville Daycare students. These fairy tales were written by the drama students and each one had a special lesson for the children. The plays were enjoyed by all.

Second semester drama students head to the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People in Toronto to learn the true story of Hana Brady and the Holocaust in Hana’s Suitcase and senior students will travel to Stratford to see Peter Pan at the Stratford Festival.

Rehearsals are now underway for the Drama Club’s “One Act Play Comedy Night” which will be presented in April. Four one act plays will be presented. The Drama Club is still looking for people to work behind the scenes, so come to a Drama Club meeting and get involved. See you there.

English Department

This year the English Department explored plays, short stories, non-fiction, novels, poetry and graphic texts through literary essays, oral essays, and class debates. We furthered our use of technology, creating digital tutorials, Photostory projects, and using the school website and Moodle to supplement in-class discussions. Our students also explored the literary world outside the walls of their classrooms, with field trips to Antigone (Soulpepper Theatre) and Macbeth (Classical Theatre Project), and developed critical thinking by making connections between classical and contemporary texts. It has been a full semester, and we congratulate all of our students on a job well done.
ESL Department

Markville’s ESL department is growing! Our department currently serves over 170 students across all levels of ESL; a number that is expected to further increase in Semester 2 with the addition of 20 more international students. In addition to core ESL classes, Markville also offers its students subject-specific ESL courses, such as Science, Geography, and Careers.

Before the Winter Break, ESL students participated in their very own “Amazing Race: Downtown Toronto”. Students had the opportunity to work in teams on various challenges held throughout the downtown area. They also became acquainted with popular sites such as the Royal Ontario Museum, U of T St. George, Yorkville, and Yonge-Dundas Square. Despite the bitter cold, the students’ spirits remained high!

The ESL department is also proud to welcome Ms. Mathura and Ms. Misra on our team this school year. We are looking forward to an exciting Semester 2 with our students!

Computer Studies

The end of semester is always a busy time in Computer Studies as our students finish their independent projects in our Engineering and Programming courses. These projects are designed to showcase their many talents and solidify their problem solving and project management skills.

This semester Mr. Gillespie’s grade 10 students created web pages and some outstanding Flash games. Game titles included Asteroids, Super Mario, Pac Man, Basketball, Brick Breaker and several maze games. Mr. Ianni’s and Mr. Gillespie’s grade 11 Computer Science students completed their semester by creating a variety of computer games including Mastermind, Snake, Wheel of Fortune, and Othello. The grade 12 Computer Engineering students were asked to develop a microprocessor computer that interfaced with the real world. They responded by making a coin operated “Test Your Strength” machine, a home security system, a plotter, a Simon Says game and a gumball sorter. A selection of student’s work can be found in the Computer Science Department’s Student Gallery on the school’s web site (www.Markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

In the 2010/2011 school year we hope to offer a Computer Game Development course, IDC4C, designed to introduce senior students to the many aspects involved in creating computer games. This course will appeal to students who have some experience in computer programming, but will also focus on project planning & management, visual arts, and technical communications. Students will work in teams to develop 2-D and 3-D educational games for our community living students.
Technology

Technology at Markville S.S. has been inventive, innovative and fun for the students this semester!

We now have our own YouTube channel for your viewing – not only are there final student film projects uploaded but also instructional video of class lessons for your child to stay caught up 24/7 anywhere in the world! Students can access this YouTube channel 24/7 through their iPhones, Blackberry’s and other smart phones as well as their laptops and home computers. We are excited to be able to offer this compliment to support the course work as we feel it reassures you, as a parent, that your child can remain caught up with the course work in the event of a prolonged absence.

You can visit us here http://www.youtube.com/user/MarkvilleTech We are uploading more and more each day!

The Tech. Design class is just wrapping up their 3D playground assignments. Starting with concept of “Discovery and Safety” the students have conceptualized, drawn, and modelled their own playground design for children 6-11yrs of age. These playgrounds have been a huge success – look for these future designs to be popping up in a park near you!

