

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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555 Autumn Hill Boulevard, Thornhill, ON L4J 8X2

March 8th, 2019

Principal Message



It has been a great first 6 weeks of semester 2 at Stephen Lewis. I am impressed by the number of sports and activities that occur at the school every single day. This week two teams proceeded to Provincial Finals, OFSAA. Both our swim team and our wrestling team represented Shark Spirit and competed at the highest level for student athletes in Ontario.

I am visiting classrooms, learning about the school and getting to know our incredible students. The positive energy and attitude of the students has been evident since my first day at SLSS. I am looking forward to seeing where we can take this energy and attitude in the next few years. This morning I met with staff and students to start planning our first ever outdoor pep rally (once the weather gets a bit warmer.)

Swim Sharks Swim!

Morning Traffic



A few parents called with concerns about morning drop off. I am out in the mornings watching the traffic patterns to see if we can make it a bit safer for our students. One area which is particularly problematic is the receiving entrance off of Pleasant Ridge Blvd. For safety reasons the receiving entrance will be closed off in the mornings. We will get some better signage to let community members know that the road is for service vehicles only.

My caretaking staff just added handles to the exterior doors along Pleasant Ridge Blvd. This will allow those doors to be unlocked in the morning to make it easier for students to enter the eastern side of the building.

Paolo Burzese

Interim Reports and Parent/Guardian Teacher Interview Night

Interim Report Cards were distributed to students in their homerooms today March 18th, 2019.

Parent/Guardian Interview Night is on March 21st, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We will be using an online platform called **EDSBY** to manage our Parents' Night Scheduling.

Families will need to create an EDSBY account to access the online appointment scheduler for their child's teachers for Parents' Night. If you already have an existing account you can just login and schedule your appointment.

EDSBY Scheduling will be open to Parents on Monday March 18th at 9:00 a.m. and will close on Thursday March 21st at 12:00 p.m. An invitation to book appointments will be sent to your EDSBY inbox with a notification to your e-mail. Please ensure that if you do not have an existing EDSBY account that you create one.

For help signing up for Parent-Teacher interviews, please visit <http://bit.ly/ptifamily>

For help in creating an EDSBY account, please visit bit.ly/edsbyfamilyaccount

Important Timelines:

March 18th, 2019	Interim Report Cards distributed to students in homeroom class EDSBY Interview Scheduler opens for booking at 9:00 a.m.
March 21th, 2019	EDSBY Interview Scheduler closes at noon Parent/Guardian – Teacher Interviews

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has scheduled **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** as the day for students across the province to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

On March 27, secondary schools will follow an exam-style day in which:

- **only grade 10 and previously eligible students who are writing the test are required to be at school** (no regular classes for students in grades 9, 11, and 12 will occur);
- students will be dismissed upon completion of the test;
- school bus and taxi service will run on their normal schedules; and
- self-contained special education classes [e.g., developmentally delayed, autism, complex needs, multiple exceptionalities, PEAK, York Academy-Section 23 (Care and Treatment) programs, Intensive, Intensive Resource Support, and Acquired Brain Injury] and Elementary Music will follow their regular schedule.

Students writing the test need to be at school on March 27 at their normal start time, 8:25 a.m. to write the OSSLT. Based on EQAO timelines for the test, we anticipate that many students will finish writing in about 3 hours. Students will be dismissed upon their completion of the test; however should any student require to stay at school due to bussing, accommodations will be made.

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. 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

School Council

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend our next meeting on **Monday, March 25th** at 7:15 p.m. in the library.

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 or search "YRDSB" in your app store.

Upcoming Events

March 18	Interim Reports are sent home EDSBY Interview Scheduler opens at 9:00 a.m
March 21	EDSBY Interview Scheduler closes at 12:00 p.m. Parent/Guardian Interviews
March 25	School Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Library
March 27	OSSLT Grade 10 students

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.