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Westmount CII



Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor

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Westmount CI

A crispness in the air tells us that fall is around the corner, and summer is behind us.

We're now into our second rotation and our first month of school is behind us. We'd be remiss to not thank staff, students and our parent community for their support through the past 2 months, as we've transitioned to our adaptive model. Both teachers and administrators have been very impressed with the understanding and effort demonstrated by students as they adjust to their new realities. There have been some bumps in the road, but nothing that proved insurmountable.

While the idea of cohorting and our new timetable may have proven challenging at first, we hope that things have settled down for you and your child(ren). A note that our next rotation will begin on the day after Thanksgiving, October 13rd. Students should expect to find out their cohorts for the upcoming rotation on October 7th. Cohorts are fluid, and respective of the students registered in a current class. Therefore, especially if your last name falls around the middle of the alphabet, cohorts might switch between rotations. We ask, if you or your child has any questions, to please connect with the Main Office.

With the return to fall, many of our Grade 12 students begin to think about their options, in terms of post-secondary offerings for next year. The Guidance Department will continue to connect with students digitally over the coming months to explain the application process, assist in investigating options and ensure that all students who are expecting to graduate, do soon time. To help parents with this transition, we are happy to have Mr. Rod Conte (our Head of Guidance Services) present at the October School Council meeting, on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Conte will be addressing your questions both about the application process, what to expect and the ever-important scholarship process. If you wish to attend, we ask that you pre-register by sending an email with your name, as well as your Zoom Meeting display name to westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca no later than noon on October 14th. We'll then send out the agenda and specific link by 3:00 p.m. on the 14th. We'll also ensure that the presentation is available to any parent who cannot attend, in our next parent newsletter, on October 16th.

Mark your calendars for our first semester Parent's Night, on October 28th! Teachers will be hosting interviews via Google Meet or Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m. More details, in terms of requesting appointments, will be available in the coming weeks. To help guide those Parent Night conversations, you will be receiving, via email, an Interim Report Card on October 21st. This report serves as an initial indicator of your child's success to date.

The easiest way to connect with your child's teacher (should you have any questions) is to check out our [virtual staff directory](#) for their email address. All work email addresses end with @yrdsb.ca. In the event that you find that you cannot connect with your child's teacher, please reach out to the Main Office for more assistance.

Thank you again for your optimism and patience. We look forward to a rewarding semester. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Main Office.

Todd Taylor
Vice Principal (Last names M - Z)

Westmount CI

Cohorts for rotation three

On October 7th students will receive their Cohort information, sent directly to their GAPPS accounts, for the third rotation which begins on October 13th. A note about the third rotation: Period 3 will move into the face-to-face block. Period 4 will move into the first online block, between 12:40 and 1:30 p.m. every day. Period 1 classes will move into the second online block, between 1:30 and 2:20 p.m. and finally, Period 2 classes will move to the last block of the day, from 2:20 – 3:10 p.m. We'll share an infographic later next week, when we share student's cohort information.

October 14th – School Council

Westmount CI will be hosting our School Council meeting, on October 14th, beginning at 7:00 p.m.. This meeting is one of our most popular every year, as Mr. Conte (Head of Guidance Services) will be explaining the application process for post-secondary options, as well as overviewing the wide variety of free money, otherwise known as scholarships.

If you are interested in attending, please email your name and Zoom Screen name to westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca prior to 12:00 noon on October 14th. We will then share the agenda with join code by 3:00 p.m. on October 14th. Also, after the presentation we will email out a copy of the slide deck, for your review.

October 20th – Arts West Information Night

Mark your calendars! On October 20th, we will host our annual Arts West Information night for incoming Grade 8s via a digital stream. More details will be shared via the school website, so please stay tuned.

October 21st – Interim Report Cards distributed electronically

The interim report card is the first official document we share with students and families. At this time in the semester the students have usually done a few assessments in each course. The interim report card allows the teaching staff to share a snapshot of success in the course thus far. It is also an opportunity for staff to share with families any specific concerns occurring such as attendance issues, and/or work not being completed.

