



Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

September 24, 2021

Message from Our Trustee, September 2021

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening. You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at www.york.ca/safeatschool.

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Linda Gilbert, Trustee - Newmarket

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey, Trustee - East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville

Timetable Semester 1

WEEK 1 – Period 1 & Period 2

Homeroom	8:30 – 8:35 a.m.
Period 1	9:50 – 11:05 a.m.
LUNCH/Travel	11:05 – 12:20 p.m.
Period 2	12:20 – 2:50 p.m.

Student Council



Last week was our first Spirit Week of the school year. Monday was Jersey Day, Tuesday was Throwback 80's & 90's Day, Wednesday was Celebrity Look-alike Day, Thursday was Grade day, and Friday was PJ day. We would like to thank all students who participated and we were happy to see everyone's husky spirit. Thursday September 30th is the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in Canada. We will be paying tribute on this day to honour Indigenous Canadians who were affected by Residential Schools, and we ask that both staff and students wear orange shirts to help commemorate. We will be hosting The Terry Fox walk on Wednesday September 29th. Each period 2 class will walk around the track with their grade for 20 minutes. As a school, we hope to raise \$5,500 this year. For every \$5 a student raises, one raffle ticket will be entered into our draw in their name for a chance to win a pair of AirPods. The class that raises the most money will receive a class package of chocolate chip cookies from Ms. Burn's hospitality class.

Razan Farraj
Grade 11 Representative

Student Verification Forms

On Monday, students will be coming home with a Student Verification Form. The purpose of this form is to verify all contact information. If there is a change to be made, please make the changes on the form and return it to the Homeroom Class or the office by October 1, 2021.

Important Dates

Sept. 28: Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
Sept. 29: Terry Fox Walk
Sept. 30: Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 11: Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 21: Interim Report Cards
Oct. 28 Virtual Parents Night

School Contact Information

Principal

Alex Corry

Vice-Principals

Elissa D'Souza
Alexandra Wright

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

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

Superintendent

Farooq Shabbar

Trustee Name

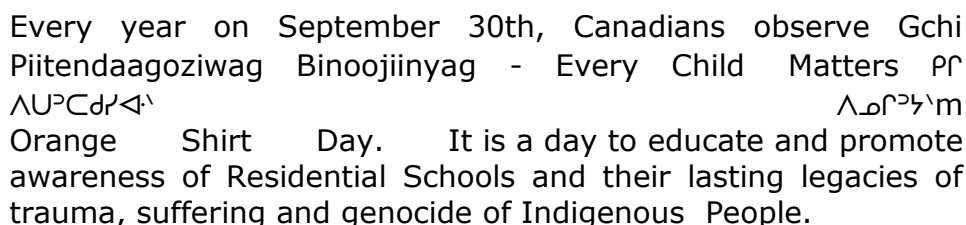
Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey
Linda Gilbert

Visit the Denison Webpage for Announcements and Husky Wear

[Announcements & Calendar](#)



Binoojiinyag Mikwendaamowin Giizhigad - Day For Remembering Children ᐃᓄᓂᑦᓴᓕᓐᓇᓱᓪᓗᓂᑦ ᐅᓵᐊᓚᓰᓐ



In 2021, First Nations independently located the unmarked graves of thousands of Indigenous children at the sites of former Residential Schools. This has sparked many Canadians to rethink what they thought they knew about these institutions and revisit the way they speak to their students about them. We encourage YRDSB staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 30, 2021, to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.

All staff and students must self-screen for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 **every day** before attending school. Screening **MUST** be completed **DAILY** using the [York Region Public Health COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#); parents and guardians must not send children to school or child care if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Student receives an email response when they respond “Yes”. The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:

Upon entering through the school designated entrances (front or attendance doors) or in the Period 1 classroom, students are to provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening by way of:

- On phone – email or picture of email from their computer
- Hard copy print off of email.

School Council

Our Voice counts....



On behalf of your past executive Co-chairs 2021 (Chris, Emmy), please join us for our **Monday, October 18** meeting of the 2021-2022 School Council. By participating and/or attending School Council Meetings you can learn about current events in the school and board. At the meeting(s) we will explore how you can contribute to the education of Denison's students through partnership with the school and board.

During October's Council Meeting we will facilitate a report from the students, staff and administration on recent and future initiatives in the school. **Also**, we facilitate appointment of the new Executive and fill the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasure, Community Member and Executive from nominations submitted by October 15, 2021.

Please complete the [SchoolCouncilCandidateNominationForm](#) sections as appropriate and have your child deliver the document to the school's Main Office.

The meeting will be hosted virtually and you can join following the directions below:

Dr. J.M. Denison School Council is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: October School Council

Time: **Oct 18, 2021 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/99007598172?pwd=YmNJRG40UTVHeml0V0VPenZOanhxZz09>

Meeting ID: 990 0759 8172

Passcode: 891327

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,99007598172# Canada

+14388097799,,99007598172# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 990 0759 8172

Find your local number: <https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/u/adzYUYHOOO>

School Start-Up Forms

We also want to remind families to complete the [school start-up forms](#) that were sent to families last week. It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions. They can also be found on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources under Family Start-Up Forms, along with some [information on how to complete the forms](#). Please note, you must be signed in to your child's student GAPPs account to complete the form. Please remember to sign out of one student account before signing into another.

Guidance News

September 24, 2021

Ontario University Fair this weekend!

All grades are welcome to attend virtually if you are considering a University pathway.

Information is posted on the Guidance Google Classroom and below.

<https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/>

Guidance will be visiting Grade 9 classrooms next week to talk about our services as well as how to book a guidance appointment and using the Guidance Google Classroom. This is a VERY valuable resource for all students to stay up on important dates, information, course selection, volunteer opportunities and much more!

Grade 12 College and University virtual assemblies will occur the first week of October for students to hear about the process and timelines for researching and applying to College and Universities.

Course changes for semester 2 will begin October 1 and continue to the end of January. Students can book Guidance appointments to discuss the options and availability of courses and then submit their request on the Guidance Google form opening October 1.

Guidance Appointments are available by booking on TEACH ASSIST- APPOINTMENT MANAGER.

Eligible Grade 12 students with 4 courses wanting to drop a course, can use the Drop Form posted on the Guidance Google Classroom.

This form includes the parent/guardian contact information for confirmation of the change/drop in the timetable.

The Guidance Google Classroom is a very valuable resource for ALL students. Important information and dates, announcements and opportunities are posted there on a regular basis. Videos, mental health resources, volunteer forms, stress management and tutoring resources are just a few of the resources available.

Guidance google classroom code grade 9-11 is 6zcppvn

Guidance google classroom code grade 12 is jzkcwls

Quote of the Week



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 and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

Hong Fook Youth & Family Program

12.

2021

Something bothering you?

Need to talk?

Virtual WALK IN Counselling

Free immediate mental health single session counselling

CALL 647-534-8493

OR

counselling@hongfook.ca

TO BOOK YOUR
VIRTUAL (PHONE & VIDEO)
COUNSELLING SESSION

Offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, English
for Asian identifying young people age 12 to 25



416-493-4242
www.hongfook.ca



Ontario



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. Any student's interested in joining Denison's chapter of jack.org can contact sarah.vickers@yrdsb.ca or roda.jama@yrdsb.ca

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://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

UP HUB

A collection of peer-led tools and resources created to uplift York Region residents who are seeking services or need support": <https://www.uphub.ca/en/index.aspx>

They also have a hard copy guide which they will mail out upon request. This guide is an outgrowth of the former York Region on a Limited Budget book

https://www.uphub.ca/en/up-tools/yrlb-book.aspx?_mid_=10914