

THE YMCI PHOENIX NEWSPAPER

MAY 2022 EDITION



The Merge

Article By : Najma & Evelyn
George Harvey CI Students

It was confirmed last year that York Memo CI will be joining George Harvey CI as one learning community. In under five months, this will be in motion. As you can imagine this is a big change, and with change always comes growth! The scariest part about change is the unknown, however, life is about embracing change and making the most of it. After all, without change, there is no growth possible!

This article will give more knowledge about “the merge” and will highlight the positive aspects that come with the change.

On the afternoon of Thursday, April 28, 2022, the York Memo Newspaper Club took a trip to George Harvey CI for a tour and interview,

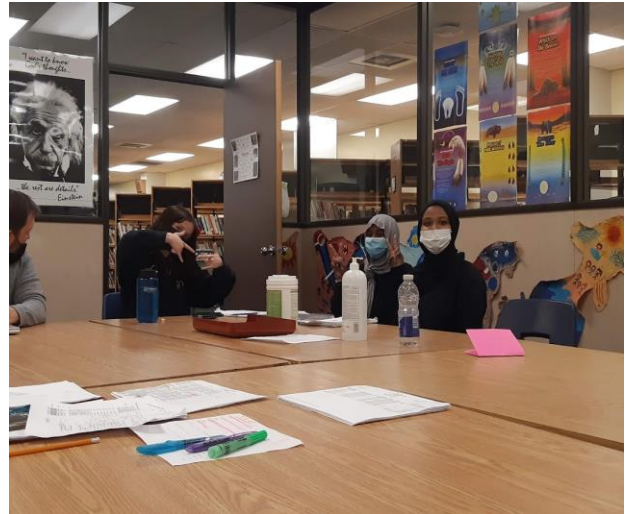
which aimed to create lasting connections between the York Memo students and the student body of George Harvey. The tour started in the library, which then moved past the office towards the pool. Many questions were asked along the tour, and it was nice to see some of our future peers show genuine interest in our beloved school culture. We visited the auditorium, weight room, and began visiting elective programs such as Hairstyling, Construction and Auto Shop. Other classes we toured included Food and Nutrition, Hospitality and Tourism, Science, and Math. Some of the programs and clubs we introduced to them were SHSM, Breakfast Club, and Anime Club! After the tour, we reconvened to further discuss the groundbreaking merger!

During our discussion with our future peers and writers of *York Memo's Phoenix*, we discovered we had a number of similar fears. Both sides voiced concern over losing their school's

identity. Additionally, we questioned how we could come together and conquer these fears. In an interview with Jaune-Beau, writer of *The Phoenix Newspaper*, he explained that with the merge and the decision to change the building's current name "George Harvey CI" to "York Memorial CI," it felt like our school's culture was fading and that we were losing our identity. Now, he comes to accept it more, as he sees some great people and programs at George Harvey. From his perspective, he feels like the beginning of the school year with the two schools mixed will potentially have a "choppy" start, but that does not necessarily mean it will be negative.

To make the school year run more smoothly, Jaune-Beau believes that teachers and staff should get to know each other better and continue to be open to one another. Our combined goals should be to develop fun school events to encourage the coming together of a new community.

As our discussion moved forward, we found our fears were overshadowed by the potential for growth! In front of us lies an opportunity to make new memories and expand many programs with a larger student population and teaching staff! While it may seem overwhelming, with an optimistic mindset we feel the merger will be an exciting endeavor for all. More choices of classes to take, more people to meet, and more extracurriculars! That is definitely something to look forward to.



Would YOU like to contribute to the future of the YMCI Phoenix?

