

# Tommy Times - Parent Edition

Week of Feb. 20 - 23, 2024



[Link to Club Codes](#)

School Website: <http://tommydouglas.ss.yrdsb.ca>  
General Email/Attendance: [tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca)

## This week:

Feb. 19	FAMILY DAY - NO SCHOOL
Feb. 20	Grad Photos - by appointment
Feb. 21	Grad Photos - by appointment Quebec Ski Trip
Feb. 22	Grad Photos - by appointment Quebec Ski Trip Alpine Ski Team
Feb. 23	Grad Photos - by appointment Quebec Ski Trip

## 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)

Rose Walker, Retired Principal

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

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.

### **JUNE EXAM SCHEDULE**

Second semester exams will begin on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH until WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2023.

All secondary students must participate in the final summative assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 percent of the report card grade. **You are expected to complete all final summative assessments at the place, date and time indicated by the teacher and by the examination schedule provided by the school. Students cannot leave early for vacations, employment or other activities such as summer camps during the examination schedule. Students who do not write a final exam will earn a mark of "0" for that portion of the culminating.**

### **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.

### **PEER TUTORING LUNCH PROGRAM RETURNS - Room 109**

We are launching the Peer Tutor Program on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Please encourage your student(s) to attend by if you think they could benefit from some extra help.

Tommy Douglas Secondary School is happy to launch our Peer Tutor Program for semester two on Tuesday February 20th, 2024. The program runs every **Tuesday and Thursday** at the beginning of each lunch. Period four Peer Tutoring will begin at 12:30 in room 109.

If you'd like some support from one of your peers for free, please join our classroom with this code [so62fle](#) and fill out the Tutee Request Form before each session so we can make sure to have a subject specific tutor for you.

**Drop ins are also welcome.**

### NEWS FROM OUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

#### **COURSE SELECTION**

Course selection for the 2024-2025 academic year opened on MyBlue Print on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and **closes on Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** The courses that are selected now will determine what is offered next year. Please ensure that your child also selects their alternates carefully in that if they have a conflict in their course selection alternates will be used. Lastly, you must include a valid parent/guardian email address prior to your child submitting their course selection. **The parent/guardian will receive an instant email from MyBlue Print asking them to either accept or reject the courses selected. If this step is not done then your child's course selection is considered incomplete.**

#### **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!

### SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

**York Region Public Health is hosting an immunization clinic at your child's school for all routine student immunizations including:**

- Hepatitis B
- HPV
- Meningococcal ACYW135
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Polio

**Vaccines are available for students in grades 9-12, at no cost.**

**The scheduled clinic day for your child's high school is **Feb.23,2024****

**It's not too late to submit a consent form.**

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC CONSENT](#) or scan the QR code below to complete an immunization consent form titled High School Clinic February 2024.**



If your child was vaccinated at a YRPH school or catch-up clinic in 2022 or 2023, additional doses may be required, please submit a new consent form so they are eligible to be immunized at school.

برای این اطلاعات، لطفاً به <https://www.york.ca/health/immunizations/school-immunization-program> مراجعه کنید

有关此信息，请访问 <https://www.york.ca/health/immunizations/school-immunization-program>

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For more information about the school immunization clinics or eligibility for vaccines please call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 or visit [york.ca/immunization](https://www.york.ca/immunization)

1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/immunization](https://www.york.ca/immunization)






### WASHROOM HALL PASS:

Last week we held our mid-year Caring and Safe Schools assembly. At this assembly we discussed washroom usage and safety for all students. We reminded 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


**HONOUR OUR LEARNING TIME**  
Washroom breaks should **not** occur during the first 15, the last 15 minutes of class, or during direct instructional time.

