



# YMCA Community Programs Fall 2019 Changes

Dear parents and caregivers:

YMCA Community Programs offer a variety of child and youth focused programs that allow the YMCA to extend our reach and impact across Niagara. As youth interests evolve over time, so too does our programming in order to best serve the needs of children and youth in our community. In the Fall 2019 we will be introducing a series of changes to our Community Programs listed below.

## New Community programs:

**YMCA Beyond the Bell™** will be launching at one Niagara school in late fall thanks to financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The YMCA Beyond the Bell™ program originated at the YMCA of Hamilton|Burlington|Brantford and is offered by several YMCA's across Canada. YMCA Beyond the Bell™ program is an after-school program, featuring literacy, numeracy, nutrition and recreation. This program strives to close the academic achievement gap.

**Jumpstart PLAY** is a new 10-week physical literacy program that will be starting in October in a school in St. Catharines and Port Colborne. This program is based on the Jumpstart Academy program framework from British Columbia. Jumpstart PLAY is funded by Jumpstart, and being offered in collaboration with the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

## Changes to existing programs:

**Youth Action Dances** will not be offered during the 2019-2020 school year due to declining interest from youth over the past few years. Based on declining numbers it has become apparent that dances no longer have the same level of appeal to youth in our community as they have in the past. We have identified this as an opportunity to revitalize our Friday Night Drop-in programming to better align with youth interests. Dances had been previously offered out of the Fort Erie E.J. Freeland and Niagara Falls YMCAs.

**Youth Action Friday Nights** will now be offered out of 3 Health, Fitness and Aquatic locations. These locations will include the Walker Family YMCA, Niagara Falls YMCA and Niagara Centre YMCA. Friday Nights will launch on Friday, October 4, 2019.

As we receive feedback and review our programming, we will continue to reevaluate the Youth Action programs offered across Niagara. For a full list of Community Programs please refer to the [YMCA of Niagara website here](#).

If you have any additional questions or feedback please contact myself, Steve Wideman, Director of Community Programs at 905-934-9622 x295 or [steve.wideman@niagara.ymca.ca](mailto:steve.wideman@niagara.ymca.ca)

Thank you for your understanding.