

Message from the Admin Team

Semester 2 is off and running. Students have adjusted well to their new classes and are already thinking about next year. Course registrations for the 2018 – 2019 school year were due today, through Career Cruising, and as a school, we now being the process of starting to build a timetable for next year. A big thank you to Mrs. Burgis and the Guidance Department, for their first-annual Course Fair on February 15th. Students in Grade 9, 10 and 11 were invited to the cafeteria to meet with other students and teachers, representing the various departments and course offerings at WCI. Our next step is to “load” all the course selections and determine how many of each course we will run. Students will have the opportunity to confirm/review their choices in March, should there be any need for a change.

On Wednesday evening, the topic of our School Council meeting was “All the questions that you have about your child’s marks, but were too afraid to ask”. A great turn out led to a great discussion. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to view the materials that were shared, you can do so by visiting <https://bit.ly/WCIMARKS>

WCI has been gripped with Olympic fever as we’ve cheered on our Olympic athletes, even in spite of the 13 hour time difference. On February 15th, the school hosted a pancake breakfast, attended by over 200 students as we cheered on the Women’s hockey team. We were back at it this past Wednesday, this time as we hosted a Grilled Cheese breakfast for students up early to cheer on the Men’s hockey team. Our final early-morning Olympic breakfast was this morning, with bagels and cream cheese to again, cheer on the Men’s hockey team. Thank you to Ms. Madill, Mr. Orlowsky, Ms. Fornazar, as well as other staff and students for really making the Olympics an event here. We were also fortunate to have former para-Olympian Paul Rosen speak to our students during Period 2 today.

Please mark your calendars: Semester 2 Parent’s Night has been moved to Tuesday, March 27th with our Mix and Mingle Doughnuts and Coffee Social between 6:30 and 7:20, with individual appointments from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. In your child’s Semester 1 Report Card, you should have received a letter introducing the Board’s new Parent Engagement Tool, Edsby. In a couple of weeks, you will receive an email from Edsby, encouraging you to register for an account. Please note: We will be using Edsby exclusively for the booking of Parents’ Night appointments. Once you register for an account, you will be able to use the online schedule tool book your appointments. Prior to this however, teachers have the ability to connect with parents that they would like to see and make appointments. We hope to have the appointments available for booking in early March. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming Parents’ Bulletins.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will be written by Grade 10 students, and other students who have yet to be successful on Tuesday April 10th, 2018. We will have a modified school day on this day, **and only students who are writing the test** are expected to attend school. This is a change from previous years. While we are still working out the specific details of how the day will look, additional information will be shared with you at a later date.

With March Break just around the corner it is important to remember that Mental Health is crucial to academic success. We encourage all students to disconnect from school, if not for the entire break, then for some of the break.

Thank you for your on-going support. Should you have any questions, please reach out to us.

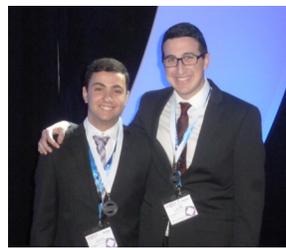
Todd Taylor

DECA PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS FOR INTERNATIONALS

DECA Provincial competitions were a terrific success for Westmount - moving several on to International competitions in Atlanta, Georgia, in April!



Top 10 across the province in their categories: Romy Levy - Principles of Hospitality, Jessica Rotstein - Principles of Marketing, Jacob Levy - Sports & Entertainment Promotion Plan, Jory Clements and Imaad Remtula - Automotive Services Marketing, Jordi Kofsky and Jamie Schlosser - Buying & Merchandising, Raviv Talkar - Business Services Marketing, Sydney Perez - Hotel & Lodging Management, Brandon Freedman, Daniel Frank & Eric Mogilner - International Business Plan and Justin Paulin & Benji Saltz - Entrepreneurship Independent Business Plan.



Tuesday, February 27

- Ontario Vocal Festival - Mayfield SS - Morgan, Nixon
- Active Living - Ski Snow Valley - Alweyn, Folmeg, Gorewicz, Shah, Grossi, Draxler



Thursday, March 1

- Kiwanis Music Festival - Lawrence CI - Morgan, Nixon

Tuesday, February 27

- Soccer Tournament - Trio Sportsplex - Gorewicz, Hamilton, Alweyn



The Library is happy to announce the addition of several new fiction titles to its [NEW BOOKS](#) page. Please visit both our [NEW BOOKS](#) and [various LITERARY AUTHORS](#) pages regularly for their continuous updates.