This semester Communication Technology partnered with the Royal Canadian Legion to produce an 8 min digital film for the Remembrance Day assembly, with a special emphasis on the Humanitarian efforts and current sacrifices by Canadian soldiers. We had Afghanistan Veteran Ben Swanson speak to the assemblies as Hanna Yong with Laura Brown composed original music to accompany the presentation.

Students for their summative projects in grade 12 produced 3-5 min documentary interviews where the tackled subject such as the Driver Testing Strike, YRDSB Anti Bullying Initiative, BMX skate park issues and more!

Grade 9 Integrated Technologies course has been busy completing various projects both designing and creating Photoshop computer work, drafting, orthographic drawing and building small cars that are powered on mouse traps and acrylic holders for their iPods. The students rotate through each area experiencing different technology teachers and the specialization they offer. Look for their Egg Drop and Mouse Trap car videos on the YouTube channel!

The Woodworking classes have been studying the broad range of career opportunities available in the manufacturing sector and their educational requirements. They have been planning and fabricating various projects centred on furniture and household design.

Just a reminder that students wishing to receive a Certificate of Endorsement in Technological Education on their Ontario Graduation Diploma need to select additional Tech courses in grades 10, 11 and 12 to acquire a minimum total of six. This Certificate of Endorsement is a Ministry document that is recognized by colleges and university entrance programs.
Guidance Department

We would like to extend a warm Happy New Year greeting from the Markville Guidance Department and wish all students good luck on their exams and Good Luck in Semester 2!

Students will be selecting their courses for next year online for the first time in Markville’s history – The York Region District School Board has purchased a sophisticated Career Education software program called ‘Career Cruising’. This program will enable students to view our online course calendar, select next year’s courses and submit them electronically. They can access this program from the York Region District School Board homepage, or by going to www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/guidance.services.

Current Markville students will be introduced to the program through Grade assemblies, the first week of semester 2. Their online course selections are due by February 22nd.

We would also like to remind parents that our ‘Grade 8 Open House’ is on February 10th, from 7 to 9pm.

Special Education

In Special Education this year, time moves forward swiftly and much positive, constructive energy has been put forth this semester for student credit accumulation and to counsel student personal growth: Math EQAO for grade nines is imminent as are January final exams. And before us together are February course selections for 2010-2011 and Special Education Annual Reviews for next year’s identification and placement. Please know that our SERTs have met each identified student and your daughter, son has been offered extra time for evaluations as directed by their Individual Education Plan. Teachers, are mindful to offer extra time as they have been notified to do so. Our students have been encouraged to advocate that exam questions or exam marking schemes, for instance, are clarified when uncertainty and queries arise during testing. We expect a successful outcome from the demonstrated hard work performed by all towards these Finals.

New for our Community classroom is a stove - purchased with Admin. support. Now our breakfast program is hotter. Our DD bulletin boards give evidence of Literacy and healthy well-being. Our recorders make music and our paint brushes splash with colour. The Intensive program staff help our students earn credit Achievement Certificates. Literacy, numeracy and life skills are emphasised in our class curriculum. Our MID students commute on public transit independently to their work placements beyond Markville. Together we celebrate Brock Bontje’s Provincial “Yes, I Can” Award. Our Special Education Department web site and moodle curriculum sites are current.

Thank you to our staff: Ms. Adelson, Fremont, Jamed, Miller, Poyntz, Scagnetti, Stecher, Trefler, Trevelyan, and Mr. Patten, for their dedication to model and teach your children. It’s our privilege.
Music Department

Unusually busy would be a good way to describe first semester in the Music Department. In September we participated in the 8th annual Regional Music Camp program at Camp Wahanowin near Orillia, and held the 18th annual Fall Classic Bowling Tournament in October. In November the Senior Wind Ensemble welcomed renowned composer Richard Saucedo to the school for a workshop, and performed in the first of what we hope will be many “Students Helping Students” concert, a benefit fund raising evening for Participation House. All of our major ensembles performed on December 8th at Markham Theatre in Festive Sounds, our annual celebration of the holiday season. This concert was sold out for the fifth straight year!

