

## **Stephen Lewis Secondary School**

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**January 8, 2018**

This is an information update from Stephen Lewis Secondary School.

### **Happy New Year 2018!**

**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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com). Cancellation notices will be communicated by radio, TV and on twitter @YRDSB.

**HEALTH & SAFETY** With the fluctuation in winter temperatures, everyone is encouraged to use caution on or around bodies of water. Ice thickness is variable due to the relatively warm weather, and freezing and thawing that has taken place over the past several weeks. Parents and guardians are urged to remind their child(ren) of safety precautions. Please ensure active supervision when children are near bodies of water due to potentially thin ice, or rapid flows. Remember: safety first!

### **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](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Night-School-Credit-Courses.aspx) Night School E-Learning Course registration starts Jan. 8 (Only if you have 3 or fewer courses on your timetable) [www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/programs/Pages/Winter-Catalogue.aspx](http://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!

### **EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics**

All students taking Grade 9 Academic or Applied mathematics this semester will be writing the EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics on January 18 and 19, 2018, during period 1. Parents and guardians are kindly requested not to schedule any appointments during those times, as attendance is mandatory, and the assessment counts as 5% of the final summative mark in mathematics. Please contact the school or your math teacher as soon as possible if there is an appointment which cannot be rescheduled. Students have been preparing for this assessment all semester in their math class. Additional support materials are available on the EQAO web site: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). Students taking Grade 9 Math in semester 2 will write this assessment in June. Official results (individual, school, board and province) will be reported in the fall, 2018. Best of luck to all students!

### **Summer Jobs with the Ontario Government**

Hey students! Looking for a summer job? Have you considered working for the Ontario Government? Each year the Ontario Public Service targets up to 5,000 summer students to work in locations across Ontario in areas such as: Ontario Parks, Environment, Science, Administration, Business and Finance, Research and laboratory, Communications, and Customer Service. Earn while you learn! All jobs have closing dates between January 16 – March 27. Learn more at: [Ontario.ca/summerstudents](http://Ontario.ca/summerstudents)

### Getting Ready for Exams

Upon our return to school in January there are only 2 and a half weeks until Semester 1 exams start! In order to begin preparing for the end of the semester; here are a few things to consider:

- Update binders and ensure that notes are legible and complete
- Ask a friend for missed notes
- Using a calendar, add any current assignment and summative assignment due dates. This is helpful to get the big picture of what needs to be done.
- The calendar is an organizational tool and should help with time management
- Remember to approach your teacher should you need any support or review

Please see your Guidance teacher or Student Success in Room 114 for help in your preparations.

### 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

### 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

- 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