

Tommy Douglas SS e-Newsletter



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

March 10th, 2023

Have a wonderful March Break!

In this issue...

- Office Hours During March Break
- New Vice Principal at TDSS
- Virtual School 2023-2024
- Important Graduation Information
- Extended Absences

Virtual School 2023-2024

Elementary and Secondary Virtual School in 2023-2024

The Ministry of Education (MoE) mandated for the 2022-2023 school year that school boards were to provide a virtual learning option for students. While we continue to await specific direction from the MoE, we plan to proceed with a virtual learning option as this continues to be in the best interests of our students, families and staff. This will also align us with the decisions of other boards.

For the 2023-2024 school year, YRDSB will continue to offer Elementary Virtual School (EVS). For secondary students, we are currently assessing the viable options in how to best offer virtual learning, taking into account the projected enrolment.

Elementary Virtual School (EVS)

- Please note that due to limited enrolment, French Immersion programming will not be offered in EVS in 2023-2024.
- Families currently enrolled in EVS are being asked if they wish to remain enrolled next school year.
- Students currently attending in-person schools may contact their home school to request a transfer to the Elementary Virtual School for the entire 2023-2024 school year.

Secondary Virtual School (SVS)

- YRDSB is investigating virtual learning options for secondary students for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Please note, due to the limited number of students expected in SVS it is possible that the virtual school program may include more asynchronous classes and fewer synchronous offerings.
- Families who have students presently enrolled in SVS have been sent a survey, asking for their preference of learning model for next year (in-person or virtual) with a response deadline of March 6.
- At this time, students in in-person schools are currently unable to choose to transfer to the virtual school for the entire 2023-2024 school year. Details will be shared once a process regarding the transfer to SVS is finalized.

Office Hours During March Break:

Office hours during the break are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The front doors will be locked but office staff will be available to welcome you in by ringing the doorbell to the left of the main doors.

Alternatively, you can email the school or call at any time.

tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

New Vice Principal:

We would like to welcome the newest member of our Administration team, Vera Katyshev. Ms. Katyshev will be taking on Mr Paul Simmonds alpha (Pat-Z) Contact the school office if you have any questions.

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 Simmonds (Pat - Z)

School Council

[Joe Giusto](#)

[Amir Bigloo](#)

Superintendent

[Otilia Olteanu](#)

Trustee

[Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair](#)



School News and Information

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.

Review of Credit Summary and Courses Taken Outside of YRDSB

All grade 12 students were given a copy of their credit counselling summary during our recent grad assembly. We have asked students to carefully review their credit counselling summary and to fill in the form found below. We have asked students to indicate if there are any discrepancies and to report any courses taken outside of YRDSB day school. All students must submit this form.

<https://forms.gle/D9yR9EgonLmuCxv8>

Important Dates

March 13-17 March Break

March 24th -Interim Report distribution begins

March 22nd- Parent Interview sign up available on TeachAssist

**March 29th- Parent Interviews
6:00- 8:00 p.m.**

April 7th- School Closed Good Friday

April 10th- School Closed Easter Monday

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

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.

It should be noted that examinations or culminating assessments must be written on the scheduled dates at the time specified. A mark of "0" will be given if an examination or culminating assessment is not written on the scheduled date.

York Region District School Board in collaboration with the South Asian and Tamil Women's Collective is hosting their annual conference for grade 7 to 12, South Asian & Tamil female and non-binary identifying students.

WOMEN OFFERING WISDOM 2023 CONFERENCE

A day of culturally relevant and responsive student well-being and learning!

Saturday, May 6, 2023

**Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
90 Bur Oak Ave., Markham L6C 2E6**

Students will have the opportunity to engage with South Asian and Tamil YRDSB educators, social workers, and community partners in mentorship dialogues to support the navigation of high school, post-secondary and career goals. Additionally, students will have opportunities to engage in culturally responsive well-being learning in areas of mindfulness reflection, arts, & healthy relationships that are supportive of mental health.