January began with Markville Music’s 19th Music Theatre production, “The Mystery Of Edwin Drood”. The production run was extraordinarily successful, and as always we can’t wait to see what next year’s show will be (yes, we’re already working on it).

As usual, during January and February all of our performing ensembles will be gearing up for music festival season. We are hoping to claim our usual number of Gold Awards, First Place finishes, and Invitations To Nationals.

In addition to our competitive festival performances, we are currently preparing for the 16th annual Elementary Music Retreat at Jackson’s Point, the “Jammin At Joe’s” fundraiser, our spring Markville Pops concert at Markham Theatre, “Junk Food And Jazz”, and our end of the year Music Banquet. We sincerely hope that you can make the time to join us at one of our upcoming events.

Visual Arts Department

The Visual Arts Department says goodbye and thanks to Ms. Leah Harrison, who was teaching this past semester in the department. The students and staff will really miss you. We welcome back Mr. Dru for the second semester!

The Visual Arts department Senior Studio students look forward to collaborating in an exciting writing/art project with Ms. Bozabalian's Senior English class in semester two. The Art Club has been busy this semester working on some large-scale masks for Mr. Nicholson's drama room--look for them shortly!

Family Studies Department

The grade 12 Food and Nutrition classes displayed their global sustainability booths in the atrium. There, they show cased their alternatives to the problem of depleting resources around the globe, and how this affects food production.

Grade 11 and 12 philosophy students welcomed Matthew Ballantyne, who is an Art History student at the University of Toronto. Matthew specializes in contemporary and shock art. His photography both captivated and inspired students in the area of aesthetics.
FSL and International Languages

The FSL and International Languages Department had an amazing semester!

Grade 9 French Academic
The Grade 9 French students had a great first term of French at Markville Secondary School. Students created a Web Page which included music videos from YouTube, games and information about themselves and their families. Students also had the opportunity to create scary monster movies, DVD covers and scary masks. Mme Jeffery and Mlle Carter even had a contest between their classes for best movie, best actor, and best actress.

The students finished their semester by performing their final task while exploring their talent as they auditioned for “Talent Canada: Markville." Presentations included diverse talents such as break dancing, sumo wrestling, magic, mime, origami, arts and crafts, singing and playing instruments, baking and juggling!

Bon Travail Grade 9's! See you in Grade 10 French!

Grade 9 French Applied
The 9Ps started off hesitant about learning the language; however, they showed off their abilities by creating Web pages about themselves, creating a television episode, listening to music and creating collages. They finished off the semester by pretending to be pen pals designing funky postcards, writing messages to each other and “meeting up" in a French café! Félicitations à tous…you did it!!! Hope to see you in our department next year!

Grade 10 Academic French
Our Grade 10 French students worked very hard this semester developing their French abilities! They started off the semester by exploring careers. They worked in various group projects including PowerPoint presentations on Tattoos, future careers, famous designers and interesting decades.

The grade 10 students became marketers in Unit two where they created Billboards. They were educating the general public about H1N1, drinking and driving, saying no to drugs, and having fun in the sun.

Our very talented grade 10 students also were involved in some drama. They had to discuss the pros and cons to some everyday ethical issues. They were either angels or devils. We’re glad to see that our entire grades 10’s are angelic!

M. Ebrahim would like to congratulate the following students on an exceptional job on the Career’s tâche finale and yes, these students were given a full time job to teach in “La nouvelle école de Monsieur Ebrahim"

Nadia Djalilvand Rachel Shum Alan Li
Jasmine Singh Soojeong Oh Frederick Yuan

Grade 11 University French
The grade 11’s discovered la grande francophonie through various medias this semester. They participated in a film festival, threw a red carpet party, created magazines, and more! They escaped into short stories of Petit Nicolas and created videos where they told the “true" story of The Phantom of the Opera.

On a more serious note, they explored contemporary social issues and presented their discoveries to the class!

C’est plate que la fin soit arrivée…mais c’était le fun quand même! BRAVO!
Grade 12 French Certificate of Merit

Félicitations! We would like to congratulate the following Grade 12 French students on receiving their French certificate of merit and wish them well with all their future endeavours!