October 28th – Parents Night (virtual)

We will be hosting our Semester 1 Parents' Night on October 28th. Appointment slots will be available, beginning October 19th, via Edsby. If you do not have an Edsby account, please look for an email arriving next week, that will allow you to create your account in plenty of time. Beginning on the 26th of October, teachers will share details about how to connect for your scheduled appointment. Additionally, if you'd like to meet with a member of administration, please just reach out to them directly.

Graduation Update

Although we had been holding out hope to have an in-person graduation ceremony for our June 2020 WCI Graduates we are no longer able to do so. York Region Public Health, in consultation with Senior YRDSB Administration, have decided that we are unable to hold an in-person graduation ceremony, that was originally scheduled for Thursday, October 8th. We are very disappointed but also understand that this is in the best interests of all who would have attended.

Instead, we are now in the midst of planning a Virtual graduation that will take place sometime in late October, early November. We promise that this virtual graduation will have all the pomp and circumstance that this important milestone deserves.

We thank you for your patience and we look forward to sharing the details about our Virtual Graduation in the very near future.

Westmount DECA

Westmount DECA sign up is starting this week! What is DECA you may ask? DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Furthermore, DECA's scholarship program provides over \$200,000 in scholarships to high school DECA members at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) each year. Many corporate partners of DECA provide scholarships through the DECA scholarship program. For more information check out <https://www.deca.ca>

Deca is an amazing extracurricular to have on your resume shows the reader that you are a dedicated and motivated student who puts in the work needed to succeed. Also you have been exposed to professional settings, and a business environment.

If you are interested in joining Westmount DECA a virtual meeting will be held Monday October 5 at 3:30pm on zoom in which we will go into detail about the program. The meeting code will be shared via social media on Monday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUNSDJ1cHK8>

ARE YOU READY FOR DECA 2020?

DECA is back

DECA westmount is proud to announce our return for the 2020-2021 year and we want you to join us. Deca prepares young leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in business across the globe.

If you want to learn more join our first virtual zoom meeting on Monday, October 5th at 3:30

See full descriptions at <https://deca.ca>

WELCOME
TO
GUIDANCE



YOUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Support and promote students' well-being and continuous growth in three areas: personal (student) development, interpersonal development, and career development in order to help them develop resilience and realize their potential (success) as individuals and as valuable members of society.
-Ontario School Counsellors' Association, 2015

Guidance is OPEN but doing things differently

Please reach out to your ALPHA Counsellor by email. Your Counsellor will respond in the appropriate method: email, phone or on-line meeting. In order to minimize personal contact, please do not walk into Guidance. Please e-mail us first and we will take it from there.

Contact Information: **Please note the change to the ALPHA allocation.**

Mrs. C. Pearlstein, Guidance Secretary

E-mail: cindy.pearlstein@yrdsb.ca

Mr. R. Conte, Head of Guidance

Last Name Alpha: A to H

E-mail: roderick.conte@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. C. Jackson

Last Name Alpha: I to N

E-mail: cynthia.jackson@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. N. Popiel

Last Name Alpha: O to Z

E-mail: natasha.popiel@yrdsb.ca

Connecting with your Counsellor VIRTUALLY

In the next month, counsellors will be equipped and set-up for virtual on-line meetings. We will be using Zoom. We will post more information as it becomes available.

Night School

Registration is OPEN for night school on-line and e-learning. Visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Secondary-School-Summer.aspx> for all the information you need and instructions on how to register. **#wciconed**

COMING UP

Grade 12 Graduation Prep Class Visits – November 3 to 6, 2020

The Guidance Team will visit all grade 12 classes to go over the post-secondary application process and other important information regarding graduation. **#wcigrad**

Grade 11 Check-in Class Visits – December 7 to 10, 2020

The Guidance Team will visit all grade 11 classes and go over what student need to begin thinking about and to prepare for their grade 12 year. **#wcigr11**

Stay connected and "in the Loop"

We will be relying more on our [Guidance Department's website](#) as an information platform. It will be updated with any relevant information you need to know. **Bookmark this page on your personal device or computer and check in every now and then.**

Now more than ever, please **follow @WCIGuidance, @WCI_YRDSB** on Twitter for real time notifications. During this time, social media has become the most effective way of communicating information.

