

1000 New Westminister Dr, Thornhill, ON, L4J 8G3
Attendance: 905.882.0277 x 238

Westmount CI



Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor



Please check our [website](#) regularly for updates.

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Westmount CII

Hello Westmount Families:

It has been a busy time again at Westmount this fall. Our students are engaged with their schoolwork, sports teams, and clubs.

On November 12, WCI hosted over 400 parents and students at our annual Grade 8 Open House. The excitement of being at high school was evident as students explored all the different and unique opportunities that Westmount has to offer. A big thanks to all of our staff who helped answer questions and interact with our incoming Grade 9 class. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2024 next fall.

Our Grade 12 students attended a very special Holocaust Education assembly on November 14. Jordana Lebowitz spoke to the students about her passion for Holocaust education and how it has inspired her to create the non-profit organization MyShadowLight.org. The students were impressed by her accomplishments and learned that it is possible to follow one's dreams.

During the November 15 P.D. activities our staff spent time delving into school data to get a better understanding of the Westmount community. This data analysis will be useful as we develop our School Improvement Plan. We are very appreciative of all the hard work our teachers put forth each day, including on Professional Activity Days.

On Friday November 22nd staff and students participated in our first Spirit Day, "Cozy Day". Many staff and students wore their favourite cozy clothes; like sweatpants, pajamas and sweatshirts. This is a great idea for a Spirit Day and everyone had fun (especially the staff) wearing their "cozies" to school.

As the days get shorter and the temperature drops, November can feel like the longest month of the year. It can be a stressful time for all, especially students, as they may feel overwhelmed with upcoming assignments, quizzes and tests. Parents can help students manage stress by ensuring that students are getting adequate sleep, communicating directly with their teachers to arrange accommodations and creating checklists that break large tasks down into smaller, more manageable steps.

Additionally, as we've now experienced the first major snowfall of the 2019-2020 winter, just a reminder that the best place to know if transportation services are cancelled is to follow the Board's official Twitter handle (@YRDSB) for a notice after 6:00 a.m.

Some Important Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 4 | - All Grade 11 students will be attending their first University/College Information assembly |
| December 12 | - "Winterfest" – Our annual fall music concert |

Ms. Sheri Epstein
Principal

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Secondary Schools Closed to Students on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 due to OSSTF Strike

Notice has been provided by OSSTF, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, that all YRDSB secondary school teachers will be conducting a one day strike affecting secondary schools on **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**.

If the strike proceeds, on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, secondary schools will be closed to students for the day. Please do not send students to secondary school on December 4. Elementary schools will not be affected and will remain open. All secondary school transportation services (including buses, taxis, etc.) will not be running. Independent childcare programs in secondary schools are expected to continue - please confirm with your provider.

School will resume on Thursday, December 5, 2019, and students are expected to return to their regular timetables for the day.

Please continue to monitor media, www.yrdsb.ca or Twitter: [@YRDSB](https://twitter.com/YRDSB) for up to date information.

December 2019 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

David Sherman
Trustee, Markham Ward 1/Vaughan Ward 5

Westmount CII

Tuesday, December 3

- McMichael Art Gallery—Direito, Sadikhov
- DD—Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts—Berditchevskaia, Sitt

Wednesday, December 4

- Gr. 10 Science—In school Reptilia—Wodlinger, Cacenco, Adil, Romano, Nguyen, Hamilton

Thursday, December 5

- Varsity Girls Volleyball—Westmount—Hamilton, Wodlinger

Friday, December 6

- Gr. 11 French—Berkeley Street Theatre—Mati
- DD—Imagine Theatre Promenade—Berditchevskaia, Sitt

Tuesday, December 10

- Gr. 12 Science—Ontario Science Center—Paulin

Wednesday, December 11

- DD—SNAP Basketball—St. John de Brebeuf—Berditchevskaia, Sitt
- Swim Team—Markham PanAM Centre—Gorewicz, Harte

Thursday, December 12

- Gr. 12 Science—Ontario Science Center—Wodlinger



Graduation Ceremony

Our graduation ceremony is on June 25, 2020 at the Paradise Banquet Hall. Please purchase your son/daughter graduation cap and gown by going to "School Cash Online". Our deadline this year is February 28, 2020.



ArtsWest Drama Show

Don't miss out on Westmount Entertainment's first production this season: Stage Door by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman.

January 8-10, 2019 at the Vaughan City Playhouse 8PM, tickets at the door or in the Atrium. 10\$ students, \$15 adults.

Join us at Mrs. Orcutt's, where dreams meet reality; a rooming house in the mid-1930s New York, where young hopeful and ambitious women pursuing a career in the theatre come to stay. Will they survive the challenges and succeed? Join us to find out in this touching and funny portrayal of life in the big city.