- Farrah Amador-Mughal
- Sanaz Baghbani
- Elizabeth Benner
- Atik Burkutoola
- Joyce Cai
- Janice Chao
- Fiona Cheung
- Rena Chu
- Jenny Ge
- Mara Hoevelmann
- JongWoo Kim
- Amna Rehman
- Erina Shi
- Betsy Szeto
- Kelly Tai
- Angela Tiessen
- Jenna Topan
- Mike Yang
- Maggie Zhou

Grade 10 Languages for Travel

Our new course entailed two languages – Greek and Italian. Students learned some key language elements and vocabulary for both countries. They created PowerPoint presentation on recipes, famous Greeks and Italians, places to visit in both countries and learned about history, fashion, and culture as well. Bravo!!

Grade 10 Spanish

This energetic and creative bunch of students was quick at grasping the Spanish lingo. They are able to maintain a three minute conversation, sin pensar. Many of the students shared their wild experiences while preparing their Spanish food dish for our annual fiesta! The dishes were deliciosas! Our students, the actors, did a phenomenal job on their Markville Movie! They promoted our school to foreign students with charisma and style!

At the end of the semester, the students created a children’s story book and audio CD. Hopefully, these fancy books will be available at Chapters one day.

Señor Ebrahim would like to congratulate the Spanish students for a wonderful semester, all their hard work and dedication. ¡Gracias! ¡See you next year in Grade 11 Spanish!

Parents, please note:

1. FSL/International Languages and Geography are participating in a trip to Switzerland/ Italy this March Break 2010.
2. A reminder that the next meeting will be held on February 24, at 7 pm in Library.
3. Our newest course, “Languages for Travel: Italian and Greek Part 2” begins in September 2010. This course is open to grade 10-12 students. Prerequisite is LWI BO.
4. ¡Hola todos! We are offering Grade 12 (Advanced) Spanish this coming year September 2010. Be ready for a fun-filled field trip and movie night!
5. Course Selection is around the corner! For a list of all the courses offered in the FSL/International Languages department, please see one of the teachers to get a brochure.

Merci pour tous vos efforts!

To all our fantastic students, we wish you well!

M Ebrahim, Mme. Jeffery, Mme. Tavernese, Mlle Carter
Science Department

The first semester was exciting and innovative in the science department. With the implementation of the “revised” Ontario science curriculum, Markville’s science students developed their knowledge and understanding while working to improve their scientific thought, investigation, and literacy skills. The science club took part in the Great Canadian Shore-line Clean-up, built wind turbines and constructed loud speakers during their meetings.

The grade 9 and 10 science classes and the grade 11 physics and chemistry classes participated in a science fair which allowed the students to branch out and expand their knowledge in areas of personal interest. Beyond the walls of the school, the physics classes went to Waterloo to participate in a quantum physics exhibition, while the biology classes experienced “Body Worlds” at the Ontario Science Centre.

As the second semester begins, the Markville science department will continue to provide opportunities for students to learn and experience science aside from their daily scheduled courses. The science club will be offering more occasions for interested students to get together and participate in science activities involving hands-on experimentation, as well as presentations from outside experts. Senior students will, once again, have an opportunity to compete in a number of contests designed to challenge their knowledge. These contests attract participants from around the world. Interested students should watch the bulletin boards in the science hall for event and contest information.

Mathematics Department

There’s always lots’ going on in the Mathematics Department!

This school year has seen a lot of changes in staff in our department:

- Ms. Kei-Baxter replaced Ms. Ramdeen who is off on maternity leave for the year
- Ms. Passafiume is now part time in the Alternative Education department
- Mrs. Ruffo went to the Alt Ed dept on a full time basis but should be returning to the Math dept next year
- Mr. Myers is back
- Ms. Nobrega joined us full time, but since she will be going on maternity leave soon we will be having another new addition, Ms Wong to our department
- Also, our longest serving member of the department, Mr. Hamilton, ran in the local Ward 3 Unionville election and won! As a result, he will be retiring at the end of semester and assuming his electoral responsibilities on a full time basis. We wish him well and thank him for his 20 years of exemplary teaching in the Markville school community.

