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## Parent Newsletter: December 11-22

### Administration

**Principal:**  
Sheri Epstein

**Vice-Principal:**  
Heather Leatham

**Vice-Principal:**  
Marianne C. Hamilton

### STAY CONNECTED



@langstaffss

### A Message from your Administrators

Dear Langstaff Families and Community Members,

It is hard to believe that we are in the final month of 2023. 2024 is just weeks away! Many of us recall the start of the school year and are wondering where the time went and now we are heading into the start of a new year. LSS is always a busy place especially during the month of December as students are engaged in many events and activities inside and outside of school. Many classes have already begun their culminating activities and are gearing up for exam preparation. We hope that you will reach out to teachers if you have any questions or concerns with your child's progress – this two-way communication will help to ensure students complete the semester successfully.

During this past two weeks, the Red Cross Club has been collecting food items and new, unwrapped toys for local charities. We are very proud of all the students who are collecting the food and toys and all the students who have contributed to these charities. Student Council is busy getting ready for our Spirit Week, which will occur the last week of school. There will be a number of activities and dress up days to get all the students into the holiday mood. We look forward to participating in all these fun activities.

Over the last couple of weeks, students participated in field trips, on sports teams, in workshops, in assemblies, and in tournaments. These events and opportunities help to enrich the high school experience of all of our students; we are very happy when students decide to participate in activities that occur outside of the classroom. This spirit also enriches the school community.

Thank you to all the staff and students who put countless hours into planning events for the entire school to enjoy and to the parents/guardians who are supporting these events by encouraging their children to take part in something while in school, and having to do all the drop-offs and pick-ups.

We are very sorry that we have missed an E-bulletin. Not sure if you are aware or not, but recently the YRDSB experienced a "cyber incident" that left us without email or access to Board applications for a couple of weeks. It was a challenging time but we made it work so that the learning and operations within the school continued seamlessly. We are happy to report that everything is fully back up and running and once again, it is "business as usual".

I am inserting my message, once again, from the e-bulletin we couldn't send because I want you to know what wonderful things happened at LSS while we were unable to send any communications to you.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Ms. S. Epstein

**Inspire**Learning!

## A Message from your Administrators from November 10

Dear Langstaff Families and Community Members:

We have just about reached the halfway point of the first semester. It is truly remarkable how many incredible things go on in this school. It is nice to see both the staff and the students engaged in teaching and learning each and every day.

November is a time of reflection and remembrance. This week, we have observed both Holocaust Education Week and Remembrance Day. For Holocaust Education Week we did a number of things. Our Learning Commons hosted the moving exhibit “Not in My Name”, the story of the ship the St. Louis. Twenty-five of our classes have visited this display over the week. We also had the Tour for Humanity Bus on our properties for two days. Approximately 200 students were able to attend an in-school field trip on the bus to learn about the Holocaust and begin the conversation on why such atrocities were able to take place. Our students learned the stages to genocide, talked about where else in our History, both past and present, genocide, and occurred. This was a very impactful experience for our students. Special thanks to Ms. Romero for organizing these Holocaust Education events.

For Remembrance Day, all LSS students attended a Remembrance Day Assembly today to recognize the importance of November 11 in Canada’s History. Students from history, art, drama and our Music Club have worked very hard to put this wonderful assembly together for the school community. We also had all our students contribute a message of “remembering” to our large LSS Remembrance Day wreath. It was clear that our students found the variety and content of information shared with the students was meaningful and relevant to their lives and their learning. Huge thanks to Mr. Barrow for taking the lead and organizing this amazing Remembrance Day event.

Last week we hosted our Open House for all Grade 8 students and their families. We had an amazing turnout and, loved meeting our future Langstaff families. Our attendees asked very good questions and the enthusiasm was contagious. Our LSS staff and students did an outstanding job of highlighting LSS and all our wonderful attributes. We look forward to working with these Grade 8 students and their families over the next few months to get everyone ready to come to High School.

Our boys volleyball team has won every single game they have played – we are so impressed with their level of play, sportsmanship and dedication to the team and each other! We can’t wait to see how this season ends.

Some important upcoming dates:

November 17	Professional Development Day for all Staff - no students coming to school
November 20	School Council Meeting – see flyer in this e-bulletin
November 20	Grad Photos begin – email sent to all Grade 12 students
November 21-24	Ontario Second School Literacy Test dates

If you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to connect with us – we always like to hear from you!

