

Spartan Speaks - Stouffville District Secondary School

Rose Walker, Principal - Jeff Foran, Vice-Principal – Nadia Bearcroft, Vice-Principal 905-640-1433
 Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey, School Trustee, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville 905-953-0562

Friday, October 1, 2021



The Week Ahead at a Glance: Oct 4- Oct 8

Monday, Oct 4	Tuesday, Oct 5	Wednesday, Oct 6	Thursday, Oct 7	Friday, Oct 8
Students follow their Week 2 schedule				
Guidance Grade 9 Visits - Period 4	Guidance Grade 9 Visits - Period 4	Guidance Grade 9 Visits - Period 4		

Return of Textbooks and Technology

In an effort to ensure our school resources are fully stocked, we are asking families/students who have returned to in-person learning but have not yet returned their **borrowed loaner device(s) (chromebooks and phones) and textbooks from the previous school year to please return them to the main office as soon as possible** (this does NOT include SEA claim computers). Please remember that all power adapters and charger cords are to be returned with the device(s).

- If a student is a remote/on-line learner this year and has not returned the loaner device, they can continue to use the device as needed.
- If students have transferred to another YRDSB school for September 2021, their loaner device should be returned to the YRDSB school they attended when they received the technology.
- Any of our Grade 9 students who borrowed technology from their elementary school must return that technology to the school it was borrowed from.
- If you have a child who graduated last year please ensure that their items are also returned

School Start-Up Forms

Parents/guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start-up forms to complete. It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions.

The forms can be found at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>. A link to the forms can also be found on the Family Resources page of the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources. Click on the [Need Help link](#) beside Family Startup Forms for additional information on how to log in to the Student GAPPS account to complete the forms.

Secondary school students can complete the secondary school student form at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/students>. They will also receive the link in their student GAPPS account.

Please note:

- You **must be signed in to your child's student GAPPS account** to complete the form. Please remember to sign out of one account before signing into another. Additional information is available on the Board website on [how to login to the student account to complete the forms](#).
- The forms should be completed for each student, whether they are attending school in person or participating in remote, online learning.
- If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the school office.
- Parents/guardians must complete a separate form for each child attending school. Please ensure you log out of one student account before logging into another. You will not be able to submit the form twice logged into the same student account.

Student Absences

Families are reminded to please notify the school when they know their child will be absent. In the case of students who attend school *in-person*, if they stay home for a day or two due to illness, please be advised that they are still required to be marked *absent* even if they are accessing materials on the Google Classroom.

Terry Fox Walk Fundraiser

Thanks to all students, families and staff for their support this year of the Terry Fox Walk. **We raised over \$600 for cancer research.** A huge thank you to the students on Athletic Council as well as Ms. Lebar and Ms. Giles for their efforts in organizing and running this important fundraiser.

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, October 2 is National Custodial Workers Recognition Day.** Our custodial staff have played a critical role in implementing enhanced health and safety protocols at SDSS during Covid and we are deeply grateful for all their efforts, many of which go unseen. Please join us in recognizing and thanking our incredible custodial workers!
- October is internationally recognized as **Cyber Security Awareness month** to help the public learn more about the importance of cyber security. Every Monday, for the next four (4) weeks, IT Services will be sharing Cyber Safety-related resources, each with a different theme and promoted through @ITS_YRDSB on Twitter. You can participate by following [@ITS_YRDSB](#) on Twitter.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Update

- As per the Ministry of Education, students graduating in the 2021-22 school year are exempt from the literacy graduation requirement
- Students in Grades 10 and 11 and non-graduating students, including those who are learning remotely, are required to work towards the literacy graduation requirement, through participating in the OSSLT or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC). At this time, the York Region District School Board has decided that:
 - only eligible Grade 11 and non-graduating Grade 12s will write in the fall
 - Grade 10 students will write in the spring
- Students will be supported in preparing through school-wide cross-curricular literacy activities
- Students and families can also access the [EQAO's practice test here](#) or the [SDSS Literacy Help Website here](#)

Resources for Families

- In YRDSB, the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) support parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. It represents the collective voice of parents who have children attending public schools in York Region. Its newly launched quarterly newsletter, [Engagement Matters](#) has been posted on the newly designed [PEAC web page](#).
- [TVO Mathify \(Grades 6-11\)](#) offers free, 1:1 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers. From September 20 until August 2022, Ontario students in Grade 11 will also be able to use the platform.