We recently received the results from the 2009 Sunlife Financial Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge which was written in November of 2009. Of the 65 students who wrote this contest, we are proud to say that 12 received Certificates of Distinction which will be presented at graduation in June of this year. They were: Betsy Szeto, Brian Lee, Jackson Leung, Guocong Wei, Yujing Zou, Brandon Dyck, Anson Wong, Ruby Yang, Rena Chu, Yubin Hu, Kelvin Wong and Anni Dong. Congratulations to all the students who participated.

Ask Mr. Segal for your result. Don’t forget that there are more fun contests coming soon! Check the information board across from the Mathematics department office. We ask parents to encourage participation in the contests as they are excellent preparation and allow for a cross country comparison between student abilities.

We were excited to see the new display case arrive at the entrance way hall to our wing of the building. We have had student work on display from a number of different teachers and we look forward to displaying lots of interesting math stuff!

Remember parents, if you have any questions or concerns about the progress of your son/daughter’s mathematics education send us an email and we will be happy to respond.

We wish all our students well in the second semester!
NEW GENOCIDE COURSE for 2010-2011! The History Department is offering a new course next year called Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity (CGH3M1). The course will study the Holocaust, the Holodomor, Rwanda, Sudan and many other case studies of the darker side of human nature. Students will explore the reasons that genocide occurs and ultimately what we must do as humans to stop genocide and crimes against humanity. Please see the History website for more details.

WASHINGTON. The May 2010 trip to Washington is coming fast! Please make sure all participants have passports. There are still a couple of spots remaining, so contact M. Nicholson or any of the History teachers.

SUPERDEBATES. The History and Business Departments would like to congratulate all the senior students that competed in the Great Debates. Special mention to the following Superdebaters for an impressive show in front of hundreds of onlookers in the library: Jamie McWhirter, Katherine Hele, Jonathan McGuire, Joanna Carson, Shan Lalani, Kishan Lakhani, Demi Dina, Courtney Yau, Steph Saleh, Sam Eshraghi, Jenna Topan, Jerry Zheng, Tasti Abubaker, Meredith Nelson, Savoula Stylianou and Emily Snowball.

QUEST CONFERENCE. Miss Chong, Mr. Cote and Mr. Melnyk presented at the Quest Conference along with students Emily Southey, Jerry Zheng, Jenna Topan and Crystal Parkes. The group presented about the 21st Century Classroom highlighting innovative uses of technology in the classroom and the future of education.

Markville character is reflected in the empathy of students and staff who came together to raise $1800 for Haiti Earthquake relief. We are so proud of you.
Co-operative Education

As our Co-op work experiences come to an end there are many successes to be celebrated.

Congratulations to five of our students who have been accepted into very unique programs for second semester. All students will be enrolled in a college program studying in their field of interest while earning their last 4 credits in Co-op towards their High School Diploma. Doug McCabe has been accepted into Humber College where he will be working towards his Level 1 Accelerated Apprenticeship program. Anthony Karas will also be attending Humber College studying Level 1 of his Apprenticeship in Electrical. Danny Bisasar will be attending Centennial College in the Automotive Service industry. Kevin Tan will be working on his Level 1 Apprenticeship training at Humber College in Culinary Arts and Zainab Parpia will begin her Early Childhood Education program at Seneca. We would like to congratulate all 5 of our Markville Students in their early acceptance to college and wish them great success as they work to complete their high school requirements and begin their college programs at the same time!!

Rainer Hilland is participating in the International Co-op program and is scheduled to leave for Ecuador in just a couple of weeks. We look forward to hearing about his experiences working and earning her credits abroad. Best wishes Rainer!!

Our many students have been working as assistants to Pharmacists, Veterinarians, Physiotherapists, Chiropractors, Lawyers, Security Guards, Computer Technicians, Software Developers, Teachers, Accountants, Hairstylists, Graphic Designers, Customer Service Representatives, Chefs, Curators, Carpenters, Automotive Service Technicians, Theatre Technicians, Appliance Repair Technicians, Auto Body and Collision Repairers, Car Sales Associates, Nurses, Office Administrators, Retail Sales Clerks, Early Childhood Education workers, Auto Body & Collision Service Technicians, and Doctors.

