

Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our [values](#) as an organization and the goals set out in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

On the website, you can also find information about the [Board of Trustees](#), including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board meetings. Following [a review](#) completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to [committee structures](#) and [delegation process](#) to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year [schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared](#). This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the **student trustee elections**. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

Throughout February, we recognize **Black History Month**. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to [read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone](#). You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our [TuneIn YRDSB podcast](#), exploring Black History Month and beyond.

Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge **Pink Shirt Day** and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to [prevent and address bullying](#) and create [equitable and inclusive learning environments](#).

Family Day and **March Break** are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break.

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what **graduation ceremonies** will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

Elizabeth Terrell
Trustee, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville

Linda Gilbert
Trustee, Newmarket

Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

January 31-February 4, 2022

Timetable

A Revised Semester 2 Timetable was emailed to families on January 28, 2022.

Course Change Request Process

All semester 2 timetable change requests need to be completed by Friday, February 11, 2022.

If your child would like to request a timetable change, for semester 2, please have them:

Check the **AVAILABLE COURSES** by grade posted on the *Guidance Google Classroom* and on the wall outside of the Guidance office.

If a course is **available**, then please fill out the **Request to change a semester 2 course form** on the *Guidance Google classroom*. Only GOOGLE FORM requests will be processed for changes.

Students and parent/guardian will be notified by email of the results of the request.

Guidance appointments can be booked on TEACH ASSIST – Appointment Manager if students and families would like to talk with a counsellor regarding issues such as:

- Course failure impacting the students' timetable (missing prerequisite)
- Pathway changes
- Medical circumstances

Homeroom	8:30 – 8:35 a.m.
1	8:35 – 9:50 a.m.
3	9:55 – 11:10 a.m.
LUNCH	11:10 – 12:15 p.m.
2	12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
4	1:35 – 2:50 p.m.

Important Dates

Jan 31: Culminating Activities P4
Feb 1: Instructional Day
Feb 1: Lunar New Year
Feb 1: Black History Month Begins
Feb 1: College Applications Due
Feb 2: Culminating Support Day
Feb 3: Virtual Feedback Day AM
Feb 4: PA Day
Feb 7: Semester 2 Begins
Feb 21: Family Day

School Contact Information

Principal

Alex Corry

Vice-Principals

Elissa D'Souza

Ken Arnott

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

[Morning Announcements & Calendar](#)

Lunar New Year



Lunar New Year, also called Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in China. The festival is also celebrated in Vietnam (where it's known as Tet), North and South Korea (where it's known as Solnal) and Tibet (where it is called Losar). In 2022, Lunar New Year will begin on February 1.

Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors. With the popular adoption of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day. China, however, continues to celebrate Lunar New Year with the traditional greeting, "Kung hei fat choi."

Weekly Quote

"Be stubborn about
your goals
and flexible
about your
methods."



Newmarket Youth Leadership Group

The Newmarket Youth Leadership Group is looking for other teens to join them once a month as they work together to make our region a better place to live and go to school. This youth-driven organization is an active, civic-minded group that works with senior leaders and mentors to learn about leadership principles, youth empowerment and volunteer opportunities as they prepare for life beyond high school. Open to youth 13-18 years old, the pandemic has not stopped the NYLG from meeting online, listening to awesome guest speakers, creating live virtual events, fundraising for local charities and earning volunteer hours. To learn more, we are inviting you to come to our next meeting Sunday, February 13th at 3 p.m. by Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact Senior Leader, Teresa Kruze at tkruze@rogers.com to receive the link and invitation. *Special Guest Speakers: Laura Robinson, Actress, Board Game Creator and Hollywood Producer will speak about "Goal Setting and Execution" plus Leadership Coach Allison Graham will talk about "Coping Fatigue."*

School Council Logo Contest

Reminder to those students registered in the logo contest.

**Entry Deadline, Friday
February 11**

Late Registrations for the contest are welcome. Forms are available in the main office.

Guidance News

Important Dates!

- Feb 1, 2022 OCAS (college) application due for equal consideration

Do you want to research post secondary programs and prerequisites?

Visit www.ontariocolleges.ca and www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca for a wealth of information!

Semester 2 Night School Options:

Semester Two - Winter 2022 Registration opens Tuesday, January 4, 2022

1. On Tuesday, January 4, 2022, registration will open on [my Pathway Planner](#). The first night of class is Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Delivery method (in class vs remote learning model) is still TBD . Classes will be held on **Tues. and Thurs. evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm.**

OR

Online Independent Learning (formerly elearning)

Semester_2 Winter – Registration Opens up January 25

MyPathwayPlanner will be used during the registration period [January 25 - February 23, 2022] to register for a course offered through Online Learning Night School.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/node/1415> - course list

Course Selection for 2022/23

Course selection visits to classrooms will begin the week of February 7th. Courses must be submitted on My Pathway Planner between February 16th and 25th.

Guidance appointments are available by booking on Teach Assist- Appointment Manager.



MEET & GREET

With the Chinese School Social Worker



Let's celebrate Lunar New Year together!

LOOK FORWARDING TO HEAR YOUR
THOUGHTS ABOUT UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
AND THINGS THAT MATTER TO YOU



DROP IN SESSION - YRDSB SECONDARY STUDENTS
RSVP BY EMAILING THE SOCIAL WORKER AT
CHARMAINE.TONG@YRDSB.CA or by entering
the Zoom info below when meeting starts.

Date: Feb 2nd, 2022

Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Meeting ID: 992 4650 6194

Passcode: 2Ln701



MENTAL HEALTH 101 WORKSHOP : CHINESE FAMILIES & STUDENTS

101心理健康學習講座： 如何了解子女內心世界多一點

講員: **Guest Speakers:**

誠意邀請家長和子女一起參與

日期： 二零二二年二月九日

時間： 7:00pm-8:00pm

Feb 9th, 2022

**Chinese Students and
parents are invited**

唐詩穎 Charmaine Tong
MSW, RSW, School Social Worker
(Community Care Team), YRDSB
約克區教育局學校社工， 社工系
碩士，註冊社工

張諾懷 Cherry Cheung
BSW, Youth Program Worker
Hong Fook Mental Health Association
康福心理健康協會青少年活動工作人員
， 社工系

RSVP BY EMAILING THE SOCIAL WORKER AT
CHARMAINE.TONG@YRDSB.CA or

drop- in by entering the zoom info when meeting starts

可電郵charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca 登記報名

或按以下zoom會議資料

楊博源 Bernie Yeung
BA, SSW, Placement Student,
(completion in April, 2022)
Hong Fook Mental Health Association
康福心理健康協會實習學生， 文學，
社會服務系，四月待畢業



Meeting ID: 923 1395 7122
Passcode: hyK7N7

MENTAL HEALTH 101 WORKSHOP : CHINESE FAMILIES & STUDENTS

101心理健康学习讲座： 如何了解子女内心世界多一点

讲员: **Guest Speakers:**

诚意邀请家长和子女一起参与

日期： 二零二二年二月八日
时间： 7:00pm-8:00pm
Feb 8th, 2022

**Chinese Students and
parents are invited**

唐诗颖 Charmaine Tong
MSW, RSW, School Social Worker
(Community Care Team), YRDSB
约克区教育局学校社工, 社工系
硕士, 注册社工

徐子涵 Hannah Xu
MPH, Hong Fook Mental Health Associa
Youth Program Worker
康福心理健康协会青少年活动工作人员
,公共卫生硕士系

RSVP BY EMAILING THE SOCIAL WORKER AT
CHARMAINE.TONG@YRDSB.CA or
drop- in by entering the zoom info when meeting starts
可電郵charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca 登記報名
或按以下zoom會議資料



Meeting ID: 923 1395 7122
Passcode: hyK7N7

Inclement Weather Days

As we enter the colder months, we wanted to inform families that similar to last school year, we have made the decision to **close schools to students when an inclement weather day is declared and school transportation is cancelled. Please do not send your child to school when an inclement weather day is declared.**

This decision has been made in consultation with Public Health to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support the health and safety of our students, staff members and families. Prior to the pandemic, schools remained open when school transportation was cancelled. This year, given the importance of adhering to our [health and safety guidelines](#), we are unable to guarantee appropriate coverage for students on inclement weather days when school transportation is closed and classes cannot be combined.

Please take the time to make plans in the event of an inclement weather day school closure. Please note that before and after care programs will not be operating on inclement weather days. For on-site, full-day child care, please confirm with your childcare operator. We recognize that this may be an inconvenience for some families. This decision was not made lightly and made to prioritize the health and safety of students, staff members and families.

All students will be provided with asynchronous learning activities for the day. We recognize that each family's situation is unique. As with inclement weather days in the past, the learning will be optional and supplementary to help students continue learning. New material will not be introduced.

There are rare occasions when school transportation is cancelled due to extreme cold weather and not road conditions, and schools will remain open for students.

Communication to families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m. We will do our best to notify families in advance. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: www.schoolbuscity.com
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- [Board website](#) and school websites
- [@YRDSB](#) Twitter account
- Radio and TV media outlets

Families who have provided the school with their cell phone will also receive a text message, unless you have opted out of this service. Please contact your school if you have any questions.

For more information on inclement weather days, please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.

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.

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/yr1b-book.aspx?mid=10914>