



109 Garden Avenue  
Richmond Hill, On, L4C 6M1  
905-889-6266  
Attendance: 905-889-6266 ext: 1

## News Bulletin: February 10-21



### Administration

**Principal:**  
Sheri Epstein

**Vice-Principal:**  
Janice Bordonali

**Vice-Principal:**  
Derrick Schellenberg

### STAY CONNECTED



@langstaffss

### Important Dates:

#### February 11

YRPH Vaccination Clinic  
Grade 11's only

#### February 13-21

2025-2026 Course  
Selection

#### February 17

Family Day—No School

#### February 18

Caring & Safe Schools  
Presentation

#### February 20

Steep Pan Drumming  
Assembly

### **A Message from your Administrators**

Hello Langstaff Families and Community Members:

Our second semester is off to a good start! Students and Teachers are already busy learning and creating in all classes and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things that will happen this semester.

We are very excited for our Black History Month plans for this month. On February 20, Steel Pan Drummer, Earl LaPierre Jr., will be coming to LSS, to spend a full day with us, sharing his workshop on his music with many of our classes. We know our students will enjoy this wonderful event. As well, on February 27, to close out Black History Month, we will have a "Socasize" lunchtime event in the small gym. We know many students will be joining us on this day to move and groove to wonderful Caribbean beats. We hope that our students will enjoy our Black History Month display just outside our Learning Commons. Lastly, we will be sharing some interesting and informative announcements about Black Canadian history with the entire LSS community each morning throughout this month.

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, and we are asking the students and staff to wear red, pink, and white on this day. It will be so nice to see these bright colours since our days have been so gray and gloomy recently. There will be a number of activities taking place on February 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this day of "love".

And speaking of Pink... we are going to ask the entire LSS community to wear Pink again on February 26<sup>th</sup> to show our support for anti-Bullying. February 26 is the official Pink Day, Canada's day to formally raise awareness about bullying, its impact on individuals, and the importance of preventing bullying in schools, communities, and online spaces. We are going to have several engaging "pink" activities for the students to participate in during lunchtime on this day. In addition, we are asking everyone in the Langstaff community, all students, and staff, to wear pink on this day, so that we flood the school with pink to show everyone that "Bears" care about keeping everyone safe and happy in our school.

With Semester 2 Start Up behind us, it is time to shift our gaze to next September! Course Selections for the 2025-2026 school year open on February 13 and will close on February 21. If students have questions regarding the process, please consult the LSS Guidance Website and/or a member of our Guidance team. However, the best place for students to get answers, if they are curious about a specific course, is the teachers. You can find a complete list of staff, the various departments that they teach in, and their email address on the school website, if your child is unsure of with whom to connect.

As always, if you have any questions, please connect with a member of the school administration.

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms. Sheri Epstein

Principal

**Inspire**Learning!

## School News

LANGSTAFF SS

### Message from Our Trustee

February 2025

Welcome to the start of the second half of the school year.

Congratulations to secondary school students who have completed exams and culminating activities and are ready to start a new semester, and to elementary school students for all their hard work in the first term. I want to remind families that when report cards are available, you can now access your child's report card through the [Family Dashboard](#).

For students looking at [course selection](#) for next year, the [Experience YRDSB pages](#) on our website will let you explore the areas that interest you and learn more about the courses, programs and opportunities available in your secondary school.

At the end of January, we recognized [Lunar New Year](#), commemorating the first day of the Lunar calendar. Throughout the month, we also recognized [Tamil Heritage Month](#). In February, we recognize Black History Month, I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#) for upcoming events to celebrate Black excellence and recognize the contributions made by Black Canadians. You can also find information about other upcoming significant dates and events for families.

The [Student Trustee election process](#) is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Student Trustees play an essential role in our system, representing student voices at the Board table when we are making important decisions, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to our discussions. I would like to congratulate all of the students who put their names forward for the position and encourage all students in Grades 5-12 to take the time to vote.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank current Student Trustees Hayden Lai and Mitusaan Kugathasan and Indigenous Student Trustee Natalie Pitawanakwat for their hard work, leadership and commitment to student voice.

As a Board of Trustees, we have several important roles that affect the daily life in our schools and Board.

One of those responsibilities is to set the [policies](#) that govern the operation of schools in YRDSB. Policies cover important topics, such as [assessment and evaluation](#), [field trips](#), [homework](#), [dress code](#), [caring and safe schools](#), [health supports](#), [student leadership](#) and more.

We regularly review Board policies to ensure they are updated and reflect the current context, [priorities](#) and needs of our community and system. An important part of this process is inviting feedback from the community, including families. You can find a [list of all policies and those currently out for comment](#) on our Board website and I encourage you to take a look.

Trustees are also responsible for setting the Board [budget](#). As we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 school year budget, we will be once again reaching out to families and inviting you to share your input and feedback. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it; your voice is an important part of the process.

We are also working through the District Action Plan to reflect and align with the new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan outlines how we will achieve the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan and focus on serving all students.

I wish everyone all the best as we go into the second half of the school year.

Cindy Liang

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

**Families planning to move or students not returning in September**

Dear Families,

As we begin our planning for the 2025-2026 school year, we kindly ask you to inform the school office if your family has plans to move over the summer, or if your children will not be returning in September for any reason. This information helps us to ensure a smooth transition for all students and to make necessary staffing arrangements for the upcoming academic year.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps us in planning effectively for the new school year.

Thank you for your support.

**Attendance Reminder**

Parents/Guardians are reminded to report all late or absent notices to the Attendance Office AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by calling: 905-889-6266 ext.: 1

OR

email: [langstaff.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:langstaff.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca) Please note we do not use EDSBY for attendance.

**Yearbook**

2024-2025 Yearbooks are on sale now on School Cash online for \$40.00. Any questions or concerns can be directed to: [mary.crognale@yrdsb.ca](mailto:mary.crognale@yrdsb.ca)

**Activity Fee**

The Student Activity Fee is very important as it allows us to make Langstaff SS a great place in which to learn and grow. The funds are used throughout the year and allow our school to provide informative assemblies, guest speakers, special events, open houses, school dances and other spirit activities. All of these events provide our students with an enriched education and help to build our wonderful school community.

# PREPARING FOR YOUR GRAD PORTRAITS!

WWW.PEGASUS-SI.COM

## BOOK YOUR GRADUATION PORTRAIT SESSION ONLINE!

### TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:

<https://pegasus-si.com> and click on "Book Your Grad Photos" at the top of the page

**SCHOOL CODE:** 02LAN2674

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- i. Type in the access code
- ii. Select an available date & time for your portrait session
- iii. Confirm your personal information

A sitting fee is required to book your portrait sessions. The fee provides you 10 different poses during the session, with variety of backdrops that are available for purchase online, and an 11" x 14" Composite of your graduating class in a keepsake folder.

**YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL ONCE YOUR APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN BOOKED.**

Please arrive 10 minutes early to the photo studio set up at your school which will be set up at your school.

All graduates should come wearing a white dress shirt with a crisp collar. Neckties are optional for any graduate wearing dress shirts to complete a formal appearance. Please arrive to the studio fully dressed and prepared.

Your hands will show in some poses, so clean & presentable nails and your favourite ring will enhance your portraits.

**GUESTS, PETS, AND GROUP PHOTOS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

**ONCE THE PHOTO SESSION IS COMPLETE:** A few weeks after your portrait session you will receive an email with your secure login information and link to the Pegasus proofing website. Once online you can view all your poses, order photo packages and create custom portrait products using your own poses. You can select which poses you wish to order.



Dear Families,

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards\*.

Below is a limited income grid for your reference.

Family size	Annual income*
2 people	\$30,286
3 people	\$37,234
4 people	\$45,206
5 people	\$51,272
6 people	\$57,286
7 people +	\$64,381

This year, there are different packages available for purchase. Please reference the [online application page](#) for the current available package offerings. Please note that there are three options for delivery.

If you would like for the computer to be delivered directly to your home, there is [RCT OTR Order Form](#) a \$25 charge for laptops and a \$35 charge for desktops. Families who choose this delivery option will have their order shipped when it is ready, roughly 3 weeks from date of order.

1. If you would like the device shipped to your child's school there is a \$20 delivery charge. If you choose this shipping option, the computer will be delivered to your child's school **after** the end of the promotion period. Please indicate the name of the school on the form when selecting this option.
2. If you would like the device shipped to your child's school there is a \$20 delivery charge. If you choose this shipping option, the computer will be delivered to your child's school **after** the end of the promotion period. Please indicate the name of the school on the form when selecting this option.

3. You may choose to pick up the computer from the RCT Mississauga Warehouse, for free, located at **945 Meyerside Drive, Mississauga**. Families who choose this option will have their order ready for pick up roughly 3 weeks after the date of order.

Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household. Please see below for a full list of device specifications.

