

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

June 2, 2023

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EXAMS and Summative tasks (See P.g 3 for more details)

All students must participate in the final summative assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 percent of student report card grades. Students 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. A full exam MEMO was sent out to students and parents.**

Progressive Pride Flag Raising in June

YRDSB fully embraces and affirms 2SLGBTQI+ visibility, diversity and inclusion. The expectation is that all learning and working environments are identity-affirming for students and staff members. Creating safe spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ students and staff upholds the principles outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which reflect the values held by Canadians and Ontarians. **It is important for us to actively and visibly show support to our 2SLGBTQI+ students, staff and community members by raising the Progressive Pride flag at all YRDSB schools and work locations to celebrate Pride month in June. It's important for students and staff to see their identities reflected in their school board and community, and to have their identities celebrated.**



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)

Vera Katyshev (PAT - Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News and Information

Attention families of graduating students

The 2022-2023 graduation will take place at the Terrace Banquet Hall on June 27th, all guests and parents should arrive by 6:15pm. Address: 1680 Creditstone Road, Concord , ON.

Each graduating student will automatically receive 2 tickets with their graduation package. Extra seating is very limited as we have over 400 graduating students this year! Families can purchase ONE extra ticket on School Cash On line. If the option to purchase an extra ticket is not visible on School Cash it means that the maximum number of extra tickets have been purchased.

Student Graduation Packages

The package includes their gown, stole, hat and the cost of the graduation venue. This year the cost is \$75. We ask that families purchase their child's grad package order as soon as possible.

Summer School Registration Is Now Open On MyBlue Print

Summer school registration is open on MyBlue Print. If you are interested in learning more about summer school including method of deliver, timelines etc. please [see attached link](#).

Registration is completed on [MyBlue Print](#) by clicking on the Continuing Education tab found on the left hand side of the screen and by following the prompts.

Library Materials Due

As the end of the school year is approaching, so are the final due dates for all library materials. Students are asked to return all TDSS Library materials on or before **June 12th**.

French Certificate Clarification

For students interested in earning their French certificate in grade 12, all courses must be taken through YRDSB. It has been brought to our attention that some students have enrolled in French through other boards. If students do so, they will not be eligible to earn their French certificate. Please reach out to guidance if you have any questions or concerns.

Important Dates

June 1- Progressive Flag raising

June 5- Last day of school Cafeteria

June 20-27 - Exams

June 12- Library Materials due

June 14 and 15- EQAO Gr 9.

June 27- Graduation arrive by 6:15pm

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

Exams and Culminating Assessments

Please Note that the first day of grade 12 exams will be on June 20

DO NOT make plans for travel, appointments, etc. during the exam period (**June 20-27**) students are required to write ALL exams at the scheduled time. Failure to report for an examination may result in a mark of "0". If a student is absent from an exam for medical reasons, documentation is required. Illness or emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Please note that students missing exams for reasons approved by the administration will be required to write all missed exams at the earliest possible date.

[EXAM SCHEDULE HERE](#)

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 they must consult with their teachers, **at least two weeks** prior to the absence to

- 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.
- Sign off on the plan- students are responsible for picking up an Extended Absence Form from the main office at least 2 weeks prior to an anticipated extended absence from school.
- ***A meeting with an Administrator may be scheduled if the absence is expected to interfere with the successful completion of a course.***

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 this form.

Upcoming EQAO and OSSLT Spring 2023 results

- On June 14th and June 15th, semester 2 Grade 9 Math classes will be writing the EQAO Mathematics Assessment. The assessment will constitute 5% of their final grade and will be written during class time.
- Students who have written their OSSLT (Ontario Secondary Literacy Test) assessment in April 2023 were provided with their results this week. Students who have successfully completed the OSSLT will have this noted on their Provincial Report Card and on the Ontario Student Transcript. The next opportunity to write the test will be in the fall of 2023. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course may be available for some students who have been unsuccessful. Students must meet the secondary school literacy requirements in order to receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma..



What Families Need to Know to Help Protect Children, Teens and Young Adults

- 1 in 5 high school students reported vaping in the past month

[CLICK HERE](#) for the guide that explains:

- What is vaping
- What are the health effects of vaping
- Marijuana and vaping
- What parents should know and do





Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools

Differences That Make A Difference
with Dr. Howard C. Stevenson



Monday June 19, 2023 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Virtual Event

Parents/guardians and students are invited to attend a virtual workshop with Dr. Howard C. Stevenson, author of Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences That Make a Difference.

Join the conversation on how to help children learn healthier ways to resolve racial stress.

All participants in this FREE workshop must RSVP using the link below.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Presented by Inclusive School and Community Services

Workshop funded through the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant



PROMOTING RACIAL LITERACY IN SCHOOLS
Differences That Make a Difference



HOWARD C. STEVENSON



PARENTING STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER BREAK!