We would like to recognize and thank our many Community Partners for hosting and providing excellent training opportunities to our students during this first semester. We are grateful for your guidance and support.

Many thanks to:

Lasting friendships have been established with colleagues and classmates, positive references have been collected for future employment, part time jobs have been offered, learning experiences have been gained that will aid in applications for university, college and/or the workforce. We are very proud of all of our students this semester!! You have all shown considerable growth and maturity. We wish you great success next semester.

Applications for Co-op positions for September 2010 will begin at course selection time in February. If you have any questions regarding the many cooperative education opportunities that are available, or would like to host a co-op student, please contact the co-op office at 905-940-8840 Ext. 227.
Athletics

With the fall season done and the winter seasons wrapping up, it has been another successful year for Markville athletes, competing to the utmost capabilities in a full compliment of athletic opportunities, and representing their school with character. Of note, the junior boy’s volleyball team captured the YRAA Tier 2 championship in November.

Hopefully we will be able to add to the count as the winter season sports enter into their respective playoffs/championships, including girls volleyball, boys basketball, boys hockey, swim team, and the alpine ski and snowboard teams.

As the second semester begins, and warmer weather is welcomed, the final YRAA season - spring sports - is also in the forecast with coaches and players getting ready for preseason warm-ups and tryouts for badminton, girl’s soccer, boy’s rugby, track and field, and ultimate.

Our athletes have been welcoming some excellent home crowd support this year, as the bleachers and floors are always at or near capacity for volleyball and basketball games, providing that extra push towards victory. Check the gym schedule or listen to announcements for when you can contribute to Markville Athletics, by cheering from the sidelines, or trying out for a team.

Health & Physical Education

The first semester of 2009-2010 was a very active and exciting one in the phys. ed. department. Students were kept active, not only in school, but at recreational facilities in the Markham area. Grade 11 and 12 classes participated in golf classes at the driving range, bowling, and fitness classes took advantage of the facilities at Goodlife Fitness.

All grade 9 students spent a week learning valuable self-defence skills taught by certified instructors. The semester came to an end with the small gym being turned into a rock climbing facility. All phys. ed. students were guided by qualified instructors through swinging vines, rock climbing, rickety bridges, snaky ladders, zip lines, giant swings, spider’s webs, and other adventurous jungle elements. The annual phys. ed. ski and snowboard trip will be held in March at Mount St. Louis Moonstone. Any student who took a phys. ed. course in either semester will be eligible to take part on this trip. Remember, ‘Your Health is Your Wealth’, so don’t hesitate, get involved in the phys. ed. department today!
Geography Department

The Geography Department has enjoyed a successful first semester in 2009 – 2010. Mr. Graham Draper and I were pleased to welcome Ms Kelly Bradshaw to the department for the semester. Ms Bradshaw taught one of the Grade 9 Academic courses. The department continues to introduce technology into our programs - daily plans continue to be available on the departmental website as are many of the required classroom handouts. Unit and lesson plans are continually being updated in order to take advantage of the fifteen computers in our classrooms which affords our students increased opportunities for research.

The grade 9 Geography program was offered at three levels – Applied, ELL and Academic. All courses combined textbook lessons with practical experiential activities. Term projects included landform model building, endangered species research, and urban planning design as well as independent research on a number of issues of the students choosing. Topics for this culminating activity ranged from Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone to Air Pollution in Hong Kong to the Seal Hunt in Newfoundland and Labrador. Poster displays, classroom presentations as well as a music video allowed the student to demonstrate their mastery of the complex aspects of their issue. Once again, Mr. Draper has presented a challenging and informative World Issues courses for our senior students.