Anyone willing/able to donate a copy of Westmount CI's 1999-2000 and/or last year's (2017-2018 Yearbook(s)), please contact either Ms. Chan (Head of Library) or Mr. Coates (Supervisor of the Yearbook Committee). Your assistance and generosity in completing our school's Yearbook Archives would be greatly appreciated.

@WCI Guidance Team UPDATES

SEMESTER 2 TIMETABLE CHANGES

All students are now settled into their semester 2 classes. Thank you to everyone for your co-operation and patience during our timetable change process.

2018-19 COURSE SELECTION

Friday, February 23rd was the deadline for submitting courses selection for the 2018-19 school year. A verification form of course selection will be distributed to all students in their homeroom on Wednesday March 21. Changes can be made on this form. This form must be signed by a parent/guardian and return to school by Friday, March 23. <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection> #wcicourseselection



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 @WCI Guidance 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>

“THERE ARE FAR, FAR BETTER THINGS AHEAD THAN ANY WE LEAVE BEHIND.”

- C.S. LEWIS
ITSALLYOUBOO.COM

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 @WCI Guidance.

Stay in the Loop

Follow @WCI Guidance 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 @WCI Guidance or check the website regularly for updates as to when you can begin booking Guidance appointments.



[@WCI Guidance](#)



Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) & York Region District School Board (YRDSB) presents a:

Scholarship Application Workshop

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Vaughan Secondary School

1401 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, L4J 7R4
(Dufferin & Steeles Avenue)



An interactive workshop to show students and parents how to search, apply and win scholarships and bursaries. We especially encourage students of African Caribbean descent to attend.

If you are in high school this workshop is for YOU!

Register via Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/2spMZY7> by Monday, February 26, 2018

For further information contact Charlotte Reid at 905-884-2046 x264 or Cheryl Yarde at 416-566-2731 or info@inbfcn.ca

FREE EVENT

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED
EVERYONE WELCOME

Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls

York Region District School Board is revising its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of public education in York Region public schools. The MYP incorporates the direction established by the Trustees with feedback received from all stakeholders, and will inform decision making at the Board in the years to come. Town halls will be taking place across the region and feedback collected from families and community members will inform the creation of a new MYP. Your voice is important and your input and feedback will help York Region District School Board support student achievement and well-being. There will also be other opportunities, including a survey available in April, to share your thoughts if you are unable to attend a town hall.

Save the Date!

TOWN HALL DATES AND TIMES	LOCATIONS
Monday, April 16, 2018 7 - 9 p.m.	Keswick High School 100 Biscayne Blvd., Keswick
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6 - 9 p.m.	Markville Secondary School 1000 Carlton Rd., Markham
Sunday, April 22, 2018 2 - 4 p.m.	Sir William Mulock Secondary School 705 Columbus Way, Newmarket
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Maple High School 50 Springside Rd., Maple
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Bayview Secondary School 10077 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

Information for parents to help prevent the spread of illness in your child's school

The school your child attends is currently experiencing an increase in absenteeism. The school is working with York Region Public Health to stop the spread of illness from person to person, but there is much that you can do at home.

You play a big role in ensuring that the germ(s) that are causing the illness in your child's school are not passed onto family members and potentially other students that attend the school.

