

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

May 12, 2023

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SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

York Region Public Health is returning to Tommy Douglas S.S for an immunization clinic for Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) & Meningococcal vaccines. Vaccines are available for free to all students.



Date: THURSDAY MAY 18, 2023

- **Time:** 8:10 AM - 3:20 PM
- **Location:** Gym

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC CONSENT](#) to complete a school clinic immunization consent form. A new consent submission IS NOT required for students who received vaccines at school in fall of 2022.

Bike/Walk to School Week

On Monday, May 29 to Friday, June 02 the Transportation Technology classes would be running the "Bike Clinic" after school during the week.

Students can go to the automotive section, North part of the building.

They will be able to get their bicycles checked, including their seats, tire pressure and chain adjustments.

Parent Presentations-Post Secondary

Wed, May 31st, 2023, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The TDSS guidance department will be hosting 2 parent presentations. The first presentation is for the parents of grade 12 students and focuses on **OSAP and Financial Planning for Post-Secondary**. The second presentation is for the parents of grade 11 students and focuses on **Supporting Your Child in Post-Secondary Planning**. This presentation will focus on how to research programs in Ontario, applying to out of province and international institutions including the US and UK, scholarships, and how to prepare a successful supplemental application. We hope to see you there!

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 at 6:45 p.m. 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 starting Monday May 15th. 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. The Terrace Banquet Hall has a maximum capacity of occupants that must be adhered to. Thank you for your support.

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 links.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/secondary-school/summer-learning-opportunities/secondary-summer-school/2023>

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/secondary-school/summer-learning-opportunities>

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.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

Grad Packages are Available for Purchase

The grad package is ready for purchase. Please go to School Cash Online to pay for your child's package. The package includes their gown, stole, hat and the cost of the graduation venue. This year the cost is \$75. **This year's Graduation Ceremony will take place at The Terrace Banquet Hall, 680 Creditstone Rd, Concord. on June 27, 2023.** We ask that families purchase their child's grad package order as soon as possible.

Grad Sweaters

Grad sweaters are now available for purchase on [School Cash Online](#).

Important Dates

-Summer School registration open

-May 8th - Make up day for the Every Student Counts Survey

-May 5 Midterm report card distribution

June 20-27 Exams

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.

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. Extended vacations are not considered necessary. If a student will be absent for an extended period of time he/she 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.



School News and Information

Parent/Guardians Workshops

Know Your Rights Online Workshop: Muslim Students and Families

In this session, students and families will learn about their legal rights and responsibilities within schools. Participants will be provided with tools and resources that will support them throughout their child's school experience, allowing them to feel more confident and empowered. [Register for Event](#) **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:00-8:30 pm. Virtual**

Stay Informed! Sex Trafficking and Youth Exploitation

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Instances of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are a growing concern for youth and families in York Region
- Would you notice and be aware of it if you saw it?
- What might you do to get help and necessary resources?

In a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network, the York Region District School Board is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. This session will provide awareness and information about:

- What is sex trafficking?
- How to identify signs of someone who may be in the process of being recruited or is already being trafficked?
- Who is at risk?
- Available resources and supports in the school and community

[Register today!](#) **When: May 18, 2023 Session A: 10:00am – 11:30am OR Session B: 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

Test and Exam Preparation For parents of children and teens

This session will focus on routines and strategies for parents to help better prepare their child for effective learning outcomes. [Register Here!](#) **When: May 24, 2023| 10:00 a.m. – 11:30**



Multicultural Assembly!

Thank you to the staff and students for putting together such an amazing multicultural day at TDSS.





Emily Carr SS presents SARA WESTBROOK



A teen's emotional state affects their performance at school, their relationships and their physical and mental well-being. Emotions can be hard to identify, to move through and hardest of all...to talk about.

NURTURING YOUR TEEN'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

DATE: Tuesday May 23rd

TIME: 6:45 - 8:00 pm

In this presentation, parents and guardians will learn
3 Strategies to help develop:



Resilience and Emotional Well-Being

Using the **3 Strategies** with your tee will help them:

- Navigate emotions
- Decrease anxiety and stress
- Strengthen their confidence muscle
- Communicate with empathy, respect & kindness
- Master the skill of making character-based choices

'Thank you for an incredible presentation!

You gave us a sense of honesty, understanding & connection.

*As parents the journey can become rocky & doubtful at times wondering
if we are doing a good job.'*

As seen and heard on

[REGISTER HERE](#)



www.sarawestbrook.com



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**



THE COME UP



Navigating Secondary School and Beyond

2023 Summer Program

Program overview

The Come Up summer program is a unique in-person course offered to self-identifying Black students in the York Region District School Board. It also includes guest speakers, field trips, lunch and swag.

Students entering grade 9 will earn a Civics and Careers (GLC20/CHV20) credit.

Students entering Grade 10 will earn a Black History (CHE30) credit. This credit can be used to fulfill the grade 10 compulsory history credit.

