

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

February 17th 2023

In this issue...

- **Traffic Safety-Thank you!**
- **School Student Newspaper**
- **Course Selection Information**
- **Black History Month Events-Mural Project**
- **Academic Dishonesty Reminders**
- **Community Class Highlight**
- **Graduation Photos**

This past week we participated in a traffic safety week at TDSS. We thank our families for following our signs and for keeping our students safe while coming to and from school each day.



Please also note that the HOV lane is not to be used for pick up and drop off at any time. This is a dangerous spot to stop at any time.

School Student Newspaper-TDSS POST

We have a new student school newspaper. This newspaper is created by students for students! Remind your child to take a picture of the QR code that is posted around the school to access the newspaper. Enjoy!



Contact Us

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

Online

[School website](#)

[Twitter](#) TDSS_YRDSB

[Instagram](#) @tommydouglassmainoffice

Administration

Principal

[Sandra Sardone](#)

Vice Principals

Antonietta Grieco (A - G)

Elizabeth Sloan (H - PAS)

Paul Simmonds (Pat - Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News and Information

COURSE SELECTION IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Course selection on MyBlue Print for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. Please take the opportunity to complete course selection with your child for the following academic year. Course selection closes next Friday February 24th at 4:00 p.m. Once your child submits their course selection you will receive an instant email notification asking you to approve or reject their course selection. Without your response to this email, their course selection is considered incomplete. The courses that your child selects now, will determine what is offered next year. We ask that they carefully consider not only their compulsory courses but also their elective and alternate courses. Some useful sites for backwards planning are:

- www.ontariocolleges.ca
- www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca
- <http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/>
- <http://www.apprenticesearch.com/>
- <http://oyap.com/splash/>

DROP IN COURSE SELECTION SUPPORT

All of next week guidance will be hosting drop in course selection support at lunch in the career centre. Please have your child drop by if they have any questions or would like a counsellor to look over the course selection options.

OPTING IN OR OUT OF THE MINISTRY ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT

This year students are able to either opt in or out of the ministry online course requirement on MyBlue Print. This week during our course selection classroom presentations, students were shown how to select online **asynchronous** courses or how to opt out. These presentations were posted to their classrooms. It is particularly important for grade 11 students going into grade 12 to indicate their intention. Please note that the online course option is completely **asynchronous** meaning that **there is no direct teacher instruction**.

Important Dates

February 16th

-Course Selection Opens

February 21st-March 6th

-Graduation Photos

February 24th

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

February 28th

-Black History Assembly
(more info to follow)

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

DETERMINING IF ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR CHILD

In helping your child determine whether asynchronous online courses are a good fit, you may want to consider the following:

- Is my child an independent, self-motivated learner?
- Does my child learn better with direct teacher instructions where they can seek clarification and support?
- How did my child fair during the pandemic during times of asynchronous learning? Was my child able to create a plan to complete all assigned work in a timely fashion?
- Did my child find asynchronous learning easy or difficult? Was it a stress free or a stressful experience?

If you have any additional questions or concerns please reach out, we are always happy to support.

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.

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. We look forward to sharing the work of our students with the community in the near future.



Community Class Highlight: Some of our community class students will be visiting a horseback riding facility on a regular basis throughout the year. The benefits of working with horses has proven to be an wonderful tool to support out students needs. Here are some pictures to highlight their experiences so far.



As a part of the Lifetouch + Shutterfly family, Prestige Photography by Lifetouch is excited to help you celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event!

[Go to prestigeportraits.ca](http://prestigeportraits.ca)

Step 1 Review your photo session options here and select your favourite.

Step 2 Come prepared! Be sure to bring multiple outfits and props to your session.

Step 3 Visit prestigeportraits.ca to schedule the session that is right for you.

Confirm your appointment early!

Your session includes 8-10 proofs in graduation attire provided by Lifetouch.

Standard \$35 6-12 Poses, 2-4 Backgrounds, 1-2 Outfits

Please arrive ready to be photographed, gentlemen should come dressed in shirt and tie and ladies in a blouse, scoop or V neck top. Schedule your appointment now! Go to prestigeportraits.ca to confirm or reschedule your session