

Tommy Times - Parent Edition

Week of Feb. 12 - 16, 2024



School Website: <http://tommydouglas.ss.yrdsb.ca>

General Email/Attendance: tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

This week:

Feb. 12	Jr. Girls Volleyball (home) Curling - 1:20 pm
Feb. 13	Safe Schools Assembly
Feb. 14	Safe Schools Assembly Music Trip OBA Music Festival
Feb. 15	Quebec Ski Trip Parent Meeting - 6:00 pm Alpine Ski Team Trip
Feb. 16	Photo Retake Day

Contact Us

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

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

Administrative Team

Sandra Sardone, Principal

Cynthia Therrien, Vice Principal (A - G)

Elizabeth Sloan, Vice Principal (H - O)

Milton Hart, Vice Principal (P - Z)

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 19 - FAMILY DAY - NO SCHOOL

Feb. 20 - Mar. 1 - Graduation Photos

Feb. 21 - 25 - Quebec Ski Trip

Feb. 22 - Alpine Ski Team Trip

Feb. 26 - Interim Reporting Opens

Feb. 28 - Kortright Field Trip - 8:15 am

Feb. 28 - Pascal, Cayley & Fermat Math Contests

Feb. 29 - Blue Mountain Ski Trip - 7:00 am

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#).

School Start Time:

Just a friendly reminder that Period 1 classes begin promptly at 8:00 am. **Students are expected to be in their classrooms when the bell rings at 8:00 am.** Ensuring your child arrives on time sets a positive tone for their day and helps them make the most of their learning. Students should be dropped off NO LATER than 7:50 am to ensure they are in class on time. We appreciate your efforts in supporting punctuality.

OSSLT PREPARATION

HAPPENING NOW - REGISTRATION FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM - Writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test? It's never too early to start to prepare!

There will be an After School Literacy Program offered at TDSS during semester 2. The After School Literacy program consists of ten (10) one-hour-and-half (1.5) sessions.

The semester 2 sessions will run on **Tuesday** and **Thursdays** from 2:45 pm - 4:25 pm starting **Tuesday, February 20th**. Students **must attend all 10 sessions**.

This [link](#) will take you to the registration form that must be completed and returned to the main office. **All completed registration forms are due to the main office by WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024.**

We also have a number of supports in place for students who will be writing the OSSLT in April. Students have access to a [LITERACY GOOGLE CLASSROOM](#), this site has presentations that explain each section of the OSSLT as well as practice activities related to each section of the OSSLT.

Students who are scheduled to write the OSSLT in April will be receiving a letter to inform them of the dates and test location.

Spring Session of the OSSLT:

DATES: Wednesday, April 17th - 8:00 am start - 75 minutes
Thursday, April 18th - 8:00 am start - 75 minutes

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

This [link](#) will take you to a series of events that all students and their families are invited to participate in as we celebrate Black History Month.

NEWS FROM OUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

COURSE SELECTION

Course selection for the 2024-2025 academic year is fast approaching. Guidance will be visiting classrooms Thursday and Friday of next week to share important information regarding pathway planning and the course selection process. Course selection will open Thursday February 15th at 9 a.m. and close Friday February 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Please note that when completing course selection, you will be prompted to include your email for course selection verification. You will receive an instant email from MyBlue Print asking you to either approve or reject the courses selected. It is essential that you respond to this email to ensure that your child's course selection is complete.

Grade 12 Student Timetables

Admin **will not consider part-time status (less than 3 courses) for grade 12 students.** Students that decide to take private school courses, night school courses or any other course outside of day school will still be required to maintain 3 courses at TDSS.

ATTENTION GRADUATES!!!

Graduation from high school is a milestone reserved for those who have met the criteria. You are eligible to participate in this year's ceremony and commence with your classmates if you have successfully achieved the criteria below:

- You must have obtained 26 credits by the end of Semester 1 towards the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- You must have completed your forty (40) hours of volunteer work by May 3, 2024
- You must have passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to report any credits that you have earned at night school, summer school or through private school to the guidance office **by May 2, 2024.** If you do not meet all three criteria listed above, you may not be eligible to take part in this year's graduation ceremony and you may be considered as part of next year's graduating class.

Our Graduation Ceremony will be held at Paramount Eventspace, 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd., Woodbridge, ON L4L 9T2.