ArtsWest Music

Breezin' Thru Theory is a new on-line theory program adopted by the Westmount Music Department. Not only does this program allow students to work on-line at their own pace, but it works to facilitate having four different grades in one classroom.

The drills section of this program is where students challenge themselves to drill after learning the various lessons, and then submit them to be graded.

Music students at Westmount have truly demonstrated their hard work, dedication and commitment being named the #1 school in the northern region of North America while having only 64 students in the program at the school.

Way to go Westmount Music! We're so proud of you all!!

Congratulations! Your school is #1, in drills.

We will be sending out an email and posting our First "Drill-ceptional" Report of top schools for the 2019-20 school year, and we would like to mention your school.

*We've divided North America into 5 regions North, South, East, West, and Central ... and every few months we identify the Top Schools for each region. In your case you are **# 1 in the Northern Region**. Drill-ceptional is all about making things fun & building mastery, while providing you and your students with some well-deserved recognition, and keeping them motivated.*

*The results are based on the total number of drills completed to date for the school year. But the school's average needs to be 90% or higher on these drills to qualify. The first report covers results up until October 31 ... and your school submitted **4,927** drills.*

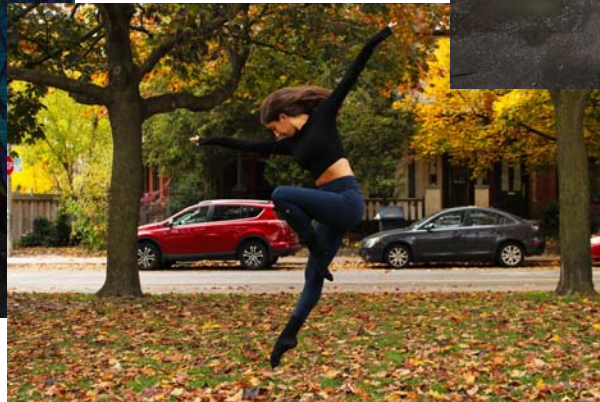
Raptors 905 - Sports & Entertainment Marketing / SHSM trip

The **SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING** class & **SHSM** students attended a career forum, hosted by **Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment** at the Paramount Fine Foods Arena, in Mississauga, on Tuesday, November 26th. After the career forum they stayed to watch the game between The Raptors 905 and The Windy City Bulls.



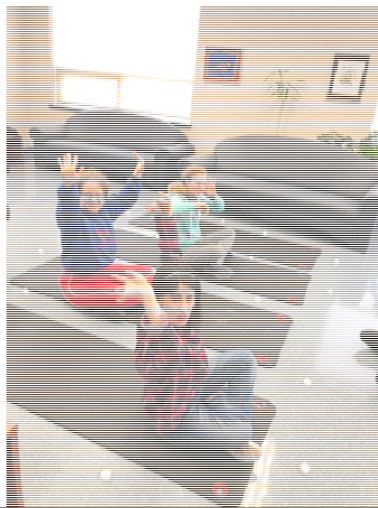
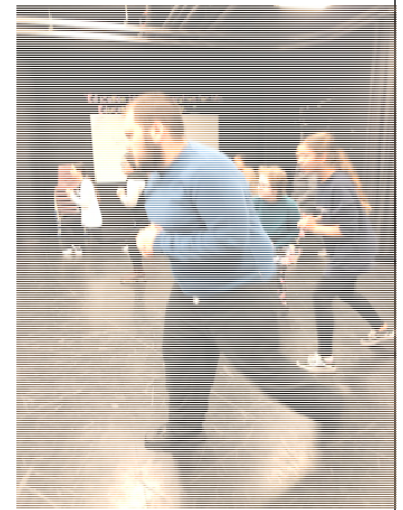
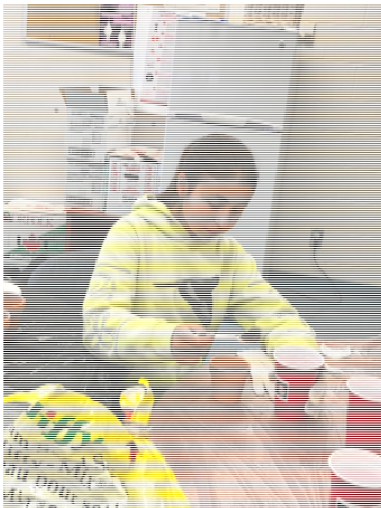
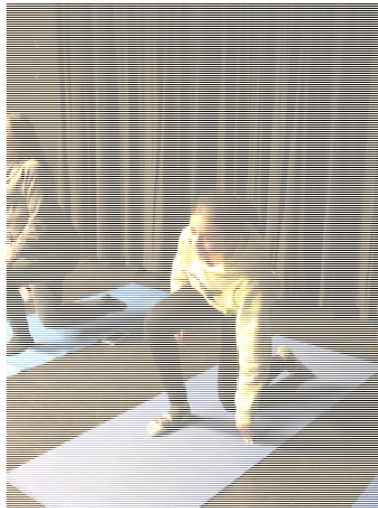
Westmount CII

The Gr 11 Arts West Dance and Gr 11 Photography class joined forces yet again in their biannual photo shoot at Graffiti Alley and Kensington Market at the end of October. It was a beautiful day with exquisite poses turning into static art. Thank you to Mrs. Harte and Ms. Folmeg for the productive and creative experience!



