

Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

March 1, 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. |

School Council



Student Council is very excited to host this year's "Enchanted" Semi Formal on March 7 at the Royal Venetian Mansion in Aurora. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the event ends at 10:30 p.m.

The Denison community will be hosting its Community Spring Market on April 22. A Google Form has been sent out to get potential vendors for the event. These vendors will include all local small businesses. All members of the local community are invited to either participate or



first

attend the event. There will be a special guest speaker who will be speaking about AI (Artificial Influence), and how AI will impact students both now and in the future (jobs, way of life, safety, mental wellness, etc). Many community partners and groups will be in attendance at the event.

Relay for Life

A group of students will be going to Relay University (training) on March 7. This will be in preparation for our Relay for Life event, which will be on May 30, 2024.

Important Dates

March 6: Ski/Snowboard Field Trip March 7: Semi-Formal March 7: Raptor's Field Trip March 10-April 9: Ramadan March 11-15: Mid-Winter Break March 25-26: Interim Reports March 29: Good Friday (no school) April 1: Easter Monday (no school) April 4: Teacher Interview Night April 8: Solar Eclipse

School Contact Information

Acting Principal

Sandra Haliburton

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

Immunization Clinic Information

York Region Public Health invites all students who require vaccinations to visit our website:

https://www.york.ca/health/immunizations/public-healthcommunity-immunization-clinics

Please see the website for clinic times, locations, to book an appointment and complete the community clinic consent forms.

Music Department News

On February 14th and 16th our music repertoire band students participated in the Ontario Band Association Festival in Scarborough. The grade 10-12 Wind Ensemble and the grade 9 Concert Band both played their best performances of the year and earned Silver ratings. In addition to these awards, both bands were selected by the adjudicators to receive the Spirit of the Festival award for their engagement and attentiveness in the clinic portion of the festival. Finally, Denison's Head of Music, Marianne Hamilton, was presented with a conductor's award for Excellence in Band Development. Well done, Huskies!

Music Council News

On Monday, March 4th the Music Council will be hosting an Open Mic Monday session which is open to all Denison students. It will be held in the music room (119) at the beginning of lunch and



students are invited to come perform a talent or join the audience to enjoy the performances. This is a free event but cash donations for Relay for Life will be accepted at the door.

Pre-Departure Europe Trip Meeting

MONDAY MARCH 4TH - 6-8 PM DENISON CAFETERIA

Reminder: We will be meeting with Parents/Guardians and Travelers this Monday, March 4th from 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. in our Denison Cafeteria.

Please try to bring parents/guardians as well as the students travelling as this information is very key to a successful trip.

We cannot wait to talk about this exciting adventure and see everyone on Monday!

Mr. Piper, Ms. Morris, Mr. Young, Ms. Ward, Ms. Harris & Ms. D'Souza

Peer Tutoring

Begins on Tuesday, March 5th

When: Tues. & Thur. at Lunch

Where: Room 127

<u>Why</u>: 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



The Junior Girl's Volleyball Team advance to the Championship Playoff Tournament at Our Lady

Queen of the World Catholic Academy on March 6, 2024.

<u>Game Times</u> Denison homepage calendar

Go Huskies!!!

Black History Month

Black History Month this year had a theme: "Ours to Tell". This involved a presentation by D.O.G. Gibson in early February, a cultural food festival at lunch time on February 20, and a Global Icons Museum in the last week on February 20. This gave the Black students an opportunity to share their stories and way of life, and to showcase their cultural heritages.





First Day of Ramadan



Evening of March 10, 2024 – Evening of April 9, 2024

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

Spring Festivals

Nowruz (Persian New Year) Holi (Indian Festival of Colours)

Nowruz



March 19, 2024 – Nowruz signifies the beginning of a new season, spring and a chance to look forward to warmer weather. For many of us from countries like Iran, Afghanistan, the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey and Syria, throughout Central Asia and many more - The first day of spring is a New Year's Festivity, also known as Nowruz (pronounced NO-ruz). While specific traditions vary from country to country, as different cultures add their own elements, the central theme is the same: a

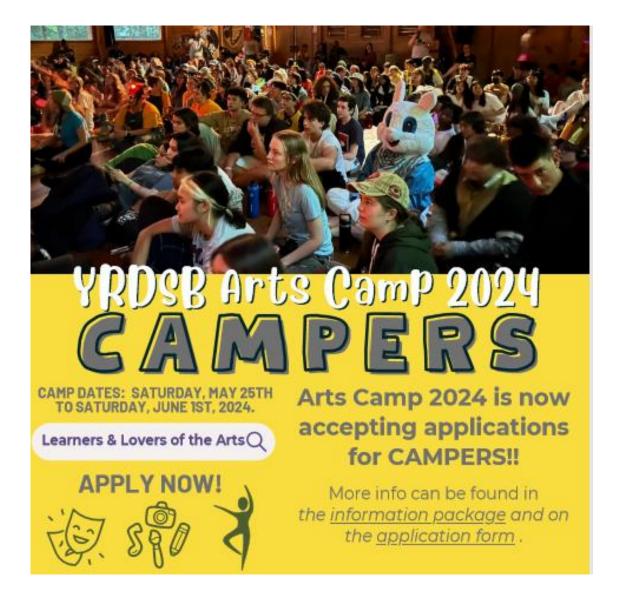
celebration of spring and a time for rebirth and renewal.