Eligibility (must meet all criteria)

- Are you entering Grade 9 or 10 in September 2023?
- Do you self-identify as Black?
- Are you a YRDSB Student?
- Are you interested in earning a high school credit?

Dates

July 5 - July 28, 2023 (Monday-Friday)*

*Attendance is mandatory for the duration of the program. Please note: Lunch will only be provided on Mondays and Wednesdays.

8:45 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Choice of Tommy Douglas SS or Milliken Mills HS

Registration opens April 11, 2023

[REGISTER HERE](#)

by May 26, 2023



THE COME UP



Virtual Black Parent/Guardian Workshop Series

2023 Summer Program

Is your child a YRDSB student?
Is your child transitioning to Grade 9 or 10?
Is your child registered in the Come Up Program?
Does your child self-identify as Black?

**Join us for a workshop series
on navigating the secondary
school system.**

Session # 1 - Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Understanding the Secondary System
(Structure, Rights, Policies, Attendance, Credit Recovery, IEPs and more)

Session # 2 - Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting your Child (Mental Health Supports, Tips and Strategies)

Families of all students for the summer school program will receive registration information for the Black Parent/ Guardian Workshop Series via email once student registration is complete.



For more information email: TheComeUP@yrdsb.ca



Tommy Douglas Secondary School

Italy – Art and Architecture

Spring 2024



Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are thrilled to share this travel opportunity for our students! Learn more about this exciting tour at an information session where we will discuss:

- Why travel is important
- Where and when we are going
- What we will see and do
- Who is EF Educational Tours
- And more!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ms. Rix and Ms. Sardone

P.S. Can't make the meeting but want more information?
RSVP using link below and select "No but send info."

2023-05-24

Meeting date

6:30 PM

Meeting time

Tommy Douglas Secondary

Meeting location

RSVP online



Scan this code or visit:

<https://bit.ly/3B7ZR5C>



Our students made the news!

Thursday, April 27, 2023 - THE WEEKLY SENTINEL - 7

Horses, students, team up for Trailblazer program

By Mark Pavilons
Editor

A local farm is proving that horses do, indeed, have hearts. Big ones.

Horses at Heart celebrated its Trailblazer Program with a demonstration by students at the WasterStone Estate and Farms recently.

The students demonstrate horseback riding skills and their progress was demonstrated to parents and visitors.

The Trailblazer Training program is a program that has been running for 4 years and is funded through a grant from Employment and Social Development Canada (their Canada Service Corp program). The program is for at-risk youth and they come once weekly for 12 weeks to learn about horses and riding, and each week we facilitate emotional wellness activities that help them develop social and interpersonal skills.

Executive director Deborah Weiss said there is a wide range of benefits, from developing self-confidence (as each group participates in helping the next group), as well as the empowerment of learning how to take care of, and ride horses.

The organization is Horses At Heart Therapeutic Equestrian Inc. The recent event was a presentation of the Tommy Douglas High School Community Class (in Vaughan), which is a special ed class of ASD students (autism spec-

trum). They participated in a 12-week program which included horseback riding lessons and daily wellness journaling.

Weiss founded Horses at Heart in 2003 as a way to combine traditional therapeutic modalities with equine assisted therapy.

The response has been very positive, she said.

"Horses are a wonderful animal to partner with in experiential therapies. They're big enough to be intimidating to children, but under the right guidance they are patient and kind. Riding a horse is extremely empowering to a child - particularly if they are children who have not had a lot of empowering experiences."

She added the program is a great way to see the kids have a wonderful time grooming and riding the horses, and at the same time flourishing in their self-confidence and developing really positive social skills.

Weiss noted they will be starting a new group with the Huron Heights High School special ed class in May, and she wants to bring awareness of their mental wellness program across the York Region District School Board.

Councillor Avia Eek, who attended the recent event, noted "it was beautiful to watch. These kids felt so empowered and confident."

Councillor Jennifer Anstey noted she was delighted to watch the event.



"From my own experience, I know how therapeutic spending time with horses is, so it's great to see them being used as part of an Equine Assisted Therapy program. I loved watching the huge smiles from the students as they were riding, and I spoke to their teachers later who shared how impactful these kinds of experiences are for the kids. The work with the horses empowers the students and helps them build self-confidence, a powerful combination of life skills that can be of benefit to anyone."

"Horses at Heart was a great opportunity for our students. Having the chance to attend an extended program like this (thanks to the generous funding) really allowed our students to get comfortable with the horses and take

risks at their own pace," said Kim Weston of the York Region District School Board. "We were able to gradually move them out of their comfort zones little by little and their staff were so supportive in the process. There was never any pressure to do it. Which I think made each step, from simply petting or feeding a treat to grooming, mounting and eventually riding such a celebration. We're all so proud of the progress they've all made and I'm so glad that some of the parents got to see them all in action this week as well. The smiles we've seen throughout the 12 weeks speak volumes about how proud they are of themselves, too. Which is just the best part of it all."

For more, email info@horses@heart.com or visit www.horsesatheart.com

