



Dr. Denison Secondary School

February 6, 2019

Photo Re-take Day

Friday, February 22nd is Photo Re-take Day for new 2nd semester students, photo re-takes and grad photos at should be booked at www.bookmygrad.ca school code **YDD**

Guidance News

Semester 2 Timetable Change

Guidance will be doing course selection assemblies and counselling in early February for September, 2019, so only exceptional circumstances for course changes will be considered.

Inclement Weather Information

In recent years, we have experienced an increase in extreme winter weather. As a result, we have reviewed how we respond on inclement weather days. There may be rare occasions where unprecedented winter weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please see the [attached letter](#) for more information.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is essential to academic achievement. Our teachers work diligently to ensure that attendance information sent to you is absolutely correct so please contact the appropriate teacher immediately by voicemail or e-mail if there appears to be an error.

When your student is absent, please notify the Attendance Office as soon as possible by phone, note or email dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca to indicate that the absence is parent approved. You can reach the Attendance Office at 905-836-0021 ext. 181. Voicemail is available at all hours.

Important Dates to Remember:

Feb 6: Sem. 1 Report Cards
Feb 18: Family Day Holiday
Feb 22: Photo Re-take Day
March 11-15: March Break
March 18: Interim Reports
March 27: OSSLT
March 28: Parents' Night

School Contact Information:

Principal

Janet Atkinson

Vice-Principal

Michelle Godfrey
Candice Mott

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

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

Superintendent

Erik Khilji

Trustee Name

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey
Linda Gilbert

Student Council

The student council will be selling candy grams and candy crush for Valentines. There will be a minimal cost of 2 dollars for each item. These will be delivered to homeroom classes on February 14th. All proceeds will be given towards our Relay for Life event.



National Sweater Day

National Sweater Day has traditionally fallen on the first Thursday of February. Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in National Sweater Day at their schools, workplaces and homes.

We are thrilled to see that Canadians have made Sweater Day their own by turning down the heat, wrapping up and taking on climate change every February.



SweaterDay.ca
#sweaterday

Need Help Now?

Kids Help Phone Live Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca
Emergency Counselling & Housing: www.360kids.ca
Newmarket Food Pantry: www.newmarketfoodpantry.ca
Depressed or Suicidal: www.youthspace.ca or text 741741
Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans Youthline: www.youthline.ca
MOBYSS: www.mobyss.ca
Community Crisis Response Services: 905-310-COPE
Mental Health Helpline Webchat:
livechat.connexontario.ca/ECCChat/MHHchat.html

School Bus Safety

Please don't park in the school bus zone when picking up your child.

School bus safety

School buses are one of the safest ways for children to get to school.



Every school day, almost 824,000 students travel in about 16,000 school vehicles.



Volunteer Hours

Volunteering resource:

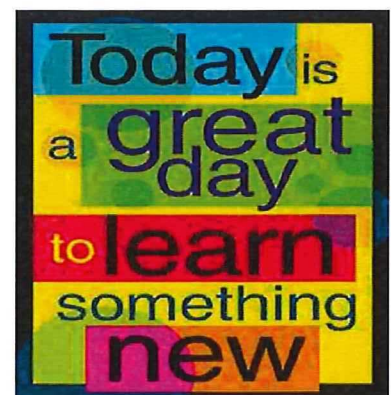
www.yorkinfo.ca

This is online access to volunteer opportunities in York Region. Remember volunteering must be for a non profit organization to qualify for community hours.

Volunteer opportunities are posted on the wall outside of the Guidance office.

