

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

December 2, 2022

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School Drop Off and Safety - *Thank you to all families who supported our efforts to keep our students safe while arriving at school.* In an effort to promote school zone safety and student health and well-being, students are strongly encouraged to consider walking, cycling or taking public transit. There are many benefits to using sustainable modes of travel including:

- Improves student academic performance by making students more alert and better prepared to learn
- Improves both physical and mental health
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone on school property and around the school community
- Improves air quality
- Promotes lifelong habits that foster independence and active lifestyles

We understand that walking, cycling or taking public transit is not always a viable option. If you need to drive your student, please consider using the schools designated pick-up and drop-off area, or park a few blocks away and have your student walk to school. Be sure to obey all posted signage and pavement markings.

Please do not drop off your student on Major Mackenzie Drive West in front of Tommy Douglas SS. Stopping is strictly prohibited and may result in heavy fines. The real penalty for not obeying traffic regulations is that you may jeopardize the safety of pedestrians and other road users. School Zone Safety is a shared responsibility. If we all work together we can create an environment that is pedestrian friendly for all. We all have a part to play!

School buses use the front parking lot. Help us keep our students safe by using the parking lot North of the school (located near the back fields).

The South Entrance and Parking lot is for staff parking and BUSES only. Do not drop off your children in this parking lot and please do not make U-turns in this parking lot nor on the street.

Thank you for working with us to help protect the safety of our students and school zone.

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



Final Assessments - January 26th to February 1st. 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.

Learning in December and January -- We would like to commend our students on their diligent efforts since the start of the school year, especially returning from an irregular experience. December and January, with many additional items on a students' agenda, tends to demand more of their diligence and commitment to achievement. Let's all support their efforts and well-being by showing our support. Communicating about upcoming assessments, culminating tasks, time management and organization help students feel reassured and supported. We ask that we all take the moment to ask our students/children about their learning and responsibilities for the upcoming months. In addition, the school will be working with students on effective habits such as time management and study skills in the next two months. Stay tuned to next week's bulletin to learn more.

Important Dates

November 24 and December 1

- OSSLT

November 30

- Grade 8 Information Evening

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

Cell Phone Policy and Reminders– We are asking parents and guardians to help us remind your child of the cell phone policy at school. Our goal is to support academic learning and at times, cell phones are distracting and often the reason students get involved in serious student behavior. Please review the Board policy that can be found in our ‘Guide to the School Year’ with your child.

Board Policy- Pg. 55 of Guide to the School Year-*At a minimum cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional periods, unless you have clear permission from the principal or the classroom teacher.*

Every Student Counts Survey -- We will be inviting all students in Grades 4-12 and students in Grades K-3 to participate in the 2022-23 Every Student Counts Survey in the Spring of 2023. Surveys will be available online and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

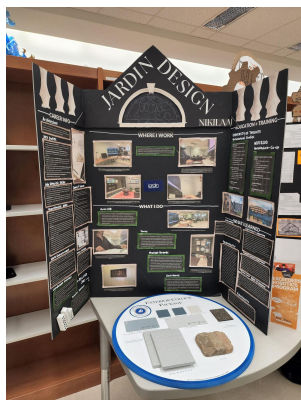
You and your child should have received a letter from the Board notifying them that the survey will be taking place. The surveys will provide the Board and our schools with valuable information about the learning experiences of students and families this year that are used to inform Board and school planning and to support student achievement and well-being.

Students in Grades 4-12 will be given class time to complete the survey at schools. Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to complete the survey at home with their family. Families who do not want their child(ren) to be sent an invitation to participate in the survey will be given a chance to opt their child out of receiving the survey in the new calendar year.

As our first partners in education, we value input from families and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation.

Please contact Research Services at research.services@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions or visit the Board website to learn more.

Coop Fair -- Students from various classes today attend the Coop Fair. Coop students shared their experiences and learning from a variety of job placements in fields such as robotics, service industries, law, medicine and education.





School News and Information

Message From Our Trustee

December 2022

I am happy to serve as your trustee on the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, my role includes being an advocate for quality public education in York Region, and I want to assure you that I am committed to that work. Every one of our students deserves to be learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued and supported in learning and achieving success.

Part of our role as trustees includes making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and setting our priorities as an organization through a [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). Our board will work hard to keep students at the centre of our decision making, and to build collaborative relationships with the families and communities we serve. The education of our students, your children, is a partnership and the relationships we have with families is an essential one.

Communicating with families and members of the public is also an important part of our role, and I look forward to connecting with members of the school community in the coming weeks and months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will be sharing information with you throughout the school year, and letting you know more about our work and priorities as a school board. You can also visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca or follow on social media.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates in December for different faiths and cultures, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and recharge, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3