**ONE AT A TIME**  
Only **ONE** student should be out at a time. You should be back to class within 5 minutes.

**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.

**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.

**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.**

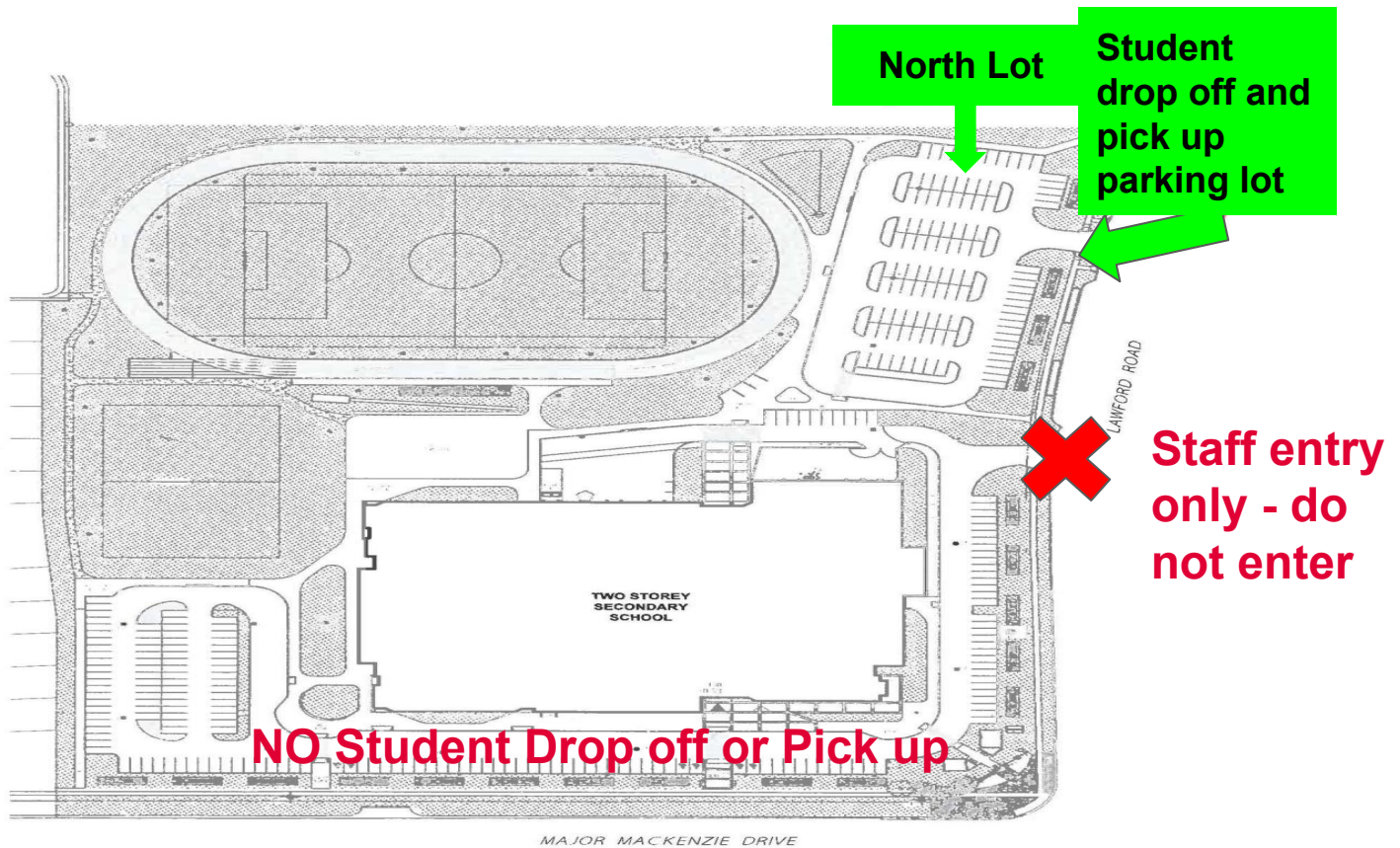


### SCHOOL SAFETY - Student Drop Off and Pick Up

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 - NEW***

#### **Student Wellbeing**

- **LAMPS** February 28th Parent night [“Anxiety in School Aged Youth”](#) presented by the YRDSB Central Mental Health Team
  - Sign up: [here](#)
- [Understanding Online Safety and Youth Exploitation](#)
  - Webinar for parents and caregivers
  - Feb 21, 6:30-8:30pm
- [Triple P Series](#) (links to register in PDF)
  - Power of Positive Parenting
  - Raising Confident Children
  - Raising Resilient Children
- York Hills Supporting 2SLGBTQ Children and Youth: [A Caregiver Guide](#) (webinar) March 19, 2024

#### **One Stop Talk**

- NEW provincial Brief counseling service
- Accessed through web chat or by calling 1-855-416-8255
- Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST.
- 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**

- This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- 3rd Monday of each month
- Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- 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](http://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](http://www.vaughanfoodbank.ca)

Depressed or Suicidal: [www.youthspace.ca](http://www.youthspace.ca) or text 741741

MOBYSS: [www.mobyss.ca](http://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](http://bit.ly/tdssguidance)