

## **Stephen Lewis Secondary School**

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**February 5, 2018**

This is an information update from Stephen Lewis Secondary School.

### **Message From Our Trustee**

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board Multi-Year Plan. In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting Board policies and the annual budget, and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the role of trustees with the next municipal election taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has 12 trustees, elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.  
Linda Aversa

### **Guidance Message**

#### **Course Requests for 2018-2019**

Students can start working on their Course Requests for the 2018-2019 year and can begin submitting their course requests starting February 7

**Grade 10 students are encouraged to consider registering for the Specialist High Skills Major SHSM program.**

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 visit the guidance office. Students can apply for SHSM at [bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp](http://bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp).

### **The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

The OSSLT is a requirement for students who wish to graduate with a secondary school diploma. This year the OSSLT will be written by all eligible students across the province on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. As a school, we have taken many steps to assist our students in completing the test successfully. One way that we have chosen to help of our students is by offering an After School Literacy Program to intensively target and reinforce the reading and writing skills specific to the OSSLT.

The After School Literacy Program will begin February 20, 2018 and will consist of 10 ninety-minute sessions. Sessions will run every Tuesday and Thursday for five weeks. Students will receive intensive practice with reading and writing skills and strategies. Student Registration Forms are available from the main office, guidance or Student Success Room 114.

### **Wanted: Skill Builders**

The York Region President's Council is looking for student leaders to be Skill Builders at their annual UNITE conference. Applications are open until Thursday, February 8th. All applicants must submit a google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/7J456GkK9085c1XF2> Ask your student council for more details.

### **Arts Camp**

The YRDSB is now accepting applications for Arts Camp 2018. Arts Camp 2018 will take place May 26 to June 2. Interested students in grades 7 to 12 are welcome to

apply. For more information and the application forms, see the Arts Camp page on the [YRDSB website](#).

### **Community Involvement Hours**

It is important for students to get pre-approval of the community involvement from the Guidance office. Once the community involvement experience is complete, students must submit the form to guidance.

### **Waterloo Math Contest**

The Waterloo Mathematics Contest for students in grades 9 to 11 will take place on February 27. To register for the Waterloo Math Contest, students are asked to see any math teacher by February 8.

### **Important Information For Students Turning 18**

Under the Education Act, parents/guardians have a right to access their child's Ontario Student Record if the child is under 18.

If the student is 18 or over, the Board/school must follow the privacy provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act regarding the disclosure of personal information about the student to their parents/guardians. Students 18 or over must provide written permission by signing [the Consent for Information Sharing form](#) to allow parents/guardians to continue to access school-related information about the student. This includes academic progress, attendance and behaviour. Students can also obtain the form from the school office.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Important Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding Extraordinary Absences Exceeding 3 days:**

Students are expected to be in full attendance every regular school day except in the case of illness or court order. Extraordinary absence may occur under certain circumstances. Parents should keep in mind that a very close relationship exists between regular daily attendance and success in school. Some families plan trips during the school year due to scheduling of vacations from work or to take advantage of low travel costs. When this occurs, students miss valuable learning which can impact on their success. Even brief absences can have a negative impact. Family trips can be a wonderful learning experience, but should be saved for school vacation time, such as March Break.

Before withdrawal for any vacation not in the school calendar:

- check with your child's teacher to find out what effect a long vacation may have on your child's progress.
- Complete the Extended Absence Form available in the main office.
- You will be responsible for the continuity of your child's learning when they are absent from school.
- Students must consult with their teacher before the planned absence in order to determine their standing in each of their courses and obtain any assignments that will come due during or immediately following the absence, if available from the teacher.

It must be noted that:

- It may not be possible for a student to learn all of the material or complete all of the work that was done in class during their absence.
- Assignments must be submitted on time to be eligible for grading. Tests missed MAY receive a mark of zero ("0")

Absences of 15 or more days require a meeting with an administrator

### **School Cash Online**

All YRDSB schools are now using School Cash Online as an online payment system. School Cash Online is an easy, safe and convenient way for families to pay online for extracurricular items or events, including yearbooks and field trips. It helps to reduce paper and the amount of cash/cheques handled by parents and students. Families may make payments using School Cash Online, or by cash or cheque. You can register for [School Cash Online](#) at any time. There is also a button on our school website. Once you are registered, you will be notified of any new items available for your child.

**More information is available on our website**

We update our school website frequently. Please visit it at [stephenlewis.ss.yrdsb.ca](http://stephenlewis.ss.yrdsb.ca)

You can e-mail us any time at:

[stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 9 – Semester 1 report cards issued

Feb. 19 – Family Day Holiday (school closed)