

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



4020 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Woodbridge, ON L4K 4E9

April 14, 2021

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**PLEASE
NOTE:**

Contact Us

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

Online

[School website](#)

 [TDSS_YRDSB](#)

 [@tommydouglasssmaninoffice](#)

Administration

Principal

[Sandra Sardone](#)

Vice Principals

[Tanya-Lynn Paul](#) (A-G)

[Elizabeth Sloan](#) (H--PAS)

[David Cashmore](#) (Pat-Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Bill Cober](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)

A reminder that YRDSB and York Region Public Health are **strongly recommending** all students, teachers, staff, and visitors wear a mask when they return to school on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

York Region Public Health

Eco Message: Use Reusable Containers

This April, we are encouraging the use of reusable containers!



A reusable water bottle takes less oil to produce, replaces all the plastics that you would have used and thereby reduces both your carbon footprint and helps reduce the plastic burden on landfills, oceans, streams and other places that plastic waste ends up.

Some of the benefits of using a reusable bottle include never being without a cold, clean drink of water at all times, reducing the amount of waste generated by plastic water bottle consumption, and cost.

Continue to fill your water bottle throughout the day



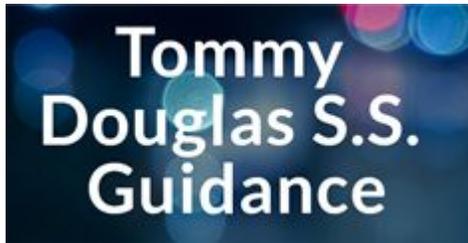
School News

Graduation Reminders from Guidance



Please note teachers will be sharing midterm marks with your child by April 19th.

If your child is thinking of dropping a course please have them book an appointment with a guidance counselor to discuss further. Our midterm mark transmission dates for OUCA and OCAS are fast approaching. **The last day to drop a course will be April 21st.**



If your child is taking a private school course or a course through an alternate board please remember that they are responsible for updating your child's midterm mark on OUAC or OCAS.

Graduation packages are available for purchase through School Cash Online. Reminder emails have been sent to students however we still have many that have not been purchased. Orders will be placed shortly as we want to make sure all students walk across the stage with their gowns! **No extra gowns will be available to provide students at the ceremony.** Please take the steps necessary to complete this task so that you are not disappointed!

Save the Date- Parent Presentations

On Thursday April 28th from 6-7 p.m. the TDSS Guidance Department will be hosting 2 virtual parent presentations. The first presentation will be for the parents of graduating students who would like to know more about OSAP. The second virtual presentation will be for the parents of grade 11 students. This presentation will focus on preparing to apply to post-secondary institutions in the fall. Hope to see you then. Links to the presentation will be shared in future communications.

Important Dates

April 15th - 18th

- ☐ Religious Holidays -No School

Thursday, April 28th

- ☐ OSAP / Pathway Planning for Grade 11 Students, Virtual Event

Thursday, May 5th

- ☐ OSSLT - Grade 10 students and previously eligible students

Friday, May 6th

- ☐ PD Day - No School

Tuesday, May 10th

- ☐ OSSLT - Students with Individual Education Plans and English Language Learners

Thursday, May 19th

- ☐ Prom

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



From Our Students:

York Region Judge's Cup

The York Region Judge's Cup was a never-before experience that we are all very grateful to have been a part of with the amazing team we created together, along with Ms. Wright's very diligent coaching to each and every one of us. One of the most memorable experiences while going to the Newmarket Courthouse to compete was the constant support and absolute synergy the team had together. Helping each other practice questioning or playing witnesses, the amount of pride we had for one another when one of us began to speak during the trial was heartwarming and pushed us all through those hours of performing to the best of our ability. This experience simply cannot be enjoyed on your own and shows how a team who treat each other outside of "co-workers" and instead as supportive friends is what ultimately gave us the ability to secure a winning second place at the competition.

