

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

Westmount CII



Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor

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

- [NEWS & EVENTS](#)
- [PARENTS](#)
- [SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)
- [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)
- [GUIDANCE](#)



Westmount CI

Dear Families and Community Members:

Semester II is about to begin! We are on our way to the end of the school year. The expression is that “time flies when you are having fun” so it must mean that we are having lots of fun!

Many students in grades 11 and 12 are going to want to change their timetables and all students (and parents) must remember that we have a process for timetable changes and it is very important that all students follow this process. Patience is necessary and I can tell you from experience (a lot of experience!) that most often things work out exactly the way the students want it to happen.

I recently went out with our Guidance team, and have now visited all of our elementary partner schools to help incoming grade 9 students learn about Westmount CI; and to help with course selection decisions. Current WCI students must choose and submit their courses on My Blueprint by Monday, February 24th. The “submit” button will be active as of Wednesday, February 12th. It is very important that students choose their courses wisely, as this information is used to determine our timetable and course offerings for next year. We base our timetable solely on what the students select!

In order to prepare students for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) that is taking place on March 31, 2020, our Literacy Team is working hard to prepare practice test opportunities and resources for our students. In addition, we will be offering an after-school literacy preparation course for grade 10 students. There will be a Monday and Wednesday course and a Tuesday and Thursday course. Both courses will run from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm on their assigned days. These courses will be beginning next week on either Wednesday February 5th or Thursday February 6th. If you have not yet signed up your grade 10 student, and you wish to do so, please have your child come by the main office and/or please contact Vice-Principal Barb Caravella or our Literacy Teacher, Ms. Alice Sitt.

Next weekend, February 6 to 8, members of Westmount’s DECA team will be participating in the provincial business competition at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. We wish them much success!

Semester I final report cards will be mailed home on February 11th. Please look out for the report card and take some time to talk to your child about their progress during the first semester

On Thursday February 6th there will be a special School Council Meeting being held at St. Elizabeth Catholic High School at 525 New Westminster Dr. This is a joint school council initiative between the York Region District School Board and the York Region Catholic District School Board. The topics will be Vaping and E-cigarettes and On-Line Safety and Cyberbullying. We hope you can make it to this wonderful community event! See the flyer in this e-bulletin.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Feb 3 First day of second semester
- Feb 7 “Jersey Day” - wear your favourite jersey to school
- Feb 7 Immunization Clinic at WCI 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- Feb 17 Family Day – no school
- Feb 19 & 20 Black History Month Assemblies for all grades

Sincerely,
Ms. Sheri Epstein, Principal



Wednesday, February 5

- Varsity Girls Volleyball —Langstaff SS—Hamilton

Thursday, February 6

- Hockey —Tournament—Folmeg, Draxler
- Ski—Beaver Valley—Jackson, Popiel
- DECA Provincials—Sheraton Centre Hotel—Coates, Rosen, Grigorova

Friday, February 6

- Hockey —Tournament—Folmeg, Draxler

Thursday, February 13

- Ski—Georgian Peaks—Jackson, Popiel

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.



OSSLT Preparation Literacy After-School Program - Winter Session

Do you have a child writing the OSSLT this year?

One of the many supports Westmount is putting into place to support our students is to offer an After School Literacy Program. The goals of this program are to build the literacy skills of students who need additional support; to build their confidence in reading and/or writing skills; and to provide some extra help in literacy. Your child will need to attend all sessions to get the maximum benefit from this program.

The After School Literacy Program consists of 10, 1.5 hours sessions. Students will attend twice a week for five weeks. There is a fee of \$108 for VISA students only. There are two programs being offered:

1. Mondays and Wednesdays - February 5 - March 11 - 3:30 to 5:00 pm
2. Tuesdays and Thursdays - February 11 - March 12 - 3:30 to 5:00 pm

A commitment of 12 students (minimum) is needed for the programs to be offered. Please complete the attached registration form or pick up a registration form from the main office. All forms are due by Monday February 3 to the main office.

