

Westmount CI



Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor

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Westmount CII

Dear Families and Community Members,

As the frigid temperatures continue outside, we are warming up inside as semester two is well underway. Thank you to all of our students and parents for their patience as we finalized semester two timetables. Ensuring students are scheduled into courses they need and sometimes, courses they wish to take is a timely process which requires much attention and collaboration to accommodate all of the requests. Once again, thank you for supporting us through this process.

February is a busy and important month as students start to think about their course selections for the next school year, including our incoming grade 9 students from our elementary partner schools. Students have received information from the Guidance department, attended assemblies about the course selection process, visited a course fair, and are consulting with parents and friends about what courses to take for next year, while keeping in mind future options and destinations. Please take the time to discuss courses and this process with your child so that they make the best choices. The deadline to choose courses on *myBlueprint* is fast approaching – Monday, February 24 – do this now to avoid any last minute decisions. It is very important that students choose their courses wisely as course offerings for next year are based on what students select.

In order to prepare students for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), scheduled to take place on March 31, 2020, our Literacy Team is working hard to prepare practice materials and resources for our students to help them become familiar with this assessment. We are currently offering two after-school literacy programs for Grade 10 students who will be taking the test this year. Sessions have begun this week and there is still space if your child is still interested in participating. Please contact the main office for details and registration information.

Semester One final report cards were mailed home this week. You will notice that there are no comments inserted into the report card as a result of the current teacher job action. We assure you that the grade and learning skills indicated on the report card are reflective of your child's performance. Please take the time to review the report card carefully and to discuss what your child has learned in each course.

Besides taking care of important business at WCI, we have been having some fun too! Spirit Days, sports tournaments, math contests, DECA provincial competitions, and in-school events continue. This month, we welcome guest speaker/presenter, Glenn Marais, to help celebrate Black History Month, by bringing an exciting workshop to all students and staff. All of these events provide our students with an enriching high school experience, that go beyond the classroom.

As we look forward to warmer temperatures, we would like to wish all of our families a happy Family Day long weekend.

Best wishes,

Barb Caravella

DECA

Westmount DECA did very well at the Provincial competitions this weekend in downtown Toronto. Kyle Levy, Megan Siow, Avi Smuckler, Jessica Rotstein, Jonah Tafler, Jordana Nissan, Jamie Frank and Sophie Rose all placed within their categories. Sherry Li, Linda Jiang, Sydney Perez, Romy Levy, Tamara Trklja, Kyle Levy and Avin Gonen all placed in the top 9 across the province and will be off to Nashville in April. Congratulations to all!



Wednesday, February 19

- Ski—Alpine Ski Club—Jackson, Popiel

Tuesday, February 25

- Match Contests —Gold, Romano

Wednesday, February 26

- Hockey Tournament—Draxler, Folmeg



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.



Co-Op Experience

Growing up, I had thought about becoming a teacher. When I had the opportunity to participate in the Co-Op program offered at my high school, I jumped at the chance. I would never have thought that my experience would be as rewarding and impactful as it was. The placement I had was in the elementary school that I attended. I am so happy that I was able to create a different kind of bond with my old teachers, meet new people that I will remember forever, and build amazing relationships with the students I was working with.

I always had a clear image in my head that working with younger students was what I wanted to do. In my Co-Op placement I decided to keep an open mind about the age range to work with. There was a need for help in a class that was split with Grade 5 and 6 students which was almost the complete opposite of what I had envisioned. I worked closely with students with various requirements, including a child who was blind, another who was ESL, some students with special needs, and many other great children. Each and every one of them impacted my learning as much as I impacted theirs. I experienced so many elements of the teaching world as my supervisor gave me countless opportunities to evolve my learning. I was able to grade assignments, prepare work, and teach as well as help students to succeed and reach their full potential. I enjoyed working with older students and now recognize that going out of your comfort zone can have a huge impact on your life. If I did not have the hands on experience and guidance from the teacher I was working with, I would never have known that I have the interest and ability to work with many age groups in such a meaningful way.