On top of the wonderful teamwork moments, we took a deep dive into what it is like in working in court. This is what truly made this a one-of-a-kind competition, especially to those of us who greatly aspire to become lawyers, prosecutors, judges or anything in the wide world of law when we are older! We learned the importance of the court procedures while learning helpful tips on how to remain professional and confident. After all of the rounds, real Ontario judges who've been in the practice for years provided us with insightful feedback on our performances! Our team especially noticed our massive improvements after applying this feedback into our practices! For example, making objections is a very nerve wracking action to take in court, but these mock trials taught us what would be permitted in court by the judge. Our cross-examining lawyers learned how to ask thoughtful questions to lead their witnesses while our witnesses learned how to be fierce and push their perspective back! We learned how to make very impactful opening and closing statements that solidified all of the incredible points and observations we've made on the case.

Lastly, it meant a lot to all of us that were able to attend the competition at the Ontario Court of Justice. For all of us, it was our first in-person experience after being online for such a long period of time, so we were very excited. Not only that, but we had been preparing ourselves for this since December of 2021. It meant so much to us that all our hard work paid off, and that we were able to make it to the final--especially significant since it was the first time our school has ever made it to, and past the semifinals. I hope that we are able to have an experience like this again in the following years!

Submitted by Kareema Nasir and Rosemary Vu





Extended Absences

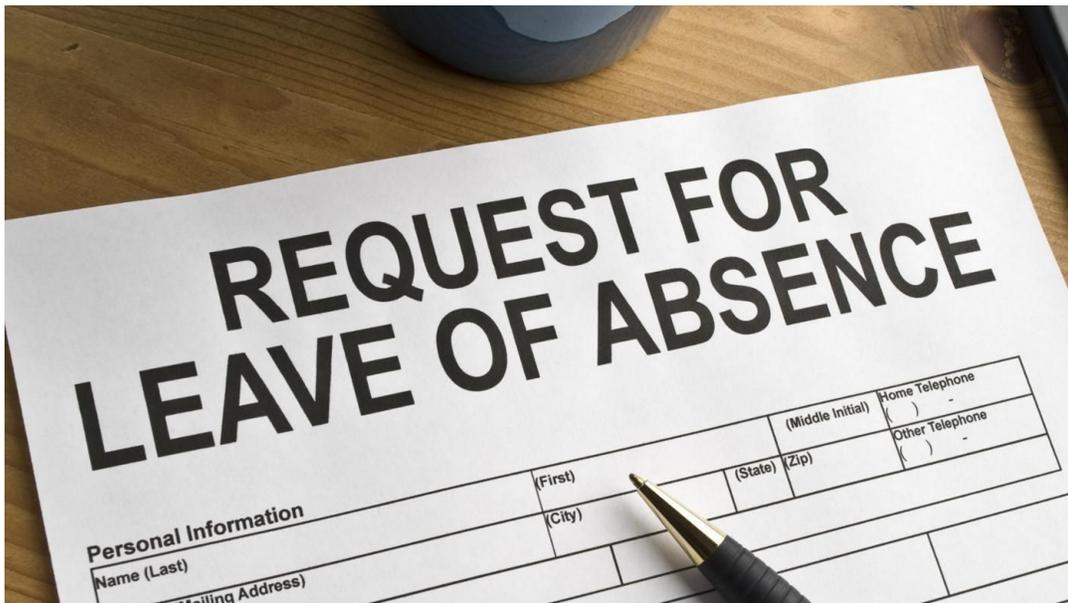
Regular attendance is closely connected to academic success and we expect that students will attend school every day except in the case of illness. However, we understand that there may be circumstances when it is necessary for students to be away from school for family or personal reasons. If a student will be absent for an extended period of time he/she must consult with their teachers, prior to the absence and:

- Pick up a 'green' extended absence form from the main office
- Understand the potential impact of the extended absence on learning;
- Identify missed learning goals and assessments;
- Create a plan to complete missed work identified by the teacher. The student is responsible for catching up on all missed work during their absence;
- Schedule a time to complete/submit missed assessments upon return.
- Parents to sign off on the plan

After this has been documented, parents must review and sign the plan to indicate that they understand the **potential impacts** of the student absence, are aware of the student's plan to catch up on missed work and will support the student to complete all missed work in the agreed timelines. Further extensions for missed assessment, beyond those agreed to on the back of this form, will not be provided.