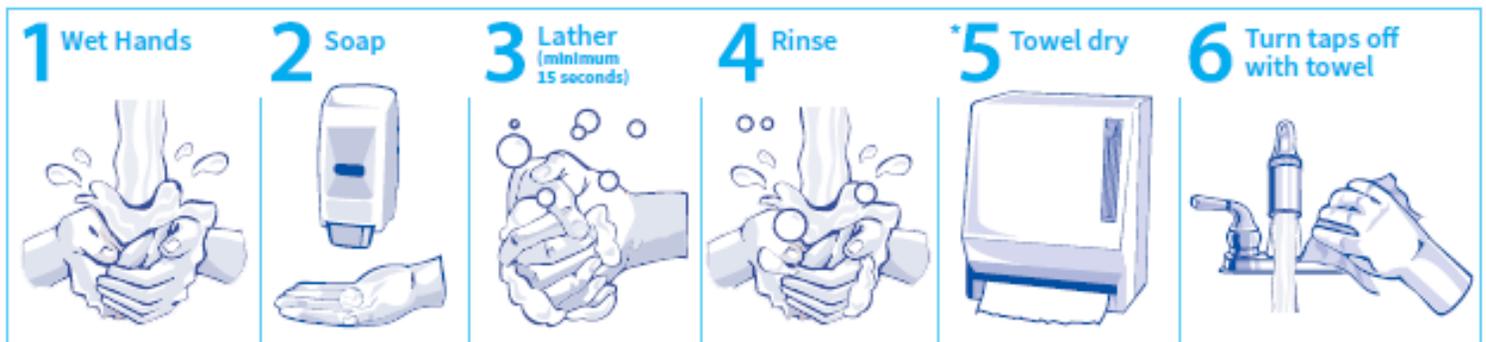
Following some important infection prevention and control practices, such as proper hand hygiene and proper cleaning and disinfecting at home will help to protect your family and prevent further spread at school.

Proper Handwashing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of illness.

Hands should be washed:

- **before** serving food or eating
- **after** coming home from public places such as school or the walk-in clinic
- **after** interacting with anyone who is ill
- **after** using the washroom
- **after** coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
- **after** cleaning up body fluids such as vomit and feces

Wash hands frequently for at least 15 seconds using the six-step method.



*It is recommended to use paper towels if a family member is sick with vomiting and/or diarrhea. If a cloth towel is used to dry hands, ensure it is changed regularly (e.g., three to four times a day) to prevent spread of illness.

Proper use of Hand Sanitizer

- If your family uses hand sanitizer when handwashing facilities are not available, it is recommended that it contains 60 to 90 per cent of alcohol.
- Hand sanitizer is not effective on hands that are visibly soiled.
- When using hand sanitizer, apply enough to wet entire hands and rub solution until completely dry.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use and storage of product.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

In addition to practicing good hand hygiene, it is important to properly clean and disinfect surfaces to prevent the spread of illness in your home.

Cleaning comes first

- Cleaning is the physical removal of visible dirt and organic matter.
- There are three steps to the cleaning process: **wash, rinse, and dry**.
- **Wash** with soap, water and friction, **Rinse** with water, and **Dry** by air or with a clean towel.
- All three steps must be done properly, prior to disinfecting.

Disinfecting is the second step

- Disinfecting is a process that destroys most micro-organisms that can cause diseases.
- Disinfectants are chemicals used for the process of disinfecting. To work properly, disinfectants must be applied to a clean surface, at the proper strength/concentration for the required contact time.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions. These will provide information on proper mixing directions and required contact time.
- Look for "disinfect", "disinfection" or "kills viruses and bacteria" claims on the product label.

Ensure surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door handles, light switches and faucets, along with toilet seats and washrooms are routinely cleaned and disinfected.

Take precautions to protect yourself when **Cleaning Up Vomit and Diarrhea**

- To reduce the risk of spreading illness, it is important to use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as rubber/disposable gloves, an apron and a mask when cleaning up vomit and diarrhea.
- Consider purchasing PPE if you do not already have it at home.
- Soak up the vomit/diarrhea with paper towels and discard the contents into a garbage bag.
- Clean area with soap and water. Rinse the soap off and then dry the area.
- Disinfect the area with a disinfectant for the recommended contact time.
- Wipe up excess disinfectant after the contact time has been achieved and discard paper towel.
- Discard any used, disposable PPE into the garbage.
- Wash hands properly with soap and water.
- If the PPE is reusable equipment such as rubber gloves and cloth aprons, ensure they are properly cleaned and disinfected or properly laundered after use.
- Always wash hands after the clean-up.

It is important to teach your child about infection prevention and control practices, such as proper hand hygiene and the appropriate way to sneeze and cough into sleeve or a tissue, so they can help to stop the spread of illness.

If your child is ill, please keep them at home.

For more information on infection prevention and control, visit york.ca/infectionprevention

1-800-361-5653

TTY: 1-866-512-6228

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services

Public Health

york.ca

Increased Absenteeism Due to Illness in York Region Schools

York Region Public Health has noticed an increase in school absenteeism due to illness. When York Region Public Health receives reports of increased absenteeism, we support the affected schools by providing infection prevention and control measures as well as monitoring of absences in collaboration with the school.