Hey Memo! The YMCI Phoenix is open to all who are interested in submitting. If you would like to submit an article, photo, or idea, feel free to email our editors : Emily Miguel (emily.miguel@student.tdsb.on.ca) or Alexa Giles (alexa.giles@student.tdsb.on.ca)



The Mustang And The Hawk

Article By : Emily Miguel
York Memorial CI Students

One thing I've learned from having the opportunity to visit George Harvey and interview some of their students is that there isn't much of a difference between a Mustang and a Hawk. When first arriving at the building I was absolutely terrified. I didn't know what to expect and I was almost afraid of the way students would react knowing that we were York Memorial students. I felt like I was being thrown into the deep end without knowing how to swim—stuck desperately trying to maintain my composure while feeling like I was flailing around in fear on the inside. What I was greeted with though wasn't scary—if anything it was just the opposite. I was welcomed with smiling faces, warm greetings, and people who held the same amount of anxiety that I did about the meeting. This got me thinking—where did all this anxiety come from and why is it so common between our two communities?

I heard a lot of the same ideas when talking about it with different people. One way or another it seemed to all come back to the fear of the unknown—especially when talking about the move for next year. When bringing up the idea of the move, George Harvey students didn't have much to say. They weren't outraged, they weren't upset, they were just confused—even worried—about the unknown circumstances they are about to be thrown into as of next year. Talking with them about this helped me realize that that was my own fear too—and I think that's the fear a lot of students are carrying with them. We as the student body don't know what to expect and oftentimes that leads us to think of the worst of the events that have yet to come. I've seen it within myself, within York Memorial students, and now I've had the opportunity to see it within George Harvey students. We are all just afraid of what to expect while at the same time trying to

accept and go along with the circumstances of our situation.

In all reality, we have nothing to worry about. Guaranteed there is going to be a long period of adjustment time while the two of our communities settle into one another. There is going to be some turmoil and people are more than welcome to feel worried about this move. Though at the end of the day this is our future moving forward and it is only going to be as good or as bad as we make it out to be. Our anxieties, our mindsets, and our attitudes are going to shape the school next year—and we can either choose to turn it into something strong and long-lasting or something ready to crumble apart in the first week. A piece of advice that was shared with me was this; “we cannot hold dear to what was, rather we need to use what was to create a new what is.” It is an extremely difficult thing to bring two opposing communities together as one, but once we realize we aren't that different, that our hopes aren't that different, that our fears aren't that different, we can begin to see a community that is inclusive of both the Mustang and the Hawk.

Would YOU like to contribute to the future of the YMCI Phoenix?

Hey Memo! The YMCI Phoenix is open to all who are interested in submitting. If you would like to submit an article, photo, or idea, feel free to email our editors : Emily Miguel (emily.miguel@student.tdsb.on.ca) or Alexa Giles (alexa.giles@student.tdsb.on.ca)



My Afternoon At George Harvey

Article By: Alexa Giles

York Memorial CI Student

In just a few months, York Memorial will be merging with George Harvey. This led the editors of the Phoenix to take a field trip one afternoon to go and visit our future home. The idea of doing this both excited me and made me incredibly nervous. I had never been to George Harvey before and never even seen it from the outside. Having a chance to get to see it before I'm tossed into it next year was very exciting. I wanted to get to meet some of the students, teachers, and get a general idea of the school environment. But despite all of this I was still nervous. What if it was a bad experience and made me dread going next year? What if the teachers I meet don't like me? What if the apparent beef between the two schools is real and the students don't want us there? In the end, I ignored all of my anxieties, summoned courage, and took the trip. I am extremely glad that I chose to do that because in the end all my anxieties were wrong and it was an amazing experience.

From the moment I walked in the front doors until I left through them, I felt nothing but welcomed. The first thing I did when I walked in was look around. The main hallway is wide and full of laughter, art, and smiling faces. I was already feeling that the school had a positive

environment and even without talking to anyone already felt welcomed. We first visited the library where we met with a teacher from the school and a few students. Two of these students were grade nines like me. Together they took us on a tour. The tour started with the teachers but once the teacher who worked at Harvey had shown us everywhere she personally wanted, the teachers left and we continued the tour with the George Harvey students. Both the teacher and the students seemed very excited and enthusiastic about showing us everything the school had to offer as if they were trying to make us feel excited and ready for the move next year. Whether they were doing that on purpose or not, it worked. All of them, especially the students, acting as if they wanted us there made me feel more welcomed than anything else could have.