Holi



March 25, 2024 - Holi, the Hindu "Festival of Colours," is an important annual Hindu festival celebrating the beginning of spring. There are quite a few diverse accounts as to the mythical origins of Holi, but it is primarily considered both a festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil and devotion over ambition, as well as a rural and agricultural festival of fertility.

Holi is traditionally known as the "festival of colour" because the sprinkling of coloured powder (called abeer or gulal) is a major component of the celebrations. Water balloons containing gulal are tossed at friends and neighbours in the spirit of fun, and Indian drums (dhola) and songs often accompany the festivities. Holi is usually celebrated with a great deal of zest and verve, as it is a time to remember the brightness and splendour of living, and a time to spread joy, colour and love. Best wishes for a festive and happy Holi.



Spring Market – April 22, 2024

Dr. Denison is hosting a Spring Market on **April 22, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, which will be open to the Newmarket community. This market is a fundraiser for our annual Relay for Life Event which takes place this year on May 30th.

Relay for Life is an annual fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. Dr. J. M. Denison has been participating in this major school initiative for many years. Staff and students spend weeks fundraising up to the event day. This Spring Market on **April 22nd** is one of our initiatives to raise funds for our Relay for Life Event.

In addition to the vendors at the market, there will also be a special guest speaker that evening. Sponsored by our Denison Parent Council, Siobhan O'Flynn will be speaking on AI's impact on students and their future.

Vendors will be charged a fee of **\$50 per table** which will go towards our Relay for Life Event. If you would like to be a vendor at our school event, please fill out the form below and come in to the school to pay the vendor fee **(cash preferred)**.

Guidance Notes

For Graduating Grade 12 Students:

The Give Back Awards are an annual cash prize donated by Magna International Inc. and Neighbourhood Network to graduating students from high schools in Aurora, Georgina, King Township, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The outstanding recipients of the Give Back Awards are selected based on the exceptional contributions they have made to fellow students and citizens, and their ongoing dedication to community involvement!

The applications are **NOW OPEN** until **4:00 PM on Friday, March 22** and are available online at <u>www.nnetwork.org/GBA</u>.



Grade 12 Student Dates to remember:

- May 1: On-line Opt Out Form due to Guidance
- May 1: 40 Community Involvement Hour Form(s) due to Guidance

Please have your child come to Guidance if there are any questions.

Renewed Computer Technology–Winter Applications Now Open

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards^{*}.

Additional Information and application: <u>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NJQmvQ2WXT9i-</u> w8MNPTD4HFhvRN6LQIRm0WuQCkWamw/edit?usp=sharing

Additional Information and QR code:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s3VdhDVp94v4HNLTkeIBiK3FPBMGx4UM/view?usp=shar ing

Attendance



Parent(s)/guardian(s)/students age 18 and older, and students who have declared their independence, must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify in advance by calling the school at **(905)836-0021** and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing the school at <u>dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca</u>

The Attendance icon can also be accessed on our Denison school website.

An automated call/email will go home after Period 1 to notify parents/guardians of any absences or lates that haven't been approved. This call/email will also help as a reminder to guardians to please notify the school for any absences. An automated call/email will also go out at the end of the day for absences and lates that haven't been excused for the day.

If a student has been marked absent because they were late, they should speak with their teacher to have it revised.

Students should check in with the office upon late arrival to school in the morning and after lunch.

Extended Absence Form

If your student is going to be absent from school for three or more consecutive days an Extended Absence Form should be picked up from the Main Office. The student will take the form to each teacher to document the work and\or assignments they are responsible for during the time of the absence. The form is to be signed by the student and the parent(s)\guardian(s) and then returned to the Main Office. The form will be reviewed and signed by the Vice-Principal. The attendance system is also updated accordingly. The student should pick up the form at least one week prior to the first day of their absence.

Early Dismissal April 8, 2024 due to Solar Eclipse

Dear families,

Dr. Denison Secondary School will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on April 8, 2024. The morning bell, drop off and transportation will remain unchanged. For those eligible for school transportation, such as busing and taxis, service will be adjusted for the early afternoon departure.

The safe arrival program will remain in place, if your child is not attending school on April 8, please record their absence. Student after school activities, including extracurricular activities will be cancelled on April 8.



February & March YRES Youth Workshop Calendar

February

FEB

10

FEB

24

Study Skills for High School Success (G9-12)

Level Up Your Middle FEB School Game - Study Tips 17 Workshop! (G6-8)

> Purposeful Extracurricular Involvement (G9-12)

March

MAR 23

MAR

30

MAR A Balancing Act: Avoiding 2 Burnout (G9-10) March Break Camp MAR Volunteering Training 9 (G9-12) MAR A Balancing Act: Avoiding 16

Burnout (G11-12) Level Up Your Middle School

Game - Leadership Skills Workshop! (G6-8)

Skills and Qualities of Leaders (G11-12)



Aaniin Community Centre 5665 14th Ave, Markham or Zoom Meeting



YORKEDUCATION.ORG

York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization.



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 <u>www.yrdsb.ca</u> 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/

СМНА

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