Spread the word. Remind friends and family of the Westmount community to follow us on Twitter.



School Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 14th, 2020

7:00 pm—8:30 pm— via Zoom

Please join us on Wednesday to learn more about
Applying to Colleges and Universities

How do students apply to College & University?
What marks get sent?
What is “Early Acceptance”?
What scholarships are available?
Does it matter where my child attends school?

Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Rod Conte—Head of
Guidance at Westmount CI

If you are interested in attending this very informative
session please send an email to
Westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca. Include your name and
zoom display name by Wednesday October 14th at
12:00 pm. The Zoom link will be sent by 3:00 pm
that day!

We hope you able to join us!
We look forward to seeing you there!





Parents and Families of our school community

The **Community Partnership Developers (CPD)** provide direct support for students and families through partnerships with community organizations and social service agencies.

We support students and families with:

- community outreach and engagement
- nutrition and food supports
- parenting supports and education
- student and parent engagement
- early years and transition to high school
- locating services and/or community resources
- mental health
- basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)

If at any time, you are facing difficulties or challenges, we invite you to contact a member of your **CPD West Area Team** directly.

Community Partnership Developers (CPD) West Area Team

AYSE YIGIT

Specialization: Turkish Community

Email: Ayse.yigit@yrdsb.ca

Phone: 416-832-5937

LEONORA BUSKIN

Specialization: Jewish Community

Email: Leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca

Phone: 905-727-0022 x 4101

OKSANA MAJASKI

Specialization: Newcomer Community

Email: Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca

Phone: 416-568-2252

We support students and families of all needs and backgrounds in the West area, which includes all elementary and secondary schools in the Concord, Thornhill (east and west of Yonge St.), Maple, Kleinburg and Woodbridge area.

Ongoing Open Registration for 2020-2021 Adult ESL, LINC & LBS Programs

English as a Second Language (ESL); Language Instruction for New Comers (LINC); and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Classes

YRDSB offers Adult **English as a Second Language (ESL)** programs for those who want to develop effective language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for daily life in Canada. We also offer specialized classes in *Citizenship* and *Conversation*.

Adult ESL Program Registration – In person and online options available!

1. Email uplands@yrdsb.ca or call **905-731-9557** with the following information:
 - your first and last name
 - your telephone number
 - CLARS identification number (those without a CLARS number will require an assessment, please contact us for further assistance).
2. Our office will contact you if additional documentation is required.
3. Visitors to Canada may also register and attend for a fee of \$10 per day, per class.

For an assessment or to register, please call: 905-731-9557



If you are interested in improving your digital skills, want to work on your resume or interview skills, or prepare to take your GED exam, our Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program is for you!

Literacy and Basic Skill Assessment – In person and online options available!

1. Email uplands@yrdsb.ca or call **905-731-9557 Ext. 307** with the following information:
 - your first and last name
 - your telephone number
 - tell us that you are “*interested in the LBS program*”

NOTE: Due to the high volume of inquiries, it may take a few days to receive a reply communication from our office. We appreciate your patience.

Thank you for your interest in our programs. We look forward to serving you.

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care

Version 1 – October 1, 2020

This tool provides basic information only and contains recommendations for children to support decision making by parents about whether their child should attend school/childcare and/or needs to be tested for COVID-19. This can be used to assess symptoms of any child who attends child care or school (junior, intermediate, high school). It is not to be used as a clinical assessment tool or intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Screening must occur daily and at home before a child enters school or child care.

When assessing for the symptoms below, you should focus on evaluating if they are **new, worsening, or different from your child's baseline health status or usual state** (check off "Yes"). Symptoms associated with known chronic health conditions or related to other known causes/conditions should not be considered unless new, different or worsening (check off "No"). (see examples below).