As we made our way through the school I slowly started to realize how much it has to offer. The first room that they showed us that truly shocked me was the main weight room. The room was the size of a classroom or even a bit bigger and had a ton of workout equipment which will be added to next year when we bring over all of the equipment from our weight room. Close to that room were the pool and gym. Both of which impressed me. The gym is giant and airy with doors to outside that can be opened to let fresh air in. But neither of those characteristics are what made the gym so impressive to me, instead, it was the bleachers that were high above the ground of the gym.



The two other rooms in the school that I personally think are worth mentioning are the cosmetology room and the auto shop rooms. The cosmetology room is where they teach hair and makeup. The room looked like a professional beauty school classroom, with mannequins and tools of all kinds on desks with mirrors that looked just like the ones at a hairdresser. The auto shop rooms had actual cars in them. Some of these cars were in the air so that students could get under them and others were on the ground. The classroom was full of tools and looked like an actual garage. After seeing these classrooms I found myself getting more and more excited for the upcoming move. While walking through the hallways on the tour I got to talk to the grade nine students from Harvey that were showing us around. They told me about their classes, teachers and friends at Harvey. They made life at Harvey sound really great. They talked about the teachers that the students love and how cool and friendly they are. They also mentioned how there is lots of extra support for students who need it. I instantly realized that even though we go to different schools with different people we are really not that different and we ended up getting along really well.



Once the tour was over we returned to the library, we did some more talking but this time a bit more in-depth about the merging of York Memo and Harvey. One of the first questions I asked, was how they think Harvey students are feeling about Memo students joining them. When I asked this question one of the students talked a little about some students feeling a little bit like they are losing certain aspects of their school's identity due to the fact that they will no longer be George Harvey.

“Team names are going to change because we are not going to be the Hawks anymore because we’re not George Harvey and I think that a few people are sad” I guess that's what I think people believe.” This merging of schools is not only going to be difficult for York Memo students, we aren't the only ones that are going to be impacted by it in some way. Both student populations are going to have to deal with problems that arise from the merger, but neither school's grievances are more important than the others.

When I asked the students later on about how they think Memo students can make the merge any easier for Harvey students, the main point that they emphasized was that if we come in with positive attitudes, and an openness for the

change, then it will definitely make the merge easier for both student populations. If we go over with an openness to making new friends and joining/contributing to this new school community then Harvey students will be more inspired to welcome us into their school.

During my afternoon at Harvey, I realized, that the change won't be terrible if we don't make it terrible. Harvey has a lot to offer to us whether it is in the form of new classes, new friends, and we should be ready to take advantage of all of it.

Looking To Connect With The Phoenix?

Are you looking to connect with our community but aren't quite sure how? Look no further than here! These are all the different places you can follow the Phoenix :

FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM

@theymciphoenix

FOLLOW OUR TWITTER

@TheYMCIPhoenix

JOIN OUR DISCORD!

<https://discord.gg/GWPkPbqN4H>

A Snapshot Of George Harvey

Article By : Jaune Martin
York Memorial CI Student

Throughout the process of merging with George Harvey, many students have felt anxious about going to a new school. After all, starting fresh is daunting, and the possibilities that lie ahead for your different futures haven't been made clear. New beginnings don't have to be scary; the trip our newspaper club took to Harvey has shown me that the merge could bring a whole lot of new opportunities for our students.

Showed around by The Daily Coffee's members (Harvey's newspaper club) Najma, Rian, Miriam and Evelyn, we got to see much of the value Harvey has. Not only do they have two gyms, but they also have a ginormous weight room with enough stationary bicycles for an entire class, as well as much of the machinery and equipment that we have in our weight room. They have similar arts classes, fashion rooms and kilns, yearbook and photography courses, and while they may not yet have a choir, they have music programs with instruments available such as cello, drums and steelpan!