Two special items in the Department merit mention here. First, we are excited to participate, in conjunction with the Languages Department, in a week long field trip to Switzerland and Italy during March Break 2010. Secondly, we are pleased to announce the introduction of the “Grade Nine Geography Department Sponsor Child” program. All grade nine students have the opportunity to donate two dollars towards this project. We will affiliate with Plan Canada to provide on-going sponsorship to a child from the developing world. The students in Semester 1 have been very generous in their support of this program – details should be finalized early in Semester 2.

MAC (Markville Athletic Council)

Markville’s Athletic Council started off with a great semester filled with fun, and healthy, active events! The Council had their first “MAC Getaway” at Woodbine Beach. Throughout the fun getaway, the council got to know each other better, and worked with each other through fun, team building games.

Just like the year before, Markville’s Athletic Council held and organized some fun and exciting Intramural Games with sports including basketball, volleyball, as well as badminton, during period four. Intramurals will take place again in semester two, in period three.

MAC also took part in helping with the SNAP Basketball Tournament that took place at Markville, earlier this year. This tournament was a very successful event organized by Amanda Chin, who is an ICD student in grade 12. The Special Needs basketball tournament featured athletes from 8 different high schools in the Markham area.

The Athlete of the Month is back! Every month, the coaches of different Markville sports teams will nominate an athlete that shows many different qualities including leadership, sportsmanship, courage, and team spirit. The executive council then vote for the athlete of the month according to the comments given by the coaches.

Markville’s Athletic Council is also trying to raise money for new equipment for our weight room at Markville. For more information about intramurals for the second semester, fundraising, Athlete of the Month, or any other questions, please visit the MAC board located near the Family Studies hall!

Best wishes for the new, upcoming semester,

Markville’s Athletic Council
Business Department

The business department has had a very successful start to the 2009-2010 school year. This year, the business faculty consists of Ms. Marine Li, Mrs. Mae Chan, Mr. Tej Rao, Mr. Marcello Ianni, lead by Ms. Catherine Sharp. We are pleased to announce that at the beginning of the year, we had over 113 students sign up for the DECA business club. With 113 students, this club is officially the largest in the school. With the help of Mr. Tej Rao, Ms. Aaina Misra and Ms. Catherine Sharp, we have met with these students every Wednesday to help them practice and prepare for both the regional and upcoming provincial competitions. A special mention to grade 12 students Trina Lee and Chantelle Ramsundar for their tremendous leadership as co-presidents of this extremely large club.

We would also like to officially welcome Mae Chan to our business department. Mrs. Chan joins us from Thornhill Secondary School. Mrs. Chan has arranged for Junior Achievement (JA) to work with our grade 9 and 10 business students next semester. JA Titan is a business simulation where high school students compete as companies in a fictitious market. Students make executive decisions to discover the many triumphs and challenges faced by senior management.

In addition, Ms. Sharp has recently started up her competitive mock trial team. This team consists of grade 11 and grade 12 law students who would like to experience and simulate a criminal court case. We are fortunate to have the help of criminal defense lawyer Robert Chartier, who takes time out of his busy schedule to meet with us. We came in second place last year and are working to come in first place this year!

We are excited to announce that we will be offering a grade 12 university level Investments and Finance (IDB4U1) course starting in September 2010. We recognize that finance is the language of business and a requirement for all post secondary business programs. Please stay tuned for more exciting updates from the business department.

Living, Sharing, and Learning Together
Markville’s Motto
Resource Centre

Great changes are happening in the library this school year. A new, more user friendly website has been created that is being heavily used. Our e-resources are an especially popular feature.

Check us out at http://www.markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/teacher/library/libraryindex.htm. Cable TV is now available in the Smart Board area of the library which will be fully utilized during the Vancouver Olympics. A rearrangement of the library furniture has opened up this area in anticipation of a large audience. The Smart Board, Computer Lab and Reference areas are now three distinct spaces available in the library for varied uses ranging from debates to research and group work.

New signage will be appearing shortly that will bring a new, lighter, fresher look to the library that will create an inviting environment for the increasing number of patrons we are serving daily.

The library staff strives to meet the changing educational needs of our school community.

