

1000 NEW WESTMINISTER DR, THORNHILL, ON, L4J 8G3

WESTMOUNT CI



February 12 - 23, 2018

Attendance: 905.882.0277 x 238

Inspire Learning!

Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor



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



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Message from the Admin Team

Dear Families and Community Members

Semester II is underway and we would like to thank all of our students and parents for their patience in dealing with timetable changes. A big thank you to all staff who made this happen – guidance and office staff who worked so hard to ensure all administrative work was completed. We also thank our teacher for their patience during this process.

Guidance and Admin have now visited all of our elementary partner schools to help incoming grade 9 students learn about Westmount CI and help with their course selection decisions. Current WCI students must choose and submit their courses on Career Cruising by Friday, February 23rd. It is very important that students choose their courses wisely as this data is used to determine our timetable and course offerings for next year.

In order to prepare students for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) that is taking place on April 10, 2018, our grade 9 and 10 students will be participating in a “Literacy Blitz” in their various classes during the week of February 12th. Teachers will be working through sample questions from previous OSSLT tests. Although grade 9 students do not write the OSSLT until next year, we believe it is a good idea to begin preparing them as soon as possible.

We will be offering an after-school literacy preparation course for grade 10 students. Classes will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. We are working out the details and will let you know when registration is open for this wonderful course.

This weekend, members of Westmount’s DECA team are participating in the provincial business competitions at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. We wish them much success!

Semester I final report cards will be mailed home on February 13th. Please look out for the report card over the next few days. Inside the report you will also be receiving information about EDSBY, a new communication platform, that the YRDSB is adopting in stages over the next little while. Westmount CI will be first using EDSBY for making on-line appointments for our Semester II Parents’ Night on March 27th. After receiving this information, you will be required to validate your email address with us. We look forward to using this new, helpful tool.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day Spirit Day – we ask all staff and students to wear Red & White
- Feb 15 – Course Selection Fair – all students in grades 9-11 will be able to meet with teachers from different departments and ask questions about course offerings
- Feb 16 – Lunar New Year – the Year of the Dog – Kung Hei Fat Choy – wishing everyone a year of health and prosperity
- Feb 19 – No School!
- Feb 20 – Grade 9 & 10 Assembly with Guest Speaker, Tech Guru Marc Saltzman – “Technology: Using it and Pursuing it”
- Feb 21 – School Council Meeting – 7:00 pm in the Library – “Understanding how our children get their Marks”
- Feb 23 – all course selections due! (even graduating students must go in and select “not returning”)

As always we are a busy place!

If you have questions and/or comments, please give us a call or send us an email! We love hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Sheri Epstein

Principal

CO-OP

If any parent in our community works for a business, owns a business, or knows of a business that might be interested in taking on one of our Westmount students for a co-op placement, *please contact Ellen Seitz, the Community-Based Education Department Head*. We are always looking for positions in companies where our students can gain experiential learning, whether it is in the community or in another area of the city.

Our students are willing to travel by bus, subway, and streetcar all over the city in order to find placements where they can get experience, hands-on training, and explore possible future career choices.

Some of the placements students have gone to include:

Hospitals, accounting, law, architect, and medical offices, veterinarian clinics, dental labs, real estate companies, restaurants, schools, pharmacies, retail stores, hair salons, daycares, just to give you an example.

It is always a challenge finding placements for all the students in the program, but with your help, it would be a lot easier.

Think about where you work, and if the business could use the help of our very capable students. The students are required to work a minimum of three hours at the placement, whether it is a morning or afternoon placement, for 15 weeks, where they earn credits.

If you have any questions about our Co-op Program, please call the school, ext. 592 and I would be more than happy to discuss our program with you.

Ontario Student Nutrition Program (OSNP)

Westmount has started a new initiative to help students get a great start on their day. We are working with the Ontario Student Nutrition Program (OSNP) to provide healthy snacks for our students. Initially, it was started for a smaller group of students who are coming to school without having breakfast or funds to bring to school for lunch. No one should be hungry when they are trying to learn and get an education.

With the help of the OSNP, we are providing a fruit/vegetable, along with a grain or dairy product daily. This is considered to be part of a "Snack Program." The apples seem to be very popular, along with the granola bars and cheese strings. We have two locations in the school where we have the food, so that more students can help themselves to the snacks and help get them focused when the school day begins.

If you or anyone you know has access to food products that have less than 8 gm of sugar and less than 140 gm of sodium, we would be interested in talking to you to help out with our existing program. At present, we have been working with No Frills on Centre Street to purchase the food. They have been very accommodating and helping to give us the best prices to work within our budget.

Please contact Ellen Seitz at ext. 592, should you be able to help our students continue to eat healthy during the school day.