Guidance Pop-Up

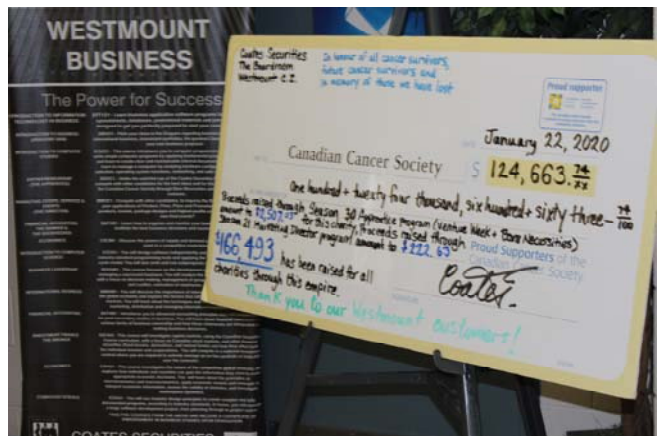
Please find attached the video showcasing the pop-up shop!

https://youtu.be/UPVhQf_aXRs

Please feel free to share with the staff, students and community at Westmount.

The Canadian Cancer Society Receives \$2,508 from Venture Week, Bare Necessities and Marketing Event Week

On January 22nd, the Season Finale was held in the boardroom, where the final candidates went head to head in the three hour final interview. Throughout the season, candidates in all three panels (Entrepreneurship, Marketing & Sports Marketing) were challenged to put their knowledge into action and raise money for The Canadian Cancer Society. The Entrepreneurs and Marketers, collectively raised another \$2,508 for the Canadian Cancer Society, through their ventures, events and at Bare Necessities. During the Season Finale, the Executives asked the candidates a series of questions, weighed their responses with regards to their respective book smarts and street smarts demonstrated throughout the thirtieth season of The Apprentice, the twenty-first season of The Director and the fourth season of The Agent. After the votes were cast, Mr. Coates added his vote, tallied the results and then announced the final winners - Mr. Jonah Tafler secured the title as The Apprentice - Season 30, Mr. Noah Spiegelman secured the title as The Director - Season 21 and Mr. Benjamin Baker secured the title as The Agent - Season 4. Congratulations to all for an outstanding season! Collectively, over the fifteen years in operation at Westmount, Coates Securities has raised \$166,500+ for charity, \$124,600+ of which has been raised for The Canadian Cancer Society.



DECA Provincial Competitions

- **Monday, February 3rd** (3:30 pm online provincials exam in Room 314 for Hospitality, Finance, Business Management and Principles categories)
- Mandatory meeting on **Wednesday, February 5th at 3:30 in Room 314** (all rules, details and agenda items will be discussed)
- **Thursday, February 6th (4:30 pm)** buses leave for the Sheraton)
- **Saturday, February 8th** (6:30 pm buses leave for Westmount)
- All students need to return paperwork to Mr. Coates (school permission form with semester 2 teacher signatures and parent signature). Forms are available outside the business office.

Waterloo Math Contests

The Waterloo Math contests for grade 9, 10 and 11 will be held at Westmount C.I. on February 25. These contests are a great way for students to exercise their problem solving abilities while competing against other students from all across the province and beyond. You can register your child for the appropriate contest by paying for it on School Cash Online. The deadline for registration is February 3rd.

Message from Our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.

- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.

- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.

- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).

- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

David Sherman
Trustee, Markham/Vaughan
Markham Ward 1/Vaughan Ward 5

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

HAPPENING NOW

Semester 2 Timetable Change Requests

Gr. 11 and 12 students may submit a request for a timetable change as of Tuesday, Feb. 4th. Download a change form from <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/timetable-changes> Completed and signed forms can be dropped off to Guidance the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 4th. The school has until Friday, Feb. 14th to get all students settled in their classes. #wcitimetable

Course Selection for 2020-2021

The course selection process for next year has begun. MyBlueprint is now open for students to begin selecting their courses. For full details, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection>

Course Selection Timeline DATES

- **Wednesday, January 15**
myBlueprint OPEN for course selection
- **Wednesday, February 12**
Begin locking in (SUBMITTING) your course selection
- **Monday, February 24**
Course Selection DUE – courses must be submitted and locked-in
- **Monday, March 2**
Verification form or course selection distributed
- **Wednesday, March 4**
Verification form DUE back to Guidance with corrections and signed by a parent/guardian.
ALL verification forms must be returned signed WITH OR WITHOUT corrections/changes
- **February 21, 27, March 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 24**
Dates set aside for parents/guardians and students to book meetings with their counsellor. It does not matter if your meeting is after the Feb. 24th DUE date. Counsellors can make necessary changes to the course selection at the time of the meeting.



Graduation Ceremony 2020 UPDATE!

Our graduation ceremony is June 25, 2020 at the Paradise Banquet Hall. Please purchase your son/daughter graduation cap, gown and guest tickets by going to "School Cash On-Line". Our deadline this year is February 28, 2020. For more info visit <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/graduation>

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.



