



Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

November 12, 2021

WEEK 2 – Period 3 & Period 4

November 15-19

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.

New Date for November P.A. Day

The Secondary School Professional Activity (PA) Day originally scheduled for November 19, 2021 is changing and will now occur on November 15, 2021. Secondary schools will be closed to students on November 15, 2021 and reopen on November 16, 2021. A regular school day is scheduled for November 19, 2021, and students are expected to attend.

Student Council



We would like to congratulate our Halloween photo scavenger hunt contest winner, Polina in grade 11, who was the first student to submit their entry with all 100 photos. We would also like to thank all students who had entered. Our next spirit day will be held on Wednesday November 17th. On Wednesday, students can participate in “anything but a backpack day”. For this spirit day, students can show up to school with all of their school work, supplies, and lunch in any school appropriate item such as coolers, shopping bags, guitar cases, and anything else they can think of. We can’t wait to see what creative backpack substitutes the students come up with.

Razan Farraj
Grade 11 Representative

Important Dates

Nov. 15: PA Day
Nov. 24: Picture Day
Nov. 25: OSSLT
Nov. 25: Mid-terms
Nov: 28 Hanukkah Begins

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

[Morning Announcements & Calendar](#)

[Husky Wear](#)

Weekly Quote

Be who you are and
say what you feel
because those who
mind don't matter
and those who
matter don't mind.

—
DR. SEUSS

Devices Loaned During Pandemic

If you were loaned a device for use for online learning in the spring of 2020, or spring of 2021 we ask that you return them to the school as soon as possible.

The devices can be returned to the school library. If you have any questions, please contact

alexandra.wright@yrdsb.ca

November is Hindu Heritage Month



On December 8, 2016 the province of Ontario designated November as Hindu Heritage Month as outlined in the Hindu Heritage Month Act. Hindus first arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century. During various waves of immigration, Hindus from all parts of the

world continued to make Canada their home from the 1960s to present day. By proclaiming the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Hinduism is considered by some as one of the world's oldest religions, dating back over 10,000 years. With over 900 million followers worldwide, Hinduism is the third-largest religion.



Cross Country Team

Congratulations to our 3 OFSAA runners...in each race there were over 170 of the best from over 100 schools across Ontario. Ryan Ward placed 45th in Novice Boy's Category. Michelle Kelly 22nd in the Junior Girl's and amazingly in the Novice Girls Race Anastasia Kirova placed 5th!

Guidance News

Volunteer Hours:

Opportunities are posted on the Guidance Google Classroom!

A reminder that graduating grade 12 students in 2021, they must complete 20 hours for graduation this year.

Students in all grades should check the **Guidance Google classroom!** Topics include:

Videos for college and university applications and information

- Tutoring resources
- Mental Health supports
- Volunteer opportunities
- Important dates
- Elective course options, etc. etc.
- Scholarship information

Be sure to check regularly!

The **Full Disclosure date** for eligible students wanting to drop a course so it won't appear on their transcript is December 6, 2021

Researching Colleges and Universities? Please refer to the following links:

www.ontariocolleges.ca

www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

Guidance appointments are available on Teach Assist- appointment manager, or by stopping into the Guidance office.

Grade 8 Info Sessions for Sept 2022

Course Fair

Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 had opportunity to learn about potential course offerings for next year by visiting various Department booths in the afternoon this past week. The students will then indicate which courses they are considering for next year through an *intention process* to support timetabling for next year.





MONDAY November 15, 2021

7:00 PM ZOOM Meeting

On behalf of your executive Chris and Emmy, please join us for our third meeting of 2021-2022. 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 this Council Meeting we will facilitate a report from the students, staff and administration on recent and future initiatives in the school. Families have expressed an interest in continuing the dialogue about mental well-being. To support, we will further our understanding of JACK.org, a training and empower organization that works with school based chapters of student leaders. The organization we speak to families about mental health supports for the home. The meeting will be hosted virtually and you can join following the directions below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/96389358625?pwd=U2FoVE0rSU9hZjh0d1FCVGc2QitWUT09>

Meeting ID: 963 8935 8625

Passcode: 310459

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,96389358625# Canada

+12042727920,,96389358625# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+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

Meeting ID: 963 8935 8625

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

OSSLT

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Modified School Day November 25, 2021

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has scheduled October 13 to December 1 as the *fall window* for students across the province to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). **Grade 11 and non-graduating grade 12 students in our school will be writing the test on November 25.** Grade 10 students will be writing the test in the *spring window* with details to be provided at a later date.

As with past practice, to assist in creating the best possible environment for students writing the test, and to comply with Public Health requirements and changes to the format of the test, the Board will implement a modified school day. **On November 25, all secondary schools in the North and Central regions will follow an exam-style day in which:**

- **only grade 11 and non-graduating grade 12 students who are writing the test are required to be at school** (no regular classes for students in grades 9, 10, and 12 will occur);
- students will be dismissed upon completion of the test;
- school bus and taxi service will run on their normal schedules; and
- self-contained special education classes [e.g., developmentally delayed, autism, complex needs, multiple exceptionalities, PEAK, York Academy programs, Intensive, Intensive Resource Support, and Acquired Brain Injury] will follow their regular schedule.

For Students Writing the OSSLT

Students writing the test will come to school on November 25 at their normal start time, **8:30 a.m.**, to write the OSSLT. Based on EQAO timelines for the test, we anticipate that many students will finish writing in about 3 hours. Students will be dismissed upon their completion of the test; however, space will be made available in the school for those who need to remain until regular dismissal time. Students requiring extra time will continue to write their test during an extended test-taking period. Modifying the school day in this way allows schools to maximize teacher supervision and support, and to ensure the availability of classroom space and access to technology.

For Students Not Writing the OSSLT

Although schools will be open, regular classes will not be running. Students not writing the test will be provided asynchronous learning activities for the day.

We wish every student success on the OSSLT and appreciate your ongoing support for student achievement and well-being.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's administrative team.

Sincerely,

Alex Corry
Principal

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/yrlb-book.aspx?mid=10914>