

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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This is an information update from Stephen Lewis Secondary School.

Message from our Trustee – Linda Aversa

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new and returning students and families. This is an exciting time of year and I hope you are starting this new school year as trustees are - with optimism and a commitment to working together to continue advancing student achievement and well-being.

An important part of that commitment is working together with staff members, families and communities to ensure our schools provide an environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. This takes on increasing importance given recent local and global events. We take pride in the diversity of our communities and will continue striving to uphold the values of equity and inclusivity in our system.

Trustees have had a busy summer, welcoming our [new Human Rights Commissioner](#) and beginning the [process for selecting a new Director of Education](#) as we continue to move forward implementing the [Minister's Directions](#).

An important part of the director selection process includes collecting input from students, staff, families and community members - input that will be used to shape the job description, interview questions and more. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts through the [survey](#) available in September. We will continue to keep you updated as this work progresses.

Our schools are stronger when we work in collaboration with families and communities. Partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving the goals we have for our students, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get engaged with the school and your child's learning this year.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

Linda Aversa

Free Online Mathematics Homework Help From The Ministry Of Education

[Homework Help](#) is an online math resource for Grade 7 to 10 students and teachers. Students log on to Homework Help and use an interactive chat room and electronic whiteboard, to obtain personalized tutoring from a certified Ontario Mathematics teacher. Homework Help is free, live, and anonymous. Chats take place Sunday to Thursday evenings from 5:30pm - 9:30pm and all sessions are recorded. To access the site, please visit www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org and create your user account

School Council

Thank you to the parents/guardians who attended the first school council meeting for 2017-2018. Annual Executive Election Results:

- Co-Chairs: Rebecca Haberman and Anna Klebanov
 - Secretary: Liat Waisenberg
 - Treasurer: Sharon Stolte

Congratulations & thanks to all candidates.

Next Meeting: November 7:15 p.m. in the Library. All parents are welcome to attend.

Fresh From The Farm Fundraiser

We are excited to offer a healthy fundraiser to support our breakfast program that is educational, exciting and profitable. We are selling Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to our local school community – supporting our local economy and Ontario farmers. The fundraiser is from September 21 to October 9, with delivery in November. There are 2 produce bundles for sale: \$13 (for 5 lb white potatoes, 3 lb carrots, 3 lb yellow onions, and 3 lb sweet potatoes) or \$15 (for an 8 lb box of fancy grade Empire apples). Information about the fundraiser is available [here](#) You can order your bundles [on-line](#) on our payment site.

Dropping off and picking up students

It is wonderful to see many more students walking, riding bikes and taking public transit to and from school. Well done!!!

Please drive slowly, be mindful of the drop off zones and follow traffic signs to ensure everyone's safety. Please do not block the school buses, interrupt the flow of traffic in front of the school or park in the visitor or disability parking spots without a permit.

You should plan your arrival for students to be in class by 8:25 when O Canada starts our day. Our classes end at 3:00 pm. You should plan to pick up your student after that time, not before. Thank you for your assistance.

Student Driver Information Required

All students who are driving to school must provide their vehicle make, model, colour, license plate number, etc. on the form available in the Main Office.

Important Emergency Information Required

If your child has a serious life threatening allergy or medical condition please complete the applicable forms and return them to the main office immediately.

- [Form #1](#) - Mandatory for ALL serious medical conditions
- [Form #2](#) - Required with Form #1 for those with life threatening allergies (anaphylactic)

Threat Assessment – Fair Notice

The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. Attention to maintaining secure environments, hazard awareness, and practical planning for emergencies is important for all of us. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence. To continue to promote the safety and well-being of all, we have developed, with our community partners, Student Threat Assessment and Intervention procedures to respond to threats of violence, which includes informing families through the [Threat Assessment Fair Notice Brochures](#).