Wednesday, February 21

- Bluma Appel Theatre - Lambert, Dolha



York Region Skills Challenge at Seneca College on March 1 - It's open to all students and there are many different competition areas (i.e.) photography, animation, prepared speech, hairstyling, etc. All the competitions and scopes are available for review at: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/skills/Pages/YRDSB-Skills-Challenges.aspx>

The Westmount Ski/Snowboard Team

The team had it's second meet of the season on Thursday at Beaver Valley Ski Club. All our athletes are continuing to improve on their race times. Special mention to Alice Fours who finished 6th overall in the Girls Snowboard Division and Kyla Wisener who finished the day with a Top 25 finish in the Girls Downhill division. We look forward to returning to Beaver Valley on Thursday, February 16 for our next meet of the season.



@WCIGuidance Team UPDATES

SEMESTER 2 TIMETABLE CHANGES

Timetable changes are wrapping up and all students should be settled into their classrooms by Friday, February 16. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/timetable-changes> and follow @WCIGuidance on Twitter for real-time #wcitimetable

2018-19 COURSE SELECTION

HURRY! Get you course selection in for next year! Career Cruising is OPEN and ready for course selection. Students will need to lock-in their courses in Career Cruising by Friday, February 23, 2018. Our website <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection> has been updated with all that you need to know about selecting your courses.

Westmount will be holding a Course Selection Fair on Thursday, February 15th. This is our first fair of this kind. Students will have the opportunity to discover and learn about compulsory and elective courses at Westmount. Grade 9s will visit the fair period 1, grade 10 period 2 and grade 11 period 3.

You can also download all course selection material from the bottom of the course selection page of the guidance website. Follow @WCIGuidance on Twitter for real-time #wcicourseselection updates.

GRADUATION CLASS NEWS

The Graduating Class NEWS page of the Guidance website has been updated. **Grade 12 students are invited to nominate themselves for the Graduation Awards of Excellence.** Details of these awards can be found at the bottom of the Graduating Class NEWS webpage. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/graduation> Follow @WCIGuidance on Twitter for real-time #wcigrad updates.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement opportunities will be tweeted out using #wcigetinvolved. Grade 12 students need to have their 40 hours of community service completed by May 31, 2018 in order to be eligible for graduation. <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/community-service-hours>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Check the main page of the [Guidance website](#) for an updated list of Guidance related dates and events. Dates and events are tweeted using #wcievent. Follow us @WCIGuidance.

Stay in the Loop

Follow @WCIGuidance on Twitter. Visit the Guidance website regularly for important news, information and announcements. <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/home>

Guidance Appointments

Need an appointment with your Guidance Counselor?

Here's how to book an appointment:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/>

Follow us on twitter @WCIGuidance or check the website regularly for updates as to when you can begin booking Guidance appointments.



[@WCIGuidance](#)

“Raising Positive Resilient & Happy Kids”

With International Speaker, KATE JONES

Thursday, March 29, 2018 7:15 - 8:45 PM

Thornhill Secondary School

167 Dudley Ave., Thornhill L3T 2E5

Join Kate to learn how we can work together to help kids thrive both at home and at school. In this interactive session, you will explore the following:

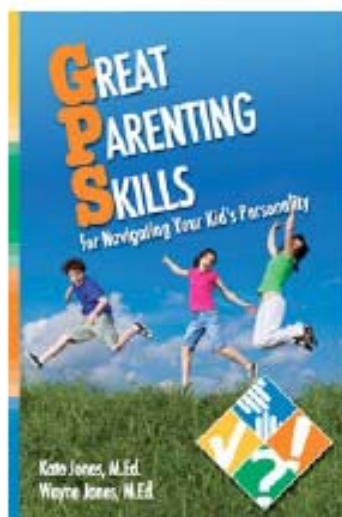
Your Kid's Resilience versus Achievement

Why Resilience is so Important

Recognizing Resilience

Ways to Increase Kids' Resilience

By applying these practical strategies you will be able to help your offspring cope with life's challenges in a more positive way.



Book available at

Special price: \$20!

ABOUT KATE JONES

**Amazon Author with Partner, Wayne, Retired Principal
International Speaker**

Specialist in Personality & Positivity

Motivational speaker for over 15 years

Founder of the “Awesome Parenting Series®”

Master Trainer for Personality Dimensions®

Master of Education Degree in Teaching and Learning

FEBRUARY 2018

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
				1 * Ontario College Application DEADLINE * School Dance - "Glow Party"	2 PA DAY	3
4	5	6 * Sem. 2 Timetable Changes Day 1 (Gr.11/12)	7	8 * Last day to request a timetable change	9 * OCAS Transmission (Sem. 1 Final grades)	10
11 * Se. 1 Final Report Cards mailed home * Course Selection Lock-in Date START	12	13	14 * Spirit Day - Valentine's Day dress up: Red & White	15 * OUAC Transmission (Sem. 1 Final grades) * Grad Photo Retake Day	16	17
18	19 Family Day	20 * Gr. 9 & 10 Assemblies - P1 & 2	21 * School Council	22	23 * Career Cruising is closed (course selection due)	24
25	26	27	28 * Spirit Day - Anti-Bullying dress up: Pink Shirt Day			

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.

