



Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School

Principal: Janet Atkinson -- Vice-Principals: M. Godfrey, T. Stein

December 1, 2017



Upcoming Dates

December 7 - **Drama Showcase**

Dec 11-15 – **Grad Photos** (sign up online at bookmygrad.ca)

December 18 – **Winter Music Concert**

Friday, December 22 – **Last Day of School before Winter Break**

Monday, January 8 – **Return to School**

Message From Our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

OSSLT

Preparation for the April 10, 2018 Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The After-School Literacy Course for Grade 10 students begins December 7th at 3:10 in Room 131. This free course helps prepare students for the OSSLT. Please return permission forms to Mr. Piper or to Mrs. Bisbee. Extra forms are available in the office or in the library.

Go Denison Huskies!

The **Junior Boys Basketball Team** started their season this week. The next home game is on Wednesday December 6 at 4:45 against Dr. G. W. Williams. Come out to support the Huskies.

The snow will fall soon, but already the **Husky Nordic Ski team** is up and running. We have had some dry land practices already and are looking forward to our training days at Hardwood Hills. Here the novices will participate in a learn to "skate-ski" clinic, while the experienced team members will get a chance to hit the trails. Early in the second semester we'll go for two days of competition at Highlands Nordic. It's a real test of mettle, yet somehow we all have fun in this demanding pursuit. The team is set for this year, but talk to Mr. McRogers if you're up for some winter fitness next year.

Denison Music Department presents WINTER SHOWCASE 2017

Denison's holiday concert will be held on **Monday, December 18th at 7pm at Newmarket Theatre**. This concert will feature our grade 9 band class, senior band class, Denison Singers, the Dr. Denison Concert Band, Paramedics of Rhythm Jazz Band and the Dr. Denison Wind Ensemble. Our program includes popular songs by Coldplay, Earth, Wind and Fire, Cyndi Lauper and The Beatles, as well as music from The Avengers, Spiderman and Guardians of the Galaxy. We'll also play some familiar holiday favourites to get you in the spirit of the season!

Advance tickets for this concert are available on School Cash Online or from Mrs. Hamilton in the music room for \$10/adults and \$8/students and seniors.

Don't miss out on this great night of entertainment!

Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment

Our Grade 9 students currently in Math classes will write the EQAO Math tests on **January 17 & 18, 2018**. The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics measures how well students have met the expectations in the Grade 9 Mathematics curriculum for Applied and Academic courses. Student achievement in this assessment is reported using a four-level scale that is aligned with the scale used in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics* and the *Provincial Report Card, Grades 9-12, In the Ontario Curriculum*. The results from this assessment provide baseline information that will assist in board and school improvement planning. Letters outlining test dates will be sent home on December 5th. The students' results on the test comprise 5% of the students' final mark in Math.

Exams

January 26th to January 31st

Evaluation Review Day February 1st

Exams are an important part of the final assessment that occurs in January. Semester one exams run from January 25 – January 31, 2018, inclusive. February 1st is Evaluation Review Day.

All exams begin at 9:00 a.m. and most are complete by 10:30 a.m. Some senior exams are 2 hours in length and performance exams are scheduled on an individual basis with the teacher. Please plan holidays around the examination dates. All examinations must be written on the specific date and time and in the location as scheduled. They will not be rescheduled for individual students. The ONLY exceptions to this will be for ILLNESS, COURT APPEARANCE, or BEREAVEMENT, and proper documentation will be required. Students who miss an examination without such documentation will receive a mark of zero for the examination portion of their final mark.

- **The Volunteer Fair** occurred on Thursday, November 30th at lunch with 15 community agencies looking for volunteers! Many students signed up for events making it a great event! Students still looking for events, can go to www.VolunteerYorkRegion.ca and look for opportunities.
- **Workplace Bound students** interested in going to College should check out the many programs available at Ontario Colleges! Fleming College offers several programs that lead to rewarding careers for workplace level Grads. Examples include Certificates in Plumbing, Construction, Heavy Equipment, Blasting, Personal Support Worker and Office Administration.....just to name a few. Interested students should make an appointment in Guidance to check out these opportunities and more!
- **Georgina Trades Training** offers many programs at NO COST! There are programs in Construction Training, Greens Keeper, Automotive Service Technician etc etc etc. Visit www.gtti.ca for details!
- **College Bound students** should be researching programs and applying to Colleges before February 1. Visit www.ontariocolleges.ca for programs and where to apply. Need help? Book and appointment in Guidance!
- **University Bound Students** should be researching programs and getting ready to apply well before the January 17 deadline. There will be an application workshop on December 7 at lunchtime in the library for interested students.
- Visit www.electronicinfo.ca for researching programs and www.ouac.on.ca for applying.
- **OCAD U** is offering Portfolio Clinics on December 9 as well as offering Webinars to find out more about studying art and design at OCAD U. They will learn about the programs, application process, portfolio tips and more! Visit www.ocadu.ca for details.
- **U of T summer mentorship program** application is due January 12, 2018 for early applicants, and can be located at www.uoft.me/smp
- **Part Time Jobs!** For students aged 15-18 years
 - Job Skills will pay you for completing training
 - Finds you a job
 - Helps pay for things you need for work like transportation or clothes
 - Visit www.JobSkills.org/Youth for more information!
- **Mental Health tip:**
Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, only this time more wisely.....Henry Ford.