Guidance Message

Ontario University Programs: Want to learn more about programs offered at Ontario universities? Please visit the eInfo website: <http://www.electronicinfo.ca/>

Ontario College Programs: Want to learn more about programs offered at Ontario universities? Please visit the Ontario Colleges website: <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/home>

“Take Our Kids to Work” Day (TOKW) - November 1

“Take Our Kids to Work” (TOKW) is a national initiative to provide the opportunity for our Grade 9 students to OBSERVE a work environment for one day. As suggested by the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel Report, the program will help students begin planning their future career path by helping them better understand the world of work. On November 1, students will spend the day at the workplace of a parent, relative or family friend learning basic workplace skills. There will be no classes for Grade 9 students.

Please return the consent form to the school by October 25

For more information please visit the [TOKW website](#)

Resources for Parents

- [Parent Guide](#)
- [Parent/Guardian Consent Form](#)
- [Expert Safety Panel Recommendations](#)
- [Liability Statement](#)

Resources for Workplaces

- [Employers Guide: Planning for the Day](#)
- [Workplace Poster](#)
- [Certificate of Participation](#)
- [Expert Safety Panel Recommendations](#)
- [Liability Statement](#)

Terry Fox Day – September 28

Grade 9 and 10 students will be on a Terry Fox Walk in the community on September 28. It is part of the annual day where we raise awareness about cancer and raise funds for cancer research. During lunch, various activities will also be available for students on the field. Any donations will help us reach our goal of \$3500.00

Caring, Safe and Inclusive School Environments

Last week, our students and staff engaged in conversations around caring, safe and inclusive school environments. In a school assembly, we discussed the elements that would support the academic achievement and well-being of all students, including:

- Demonstrating positive character attributes (such as empathy, courage and respect for human rights and inclusivity)
- Items and behaviours that are not allowed on school property (such as e-cigarettes and scented products)
- What happens in situations of discipline
- Standing up for each other in bullying situations, including methods of reporting incidents of bullying:
 - Tell a caring adult

- Use the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (located on our school website)
- Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868)

For more details on each of these items, please read the Parent [Guide to the School Year](#) given to our students on the first day of school and the school procedures included in the [Student Handbook](#). Important [policy consent](#) and [startup permission forms](#) must be returned to the school.

Please visit the [YRDSB's Caring and Safe Schools website](#) for details and resources for families. Thank you for supporting our safe, positive and inclusive school community.

Vaughan King Youth Council

Students who live north of Rutherford Road are invited to apply to be part of the King-Vaughan Youth Council, a valuable opportunity to include youth voices in the political process. The [King-Vaughan Youth Council](#) will be composed of young Canadians between the ages of 14 and 20 who will meet several times each year with the MP, Deb Schulte to discuss important issues that matter to youth, the community and the country. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2017 and it is open to all youth between the ages of 14 and 20.

Free Computer and Upgrading Classes for Adults

Would you like to upgrade your skills in English, Math or Computers? Are you seeking employment? Applying for college, second career or an apprenticeship? We offer free classes to help you prepare for work or further your education in order to achieve your goals. Our program is offered at no cost to Ontario residents aged 19+ by the York Region District School Board with support from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. Classes are offered at three convenient locations:

- Uplands Community Learning Centre 8210 Yonge Street, Thornhill, ON L4J1W6
- Yorkworks Stouffville 111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, ON L4A 0Z9
- Participation House (adults with special needs) 9 Butternut Lane, Markham ON L3P 3M1

Please see the [website](#) for program details. Call 905--731-9557 for more information or to book your assessment today! Get started on your path to success!

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.

Online Payments are being accepted

We accept online payments for field trips, fundraisers, sports teams, yearbook, graduation, prom, Student Activity Fee, etc. Please use the following link to register. <https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

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

Sep 25-29	York Region District School Board Safety Week, including various safety drills
Sept. 25	P.A. Day – no classes
Sept. 28	Terry Fox Run Fund Raising in support of Cancer Research
Oct. 3	Grade 12 potential graduates assembly to explain graduation requirements and college/university process
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Holiday – no classes
Oct. 10	Photo retake day
Oct. 12	Interim reports sent home with students
Oct 19	Grade 12 presentation on scholarships for college/university after school
Oct. 19	Parent/Guardian and Teacher interview night
Oct. 20	P.A. Day – no classes
Oct. 24, 25	Ontario College Fair, Enercare Centre, open to all students and families
Oct. 26	Grade 11 pathways presentation