I am truly passionate about how impactful Co-op can be and would encourage anyone to take part in it, regardless of what they want to do in the future. The learning that takes place inside the highschool program as well as in the placement is valuable regardless of the profession. It helps you learn more about real work environments and also about yourself, in a different way than a classroom setting. The learning, connections and memories will last a lifetime.

African Drumming Workshop

On Tuesday, students from the French, Music, Dance and English departments participated in a workshop on African drumming led by Cameroonian musician Njacko Backo as part of our Black History Month learning. Students were able to create music, dance and learn the importance of storytelling in this interactive work-shop. A huge thank you to Njacko Backo for coming in and sharing his passion and knowledge with us.

Mardi, les élèves de français, musique, danse, et anglais ont participé dans un atelier de la batterie africain avec Njacko Backo un musicien de Cameroun, en tant que nos études sur le mois de l'histoire des Noirs. Les élèves ont créé de la musique, ont dansé et ont appris l'importance des narratifs dans cet atelier interactif. Un grand merci à Njacko Backo pour nous rejoindre et pour partager sa passion et ses connaissances avec nous.



Gingerbread Houses

Our students had a wonderful time building and decorating their own gingerbread houses. Some of the colourful candies were placed on the gingerbread houses and some were perfectly placed in their stomachs. The students fully enjoyed this activity.



Westmount Welcomes

Kate Willey—Spec-Ed

Hi there! I'm new to Westmount CI but not to teaching, having started in Japanese classrooms before getting my footing in the private school system here in Ontario. After earning my Masters of Educational Technology, I jumped over to the YRDSB and it's been a blast. I'm super excited to be here at WCI for second term, where I can meet some of the awesome students and support them in meeting their goals. Who knows, maybe we'll hit it off with mutual interests like movies, weightlifting, and D&D! OR not, and that's okay too. Here's to a great Spring semester!

Richard Jansen—Math

Hello! I'm Mr. Jansen, and I'm extremely excited to be teaching mathematics this semester at Westmount Collegiate Institute. Though I specialize in science/physics and health and physical education as well, math is my original calling to education. I received my degree in Mathematics for Education from York University. Any time that I wasn't studying in the library or collaborating with my peers, I was training at the Track and Field center on Campus. Between teaching and coaching, I am excited to help all students reach their full potential both in and outside of the classroom! I hope all my students are ready for engaging and active lessons as I don't intend for my classroom to be a silent one.

Julia Domenichiello—Phys-Ed

Hi all parents and guardians!

It has been a warm welcome here at Westmount Collegiate by staff and students and I am so excited to be a new member of the WCI community! My name is Julia Domenichiello and I am teaching in the Phys-ed Department this semester. With my background as a fitness instructor, specializing in HIIT circuit training and strength training, I am here to ensure your children are getting their heart rates up while building strength and endurance to contribute to their physical health. Working in injury rehab clinics I have assisted physiotherapists and learnt how to care for sport-related injuries which will allow me to support students with all needs. I have extensive knowledge on proper form and safe training techniques that I ensure students learn so that they feel comfortable and safe in the gym and weight room. I hope my passion for fitness and health inspires my students to be lifelong learners that value their overall wellbeing.

Shantelle Stamoulis—Communication Technology

Prior to becoming a teacher, I was a successful Graphic Designer/Art Director for over 15 years in charge of the visual style and layout for several print publications such as Snapd Newspapers, Jewish Pages & Jewish Review. While collaborating with junior designers in industry, I realized that teaching is a passion of mine and I felt a strong calling towards the profession. I enjoy working with students in the classroom where I bring a wealth of real-world industry experience and I am always amazed at how much I learn from them. When I am not teaching you can find me in a hockey arena with my two children who play rep hockey, or enjoying the outdoors with my dog Frank. I look forward to my semester here at Westmount C.I meeting new students and staff.

Westmount C.I.

Alexandra Iadipaolo—Spec-Ed

I'm very happy to be joining the Westmount C.I. family! Throughout my 5 years as a teacher, I have taught a wide range of courses like History, Social Science, Geography, Law, Family Studies, English and even Business! This semester I will be teaching Learning Strategies, which is the perfect fit for me since I have my Specialist in Special Education! I'm looking forward to a great semester!