White Pine reading program list:

The White Pine reading program offers teens the opportunity to read the best of Canada’s recent young adult fiction titles. A reader only needs to read 5 books out of a list of 10 to qualify to vote. Based on student voting across the province, the most popular book is then selected & author is honoured with the White Pine Award.

It’s not too late to join — Come in and ask us for information!

- The book of Michael / Lesley Choyce
- Cracked up to be / Courtney Summers
- Getting the girl / Susan Juby
- Half world / Hiromi Goto
- The landing / John Ibbitson
- Mostly happy / Pam Bustin
- The perfect cut / Julie Burtinshaw
- Sister wife / Shelley Hrditschka
- The uninvited / Tim Wynne-Jones
- Wonderous strange / Lesley Livingston

A HUGE Thank you to our volunteers this semester:

Atik Burkutoola    Michael Chu    Stephanie Zhang    Jessie Song
Nirushi Kuhathasan Sunithi Senthilvel Bo Cheng      Vincent Zhao
Alice Guan         Rajan Ohm       Humayera Ferdous
Personalized Alternative Education

QUAD-MESTER PROGRAM
This program is new to our school and has had a successful first semester. The courses offered were:
Grade 11/12 English and Math College credits. Next semester we look forward to offering another four elective courses: Grade 11 English Media, Biology, Travel and Tourism and Discovering the Workplace. The structure of the program allows our students to pursue two subjects every nine weeks and provides a very supportive environment. Congrats to the students and teachers for a successful first semester.

JUMP
Our paid co-op work experience program continues to be a popular choice for students looking to complete their last few credits in a work environment. Many of our students are pursuing college opportunities and find the work experience an invaluable experience. Congrats to all of our graduates this semester.

MAGIC
Our MAGIC program continues to provide opportunities for students who are struggling in a regular school structure. The late start, coupled with a small and supportive classroom setting enables students to be more successful accomplishing their Grade 9/10 credits. Congrats to all of the students who are moving on to other programs.

Our vision is that Markville Secondary School is a community of future-oriented, self-disciplined, life-long learners, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence.

Our commitment is to a safe, caring, positive environment that fosters communication and mutual respect.
Please Mark on Your Calendar Today!

April 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2010

“PARENT & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT”

We have some surprises in mind and will reveal them as the date gets closer.

\textbf{Students}, watch for posters in your school hallways.

\textbf{Parents}, watch for information sent home with your son/daughter.

\textbf{Or}

You can take this opportunity to join

Parent Council

by sending your email address to Janet Wellsman Thomson (Chair)

at \texttt{divesky@rogers.com}

She will be happy to add your name to the current list of parents who receive the

Minutes of Parent Council Meetings.

\textit{Additionally}

Janet will also include, any other pertinent information she feels you as a parent of a student at Markville Secondary School should know about.

Admin and Parent Council look forward to hearing from you and want to say,

“Thank you for your time.”
Dear Parents and Guardians:

January 2010 began a very special chapter for the York Region District School Board of Trustees and staff. We welcomed Ken Thurston as our new Director of Education. For over 33 years, Mr. Thurston has been a passionate educator and brings a wealth of educational experience to the York Region District School Board. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet Mr. Thurston when he was a superintendent at our Board (2000-2008). During that time, he oversaw and supported the work of school councils, parent engagement and community partnerships. From February 2008, Mr. Thurston served as senior policy advisor to Ontario’s Minister of Education on matters pertaining to student achievement, leadership, public education governance and teacher certification. We’re very fortunate to have Mr. Thurston’s leadership, experience and expertise.

Over the coming months, Ken Thurston will be visiting schools throughout the region and I, along with him, look forward to the many school activities planned for the remainder of the school year thanks to the involvement of students, staff, parents and community volunteers.

As always, I enjoy talking to parents and students, so please feel free to call or email me with any questions, concerns, comments or ideas you may have. Thank you to staff, parents, community volunteers, students, and our strong communities for ensuring a nurturing, positive, learning environment for all our students.

Warm wishes,

Elizabeth Richardson

Trustee, York Region District School Board
(647) 883-0865 or email: elizabeth.richardson@yrdsb.edu.on.ca