

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



4020 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Woodbridge, ON L4H 4E9

September 23, 2022

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Reorganizing Classes – Good news! We have been granted extra staffing to support our increased enrollment. Most of our grade 9 and 10 Math and Science classes are at capacity and with our increased enrollment we must add sections. Some changes to class lists are necessary. **Parents/guardians of students who were impacted should have received an email this afternoon.** The subject line will include “Grade 9 Math or Science Changes”. In this email students will be instructed where to go for their class on Monday. If you did not receive an email from the school then your child’s timetable has not changed. We are grateful that we can reduce the number of students in some of our classes to support student success.

Grade 9 Open House - We look forward to meeting the families of our grade 9 students on Wednesday, September 28th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The evening will commence with a presentation from our guidance, math and science departments. After the presentations, families will have an opportunity to visit departments throughout the school.

School Council -- Our first School Council Meeting will be held in our cafeteria after Grade 9 Open House on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m. During this meeting families will select Council Chairs for the 2022 - 2023 school year. The School Council candidate nomination form is at the end of this newsletter. Please bring a copy of this nomination to the Council meeting.

Contact Us

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

Online

[School website](#)

 [TDSS_YRDSB](#)

 [@tommydouglassmainoffice](#)

Administration

Principal

[Sandra Sardone](#)

Vice Principals

Antonietta Grieco (A--G)

Elizabeth Sloan (H--PAS)

Paul Simmons (Pat--Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News and Information

Cafeteria Services - Cafeteria services are scheduled to resume later this month. A firm date has not been set.

Vandalism in Washrooms -- It is with regret to inform the community that there was some vandalism in some of our washrooms. Damaged soap dispensers and other vandalism has been reported. These acts of vandalism and the consequences for students committing the vandalism, as well as the impact on valuable school and community resources will be discussed during our Caring and Safe Schools assemblies. Families of students responsible for vandalism and false fire alarms may be fined. Please discuss this with your child.

Final Assessments

As of the 2022-23 school year, the Ministry of Education requires we resume the policy on final evaluations. For Grades 9 to 12, a final grade (percentage mark) is recorded for every course. Final grades will be determined as follows: Seventy percent of the grade will be based on evaluation conducted throughout the course and thirty percent of the grade will be based on a final evaluation administered at or towards the end of the course. This evaluation will be based on evidence from one or a combination of the following: an examination, a performance, an essay, and/or another method of evaluation suitable to the course content. The final evaluation allows the student an opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive achievement of the overall expectations for the course. **Students are expected to be present for their final evaluation as such this is not a good time for absences for family vacations. Please plan accordingly.**

Caring and Safe Schools Information for Families -- As we start a new school year, it is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. We are holding grade assemblies on Wednesday, September 28th and Thursday, September 29th to share some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they are learning about and what we discuss. Topics covered include:

Important Dates

September 28

- Grade 9 Open House and School Council

September 28 - 29

- Caring and Safe Schools Presentations

September 30

- Club Fair
- Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

Helpful Links

PUBLIC HEALTH LINKS:

york.ca/safeatschool

CARING & SAFE SCHOOLS:

[Kids Help Phone](#)

[Report It \(YRDSB\)](#)

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

Crisis Mental Health Supports for Students:

[310-COPE](#): 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7

[KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7



School News and Information

Caring and Safe Schools Information for Families Continued:

Inappropriate Behaviour

Students are learning about about racism, discrimination and bullying and this learning will continue through the school year. Instances of racism, discrimination and bullying, are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. Students also need to know about safe behaviours in schools including what not to bring to school such as peanut products, vape products, weapons including replicas.

Reporting Behaviour

- Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:
 - Telling a caring adult
 - Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (located on our school website) YRDSB's online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and/or incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information.
 - Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)



Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping. electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and/or student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000) may apply. In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.



School News and Information

Caring and Safe Schools Information for Families Continued:

Mental Health

We want to stress with students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. Positive mental health is closely tied to a sense of identity and safety for each individual. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools.

Students are reminded that threats and comments made online are taken seriously and may have serious consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remains our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on each of these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.



LEADING FOR CHANGE CONFERENCE

This conference is for Black, Indigenous and racialized women, over the age of 15 and non-binary individuals to gain the knowledge and resources to engage with municipal politics and municipal leadership in Markham and across York Region.



shorturl.at/gkns8

Workshop Topics

- Youth Civic Engagement in York Region
- Intersectional Public Policy
- Governance & Civic Engagement in Canada
- How to Sessions on Municipal Leadership
- Community Engagement and becoming a School Board Trustee

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

CONTACT

Jessica Ketwaroo-Green

Email: lfc.markham@gmail.com

Phone: 647-703-8053

Instagram: @l4cmarkham

Partners



South Asian & Tamil
Women's Collective



FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DES
MUNICIPALITÉS





Student (PRINT) _____
Teacher (PRINT) _____
Grade _____

SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

Please complete Part A or Part B

Part A: I am declaring my candidacy:

- I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council:

I am the parent/guardian of _____ who is currently
(print name of student)
registered in Grade _____.

I am an employee of York Region District School Board. Yes No

Name _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone _____

Email: _____

Part B: I am nominating a candidate

- I wish to nominate _____ for an elected position as a
parent/guardian representative on the school council.

_____ is the parent/guardian of _____
(print name of nominee) (print name of student)

who is currently registered in Grade _____.

The person I have nominated is an employee of York Region District School Board. Yes No

Name _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone _____

Email: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date _____

Please include a brief (4-5 sentences) biography of the candidate on the back of this form.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Education Act as amended, and will be used to manage the disclosure of individual personal information. Contact the school principal for more information.