IMPORTANT NOTICE



Secondary Schools Closed to Students on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 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 **Tuesday, February 4, 2020**.

If the strike proceeds, on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, secondary schools will be closed to students for the day. **Please do not send students to secondary school on February 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 Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 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.

COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM

WHEN: Thursday, February 6, 2020
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: St. Elizabeth Catholic High School
575 New Westminster Dr., Vaughan

We invite all community members to join us for a community symposium, presented by members of York Regional Police, York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Vaping and E-Cigarettes:
A new trend and public health issue
- Online Safety and Cyberbullying:
Keystrokes and consequences



NOVEL CORONAVIRUS - FAQ

January 23, 2019

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the simple common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We see many different types of coronaviruses here in York Region, Ontario and Canada.

What is novel coronavirus?

The type of coronavirus found in Wuhan, China is a new (novel) strain, and not found here in Canada. Information about its ability to spread from person to person and the seriousness of this infection are still emerging.

What are the symptoms associated with this illness?

Common symptoms of coronaviruses vary based on the type of coronavirus, but can often include symptoms like fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and headache.

So far, authorities are reporting that the most common symptoms of the novel coronavirus include: fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath.

How are coronaviruses spread?

Known Coronaviruses: These types of coronaviruses are responsible for causing the common cold and can spread from person to person, usually after close contact with an infected person (e.g., in a household, workplace or health care setting) through respiratory secretions (e.g., a runny nose or saliva) and droplets present in the air from coughing or sneezing; or through touching surfaces contaminated with respiratory droplets, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

Novel Coronavirus: As this is a new disease, much about it is still unknown. While there is evidence of some person-to-person transmission, it is yet to be confirmed how *easily* the disease spreads from person-to-person; for example if the spread is limited to only close or prolonged contact with a case.

What do we know so far?

As seen in recent media reports, on December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities reported an outbreak of a novel coronavirus originally associated with a local live seafood market in Wuhan, China involving many cases, as well as some deaths. New information on the number of cases and deaths continues to be received on an almost daily basis.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/health

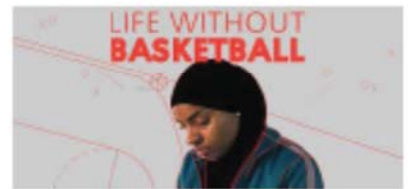
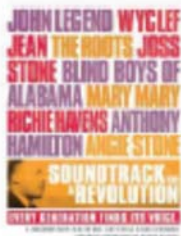
The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white bird or wing shape above the text "York Region" in a white serif font, all set against a dark blue background with a light blue wave-like shape behind it.

York Region

Nubian Unity of Vaughan Secondary School presents...
Black History Month Hot Docs Movie Nights

Free Admission: Limited seats (for tickets see your Principal)

Join us for 2 Nights, 3 Films and Discussion



Tuesday, February 11, 2020
8:30pm

Time: 6:30pm -

Film #1 Soundtrack for a Revolution (82 mins.)

Tells the story of the American civil rights movement through its powerful music - the freedom songs protesters sang on picket lines, in mass meetings, and in jail cells as they fought for justice and equality. Features new performances of the freedom songs by top artists; archival footage; and interviews with civil rights foot soldiers and leaders. Freedom songs evolved from slave chants, from the labor movement, and especially from the black church. Music enabled blacks to sing words they could not say, and it was crucial in helping the protesters as they faced down brutal aggression with dignity and non-violence. The infectious energy of the songs swept people up and empowered them to fight for their rights. This film celebrates the vitality of this music.

Warning: Film contains some historical graphic footage that may not be suitable for young viewers.
(Recommended for students 12-18yrs. old.)

Film #2 Lessons Injustice (8 mins.)

Danardo Jones sets out on a car ride with his teenage son in hopes of having a conversation that some parents dread and others are unaware of. As a lawyer, Jones is well aware that the law can do little to protect his son against the anti-racism and discrimination that has become a part of his complicated Canadian identity.

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Life Without Basketball (89 mins.)

What is it like to be a Muslim female athlete in the world today? Bilqis Abdul-Qadir broke records and barriers on her way to become the first Division I basketball player to play wearing a hijab. When a controversial ban on religious headgear ends her chances at playing professionally, she is forced to re-examine her faith and identity as a Muslim American. Bilqis Abdul-Qadir lost her dream of playing professional basketball because of the ban—but now millions of girls in Muslim majority countries can play basketball because of her successful fight to overturn it.