Save the Dates

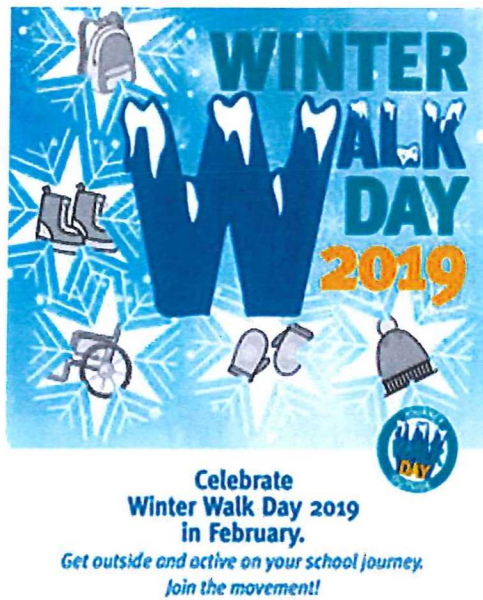
June Exams: June 19-25
Exam Review Day: June 26
Graduation: June 27



February 2019 - ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

In most households, finding time to be active together can be a challenge. Work schedules, technological gadgets, and other commitments often get in the way of important time that can be shared amongst family members. Active School Travel is a great way to incorporate this active family time and only requires some small alterations to your routine. Active school travel allows families to talk to each other creatively and be imaginative, create strong bonds, express feelings, and overall boosts self-confidence and positivity.

Walking or cycling to school or the bus stop is also a great way to meet other families and school community members which can lead to building relationships and even group walking. This helps to create safer neighbourhoods and build a greater community feeling.



Just a reminder that **February 6th, 2019** kicks off **Winter Walk Day** this year. By dressing for the weather, keeping active and staying hydrated you can stay warm and enjoy the winter weather!

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice, or a few days a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way.

Remember it only takes 21 days to create a habit. Consider making small changes to your routine to get these benefits that could have major lasting impacts on your child(ren) lives. Include active travel as part of your day-to-day life.

Sincerely,

YRDSB Active School Travel Team

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

News about the March 27th, 2019 Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

What is the OSSLT? The OSSLT is a provincial test of literacy (reading and writing) skills students have acquired by Grade 10. It is based on the literacy skills expected in *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subject areas up to the end of Grade 9.

Who has to write the OSSLT?

- Grade 10 students
- Grade 11 and 12 students who have not successfully completed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy requirement to graduate.

Why do students need to write the OSSLT? Successful completion of the OSSLT is a requirement to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

When will the OSSLT be written?

- Wednesday, March 27, 2019

What do students have to do on the OSSLT? The test consists of two booklets with various reading and writing tasks.

Students have to read

- An information paragraph (225 – 250 words)
- A news report (225 – 250 words)
- A dialogue (225 – 250 words)
- A real-life narrative (550 – 600 words)
- A graphic (picture) text (fewer than 150 words)

Students have to complete the following types of writing tasks:

- Multiple Choice questions
- Content
- Develop a main idea with supporting details
- Organization of ideas
- Language conventions

Two Short-Writing Tasks

- 6 lines each

Long-Writing Tasks

- News report (one page)
- Series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)

Where can students go to see a sample test or sample questions? Students can go to <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/Pages/example-assessment-materials-current-year.aspx>

How is the school preparing students to write the test?

- Lessons in Grade 9 and 10 classes
- After-school literacy course (TBA)
- Time to do practice tests and lunch and learns
- Assembly

Will universities and colleges see OSSLT results? The students' secondary school transcript will indicate that they have completed the OSSLT as one of the requirements for the OSSD.

What happens if students do not pass the OSSLT? They can take the test again the following year or take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). Note: Students have to have written the OSSLT in order to be eligible for the OSSLC.

Can students receive accommodations? If students have Individual Education Plans (IEP) for classroom tests and assessments, they may be able to receive accommodations. For students with Special Education accommodations and English Language Learner provisions will be given a letter to take home.

Can a student receive exemptions? To be eligible for exemptions, a student must have an IEP that clearly indicates that he/she is not working toward an OSSD.

What if I have questions? Contact Mr. Marshall, Literacy Teacher, at 905 836-0021 or send an e-mail to chris.marshall@yrdsb.ca

Source: EQAO's Web site, www.eqao.com

More information to come.