Stress relief workshops and DD class

Last week our community class participated in stress relieving workshops organized by the Business classes. We did Zumba, yoga , gardening, and story telling. Students loved the workshops. Everyone had fun.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS TO CONSIDER

Semester 2 Timetable Change Requests

Students may "drop-in" on the following dates and periods to request a change to their semester 2 timetable. For more info visit <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/timetable-changes>

Monday, Dec. 9 – Period 5
Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Period 1
Wednesday, Dec. 11 – Period 3
Thursday, Dec. 12 – Period 4
Friday, Dec. 13 – Period 2

Friday, Dec. 13th is the last day for grade 9 and 10 students to request a change to their semester 2. After Dec. 13, all grade 9 and 10 semester 2 timetables will be final.

Grade 11 and 12 students will have another opportunity to request a change during the first two weeks of semester 2.

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2020-2021

The course selection process for the next school year will kick-off on Thursday, Jan 9th with course selections assemblies for all grades. Details and instructions for courses selection will be presented at that time. Stay tuned! <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection>



NEED AN APPOINTMENT WITH A COUNSELLOR?

Book an appointment. It's really easy!

- Your child can drop by the Guidance office and Mrs. Pearlstein will book the next available appointment with their Counsellor.
- Mrs. Pearlstein will give your child a date and time for their appointment.
- Please tell your child to let Mrs. Pearlstein know if you will be attending the meeting so we can book extra time if necessary.
- Come to Guidance on the day and time of your appointment.

Have a quick question? Your child can do the following...

- **Drop-in** to see their Counsellor. We can answer a quick question on-the-spot
- **Check-out** the YRDSB, Westmount and Guidance website
<https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/home>
- **Follow** @WCIGuidance on Twitter. Get real-time notifications regarding news, events and more. You can even tweet or direct message your question to us.

Westmount Winter Weather Information

Bus or School Cancellations

With winter weather is here already, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** or day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on these days. Students will not be penalized for missing school.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school websites and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.





Proudly Presents

Winter Fest

Thursday, December 12, 2019

7 PM

Tickets \$10.00

Vaughan City Playhouse

Westmount Entertainment Presents



STAGE DOOR

A Comedy by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

Directed by Andrew Dolha

JANUARY 8-10 2019

VAUGHAN CITY PLAYHOUSE 8PM

TICKETS \$10 STUDENTS \$15 ADULTS

TICKETS AT DOOR OR ATRIUM

GROUPS AND SCHOOLS WELCOME.

Mastering your Separation

Learn how you can be the master of your own separation

Topics will include:

- Understanding separation concerns
- Discovering your own emotional triggers
- Creating self worth and self awareness during the separation process
- Learning strategies for maintaining emotional control
- Becoming a better you
- Creating your own mindfulness toolbox
- Differentiating between the legal separation and the emotional separation



\$60 per person

(sliding scale available)

We welcome all people regardless of cultural and/or racial background or affiliation

Sunday December 1, 2019

9:30 am -12:30 pm

9600 Bathurst Street | Suite 242

Joseph & Wolfe Lebovic Jewish Community Campus

For more information or to register, please call 416.638.7800 x 6627

REGISTER ONLINE

www.jfandcs.com/groups



UJA FEDERATION
of Greater Toronto



United Way
Greater Toronto



Ontario

December 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10 * Spirit Day—WOCO (WCI Homecoming—Wear school clothes and/or colours)	11 * Wolf Pack Wednesday * School Council	12 * Winterfest	13
16 * Spirit Week	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
Winter Break				

SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATION NOTICE

Please remember that if the school buses are cancelled in the morning, then they will NOT operate in the afternoon. Therefore, if you drive your children to school in the morning, you must also pick them up from school at 3:50 p.m. When buses are cancelled, it does not necessarily mean that schools are closed. Schools usually remain open with a modified program. To find out whether or not the buses are cancelled, please check the following website: www.schoolbuscity.com or access the following radio or television stations:

Radio

CFRB 1010 AM CHUM 1050 AM CHUM 104.5 CHIN 1540 AM NEWS 680
 AM CJEZ 97.3 CKDX 88.5 AM CHFI 98.1 FM CHIN 100.7 CBC 99.1
 FM CKFM 99.9 FM Q107.1 FM

Television

CITY TV, CFTO TV, THE WEATHER CHANNEL

A bus cancellation message will also be available at 1-877-330-3001.

