



# Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

April 19, 2024

## Timetable

Homeroom	8:30-8:35 a.m.
1	8:35-9:50 a.m.
2	9:55-11:10 a.m.
Lunch	11:10-12:20 p.m.
3	12:25-1:40 p.m.
4	1:45-3:00 p.m.

## Important Dates

April is Sikh Heritage Month  
April is World Autism Acceptance Month  
April 20: Ridvan  
April 22: Spring Market  
April 23: Pesach/Passover  
April 24: Fire Drill  
April 25-29: Midterms eDistributed  
May 2: Coffee House & Art Show  
May 3: Holy Friday  
May 6: PA Day

## Spring Market – Monday, Sept. 22

Dr. Denison is hosting our first Spring Market on Monday, April 22, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This event is a fundraiser for our annual Relay for Life event which will be on May 30th this year.

We have over 40 vendors and community partners who will be here with some delicious food, arts and crafts, jewelry and more! We will also have some cool antique cars on display and a photographer taking family portraits on site.

There will be BIG RAFFLE PRIZES so bring cash!!! Bring your family and friends to this wonderful community event!

## School Council – Guest Speaker

Dr. Siobhan will be here at Denison to speak to our parent community on April 22, 2024 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm! She will be speaking about how Big Tech companies have impacted our children and what we can do about it.

## School Contact Information

### Principal

Seiji Ishiguro

### Vice-Principals

Elissa D'Souza  
Deborah Austring

135 Bristol Road,  
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8J7  
(905)836-0021

<http://denison.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

### Superintendent

Farooq Shabbar

### Trustee Name

Carolyn Butterworth  
Pamela McCarthy

**Follow us on Instagram @DrDenisonSS**



**DR. JOHN M. DENISON'S**  
**Spring MARKET**  
 In support of:  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
 Canadian Cancer Society

**22**  
**Monday April 5:30-8:30pm**  
**2024**

**Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School**  
**135 Bristol Road, Newmarket ON**

**Join us for:**

**DELICIOUS FOOD**      **HANDMADE GOODS**      **AND SO MUCH MORE!**  
**RAFFLE PRIZES - BRING CASH!**      **MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PROFESSOR DR. SIOBHAN O'FLYNN, ON:**  
**"CHILDREN, NOT PROFITS: BIG TECH ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT" FROM 7-8PM**

## Peer Tutoring

When: Tues. & Thur. at Lunch

Where: Room 127

Why: A fresh perspective to learning.

Make connections with our supportive senior students.

## School Bus Lanes Parking Lot



Please use the rear parking lot only for student pick-up or drop-off before and after school. The front of the school is reserved solely for school busses. For the safety of our students, please do not stop or park in the school "Bus Lane". Thank you.

## April 22 is Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. The first Earth Day was held April 22, 1970.

This year, the Earth Day celebration is centred around the theme 'Planet vs. Plastics'. This theme is inspired by the historic UN treaty on plastics, which is expected to be approved by the end of 2024. Also, it aims to raise awareness of the harms of plastic pollution for human and planetary health.



## Guidance Notes

### Summer School Registration Opens on Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The York Region District School Board will once again be offering acceleration (in-person) and reinforcement courses during the summer. The hours for all courses are 8:45 a.m to 3:33 p.m. with two 15-minute scheduled breaks and a 40-minute lunch period.

- Acceleration courses start Wednesday, July 3 and end Friday, July 26.
- Session 1 for reinforcement courses start Wednesday, July 3 and end Monday, July 15.
- Session 2 for reinforcement courses start Tuesday, July 16 and end Friday, July 26.
- All In-person Acceleration courses are for students under the age of 21 with the exception of Adult Credit English as a Second Language
- Students register through their My Pathway (MyBluePrint) account - they can register independently or come to Guidance for help

#### Online Learning

Courses that are specifically designed to be taught in a fully online format. Online learning does not require pupils and teachers to be face-to-face with each other. Classes occur online using an asynchronous model, with check-in opportunities with the teacher. The learning platform is Brightspace by D2L.

Dates: Tuesday, July 2 to Thursday, July 25

Hours: Flexible (6 hours per day minimum)

Learn more about [Summer School Online Learning](#) and what courses are available.

#### In-Person Learning

Courses will be offered in a face-to-face learning model.