Let's talk about it!

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

June 13, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend this virtual session!

This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children with strategies to:

- how parents may get “trapped” in escalations and power struggles;
- understanding various traps ways to avoid these traps and develop age appropriate and do-able strategies; and
- how parents can have a successful, stress free summer break

Facilitator: Uma Bhatt, R.S.W. York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families



[REGISTER HERE](#)

This free parent presentation is brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families.

For more information contact:
Oksana Majaski, Community & Partnership Developer, YRDSB
Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca



Message from Our Trustee

June 2023

Dear families,

As we approach the end of the school year and the start of the summer break, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make this school year a positive one. This is our first school year since 2018-2019 that has not been interrupted by closures as a result of COVID-19, and it has been such a pleasure to visit schools and school events over the past few months and see students, staff and families connecting and learning together.

I think it's important to acknowledge the effect the pandemic has had on students; and we have made it a priority to put supports in place for student learning, achievement, mental health and well-being. We also continue to work hard to create safe, inclusive and caring learning environments where our students know and feel that they matter and belong.

June is also a time when we look ahead to transitions - students moving ahead to new grades, new schools and new adventures. Thank you to the school staff who support students through these transitions. Congratulations to all of our graduating students moving on to secondary school or post-secondary pathways. We are so proud of all that you have achieved, class of 2023, and wish you all the very best in what comes next.

I also want to acknowledge all that you have done, as family members, to support your child and our schools - whether that's asking your child about their learning, communicating with their educators, attending school events, reading the information that comes home from the school, sharing feedback, completing surveys, tracking down library books, volunteering on field trips and in the classroom, participating in school councils, and so much more. We are grateful for all of the ways you support your child's learning and our public education system.

Communicating with families remains an important priority for us. I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many families throughout the school year and appreciate how important it is that we remain connected to you. In addition to communication from your child's school, there are also many ways you can stay connected with what is happening in the Board, including our [newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [award-winning podcast](#). We were also very pleased to launch this year the [Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List](#) for families looking to receive information directly related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

As we approach the summer, we look forward to welcoming students who will be participating in our variety of [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) summer learning programs. I wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer break.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3



Indigenous Trustee Greeting

Aaniin (Hello), I am Indigenous Trustee for the York Region District School Board and a member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, the only First Nation in York Region and one you may recognize YRDSB acknowledging as their “partner in education” when providing land acknowledgements.

I would like to offer greetings for the month of June, the month when we recognize and celebrate the Indigenous People of Canada, our unique status as Canadians, our history on this land and our many significant contributions. In 1996, Governor General Romeo LeBlanc declared June 21 as National Aboriginal Peoples Day. He said, “On June 21st, this year and every year, Canada will honour the native peoples who first brought humanity to this great land.” In 2017, the name was formally changed, and we now recognize this day as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

June 21 was chosen because it is summer solstice, a time of spiritual significance for Indigenous people. It is a time when the sun is at the highest point in the sky and we experience the longest day of the year, and the most amount of daylight. This is considered powerful medicine and is a time for practicing ceremonies that honour our interconnection with the land and the cosmos.

The Anishinaabe also recognize June as the month of the Strawberry moon, Ode’min Giizis. The beautiful red heart shaped strawberry offers us the teaching of reconciliation and forgiveness. It is the first berry of the season that brings us that sweetness for life. June offers us many special gifts and much to be grateful for.

People ask what they can do to celebrate Indigenous People Day and as Canadians support Indigenous people in Canada?

We can build our awareness by reading Indigenous books, listening to Indigenous podcasts, and attending Indigenous events. We can create positive change and promote public awareness by lending our support to Indigenous issues. We can also offer land acknowledgements as we do at the beginning of meetings and events in the YRDSB.

However, I believe most importantly to Indigenous people across this planet is to recognize our right to reclaim and practice our Indigenous languages and the important significance of the earth under our feet. Our traditional knowledge and our cultures exist in our languages and without the opportunity to learn them in our schools and speak them in our communities much of our ancestral knowledge will be lost forever.

Further, recognizing Indigenous relationship with the land and taking the time to build land awareness and connection is imperative. We must practice environmental stewardship and protect our green spaces. Walk in nature, plant, or hug a tree, help a turtle across the road, sing to the water, just be with the land. It does little to offer a land acknowledgement if we do not acknowledge the earth on which we live. The earth is our mother, this is why we call her “Mother Earth” in our Anishinaabe creation stories. We are extrinsically interconnected; without her we would not exist. As her children we must care for her and protect her. Stand with Indigenous people by honouring her, this is the most important land acknowledgement you can give.

Chi-Miigwech and Happy Indigenous People’s Day!

Your Indigenous Trustee, **Lauri Hoeg**

This is a good [resource and activity guide for students](#)