After developing symptoms, in general, children should no longer have a fever and their symptoms improving to be able to return to school/child care. Mild symptoms known to persist in young children (e.g. runny nose or mild cough that may persist following infections) may be ongoing at time of return to school/child care if other symptoms have resolved.

Required Screening Questions

1. Does your child have any of the following **new or worsening** symptoms? *Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.*

Fever and/or chills (temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cough (more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma, reactive airway)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Shortness of breath (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Decrease or loss of smell or taste (new olfactory or taste disorder) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

2. Does your child have any of the following **new or worsening** symptoms? *Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.*

Sore throat (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., post nasal drip, gastroesophageal reflux)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuffy nose and/or runny nose (nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhea) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., seasonal allergies, returning inside from the cold, chronic sinusitis unchanged from baseline, reactive airways)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Headache that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., tension-type headaches, chronic migraines)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g. transient vomiting due to anxiety in children, chronic vestibular dysfunction, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, side effect of medication)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness, poor feeding in infants) that is unusual or unexplained <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, anemia)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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3. Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Has your child been identified as a close contact of someone who is confirmed as having COVID-19 by your local public health unit (or from the COVID Alert app if they have their own phone)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Has your child been directed by a health care provider including public health official to isolate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Results of Screening Questions:

If you answered "YES" to any of the symptoms included under question 1:

- Your child should stay home to isolate immediately.
- Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If you answered "YES" to only one of the symptoms included under question 2:

- Your child should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started.
- If the symptom is improving, your child may return to school/child care when they feel well enough to do so. A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return.
- If the symptom persists or worsens, contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If you answered "YES" to two or more of the symptoms included under question 2:

- Your child should stay home to isolate immediately.
- Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If the individual answers “YES” to question 3, 4 or 5

- Your child should stay home to isolate immediately and follow the advice of public health.
- If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your local public health unit or the health care provider for further advice.

Frequently Asked Questions**1. My child has woken up not feeling well, what do I do?**

If you notice that your child has new or worsening symptoms, what you do depends on the symptom and how usual they are for your child.

If your child has new or worsening:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decreased or loss of smell or taste

Your child should isolate immediately and you should contact your child's health provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

*If your child has **ONE** new or worsening symptom (that is not related to a known cause or condition) that include:*

- Sore throat
- Stuffy nose/runny nose
- Headache
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Fatigue/lethargy/muscle aches/malaise

Your child should stay home for 24 hours to be monitored to see whether the symptoms get better or worse. If they start to feel better and symptoms are improving, they can return to school/child care when well enough to do so and no COVID-19 testing is needed.

If the symptoms get worse, you should contact their health care provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

*If your child has **TWO or MORE** new or worsening symptoms (that are not related to a known cause or condition) that include:*

- Sore throat
- Stuffy nose/runny nose
- Headache

- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue/lethargy/muscle aches or malaise

Your child should isolate immediately and you should contact your child's health provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

2. My child has a runny nose, what should I do?

If your child's only symptom is a runny nose, you should keep your child home and monitor their symptoms as you would in any other year. When they feel better, they are ready to go back to school/child care and no COVID-19 testing is needed. If they get worse or develop other symptoms, you should contact their health care provider for more advice. Mild symptoms known to persist in young children (e.g., runny nose) may be ongoing at time of return to school/child care if other symptoms have been resolved.

3. Who in my family needs to be tested along with my child?

If your child has been identified as needing a test and everyone else in the family is well, no testing of other family members is needed. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, the local public health unit will contact you/your child and make a plan for additional testing of all close contacts.

4. Do I need a note from a doctor before my child goes back to school/child care or a copy of a negative test result?

No, you do not need a note from your doctor or proof of a negative test before your child returns to school/ childcare.

5. I need more information to feel confident in my assessment, what do I do?

If you need additional information about COVID-19 or have a question specific to your child and their health, please contact your health care provider.