Dates: Wednesday, July 3 to Friday, July 26

Hours: 8:45 am to 3:33 pm

Locations: Bill Hogarth SS, Maple HS, Milliken Mills HS, Newmarket HS, Pierre Elliott Trudeau HS, Richmond Green SS, Stephen Lewis SS and Sutton DHS

Learn more about [Secondary Summer School](#) and what courses are available.

### Family Engagement Evening

Understanding the Ontario Education Systems - Part 2 Welcome to our second SEAS "Family Engagement Evening" event supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System.

In this session, we are discussing report cards, assessment and evaluation, at both elementary and secondary levels.

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm

Location: Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham, ON L3P 7P5

Please use this link to [register](#) by Monday, April 23, 2024. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Join us for

# SPRING TREE PLANTING

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!



DATE:  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024



TIME:  
9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.



LOCATIONS:  
\* Aurora  
\* East Gwillimbury  
\* Newmarket



Register at [www.nnetwork.org](http://www.nnetwork.org).



NeighbourhoodNetwork  
Building Better Communities Together

A Division Of:



In Partnership With:



Lake Simcoe Region  
conservation authority



East Gwillimbury



## Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes

Middlefield Collegiate is hosting the Sikh Heritage Month Celebration with the Sikh Educators Voice Alliance and the Sikh Student Association. The focus will be on Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes.

Exhibits:

- Keynote Speaker: Kulvir Singh Gill
- Artifacts
- Artwork/Spoken Word by YRDSB Students
- Gatka Performance
- Bhangra Performance
- Community Partners and Vendors

All are welcome to come, learn and celebrate with us on Saturday, April 27 between 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please fill out the [Registration Form](#) by April 22, 2024 if you wish to attend this event.

## Sikh Heritage Month

The month of April is proclaimed as Sikh Heritage Month as per [The Sikh Heritage Month Act of 2013](#).

Families are encouraged to join Canadians who will be coming together to celebrate how Sikh Canadians have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric. On April 1, 2021, Minister Bardish Chagger issued the following statement from Ottawa:

"Canada is proud to be home to more than 500,000 Sikh Canadians, making it one of the largest Sikh diasporas in the world. Since the arrival of the first Sikh immigrants in the late 19th century, members of this community have contributed to Canada through their achievements in all areas of society and have helped shape the diversity found within it.

Sikhism's core principles include equality, generosity, openness, and compassion. Sikh Heritage Month is an opportunity to reflect on the pivotal role that Sikh communities have played, and continue to play, in building a stronger and consciously more inclusive Canada."

During the month of April, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. Sikh Canadians widely celebrate Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, across Ontario.

## Ridvan – April 20

Evening of April 19 - May 1

The Festival of Ridván (pronounced Riz-wan) commemorates the anniversary of the declaration of Bahá'u'lláh of His prophetic mission to his followers in 1863, proclaiming His identity as the promised Manifestation of God. Ridván is celebrated over the twelve-day period that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the Najibiyyih Garden just outside of Baghdad and across the Tigris River. Bahá'u'lláh later referred to it as "The Garden of Ridván". Ridván can be translated as "Paradise". On three of the twelve days, Bahá'ís may suspend work on the First, Ninth, and/or the Twelfth Day of Ridván in order to participate in community celebrations and do good works. These three days represent, in order, the day of Bahá'u'lláh's declaration, when His family joined Him in the Najibiyyih Garden, and when He and His family left the Garden and started the journey for Constantinople, the place of His exile.

During the twelve-day period, three important administrative functions occur. In the Bahá'í Faith, there are no clergy; therefore, Assemblies are elected to administer the affairs of the community. On the First Day of Ridván, all Local Spiritual Assemblies across the world are elected from among the adult membership. During these twelve Days, National Spiritual Assemblies are also elected annually, and every five years, the Universal House of Justice is elected. The dates for the Festival of Ridván are determined from the date of another Bahá'í Holy Day – Naw Rúz (held on the Equinox), and will therefore vary from year to year between April 20 – May 2.

This is a sacred and celebratory time, and Bahá'ís and their friends come together to remember the life and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and find ways to serve their community. There are no specific foods, or activities associated with any of the Bahá'í Holy Days; however, artistic cultural expressions of how Bahá'ís celebrate are encouraged.