George Doukas—Business

Hello, my name is George Doukas. I teach in the Business Department here at Westmount C.I. I graduated from OISE of the University of Toronto. I have worked for the past 5 years in the education field at private schools, PDSB, and YRDSB.

My favourite sport is soccer. My favourite food would be steak. My favourite place I have travelled to would be Nashville, Tennessee.

I have aspirations to travel to many different countries and feel that travelling is the greatest learning tool one can commit to. My next travel destination is between Iceland and Austria.

Gurpreet Singh—Science

Dear Parents, I am Gurpreet Singh, and I am a new Biology teacher at Westmount C.I. I have an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto St. George Campus in English, Biology, and Philosophy. Alongside Biology I have taught English and Drama at previous schools. My main consideration in organizing and teaching classes is in ensuring that all students feel that they have a voice, not only in regard to their current achievement, but in feeling that class topics and considerations are chosen with their interests and learning styles in mind. I have found that this sort of atmosphere allows students to take responsibility for their own learning and explore topics that engage their interests; ultimately, resulting in greater ownership and focus in their learning.

Shirley Wong—Science

Hello Westmount community! I am Shirley Wong, the new Grade 10 Science and Special Education Resource Teacher. I hail from York University, where I was a part of their Faculty of Education, and graduated with Chemistry and Biology teachable subjects, as well as further qualifications in Special Education. I believe in teaching in a way that makes the curriculum accessible to all students, as well as creating a safe learning community within our classrooms through kindness and respect for one another. I look forward to working with the students, parents and staff of Westmount C.I. this year!

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

Timetable changes for semester 2 wrapped up on Monday, Feb 19th. The school allots 8 days to complete changes; we did it in 4. All students are now settled into their semester 2 timetable.
#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.



WCI Spirit Days Committee Presents

PINK SHIRT DAY

Wednesday February 26, 2020



- Polaroid Frame Photobooth
- Buttons/Pins
- WCI Instagram Kindness Bingo
- Winners get prizes!
- Tag WCI on your posts with #WCIPinkShirtDay
- Please remember to wear your pink shirt!

Maple High School
Presents

Maple's Closet - The Diva and GQ Balls

Maple High School is proud to present the 14th annual Maple's Closet Diva and GQ Balls. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 650 grade 8 and 12 students. Our objective is to provide a graduation dress, suit and accessories to every YRDSB student in need.

If you would like to make a referral of a YRDSB student to Maple's Closet, please complete each section of the referral form found at [here](#) by Friday, March 13, 2020. If you would like further information, contact Maria Luongo-Cassar at Maple High School (905-417-9444) or at maria.luongo-cassar@yrdsb.ca.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Maple High School. Donations (dresses, suits, and accessories) would be appreciated by Wednesday, March 25th, 2020.

Maple's Closet – Diva and GQ Balls

Students referred to Maple's Closet are invited to attend the Diva and GQ Ball events, which will be held on Monday, April 6th, 2020, from 9:00 am – 11:30 am at Maple High School.

The students will enjoy a variety of activities and refreshments as they choose formal attire and accessories for graduation/prom night. Students will be able to participate in activities such as etiquette, make-up application, jewelry making, hairstyling, tying a tie, etc., provided by the Maple High School community.



Donations for Maple's Closet

Maple High School is proud to be hosting the 14th annual Maple's Closet Diva and GQ Balls events in the spring of 2020. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 650 grade 8 and 12 students.

Our objective is to provide a graduation dress, suit and accessories to every York Region student in need.

We accept donations of gently used formal wear and accessories for the event. We are in need of the following items:

- Prom / Graduation dresses
- Purses / Clutches
- Jewelry
- Dress pants
- Ties
- Shoes (Men and Women)
- Toiletry / Make-Up bags
- Suits (Boys and Men)
- Shirts
- Belts

Each guest receives a takeaway package as a thank you for his / her participation. To support us with this we also accept donations of unused:

- make-up
- men's socks
- nail polish
- toiletries
(combs, soap, brushes, etc.)

To make a donation please contact Maria Luongo-Cassar @
maria.luongo-cassar@yrbdsb.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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.