Ms. Sheri Epstein  
Principal

Langstaff Secondary School

Maturity Through Responsibility

## School Council Meeting

### Monday, December 18, 2023

### 7:00 pm—8:30 pm— in the Library

Please join us on Monday to learn more about  
*Co-operative Education Program, Advanced Placement, Specialist High Skills Major Programs, OYAP, and Dual Credits*

What are these special programs?  
 How does work experience help my child?  
 How does my child apply for these programs?  
 What opportunities do these programs provide for my child?  
 Do these programs help my child get ahead?

Our Guest Speakers will be Ms. Reina Chidiac—Head of Guidance and Ms. Yael Sadeh—Head of Co-operative Education and Langstaff SS students!

**We hope that you can join us for this very informative session. Good information for all parents/guardians.**

We hope you able to join us!  
 We look forward to seeing you there!

#BEARS4LIFE



## School Bell Timetable

<b>Period 1</b>	<b>8:25 am – 9:40 am</b>
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>9:45 am – 11:05 am</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11:10 am – 11:50 am</b>
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>11:55 am – 1:10 pm</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>1:15 pm – 2:30 pm</b>

# December 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><b>December 11</b></p> <p>2:30 pm Basketball Game—away</p>	<p><b>December 12</b></p>	<p><b>December 13</b></p> <p>ELL—Global Bears Field Trip</p> <p>3:30 Volleyball Game—Away</p>	<p><b>December 14</b></p> <p>3:15 pm Basketball Game—Home</p> <p>6:30 pm Music/Drama Alice in Wonderland Night</p>	<p><b>December 15</b></p>
<p><b>December 18</b></p> <p>Winter Wonderland vs Tropical Paradise</p> <p>3:15 Basketball Game—Home</p> <p>7 pm School Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>December 19</b></p> <p>Twin Day</p>	<p><b>December 20</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPIRIT WEEK</b></p> <p>Decorate Gingerbread People</p> <p>Ugly Sweater Day</p> <p>3:30 Volleyball Game—Away</p>	<p><b>December 21</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p><b>December 22</b></p> <p>Holiday Assembly</p> <p>Pajama Day</p>

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Attendance Reminder

Parents/Guardians are reminded to report all late or absent notices to the Attendance Office by calling 905-889-6266 ext.: 1 OR email [langstaffss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:langstaffss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

Should your student be absent for 3 or more days, an Extended Absence Form must be signed by each subject teacher, parent/guardian and the Vice-Principal prior to leaving for the absence, Extended Absence Forms are available at the Main Office.

### Free Afterschool Programs

Langstaff is offering **free afterschool programs** run by Langstaff teachers to help support students in their classes. Students that sign up must come to all classes.

**Credit Success:** this program will run **Every Tuesday Starting Oct. 31st from 2:45-4:15pm in student success.** This is to support students in all their classes and it will run until Jan.16th 2024 for 10 sessions.

**Numeracy:** this program will run **Every Thursday Starting November 2nd from 2:45-4:15pm in student success.** This is to support students in their math classes. It will run until January 18th 2024 for 10 sessions.

For more information, please see Ms. Starkman in student success (room 132). Permission form's are available in student success and must be submitted by Friday October 27th.

### Yearbooks for Sale

2023/2024 Yearbooks on sale now for only \$35.00

Please pre-order your yearbook on schoolcashonline

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### Mid-Term Report Cards

Mid-Term Report Cards will be handed out to students on Monday December 11.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Credit Rescue/Catch up Day

Langstaff will be having **three Credit Rescue/Credit Catch Up Days this school year**. One will be this **semester one Tuesday December 12, and two will be second semester on April 3rd and June 5th**. These days are for students to review any concepts that they don't understand in the class, work on upcoming assignments, study for upcoming tests, complete outstanding assignments and tests, and get feedback from teachers on the course work. Some students that have outstanding assignments or tests may work with the students success team in the library that day to help them get caught up. Our student success team consists of a variety of teachers and staff from different subject areas that will be able to support students in getting caught up with their courses. If you have any questions or concerns about that day, please let me know.

### Secondary School Toolkit

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit [www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb).