After signing the form, please return it to one of the Vice-Principals who may follow up with a phone call. The form should be returned at least a week before the first day of absences. A copy of the form will be made for our records and the original will be returned to the student.

Absences longer than **15 consecutive days** require additional documentation and procedures in accordance with Board Procedure #NP 681.0. Failure to follow these procedures will lead to a student being removed from the school's register. In these circumstances, please speak directly to an administrator prior to completion of the form. A phone call or meeting with a VP is necessary in these circumstances. Also, accessing remote learning will NOT be an option unless it is a Covid related absence. If in doubt, please call the school and speak to a Vice Principal regarding the extended absence.





Visit the YRDSB's New Website

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at www.yrdsb.ca.

The new website has been designed to be mobile friendly, translatable, accessible, searchable, easy to navigate and to better reflect York Region District School Board and our community. This includes:

- Built-in translation tool
- Enhanced search capabilities
- Built-in accessibility features to meet accessibility legislation
- Revised navigation based on user testing, website analytics and research
- Quick access to six of our most accessed pages, including school calendars and school transportation information.

The new website also includes:

- A [Family Resources](#) that provides quick access to online tools like Edsby, Google Classroom and School Cash Online, as well as links to information about translation tools, IT support for families and more. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.
- Updated [Online Student Tools](#) pages provide quick access to students to online learning platforms and resources to help with homework. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.
- An enhanced [newsroom](#) with access to the latest news, events and videos so you can find out what’s happening around our Board.
- Easy access to information about [supports for students](#), [elementary school](#) and [secondary school](#) programs, [adult learning opportunities](#) and more.

Information about COVID-19 and schools, including update information, screening tools and frequently asked questions can still be found at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

We hope that the website makes it easier for families to find and access the information you are looking for. When you visit the new website, please take the time to share your feedback, so we can continue to ensure our website meets the needs of the community we serve.

“The ABCs of Mental Health at Home (Acknowledge, Bridge, and Connect)”

Practices to support ourselves as parents and families, and in turn,
support our children.

May 3, 2022 at 6:30pm (NEW DATE)

An evening with Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.
YRDSB’s Mental Health and Well Being Lead

Patricia Marra-Stapleton is the Mental Health Lead for YRDSB. Patricia is responsible for the development and implementation of the YRDSB’s **Student Mental Health Strategy and Procedures**. Prior to arriving at YRDSB, Patricia was the Mental Health Lead at TCDSB. Patricia completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at McGill University, as well as a graduate honors degree in Clinical Child/School Psychology from California State University. As a **Certified Psychological Associate** she has worked in school mental health and psychology for many years, serving elementary and secondary schools, as well as special programs such a Behavioral Resource and programs for expelled students.

Patricia has worked in many settings including juvenile justice, child welfare, children’s mental health, and with homeless youth. She has experience working in the US and Canada, in rural and urban settings. She has been featured in local and national media – lending her voice to the importance of school-based mental health. Patricia is passionate about creating mentally healthy schools!



Let’s come together for an evening of information and conversation
about: How to manage COVID–related anxiety to support ourselves
and our children.

The presentation covers the ABCs
(Acknowledge, Bridge, and Connect).
The virtual presentation will be 60-90 minutes.

Please complete the registration form found [HERE](#) or
<https://bit.ly/MentalHealthMarch8>
by April 27, 2022 to receive the link to join the session.

Participants will need to use their Gmail or their child’s GAPPS account when registering.