

# Tommy Times - Parent Edition

Week of Feb. 5 - 9, 2024



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

General Email/Attendance: [tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca)

## This week:

Feb. 5	Semester Two begins
Feb. 6	Jr. Boys Basketball (away) Sr. Boys Basketball Playoff Game (home)
Feb. 7	Course Selection Presentation 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Feb. 8	Alpine Ski Team Trip Blue Mountain Ski Trip - 7:00 am
Feb. 9	Jr. Girls Volleyball Tournament All Day Sr. Girls Volleyball Tournament All Day Jr. BADMINTON TRYOUTS

## 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. 13 & 14 - Safe Schools Assembly
- Feb. 14 - Music Trip OBA Music Festival
- Feb. 15 - Quebec Ski Trip Parent Meeting - 6:00 pm
- Feb. 16 - Photo Retake Day
- 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 NOTICES:***

We would like to welcome Rose Walker, a retired YRDSB Principal to Tommy Douglas. Ms. Walker will be at TDSS for the next few weeks to support our staff and students.

### ***SAFE SCHOOLS ASSEMBLIES***

All students will participate in grade specific assemblies on February 13th or February 14th. Administrators will review aspects of our Safe Schools Policies.

### ***NEWS FROM OUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:***

#### ***TIMETABLE CHANGES***

Timetable changes for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester are now complete. Students were able to make changes throughout first semester. We are nearing the completion of going through our waitlist. **We ask your child to check their timetable on Teach Assist on the first day of second semester (February 5<sup>th</sup>) to ensure that they are following the most up-to-date schedule.** Once this is complete guidance will turn their attention to supporting students who have been unsuccessful in a 1<sup>st</sup> semester course and in preparing for course selection.

#### ***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 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and close Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### ***SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH THE COURSE SELECTION PROCESS PARENT PRESENTATION***

On Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Guidance will be hosting a parent presentation in the cafeteria on supporting your child through the course selection process. Hope to see you then.

#### ***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:**

Thank you to our students for your cooperation in keeping our halls quiet during instructional hours by abiding by Tommy Douglas' Hall Pass Policy.

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.

A copy of this poster is on display in every classroom. These policies have been implemented as one of our measures to keep Tommy a safe school for everyone. We will ensure that health and safety standards are met and appreciate the cooperation of all of our students when it comes to keeping our washroom facilities safe. Thank you Titans.

## 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.**

### **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.

### **OSSLT**

All students who wrote the OSSLT in November have received a hard copy of their Individual Student Report. This report informs students of their test score only. Students who were unsuccessful in this attempt have been contacted and next steps have been discussed with them and their family.

We 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

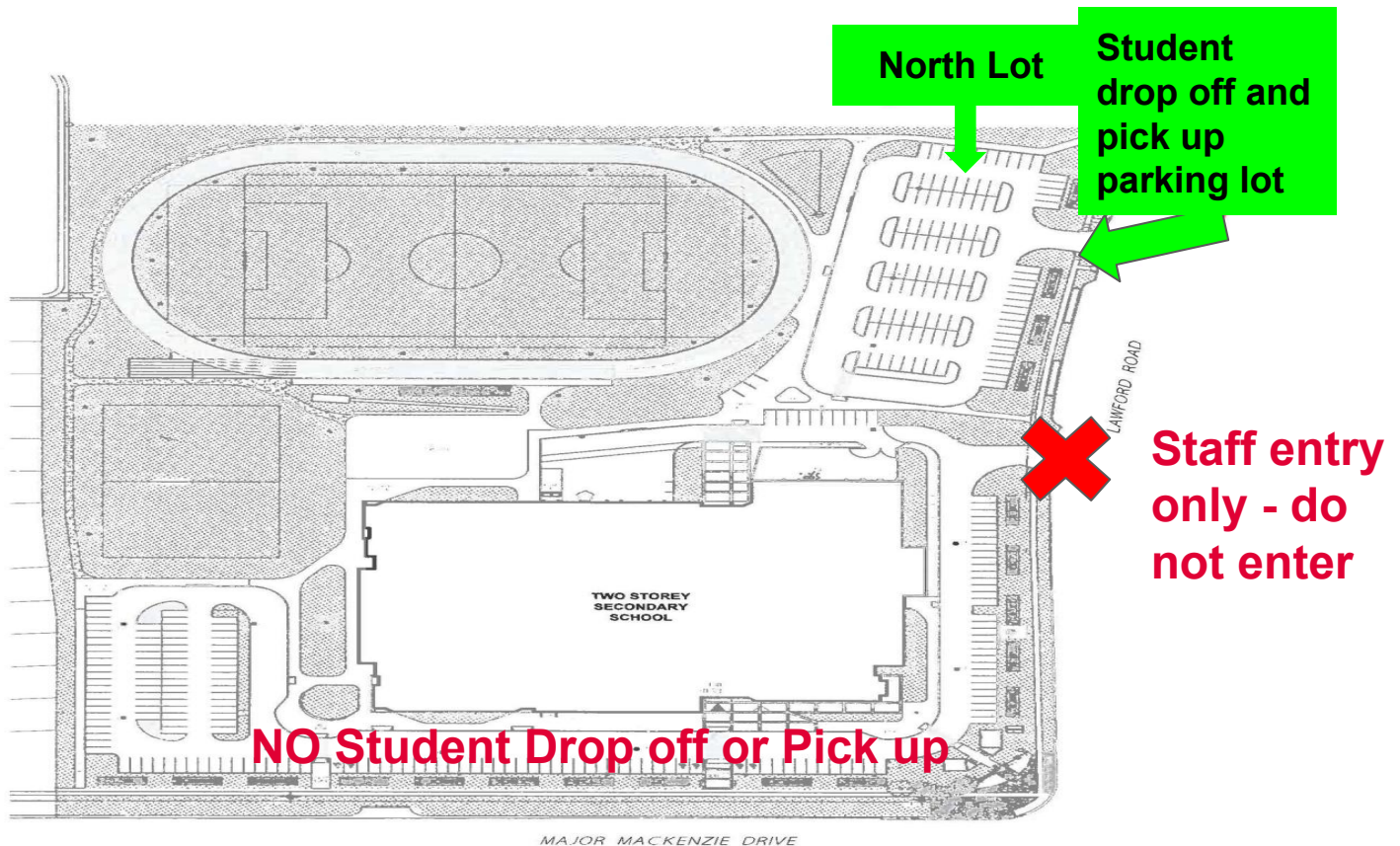


### SCHOOL SAFETY - Student Drop Off and Pick Up

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.

### ***BADMINTON TRYOUTS***

**COMING THIS WEEK!!!!** Junior Badminton Team Tryouts (Grades 9 & 10) will be starting up this week. Check the television outside of the gym for dates and times.

**COMING SOON!!!!** Senior Badminton Team tryout information will be available soon. Check the television outside the gym for more information.

### 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)