Graduation

portrait appointments

We Will Be At Your School:

One day ONLY
Thursday, February 6th

Book your appointment at:

<https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/1vtvgkzc/>

You can also get to the site by visiting our company website – www.pegasus-si.com and clicking on Book Your Grad Portrait Session in the top right corner of the website.

If you don't have a PIN #, come to the Main Office



Bring Your Smiles!



**Pegasus
School
Images**

PHOTO DAY *is coming*

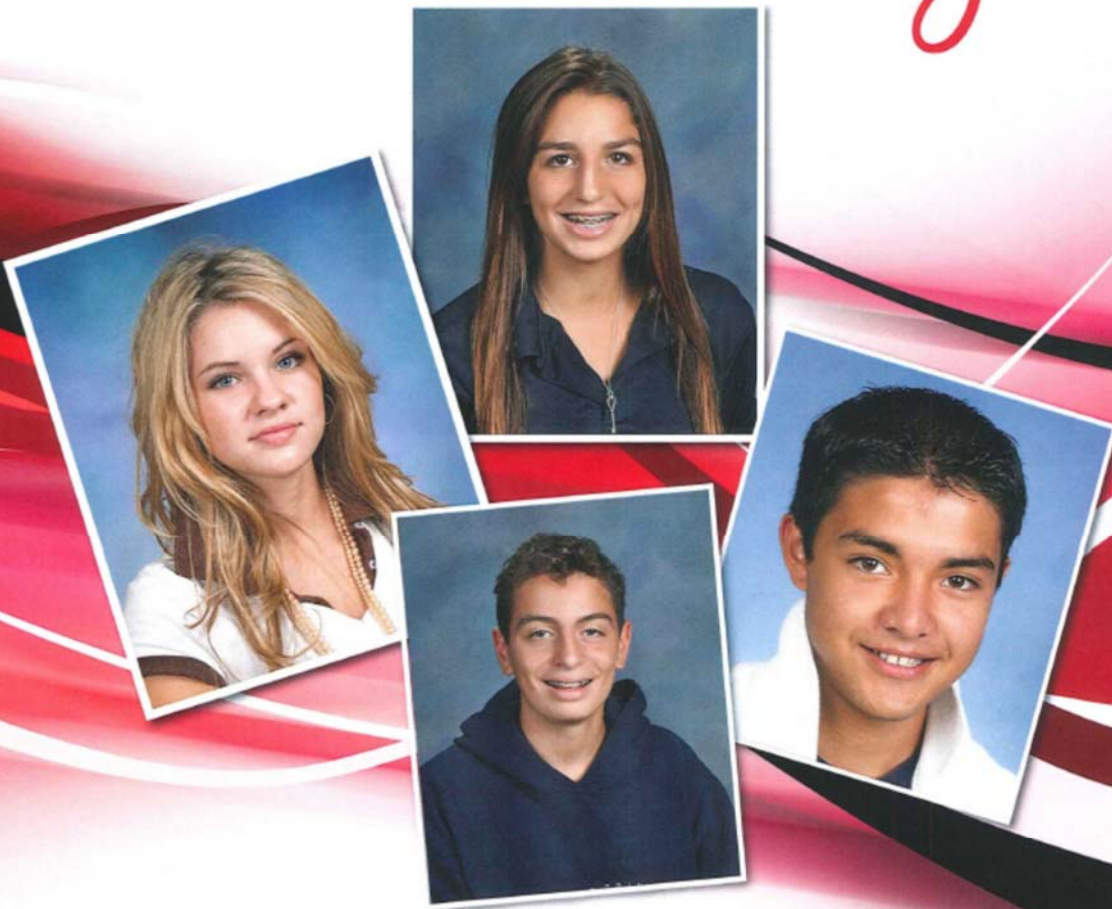


PHOTO DAY IS:

Thursday, February 6th

New students ONLY

www.pegasus-si.com

February 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3 * Semester 2 Starts	4	5 * Sem 2 Photo Day for new students * Graduation Photo Day	6	7 * Spirit Day—Jersey Day Leafs / Raptors * Immunization Suspension Clinic—Library @8:30-11:30AM
10	11	12 * School Council 7 PM * Course Selection—myBlueBrint—Start	13	14
17 FAMILY DAY	18	19 * Black History Month Assemblies—P2 & 4	20 * Black History Month Assemblies—P2 & 4	21
24 * Course Selection Deadline	25	26	27 * Course Selection Closed	28

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.

