

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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This is an information update from Stephen Lewis Secondary 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.

Linda Aversa, Trustee

Winter has arrived! To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing all of York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions, and weather forecast. More information can be found [here](#), or by visiting www.schoolbuscity.com. Cancellation notices will be communicated by radio, TV and on twitter @YRDSB.

Someone I care about is misusing drugs and or alcohol. How can I help?

Substance abuse is a common problem that will affect some individuals at some point in their lives. It is often very difficult to help someone who isn't ready to acknowledge or change the behavior. You can always let the person know that you care for them and you are concerned about how they are doing. It's okay to be specific! Such as, "I notice you're spending a lot of money," or "you don't look as healthy as you used to," or "you haven't been able to be a good friend/sister/brother/ parent to me." Sometimes people need to see how their behavior and substance abuse is affecting those around them. Communication should always be non-confrontational.

Read more at www.asyr.ca (Addiction Services of York Region).

For more information about talking to your child about substance misuse, visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/SafeSchools/Pages/Substance-Misuse-and-Abuse.aspx>

School Council

Our next meeting will be held on January 22 at 7:15 pm in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our guest speaker is Deanna Smith from Addiction Services of York Region who will present information about misuse of drugs and/or alcohol.

Guidance Message

Night School Course registration starts Jan. 10, 2018. You register through Career Cruising www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Night-School-Credit-Courses.aspx Night School E-Learning Course registration starts Jan. (Only if you have 3 or fewer courses on your timetable) www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/programs/Pages/Winter-Catalogue.aspx

Students applying to college and university are advised that the OUAC and OCAS websites are open 24/7; however, the offices and support phone lines will be closed during the holidays. The deadline to apply to university for September 2018 is January 17, 2018, and the deadline to apply to college is February 1, 2018. Students who have questions about applying to postsecondary should schedule an appointment with their guidance counsellor. Do not wait until the last minute!

Grade 10 students are encouraged to consider registering for our **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)** programs for 2018-2019. SHSM is a Ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for their high school diploma and assists in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace. Students work towards completing the program requirements during their Grade 11 and Grade 12 years. Grade 10 students may register for SHSM any time during their Grade 10 year. For more information, please see your guidance counsellor. Students can apply for SHSM at bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp

Equity & Inclusive Schools Community Consultations

The YRDSB's Equity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (EIAC) created four sub-committees to engage family/parents and community voice and ideas with regard to ways to counter Anti-Black Racism, Islamophobia, Antisemitism, and Classism within the context of education. The **Anti-Black Racism and Classism Sub-Committees** are hosting community consultations in **January and February 2018**. These consultations will also provide a summary of the Ministry's recent review of YRDSB and in turn the Board's response to equity-based recommendations in the Ministry's report. Please see the [flyers](#) posted on our website

Attendance Reminder

Please call the school to let us know if your child is or will be absent, whether it is for the entire day or for part of the school day. Please continue to keep our telephone number handy, (905)326-7994 ext 101. You may call 24 hours/day or email us at stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca Please provide the following information:

- your child's name,
- the dates of the absence,
- the reason for absence,
- how to contact the parent/guardian if we have questions.

If a student has to leave during the day, he/she needs to have a written note AND is required to sign out at the attendance office.

A reminder to all families that students who will miss 3 or more consecutive days of school must complete an extended absence form available in the main office. This form must be completed and submitted to the office at least one week before the absence. Students who will miss 15 or more days must meet with an administrator.

More information is available on our website

We update our school website frequently. Please visit it at stephenlewis.ss.yrdsb.ca

You can e-mail us any time at:

stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 25-Jan. 5 – Winter Holiday –school closed

Jan. 10-16 – Course selection presentations for current Grade 9-11 students

Jan. 17 – University application deadline

Jan. 18, 19 – Grade 9 Math EQAO test for students currently in Grade 9 Academic or Applied Math classes

Jan. 22 – School Council meeting, 7:15 pm. All welcome

Jan. 24 – Last day of classes before exams

Jan. 25 – Period 1 exams

Jan. 26 – Period 2 exams

Jan. 29 – Period 5 exams

Jan. 30 – Period 4 exams

Jan. 31 – Period 3 exams

Feb. 1 – Exam Feedback day

Feb. 1 – College application deadline

Feb. 2 – PA Day

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY !