

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This semester, Markham District High School's Way of Wellness course is excited to work in collaboration with Rhythm is for Everyone on the project, "Engaging Senior Mentors: An Intergenerational Exchange & Community Celebration".

This unique learning experience will allow students to meet the curriculum expectations for our course through the following opportunities:

- ❖ Student-directed, teacher-supported inquiry conversations with elders
- ❖ Intergenerational and intercultural learning, sharing and relationship building
- ❖ Engagement of youth and elders to play a vital role in facilitating events and activities in their community
- ❖ Enhancement of community vitality through the empowerment of new leaders
- ❖ Development of confidence and wellness through agency
- ❖ Meaningful engagement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action

We are excited to begin our project with a visit from sociologist and founder of Rhythm is for Everyone, Elisha MacMillan on Friday, April 6. The project will continue through the months of April, May and June with the following events:

- Thursday, April 26th: Jacob Charles visits from Georgina Island to teach the significance of the drum in Ojibwe culture
- Friday, April 27th: Drum-making with Phil and Wendy Shaw from Shaw Percussion
- Monday, April 30th: 1st visit to Markham Seniors Activity Centre from 11:45am - 2pm
- Tuesday, May 1st: Elisha visits
- Wednesday, May 9th: 2nd visit to Markham Seniors Activity Centre from 1 - 2pm
- Monday, May 14th: Drum Circle Planning Meeting with Seniors from 1-2pm
- Friday, May 18th: Field Trip to Jacob Charles' outdoor learning space on Georgina Island
- Friday, June 1st: Community Drum Circle at the MDHS Grade 10 FNMI Conference
- June 4th, 5th or 6th: Sharing Circle with indigenous youth participants at MDHS

We have made every effort to minimize the time that students will spend out of their other courses this semester, but unfortunately there will be some class time missed in order to engage in this valuable learning experience. To compensate for the class time missed, students will be given time in Wellness to work on other course material.

We will be documenting our learning journey using video and voice recorders. In order for students to participate in this project, we will need you to sign and return the Consent for Recording form and the three Field Trip Permission forms attached.

Thank you so much for your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Warm regards,