

## Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### ***Message From Our Trustee***

Welcome back. I hope everyone is feeling refreshed following the winter break, and that you had a happy and safe holiday season. While the weather may be colder, I also hope that you had time to enjoy this beautiful season in Ontario.

It is my honour to serve as your newly elected school board trustee for Vaughan Wards 3 and 4 and to uphold the [values](#) of York Region District School Board. The new [Board of Trustees](#) was sworn in on December 3, following the October municipal elections. Together, we look forward to moving forward the four priorities outlined in the [Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#):

- Foster well-being and mental health
- Build collaborative relationships
- Champion equity and inclusivity
- Empower ethical leadership

There are a lot of exciting things happening in our schools and classrooms to foster and support student well-being and mental health. Ask your child what's happening in their school, and how they take care of themselves. As adults, we often focus on the health and well-being of the children in our lives, but it's also essential that we take care of ourselves. Taking time to do the things we enjoy and nurture our own health is also important and helps to model a healthy and active lifestyle for our children.

An important part of my [role as a trustee](#) is to listen, and I look forward to connecting with members of our school community in the coming weeks and months. We will continue working to build collaborative relationships with our communities and to keep you informed about the things happening in the school board. I wish you all the best as we enter 2019.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee - Vaughan Wards 3 and 4

### ***Message from Principal John Tsourounis***

Friday February 1<sup>st</sup> will be my last day as acting Principal at Stephen Lewis S.S. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of Stephen Lewis S.S., teachers, students and all the terrific support staff for making my time here very enjoyable. I wish you all the best in the New Year. Students, have a great Semester 2 and I wish you all the best in your upcoming exams. Remember that hard work, wise choices, perseverance and a positive attitude will guarantee that you succeed in any endeavour that you choose to pursue in your life.

## Exams

The period by day exam schedule will run as follows: All exams will commence at 9:00 a.m. Please ensure that your child knows the date and time of their exams and are prepared.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Thursday, January 24, 2019:</b>          | All period ONE exams                    |
| <b>Friday, January 25, 2019:</b>            | All period TWO exams                    |
| <b>Monday, January 28, 2019:</b>            | All period FIVE exams                   |
| <b>Tuesday, January 29, 2019:</b>           | All period FOUR exams                   |
| <b>Wednesday, January 30, 2019:</b>         | All period THREE exams                  |
| <b>Thursday, January 31, 2019:</b>          | Exam Feedback Day/Inclement Weather Day |
| <b>Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b> | First Day of Semester 2                 |

## 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:

(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
- spell the last name and first name of the student
- the dates of the absence
- the reason for absence
- how to contact the parent/guardian if we have questions

## Signing in/out

If a student must leave during the day for any reason, he/she must sign out at the attendance office with parent/guardian permission. Parents/Guardians are asked to call or visit the attendance office to sign-out a student during the school day. Please do not call/text your child during class time asking them to leave class. The teacher will only allow students to leave class if they receive a call from the attendance office. Without parental/guardian consent, the student will be required to remain in school. Upon return from their appointment, students must sign in 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

### **Guidance Message**

Course selection for the 2019-2020 school year is currently underway. The Guidance Department did course selection presentations for Grades 9-11. Students will be using **myBlueprint**, which is our new course selection tool. Students can log in by accessing [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and clicking on the “**My Pathway Planner**” icon. Students have started picking their courses and will be able to submit their selections starting **MONDAY FEBRUARY 11**. The final deadline for submission is **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22**. Once students submit their courses, they must print off the parent/guardian sign-off sheet, have it signed and bring it to their second semester homeroom teacher.

### **Awards Celebration**

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Awards Reception for Awards of Merit and Awards of Excellence for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Award of Excellence is given to the student who achieved the highest mark in a course. The Award of Merit is given to a student who maintained academic provincial standards of 79.5% or higher and whose character of perseverance, respect and positive contributions to their class were outstanding.

Each department adapted the criteria for the award of merit to the nature of their discipline. The event was well attended and well received by staff, students and parents. Congratulations to all our award recipients.

### **School Council**

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend our next meeting on **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:15 p.m. in the library.

#### School Council Agenda:

1. Student Council Report
2. Review minutes from the November meeting (School Council Chairs)
3. Presentation / Q & A on Youth and the Law
4. Guidance Report and My Pathway Planner
5. Administration Report
6. Any Other Business and Adjournment

### **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 for approval BEFORE starting the activities and then submitted again 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](http://www.yrdsb.ca) or search "YRDSB" in your app store.

### **Upcoming Events**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| January 21              | School Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Library |
| January 23              | Last Day of Classes before EXAMS            |
| January 24 – January 30 | First Semester Final Exams                  |
| January 31              | Exam Feedback Day                           |
| February 1              | P.A. Day                                    |
| February 4              | Semester 2 begins                           |
| February 8              | Semester 1 Final Report Cards issued        |
| February 18             | Family Day Holiday (school closed)          |

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