If you are interested in applying, please complete an online application <https://www.jotform.com/210054491659255> . The application period is from January 16, 2025 – March 17, 2025 with delivery to schools taking place before the end of the school year.

Please note - There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:

Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income

Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop

The Section on Course of Study can pertain to elementary or secondary. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, please contact the administration team at your school for assistance.

For inquiries related to the RCT application process, devices and delivery, please contact Alexander Oliver ([Aoliver@rcto.ca](mailto:Aoliver@rcto.ca)) and for inquiries related to support from YRDSB, please contact Yvonne Kelly ([yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca))

# 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 Counselors below**

**Ms. R. Chidiac**

[reina.chidiac@yrdsb.ca](mailto:reina.chidiac@yrdsb.ca)

Alpha A-Q

**Ms. N. Cooper**

[nadine.cooper@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nadine.cooper@yrdsb.ca)

Alpha R-Z

**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.



## Guidance News

### SEMESTER TWO START UP

Guidance is working on Course Change Requests, please be patient as we work through the requests. Please keep in mind that course availability is limited and priority goes to students who are missing compulsory courses. We are working hard to try to accommodate and support all students. Thank you for your patience.

### COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

Guidance will offer Course Selection Presentations in the first two weeks of semester 2. Teachers have received an invite and will escort their classes. We will walk through the steps to complete the online course selection via [My Pathway Planner](#). Students will be required to include parent/guardian email to review and approve. Please look for this email between February 13 and 21. Thank you

Grade 9: Friday, February 7, Period 3

Grade 10: Wednesday, February 12, Period 1

Grade 11: Friday, February 7, Period 1

Grade 12s will have a class visit to indicate their plans for next year.

**Course selection opens: February 13 - Closes: February 21**

### NIGHT SCHOOL INFORMATION - CONTINUING EDUCATION

NIGHT SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED



# Black History Month Celebration

Join us for an inspiring evening as we celebrate Black History Month with interactive performances, student showcases and dinner.

**Dates:** Monday, February 3, 2025, at Dr. J.M. Denison H.S.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Bill Hogarth S.S.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at Tommy Douglas S.S.

**Time:** 6:00–8:00 p.m.

This event will feature:

- Interactive Performances
- Student Showcases
- Dinner will be provided

Please join us to celebrate the rich history and contributions of the Black Community while creating meaningful connections and memories together. Looking forward to celebrating together!

## To Register

Please fill out a [registration form](#) by **February 14, 2025**.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to [blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca](mailto:blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca)



FEBRUARY

BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH





## **Volunteers Wanted**

**Are you an Energetic, Confident, Mature, Responsible & Caring High School, College or University Student?**

### **Current Opportunities**

- **Outreach Volunteers (Rec Buddies)** - are buddied up with an individual with a developmental disability to form a peer relationship, provide minimal support, participate in activities & assist staff in setting up or taking down activities.
  - **Summer Camp** - 1 or 2-week commitment during July &/or August from approximately 8:45am to 4pm.
  - **Evening and Sunday Programs** - Fall, Winter & Spring sessions, 8 weeks each
  - **School Break Camps** - March & Winter
- Programs take place at the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre, **927 Clark Ave W, Thornhill, L4J 8G6**
- **Benefits of Volunteering**
  - **Gain leadership skills & hands on experience**
  - **Learn & develop new skills to add to your resume**
  - **Community service hours eligible**
  - **Give back and HAVE FUN!**

Use this QR code to fill in the Reena Volunteer Interest form or contact us by email at [volunteering@reena.org](mailto:volunteering@reena.org)



"Reena is a non-profit organization that promotes dignity, individuality, independence, personal growth and community inclusion for people with diverse abilities within a framework of Jewish culture and values."

**[www.reena.org](http://www.reena.org)**





**March 10–14, 2025, 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

Hosted at Doane House Hospice, 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket except for Wednesday, March 12, when the camp will be hosted at Margaret Bahen Hospice, 653 Queen Street, Newmarket (beside Southlake Regional Health Centre).

This week-long camp offers a safe place for children to express themselves through art-making and group activities. Together, they'll learn ways to better cope with their loss, navigate the ups and downs of grief, and honour their loved one(s).

For more information, please contact Doane House Hospice Art Therapist Cynthia Gardner, at [cgardner@myhospice.ca](mailto:cgardner@myhospice.ca) or **905 967 0259 ext. 155**

***This program is provided free of charge. (Donations are always gratefully accepted)***