For academics, they have English, Spanish and French courses, as well as ESL and many peer tutoring and student success clubs. They offer such a huge variety of CO-OP and SHSM opportunities that expand so much more on what we do at York Memorial and could give our students extremely valuable experience. On top of Health & Wellness and Arts & Culture, they have Hospitality & Tourism, Global Citizenship, Leadership Nonprofit, Information & Communication Technology and a Construction & Automotive SHSM. Yes, you heard me, construction and automotive. I'm not even into those subjects, however seeing the actual auto body shops equipped with multiple cars, and the multiple woodshops they had, I couldn't help but geek out over the endless possibilities that these courses could offer to our students. Additionally, the merge with Harvey brings a completely new school culture, and that can be scary, however, the inside scoop from Najma, grade 10 student and president of Harvey's newspaper club may help ease your nerves. She rates the teachers a respectable 7.5/10 and is a prime example of the ambitiousness of the students and the willingness of teachers to create clubs within the school. Between their intramurals; such as volleyball, basketball, soccer and frisbee; Breakfast club, peer support, anime and comic clubs and open-to-all game

room, there are a plethora of opportunities for students no matter their interests.

However, the merge isn't only about what they bring to us, it's also about what we bring to them. With an increase in the student population, it's reasonable that Harvey students are nervous as well. Najma herself shares these concerns, but she is excited about the writer's craft courses that we bring, as well as clubs like the Muslim Student Alliance and the drama club. Not to mention, her very own club is on the look for new members, so if you're interested in journalism, reporting, or giving advice to fellow students, you may want to start networking.



From the Teachers Desk

Article By : Mr. Gerecht
York Memorial CI Teacher

One hour, and fifty-three minutes from our front door by car.

167 Kilometers from us

- Roberta A. Drury, 32,
- Margus D. Morrison, 52,
- Andre Mackniel, 53,
- Aaron Salter, 55,
- Geraldine Talley, 62,
- Celestine Chaney, 65,
- Heyward Patterson, 67,
- Katherine Massey, 72,
- Pearl Young, 77,
- Ruth Whitfield, 86,

While our society fights against the idea of mass killings becoming a commonplace event in our world, the despicable race-motivated massacre that happened so close to the front door of this school struck my classes, myself, and even my daughter. While my classes struggled to put in words their feelings about the event, a few moments resonated. I write them down here to lend a small voice against the feelings of darkness that sometimes seek to take over our consciousness.

“My grandma told me to hide somewhere small” while discussing this with my class, one of my students told me that her grandmother had instructed her that, in the event of a shooting, her granddaughter should know somewhere small, and out of the way, where a shooter could not find her. Just by that comment, it hit me that we still have so much to learn about the violence that is a reality to some simply based on elements they have no control over.

I will never get to meet Pearl Young. We both were/are teachers. She was a pillar of her community. She was on her way to worship. Her family stated, according to CNN.com, that she was the person that all the neighbourhood children would visit for a nice word or a sweet treat. All I could think of was those little children growing up with the memory of Pearl

and knowing that she gave them a helping hand at the beginning of their lives.

My daughter asked me why the shooter only shot people of colour. On our nightly walk, she couldn't understand why one person would have so much hate for a colour that he would want to blot it out with a bullet. At that moment, the immensity of explaining centuries of racism to an eleven-year-old felt almost crushing. I tried to say that darkness like what happened in that small Buffalo grocery store is never something that we should simply accept. We need to force ourselves to have tough conversations and find ways to address the inequality that leads us to this evil. We need more bright beautiful lights to drive

away from the horribleness that scrapes at us from the shadows. We need more love, more voices, more people standing up and saying "THIS IS NOT RIGHT, THIS DOES NOT BELONG HERE".

My family and I pray for the victims of the senseless shooting in Buffalo. For all those people affected by the violence, know that a teacher, guidance counsellor, or administrator is here to listen and help. Another excellent source is <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>.

"To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try."

- Rosa Parks