

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

February 10th 2023

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Dear Families,

Our school is participating in an Active School Travel Safety Pilot Program. The goals of the pilot are to:

- improve drop-off and pick-up safety
- improve motorist behavior
- raise awareness about alternative modes of transportation to and from school

We all play an important role in helping to create safe school zones and supporting student safety and well-being.

As part of the pilot, this week we are participating in a safety campaign. Another one will be held in April. As part of the campaign, we are:

- Adding new signage around school property to further reinforce safe transportation to and from school.
- Sharing important safety reminders with students and families. We encourage you to review these reminders and to reinforce them with your children.
- Reminding families about the benefits of active school travel, including reducing traffic congestion in school zones.

Thank you for your participation and support as we work together to support student well-being and school zone safety.

Monday (Today!)	• Safety Campaign
Tuesday	• Tips on safe pick-up and drop-off
Wednesday	• Raise awareness of tools and markings
Thursday	• Reinforce pedestrian and commuting safety during pick-up and drop-off
Friday	• Alternative transportation education and benefits

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)
Paul Simmons (Pat - Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News and Information

Cafeteria Servery is OPEN- Good news! The servery is now open and fully operational. A few things to keep in mind as you plan your child's lunch. Food options will continue to change each week. Many students will want to purchase from the cafeteria during the first few days and this means **long line ups**. With a student body of approximately 1700 students, it is likely that the line ups will cause a delay in purchasing food. Continue to pack a lunch for the next few days even if you plan on making a purchase. We do not want students to find themselves without a lunch before period 3 begins! Plan ahead! Thank you for your patience.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COURSE SELECTION

Thank you to our Guidance staff for sharing course selection information to our parents this past Wednesday evening and thank you to our parents who attended and asked all of the great questions! We hope you found this information helpful.

Reminders...

Guidance Course Selection Visits-Guidance will be visiting classrooms next week to discuss strategies for choosing courses for next year. Course selection opens on my Blueprint on Thursday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m and closes Friday, February 24th at 4:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to see their teachers or guidance for advice on courses.

Vaping at School- Vaping at TDSS continues to be a problem in student washrooms. Students who are caught smoking a vape or any other substances will be escorted to the main office to meet with an Administrator. We want to remind students that the use of electronic products such as vaping, electronic cigarettes and cigars as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are not permitted on or within 20 metres of school property. This means 20 metres *beyond* the school boundaries as opposed to simply off of school property. [Health Canada](#) reports health risks associated with vaping particularly for young people.

This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services and the [Tobacco and Smoke-Free Environment Policy and Procedure](#). A progressive form of discipline, including potential suspension from school and [fines](#) (up to \$5,000), is in place for students who break the law.

For more information visit Health Canada or the Board website. [Partnership for Drug Free Kids](#) also provides a resource on how to talk to your kids about vaping.

Important Dates

February 16th

-Course Selection Opens

February 24th

-Course Selection Closed
At 4:00 p.m.

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

Academic Dishonesty-Plagiarism- Our staff have been sharing information with our students regarding plagiarism. With the creation and evolution of many AI applications, the incidence of plagiarism has increased at our school. We will be working with students to ensure they understand the consequences of these actions and to support them to avoid getting into situations where they are questioned for academic dishonesty. All students will receive these messages next week.

What is Academic Dishonesty?

The following are examples of plagiarism or academic dishonesty:

- direct copying or cutting and pasting from sources without acknowledgement
- submitting work done by another student as one's own
- failure to use in-text citations to acknowledge ideas, language, charts, statistics, graphs, images or other materials from sources
- paraphrasing too closely to the original source material
- failure to use quotation marks to indicate phrases and other pieces of language from sources
- failure to accurately and fully record all your references and sources in a Works Cited
- having a tutor, editor or other helper (ie AI tools) write or produce much of the work for you
- re-submitting work that has already been submitted for evaluation

How can you protect yourself from plagiarism and academic dishonesty?

The onus is on you to provide evidence that your work is your own:

- Produce process work (Brainstorming, outlines, drafts, revisions, etc.)
- Use class time to complete your work and regularly conference with your teacher on the development and organization of your ideas
- Produce work in Google docs (or other applications) assigned to you by your teacher on Google Classroom
- Cite all of your sources (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)
- Be transparent about what tools you're using throughout the process work with your teacher
- Do not share your work with your peers

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS- Please remind your child to join these school events!

Mural Project: Celebrating Black Identifying Student Voice through the Arts

The Black Student Association has been hosting a leadership experience for black students. During these sessions students have worked on a mural project that depicts Black excellence. To celebrate Black History month the mural will be displayed in the cafeteria. It will then be housed permanently in the Black Student Association meeting room. Wednesday, February 15th will be the next mural session.

Building Legacies is a student-led program founded on community, excellence and culture. The program consists of workshops, games and activities, food, field-trips, guest speakers, career exploration and more. The Building Legacies BSA program aims to create a safe and affirming space for Black students.

The Mural Project aims to use art as critical consciousness raising to empower Black youth at TDSS to feel proud of who they are. The project will engage Black youth in conversations on various topics including community, excellence, and culture. Youth will work with a Community Artist to create a mural piece that captures their conversations in an expressive way.