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## SCHOOL NEWS

Our Club List is as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch</b>	Best Buddies	Global Bears Bear Truth Business Debate (Every other week)	Wellness All girls alliance club Chess Club	All girls alliance club Spanish (last Thursday of the month) Drama Global Leadership	Post-Secondary Club All girls alliance club Persian Club
<b>After school</b>	Weightlifting Yearbook (every other week)	Criminal Science Science Tutors	Weightlifting Music Club Science Tutors Peer Tutors Eco Bears Math Club	Science Tutors Math Tutors Art and Mural Badminton	Weightlifting Photoshop Club Peer Tutors Red Cross Anime

**HEY  
PARENTS!**

**KEEP YOUR KIDS HEALTHY  
AND IN SCHOOL**

**Are your child's  
immunizations up to date?**

It's your responsibility to tell  
York Region Public Health, not  
your doctor's.



Update online now!  
[york.ca/GetImmunized](http://york.ca/GetImmunized)



  
**York Region**

## SCHOOL NEWS

LSS students and staff celebrated Hispanic Heritage during the month of October. Our festivities began with yummy churros as an afterschool snack accompanied by the top Latin dance hits. The fiesta continued in the drama room with Just Dance latin dancing, bringing novice and expert dancers together and fun for all who joined in. A spirited trivia competition in the cafeteria tested our knowledge on all things Hispanic, from Disney's Madrigal family in Encanto to the ruins and legendary natural wonders of South America. Congratulations to our top 3 winners, Hanne, Rianna and Sombrero! ¡Gracias! to everyone who participated, your support made our first ever celebration a huge success. ¡Hasta pronto!



Red Cross made \$292.90 from this years Halloween-o-grams for the BC wildfire relief fund. These are some pics for some club members hard at work packing the candy.



# Accessing Your Guidance Team

WELCOME  
TO  
GUIDANCE



## YOUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Support and promote students' well-being and continuous growth in three areas: personal (student) development, interpersonal development, and career development in order to help them develop resilience and realize their potential (success) as individuals and as valuable members of society.

*-Ontario School Counsellors' Association*

**Contact Information:** Please note the Guidance Counselor ALPHA allocation by last name

**Ms. R. Chidiac, *Head of Guidance***  
[reina.chidiac@yrdsb.ca](mailto:reina.chidiac@yrdsb.ca)

**Ms. S. Campbell**  
[stephanie.campbell@yrdsb.ca](mailto:stephanie.campbell@yrdsb.ca)

**Mrs. L. Rico, *Guidance Secretary***  
[lina.rico@yrdsb.ca](mailto:lina.rico@yrdsb.ca)



**Stay Connected and in the "Loop":** Continue to stay up to date by following us on Instagram and LSS Guidance & Success Google Classroom.

**Instagram:** @lssguidance

**Google Classroom:** <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjcxOTQwNzYzNDFa?cjc=4rjwryf>



**Guidance Appointments** can be made in person by coming to guidance. There is a red binder on a standing desk in the Guidance Office. Students can book with their respective counsellor, by alpha last name. The appointments are made available every Monday morning for the week.

A-O: Mme Chidiac, P-Z: Ms. Campbell

## NEWS FROM GUIDANCE

### NIGHT SCHOOL INFORMATION - CONTINUING EDUCATION

Semester Two - Winter 2024 - **February 15, 2024 to June 6, 2024**

The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous). Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm.

We encourage students to register early as course offerings are not guaranteed and are subject to sufficient enrollment. Grade 11 and 12 course offerings are listed [here](#)

#### Registration Details:

1. Registration Opens on December 18 and closes on February 14.
2. Students can register online on [my pathway planner/my blueprint](#)
3. Students must then print their registration form, include both parent/guardian signature and submit to the Guidance office
4. More details can be found [here](#)

### SEMESTER 2 COURSE CHANGES

Students requiring a course change for semester 2 are encouraged to make a guidance appointment with their alpha counsellor between now and January 25. Changes will be made based on course availability.

### BLACK FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS

BFCN invites York Region District School Board (YRDSB) Black Grade 8 to Grade 12 students and their families to another edition of the BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Please register ASAP at

<https://bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopDecember132023> or here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlPfcRqz0sHNi1N6GcNsi8S6juFjXz8LMSb>

### VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Valuable resources to help you choose your career, select a good school and find financial aid resources... collected just for you by our Guidance experts!

<https://osca.ca/for-students/>

### WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday, our Wellness committee organizes a fun activity for students to do during lunch. We ensure to include a variety of activities throughout the year to ensure we target all interests and students. Please encourage your child to join. Warning: May cause a decrease in stress and increase in smiles .

### Upcoming Events

Date	Activity	Room
December 13, 2023	Holiday Karaoke	145
December 20, 2023	GingerBread House Party	103