Messages from Guidance

GUIDANCE APPOINTMENTS

Students who require support for educational pathways planning and decision making, mental health and/or any emotional or social need can now book an appointment with their guidance counsellor (indicated by alpha as shown below). Appointments can be booked using Teachassist (scroll down to “Appointment Bookings”) or by visiting our office and speaking to our Guidance secretary.

Ms. Mary Tsementzis

Guidance Secretary

905-640-1433 ext. 1103 or mary.tsementzis@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Gray, Head of Guidance and Career Education

Counsellor (student last name: A - H)

905-640-1433 ext. 1193 or erin.gray@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. Luciani

Counsellor (student last name: I - O)

905-640-1433 ext. 1192 or rose.luciani@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Marinis

Counsellor (student last name: P - Z)

905-640-1433 ext. 1194 or efy.marinis@yrdsb.ca

GUIDANCE GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

Students in grades 9-11 are reminded to join the Guidance Google Classroom if they haven't already – the code is ljh6ex6. Grade 12 students are asked to join

SCHOOL NOMINATED SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who are interested in applying for school nominated scholarships should submit applications on or before the dates indicated below. More information about these scholarships can be found on the “Class of 2022” Google Classroom (6tk4za4).

- **University of Toronto Book Award/National Scholarship – submit application to Guidance by 4pm October 1**
- **Loran Scholarship – submit application online to Loran by 8pm October 13**
- **Queen’s University Chancellor’s Scholarship– Hard copy submitted to SDSS Guidance by November 20**
****NOTE** Students MUST apply to Queen’s on OUAC before Oct 20 to be considered.**
- **Schulich Leaders Scholarship– SDSS Google form due by 4pm on January 7**
- **Western University National Scholarship – tentative due date February 1**

THE SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT

Students and parents who are interested in learning about scholarships should read “The Scholarship Report”, an electronic newsletter that the Guidance Department has purchased to support our students’ transition to

post-secondary education. Please use the password **SBA3247** to access the website page that contains the report and other useful information about post-secondary institutions.

LINK TO [THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORT, THE POSTING SCHEDULE, AND SCHOLARSHIP SAFETY GUIDELINES.](#)

GUIDANCE VISITS TO GRADE 9 CLASSES

The Guidance Department will be visiting grade 9 Period 4 classes from Mon. Oct 4 to Wed Oct 6 to introduce ourselves, communicate resources and support services that we provide and discuss habits and strategies that support success. Students who require support from Guidance after the visit can book an appointment with their counsellor by visiting the Guidance Office or using Teachassist (scroll down to "Appointment Bookings").

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FAIRS

Students who need information to support their post-secondary education decision making are encouraged to attend one of the Ontario College and/or University Fairs outlined below. Additional resources to support their post-secondary research and decision making can be found on the "Class of 2022" Google Classroom (6tk4za4). Students can also book an appointment with their guidance counsellor if they need additional support with this decision making process.

- [Canadian College and University Virtual Fair – Oct 22-23, info available at \[www.ccu.ca\]\(http://www.ccu.ca\)](#)
- [Ontario Universities Virtual Fairs – Oct 26 5-7pm, info at \[www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca\]\(http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca\)](#)

Student Medical and Mental Health Supports

The Mobile Youth Walk-In Clinic (MOBYSS) offers a safe space to talk to a medical or mental health professional in a warm, welcoming, and friendly environment. The mobile walk-in clinic is staffed by a nurse practitioner, youth mental health worker, and peer support specialist. Their services are 100% free and confidential with staff who are caring and non-judgmental. A health card is not required and there are no referral requirements. Students can book an appointment by emailing mobyss@cmha-yr.on.ca or by contacting MOBYSS at 289-879-2376. MOBYSS also offers virtual drop in clinics on Thursdays from 3-5pm. More information about MOBYSS and other resources that support student mental health are available on the Guidance Google Classrooms "Class of 2022" (6tk4za4) and "SDSS Guidance" (ljh6ex6).

Daily Screening

Students and visitors will be using the NEW York Region Public Health COVID -19 [School and Child- Care Screening Tool](#) (dated September 28, 2021) in their daily self-assessment prior to entering the school.

Connecting with Us

Please check out the following web sites for current Board and school information:

- 1) York Region District School Board - www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- 2) Stouffville District Secondary School - <http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school. Visit our school website for up-to-date information about events. Look for our weekly school newsletters, Spartan Speaks and follow us on Twitter @StouffvilleDSS and/or Instagram @stouffvilledss. You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca and Twitter @YRDSB. **[Follow us on Twitter & Instagram](#)**



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