Many viruses are active at this time of year in the community, including enteric viruses (like norovirus) and respiratory viruses (like influenza, commonly known as the flu.) Preventative measures can help reduce the spread of illness in the community.

Norovirus

The most common symptoms of norovirus illness are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. The illness often begins suddenly, about 24 to 48 hours after exposure, and the infected person may become very sick with frequent vomiting and/or diarrhea. In general, children experience more vomiting than adults.

To lower the spread of norovirus within our communities:

- Anyone experiencing symptoms should continue to stay home for at least 48 hours after symptoms stop
- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water, especially after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing, handling and eating food
- Remove and wash clothes and linens that may be contaminated with vomit or feces
- Keep sick individuals out of areas where food is being handled or prepared
- Anyone who is sick should not handle or prepare food for at least 48 hours after symptoms stop
- Take precautions to protect yourself when cleaning up vomit and diarrhea, refer to: [Information for Parents](#)

Influenza

Norovirus is not related to influenza, or "the flu". The flu is a respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus which commonly starts circulating during the late fall and continues into spring.

Symptoms of the flu may include:

- sudden onset of headache
- chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny nose
- fever
- loss of appetite
- muscle aches
- fatigue

Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also occur in children. Most people recover from the flu within a week to 10 days. People aged 65 years or older, pregnant women and individuals with chronic health conditions may be at greater risk of becoming ill and developing severe health problems such as pneumonia.



Young children and influenza

Children under five years of age, especially those younger than two years of age, are at high risk of flu-related complications. These complications include pneumonia, encephalopathy (inflammation of the brain), ear infections, sinus infections and worsening of medical problems like asthma or heart disease. In rare cases, flu complications can lead to death.

How to protect against the flu

1. Get vaccinated – The flu vaccine is the best way to protect against flu. Studies show the flu vaccine can prevent 70 to 90 per cent of illness in healthy adults and children. York Region Public Health recommends everyone six months and older get the flu shot. It's not too late to get vaccinated.

Flu shots are available at:

- Physicians' offices, for people six months of age and older
- Pharmacies, for people five years of age and older
- York Region Public Health clinics, for people three years of age and older

Visit ontario.ca/flu to find where you can get the flu shot. For more information about flu vaccines contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

2. How can you reduce the chances of getting the flu?

- Keep sick children home from school or child care
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and warm water. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Choose an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains between 60% and 90% alcohol
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue out immediately
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid people who are ill and stay home when you are sick
- Keep common surfaces and items clean and disinfected. To learn more about preventing spread of illness in school and home, visit york.ca/infectionprevention

How does the flu spread?

The flu spreads through the air from coughing and sneezing. It also spreads through direct contact with surfaces, door knobs, unwashed hands, or objects such as toys and eating utensils that have been contaminated by the influenza virus.

A person with flu may be able to infect other people one day before symptoms develop and up to seven days after becoming sick.

For more information, visit york.ca/flu



JEWISH FAMILY &CHILD

For more information or to register please call Shawna Sidney at 416-638-7800 x 6215 or visit our website at jfandcs.com/groups

groups & workshops

MARCH 2018

As with all of our programs, registration is required. Our groups and workshops are open to all members of the community regardless of cultural, religious and/or racial background and we offer a sliding scale for those who require fee reductions.

HIGH CONFLICT DIVORCE

A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a High Conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. This workshop is not for individuals in an abusive situation.

Wednesday, March 7, 2018
7:00pm to 9:00pm
4600 Bathurst St
Lipa Green Centre

EFFECTIVE PARENTING

A four session group to help parents learn what they can do to raise a happy, motivated and well behaved child. For parents of children ages 2 to 10 years. Topics include: how to nurture self-esteem; encourage problem solving; increase communication and set appropriate limits and discipline.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
7:00pm to 9:00pm
9600 Bathurst St
Lebovic Community Campus



MARCH 2018

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 * Award's Assembly	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
March Break						
18	19	20	21 * School Council	22 * Interim distributes	23	24
25	26	27 * Parents Night	28	29 * Spirit Day - Blue Jays Day - Dress up: Blue Jays Clothing	30 GOOD FRIDAY	31

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.

