

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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555 Autumn Hill Boulevard, Thornhill, ON L4J 8X2

October 18, 2018

Monday October 22nd is a PA Day for Students

Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKW)

[Take Our Kids to Work™](#), November 14th, is an **annual national program** in which Grade 9 students will spend the day at the workplace of a parent, friend, or relative. The program supports career development by helping students connect school, the world of work, and their own futures. The program was created through the philosophy that awareness leads to knowledge. The more students understand about the jobs of their parents and relatives, the more informed the decisions about their own future career will be. Please let us know if your place of employment can host additional students. Please return the consent form to the school by October 26th.

Medical Perils

We take the health and safety of our students very seriously. Staff members who work with your child need to be advised about your child's health care needs. If your child has a medical peril, it is very important that we have up to date information and medication (epi-pens, puffers etc.) at the school in case of an emergency. Forms have been issued to students and also emailed to parents. We kindly ask that these forms be **returned to the school with the necessary medication by Friday October 26th, 2018.**

Engaging in Online Safety Discussions during Safety Week September 24th to 28th

Caring and safe environments promote student achievement and well-being. As part of Safety Week, staff and students engaged in discussions and lessons using MediaSmarts literacy about protecting themselves online. MediaSmarts' vision is that children and youth have the critical thinking skills to engage with media as active and informed digital citizens. They have recently released new resources for families that we are sharing with you here.

<http://mediasmarts.ca/parents>

International Baccalaureate

If you have a child in Grade 8 and are interested in the IB program, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/IB for more information about the program and assessment process.

School Council

Elections for the executive were held at the first meeting of the School Council on Sept. 17th.

Elanit Kritzer and Nicky Yuval are the co-chairs for the year.

All parents are welcome to attend our next meeting on **Monday November 19th, 7:15 p.m. in the Library.**

Every Student Counts Survey

Starting on November 12th, York Region District School Board will invite all students to participate in the *Every Student Counts Survey (ESCS)*. The purpose of this survey is to better understand YRDSB's diverse student population as well as students' experiences in school and outside of school. Students in grades 7-12 will be invited to complete the survey online during class time.

The surveys are voluntary and confidential. Information about the surveys and the process is available at www.yrdsb.ca/escs. This important initiative will help us work together to create equitable and inclusive school environments.

Cannabis Legalization

As of October 17, 2018, it will be legal for individuals 19 and older to buy, use, possess and grow recreational cannabis. It remains illegal for anyone under the age of 19. This is the same as the minimum age for the sale of tobacco and alcohol in Ontario. Regardless of age, cannabis is not allowed on school property or at school-related events at any time.

Breakfast Program

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of our community partners our breakfast program offers quick food items to our students every morning. Students can grab a quick bite to eat before school starts which leads to a better day!

Attendance Reminder

Please call/e-mail 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 e-mail address and telephone number handy: stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca (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>

Community Service Hours

To graduate, students are required to complete 40 hours of community service. It is recommended that students complete these hours early in their high school career. Information regarding community service opportunities can be found on the bulletin boards in the Guidance office. Community Service Hour forms must be submitted BEFORE starting the activities for approval and then submitted when the community service hours are completed.

YRDSB Mobile App

The York Region District School Board has an app that enables staff, students, parents and community members to quickly access information from their mobile devices.

Get the latest up-to-date news, student resources, school maps and contact information for trustees and senior administration. Users will also be able to access the Report It tool, school year calendars, transportation information and much more. To download the app, visit www.yrdsb.ca or search "YRDSB" in your app store.

More information is available on our website. We update our school website frequently.

You can e-mail us any time at stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca