



# Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

April 5, 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  
Apr. 8: Solar Eclipse  
April 10: Eid-ul-Fitr  
April 10: International Day of Pink  
April 14: Vaisakhi  
April 16: School Council – 7PM  
April 20: Ridvan  
April 23: Pesach/Passover  
May 2: Coffee House & Art Show

## Student Council



Last Thursday was our annual Relay Rally. It was the first official introduction to this year's Relay for Life event. We gave a lot of information and a step-by-step guide on how to be successful in participating in this year's event. Registration was officially open to students last Thursday for \$20.00 at <http://relayforlife.ca/denison>. We are already at our maximum limit for the number of teams we can allow and all 32 spots have been filled. There are however still registration spots for individuals. We've already raised over \$5,000 in the first week and are excited to see how the amount grows over time.

Debby Morgan  
Grade 11 Representative

## Visit the Denison Webpage

[Announcements & Calendar](#)

## 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

## Solar Eclipse/Early Dismissal

April 8, 2024

As you are aware, YRDSB schools will have early dismissal for students on April 8, 2024 due to the Solar Eclipse.

The schedule for Dr. J. M. Denison Secondary School on April 8 is as follows:

8:30a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Homeroom
8:35a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	Period 1
9:55 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	Period 2
11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Lunch

### 12:00 p.m. Dismissal for students

No field trips or Extra-curricular activities will occur on April 8th.

Students who receive transportation (busses/taxis) will be picked up from school at the adjusted dismissal time.

Please feel free to contact the main office with questions or concerns.

## Peer Tutoring

Begins on Tuesday, March 5th

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.

## Husky Athletics



As the weather gets warmer, our Huskies are preparing for activities and new sports seasons.

The Junior and Senior Badminton teams are beginning their quests for qualifying for the York Region Championships with 2 different rounds over the next 3 to 5 weeks. The coaches are encouraged with the enthusiasm and improvement of the players.

The spring sports seasons are beginning in May and our Huskies will be fielding teams in Ultimate Frisbee, Girls' Flag Football, Girls' Soccer, and Track and Field. The teams are excited to start training outside on our beautiful facilities and prepare for what looks to be a fun and successful season.

Go Huskies!!!



# 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

### Acceleration Courses (18 days)

For students who wish to earn a credit in a subject they have not previously studied or those who wish to upgrade a mark in a course that they have successfully completed. Students are encouraged to register early to avoid disappointment. Course offerings are not guaranteed as they are based on sufficient enrollment and teacher availability. Students can only take one acceleration course during the summer session. Transportation is not provided for this program. Registration opens April 9, 2024.

### 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.



Please visit <https://www.naccacommunity.ca/scholarship-award-2024.html> for all the details. The scholarships are available to all Black students that reside in York region.

## International Day of Pink

The International Day of Pink started in 2007 when a teenager faced homophobic bullying at a Nova Scotia high school for wearing a pink t-shirt. Students organized to wear pink as an act of solidarity. It is now a day of action on the second Wednesday in April every year.

April 10, 2024, is the International Day of Pink. The International Day of Pink is a day when communities across Canada and across the world unite to celebrate diversity and raise awareness about the need to stop homophobia, transphobia, discrimination and all forms of bullying. On this annual day in April, individuals wear pink to show respect for diversity and to demonstrate

support for learning and working environments which are safe and inclusive of people from all different backgrounds.

Although the first Day of Pink occurred 17 years ago, the 2SLGBTQI+ community and students continue to experience homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. Schools and workplaces need to commit to raising awareness, building inclusion and eliminating discrimination for students in 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

## 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!

## 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.

## Eid-ul-Fitr – April 10



Eid-ul-Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal, the 10th month of the Muslim calendar, and marks the end of the month of Ramadan. On this day, Muslims who had been observing Ramadan break the fast and celebrate its conclusion. Please note that this date may change subject to the sighting of the moon.

The day traditionally begins early with a prayer ceremony at the community mosque. Since this is a day to celebrate the renewal of one's commitment to Islam, people may wear new clothes as a symbol of fresh beginnings. Families and friends typically visit one another and exchange good wishes, hugs and handshakes, and homes are often decorated to reflect the festive atmosphere of this special day.

On this festive and meaningful occasion for many members of the Islamic community, we wish students, parents and staff a happy celebration.

## Vaisakhi – April 14

Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year, is celebrated in April every year. Vaisakhi is also celebrated in some other parts of India.



For Sikhs, Vaisakhi celebrates the birth of the Panth Khalsa order (the Order of the Pure Ones) established by Guru Gobind Singh. It is at this time that Guru Gobind Singh gave the Khalsa order the five distinct symbols of purity and courage which would make Sikhs identifiable: the Kesh (unshorn hair);

Kangha (the wooden comb); Karra (the iron bracelet); Kirpan (the sword) and Kachera (underclothing).

Some of the ways that this day is traditionally honoured include visiting a place of worship (Gurdwaras), participating in a mela (fair), indulging in mithai (sweets), fruits and lassi (a sweet yogurt drink).

We extend good wishes to all members of the Sikh and Indian communities who will be celebrating Vaisakhi.

## Ridvan – April 20

**Ridvan** (say "rez-VONN") is one of the holiest holidays for the members of the **Bahá'í** (say "BA-hi") faith. It is also known as the "Most Great Festival" or the "King of Festivals." It lasts for 12 days.

This year, Ridvan begins at sunset on April 19th and lasts until sunset on May 1st.

Of the 12 days, there are only three holy days in which people do not go to work or school. Instead, they gather for prayers and religious meetings. Musical and artistic performances are also included in the festivities.

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

## **School Council Guest Speaker & Dr. Denison Spring Market**

### **School Council – Guest Speaker**

***- "Children, not profits: Big Tech accountability and what we can do about it."***

**- Dr. Siobhan O'Flynn**

Dr. Denison is pleased to welcome Dr. Siobhan O'Flynn who is a University of Toronto professor who advises on interactive storytelling, social media strategies, and the design of convergent, multiplatform and transmedia narratives. She is a Faculty Mentor specializing in Digital Storytelling & Transmedia Design at the CFC Media Lab.

Dr. O'Flynn has worked with several Canadian digital creators, and has advised on over 70 projects including screen-based works, in situ & social media installations, online social networking initiatives, cross-platform projects, interactive short films, ARGs and interactive graphic novels.

She is also the Canadian representative of Storylabs, an international network of transmedia experts.

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

**Please join us for a very special presentation in the cafeteria during our Denison Spring Market from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.**

### **Dr. Denison Spring Market**

**Dr. Denison is hosting our first Spring Market on 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!**



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

March 28, 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.

Attached, you will find an invitation to the Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony. 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, ~~xxx~~ 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, APRIL 28, 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)



DR. JOHN M. DENISON'S  
**Spring**  
**MARKET**

In support of:



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

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

**Join us for:**

**DELICIOUS  
FOOD**

**RAFFLE PRIZES  
- BRING CASH!**

**HANDMADE  
GOODS**

**MOTHER'S  
DAY GIFTS**

**AND SO MUCH  
MORE!**



**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"**

**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)

# 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, Islamophobia, 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