Please go to our school cash online to complete the purchase of the Graduation package. This package includes your gown, cap, tassel and **two guest tickets.** There will be no substitutions for the gown package.

Grad Photos

Your turn is NOW Grads! Grad photos will be taking place at Tommy Douglas from **February 20th 2024, to March 1st 2024 ONLY.** You will sign up online. Sign up HAS BEGUN, you can find the link on the Grade 12 Guidance Google Classroom. Don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate your successes!

WASHROOM HALL PASS:

We will be meeting with all students this coming Tuesday and Wednesday for our mid-year Caring and Safe Schools assembly. At this assembly we will be discussing washroom usage and safety for all students. We will be reminding all students that there is NO loitering allowed in the washrooms and that vaping is both illegal and harmful to them.

School staff will continue to monitor washrooms and move students along that are 'waiting for friends' or sitting on the floors visiting or eating (yes, students choose to eat on the washroom floors). We continue to hear from students that they feel unsafe in the washrooms. The best way we can improve safety is to ensure that students are not gathering and loitering in the washrooms. We have asked teachers to ensure that no more than 1 student is leaving their classroom at any one time and to follow-up with students that have been out of their classroom for lengthy amounts of time. Hall passes were implemented this year as we have been experiencing issues in certain washrooms with vandalism and inappropriate use of facilities. Replacing stall doors takes time which may impact access to affected areas for a period of time. Please reinforce this messaging with your children at home to support our safe school environment

STUDENT BATHROOM BREAKS

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HONOUR OUR LEARNING TIME
Washroom breaks should **not** occur during the first 15, the last 15 minutes of class, or during direct instructional time.
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ONE AT A TIME
Only **ONE** student should be out at a time. You should be back to class within 5 minutes.
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SIGN-IN & SIGN-OUT
Ask your teacher at an appropriate time. When your teacher agrees to your request, fill in the **Google Form**. When you return, fill in the **Google Form** again.
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USE HALL PASS
When you leave the classroom, use the hall pass. Staff in the hallways may ask to see your hall pass. The expectation is that you are **respectful** during interactions. Return the hall pass upon reentering the classroom.
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CONTACT HOME
Regular issues like frequent or extended breaks will result in:
A) Your teacher addressing the expectations with you
B) Your teacher contacting parents or guardians with concerns
C) Your teacher contacting the school administration

ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

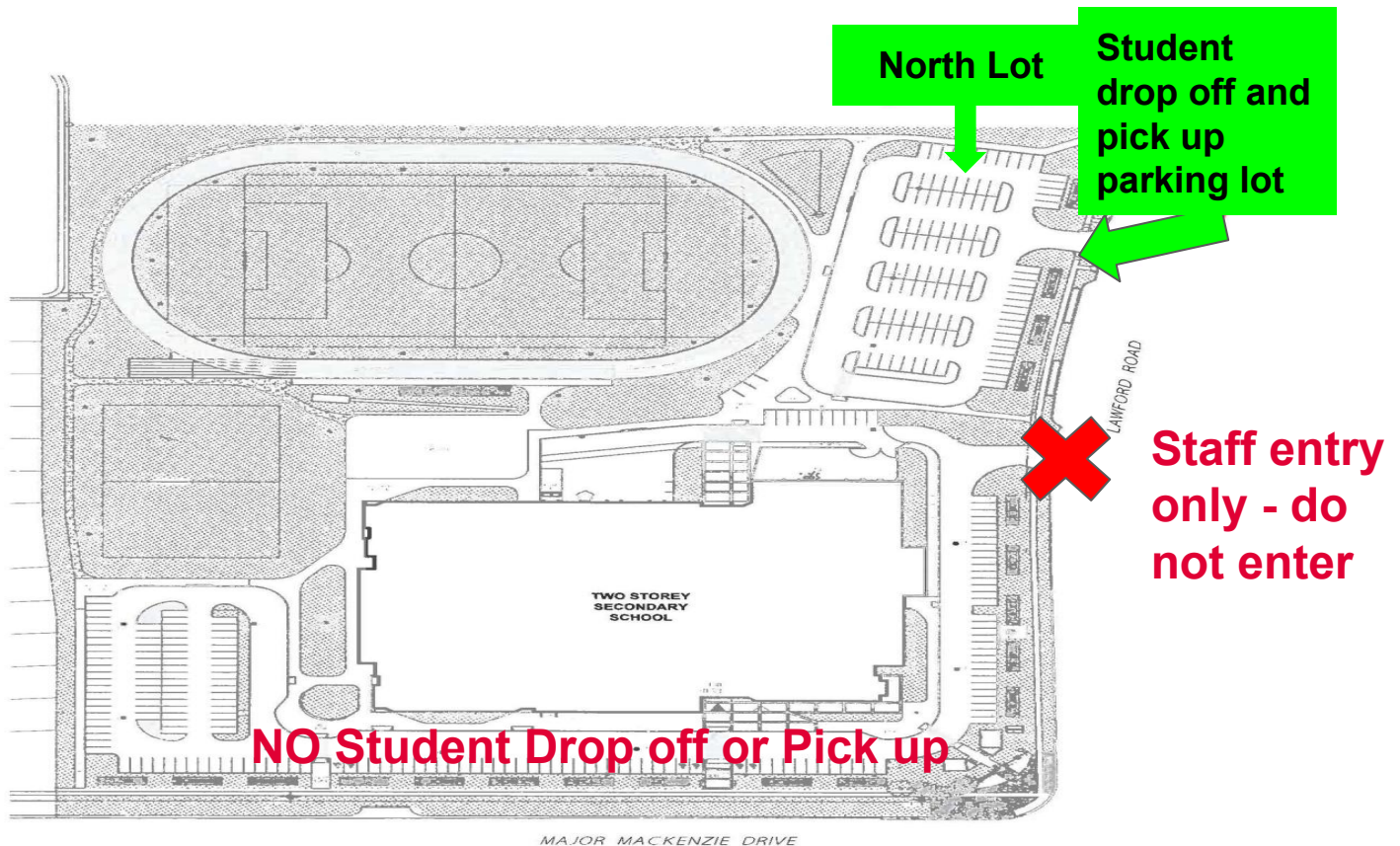


SCHOOL SAFETY - Student Drop Off and Pick Up

As we begin the start of a new semester we are sharing a reminder with parents/guardians of the need to help keep our students safe.

Students who are driven to school **must be dropped off and picked up** in the **North parking lot only.**

The South lot is for buses and Staff use only. Please help us ensure the safety of our school community. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



GUIDANCE CORNER: FAMILY BASED SUPPORTS

One Stop Talk

- o NEW provincial Brief counseling service
- o Accessed through web chat or by calling 1-855-416-8255
- o Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST.
- o Children and youth 18 years old and younger.

Free counseling by registered and culturally diverse therapists who also connect to longer term local support.

Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers

- o This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- o 3rd Monday of each month
- o Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- o This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024

York Hills Winter Group and Webinar Series. Please distribute to families/caregivers:

o Groups

<https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/group-services/>

o Webinars

<https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/workshopsandwebinars/>

Food Banks and Community Food Programs- York Region

Provide free or low-cost food to individuals and families in need on an on-going, seasonal, and emergency basis.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

The following resources are available to teens in need of mental health supports at any time.



Kids Help Phone

Text 686868

KidsHelpPhone.ca

Call 1-800-668-6868



360° kids

Surrounding kids in crisis with care

905-475-6694

www.360kids.ca

york hills
Centre for Children, Youth and Families

905-503-9560

yorkhills@yorkhills.ca

www.yorkhills.ca



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS?

1.855.310.COPE (2673)



Suicide Prevention Canada

Call 1.833.456.4566

Text 45645

Mental Health Matters

Need Help Now?

Kids Help Phone Live Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca Text 686868

Kids Help Phone Black Student Support: text 741741

Black Youth Helpline: 1-833-294-8650

LGBT Youthline: 1-800-268-9688 or text 647-694-4275

Trans Lifeline: (877) 330-6366

360 Outreach Worker: 647-459-2648 or 647-299-4861

Vaughan Food Bank: www.vaughanfoodbank.ca

Depressed or Suicidal: www.youthspace.ca or text 741741

MOBYSS: www.mobyss.ca

Community Crisis Response Services: 905-310-COPE

Naseeha Muslim Student Counselling Service: 1-866-627-3442

For more mental health resources check out bit.ly/tdssguidance