We extend good wishes to all students and members of the Baha'i community who will be celebrating Ridvan. Please see this [video](#) about Ridvan.

## **Pesach/Passover**

Before sundown April 22 - after nightfall April 30

Passover, also known as Pesach, is the eight-day Jewish commemoration of the Israelites' emancipation from slavery in ancient Egypt.

Passover can be observed by avoiding leaven and eating matzah. This is highlighted by the Seder meals, which include many rituals, such as the presence of four cups of wine, eating bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus, to name just a few. Passover begins at sundown on the first day and ends at nightfall on the eighth day.

Passover is celebrated by the Jewish community across all denominations because it is so essentially and uniquely a family holiday. The Seder (SAY-der), which is a ceremonial meal that includes reading, drinking wine, telling stories, eating special foods, singing, and many other Passover traditions, is often attended by complete extended families. As per Biblical command, it is held after nightfall on the first night of Passover (and the second night if you live outside of Israel), the anniversary of the Israelites' miraculous exodus from Egyptian slavery more than 3,000 years ago.

As charity and community are central aspects of Judaism, it is common for families to invite those who do not have their own seders to join them. During seder meals, bitter herbs and various symbolic foods symbolize the suffering endured by the Israelites, as well as their escape from bondage. The Haggadah, which is a retelling of the exodus, is read at the seder meal. Passover is also observed by avoiding leaven and eating matzah to remind us of the unleavened bread eaten by the Israelites when escaping slavery.

We extend good wishes to all students and members of the Jewish community who will be celebrating Pesach/Passover. Please see this [video](#) that provides additional learning about Pesach/Passover.

## **Autism Acceptance Month**

For over 50 years, Autism Ontario of York Region (Autism Society Ontario) has been representing the thousands of people on the autism spectrum and their families across Ontario. This society is made of parents, professionals, and autistic self-advocates who focus on key issues that impact those with autism and their families.

Acceptance towards Autism is about making a difference; showing the world that Autistic people and the community have more in common with people than one would think. Acceptance also involves including the Autistic person in the problem solving, their education and their perception in the world. Acceptance strives to have the two communities working together to educate and spread the message that different is a strength. It is these differences that make the world such a great place.



Whether you symbolize the puzzle piece or infinity symbol; whether you light it up blue or choose the rainbow instead. The important thing is that you are recognizing and embracing World Autism Acceptance Month with the York Region District School Board this April. Embrace, engage and accept - this is the new tomorrow!



## Supports for Students with Autism and their Families

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis
- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please use the QR code to [register](#) or visit <http://bit.ly/48JDldd> by Apr. 28!



This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board. For more information, please email [shani.blake@yrdsb.ca](mailto:shani.blake@yrdsb.ca) or [pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca)

Please note that childcare will not be provided.]



## Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School

135 Bristol Rd., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8J7

Phone: (905)836-0021, email: [dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca)

Website: <http://yrdsb.ca/schools/denison.ss>

April 15, 2024

Dear Potential Graduate:

The Graduation Committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your achievement. We look forward to the Graduation Program that is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**, at which time the diplomas and awards will be presented. The Graduation Program will take place in the gymnasium at **Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School**, located at 135 Bristol Road, Newmarket. Immediately following the Graduation Ceremony, refreshments will be served in the atrium. This will give the 2024 graduating class, families/parents/guardians and staff an opportunity to meet, celebrate and socialize. We hope you will plan to attend.

Due to the large size of our graduating class, seating will be limited to **2 tickets** per graduating student. Tickets and gowns will be available for pick-up in the Main Office in early June.

This year, the \$40.00 fee will cover the cost of the evening. Graduates will receive a gown, ~~vee~~ stole, cap and tassel to keep as a memento, a photo of themselves receiving their diploma, as well as refreshments. If you have not already ordered your gown, please order through your School Cash Online account **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, May 3, 2024**. We regret that orders received after this date cannot be guaranteed. Purchase of a gown and picking up your tickets will confirm your attendance for the evening.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Graduation Ceremony.

Yours truly,

Deborah Austring  
Vice Principal





## Dr. J.M. Denison SS STUDENT SIN CLINIC April 30, 2024

**Meet with a Service Canada representative and receive your Social Insurance Number on the Spot!**

Service Canada representatives will be at your school to help students and newcomers apply for their Social Insurance Numbers, learn about the Canada Job Bank and Summer Program for Youth and learn about the new Federal Dental Program.

**Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Location	What to Bring	Primary Document	Secondary Document	Benefits
Dr. J.M. Denison SS	<p>A primary identification document and a secondary document such as a passport or provincial identification.</p> <p>You would need to bring your original primary document, <b>no photocopies accepted.</b></p>	<p>Permanent Resident Card <b>or a</b> Confirmation of Permanent Residence <b>or</b> A Study Permit/Work Permit/Visitor Record issued by IRCC which indicates the permit holder "may accept employment" or "may work" in Canada</p>	<p><b>or</b> A Certificate of Birth or Birth Certificate issued by the vital statistics agency in the province or territory of birth</p>	<p>Be job ready for summer employment by receiving your Social Insurance Number.</p> <p>Learn about the Job Bank and Canada Summer Jobs program for Youth</p> <p>Learn about the new Federal Dental Program</p>

This free service is brought to our school communities through a joint project with Service Canada and York Region District School Board.

**For more information, please contact YRDSB Community & Partnership Developers,**

Yvonne Kelly: [Yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)

Oksana Majaski: [Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

**girls  
inc.**  
of York Region

JOIN US FOR  
**PROM PREP**



and find the perfect dress or formal wear for your  
Grade Eight Grad or High School Prom

**FRIDAY APRIL 19**  
**3 PM TO 8 PM**

**EVENTMRKT**  
**352 DOUG DUNCAN DR #1, NEWMARKET**

Come find the dress or formal wear of your dreams for your Grade Eight Grad and High School Prom or Graduation FREE of charge!

All attendees receive one raffle ticket at the door for a chance to win one of our amazing Prom Prep Raffle Baskets! Register in advance to guarantee entry to the event!

**REGISTER HERE:**



**TO DONATE:**

Donate new or gently used Prom dresses, gender-neutral formal wear, shoes or accessories please contact [emily.lynch@girlsincyork.org](mailto:emily.lynch@girlsincyork.org) or bring them to the Upper Canada Mall at Guest Services between April 1 to April 15

**TO VOLUNTEER:**

Contact [emily.lynch@girlsincyork.org](mailto:emily.lynch@girlsincyork.org) to apply to volunteer  
\*\*\*Must be 18 or older and out of high school to volunteer



Girls Inc. of York Region  
905-830-0776

[www.girlsincyork.org](http://www.girlsincyork.org)  
[info@girlsincyork.org](mailto:info@girlsincyork.org)

## **Professional Activity Day Plans for May 6, 2024**

**Length:** Full Day

**Topic:** Curriculum Implementation and Assessment Planning

**Entity Hosting:** All Secondary Schools

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** Board-based personnel

### **Description:**

Staff will engage in professional learning to support Annual Learning Plan (ALP) goals, including course/curriculum planning, assessment and evaluation planning, and department/subject focused professional development activities.

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

School teams will engage in improvement planning facilitated by school leaders.

### **Topics will vary by subject and include:**

- Special Education: Community Classes
- Computer Programming
- Outdoor Education
- Supporting Equity in Assessment
- Supporting MLL learners in subject-area courses
- Technological Education
- Levelled Assessments for Math
- Enhancing Student Learning through the Use of Digital Tools
- First Aid Training for High Risk Sport Coaches

## **Report It**

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, Report It.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. You can use the online form to report:

- bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamaphobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond.

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the Report It tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves.

You can find Report It on the homepage of the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and on the homepage of every school website.

## **Mental Health Supports**

### **DENISON'S CHAPTER**

#### **JACK.ORG**

<https://jack.org/covid>

<https://jack.org/Resources/Find-Support>



Although jack.org is an advocacy group and not a service provider, this page on their site contains links to a variety of different mental health support/information websites.

#### **BE THERE**

<https://bethere.org/Home>

<https://bethere.org/Be-There-in-a-Crisis>

#### **KIDS HELP PHONE**

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

#### **ANXIETY CANADA**

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

#### **CMHA**

<https://cmha-yr.on.ca/>

<https://ontario.cmha.ca/>

<https://toronto.cmha.ca/youth-zone/>

**CRISIS SERVICES CANADA:** 1-833-456-4566

This hotline deals with crisis support and suicide prevention