

Westmount CII



Principal: Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal: Todd Taylor



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Westmount CI

Brighter Days Ahead

With the days getting longer, we know that Semester 2 is well under way and students have settled into classes. Thank you to the Guidance Department and teachers for dealing with over 600 course change requests. With Semester 2, it's time to start thinking about planning for next year. Earlier this week, on Wednesday, students' Course Selections for the 2020-2021 School Year were due to the Guidance Office, using the My Blueprint website. Thank you to the 92% of students who submitted their selections on time! While there is some uncertainty about class sizes for next year, these selections are crucial to the school, as we decided which and how many courses to offer based on them. Students will receive a Verification Form next Wednesday (March 4th), which must be returned to the school by March 6th. If a student wishes to change their courses for the upcoming school year, this is their opportunity. Unfortunately, if a student were to show up next September or even next February, it is unlikely that we will have a space available for them, in a course that they do not choose at this point. Please review your child's Course Selections to ensure that they align with their future destinations.

To celebrate Black History Month, on February 12th and 13th, we were honoured to host Juno-nominated Glen Marias and his band for an interactive, informative and moving presentation on the contributions of African-Canadians. Spanning the centuries, this presentation included celebrations of the wide variety of contributions, as well as fitting musical numbers, including a slave hymn. By the end of the assembly, students were literally dancing in the aisles. Feedback from both staff and students was that it was an incredible experience. Thanks to Glen and his band for their amazing performance.

On Wednesday, over 50 staff members and countless students participated in Pink Shirt Day to end bullying. This Canadian-created initiative, began in 2007, and now happens not only across the country, but around the world. Our School Social Committee decorated the atrium, ran a number of activities throughout the day, and even hosted Anti-Bullying bingo where students earned limited edition, WCI-customized pink M & Ms. Thanks to Ms. Alweyn and the Social Committee for all their hard work.

The SHSM program is an enrichment program, open to Grade 11 students, who commit to taking Co-op during their senior years at WCI. This semester alone, we are running over 12 different certifications (run by industry experts) for students in the various SHSM sectors, including the Fundamentals of Advertising, Leadership Skills and an off-site field trip to examine how we market products (the destination hasn't been revealed yet though). Various post-secondary institutions across the province now reward incoming students with scholarships, if they have successfully completed the SHSM program. More information about how to participate (including early participation for students in Grade 10) can be found later in this newsletter.

On March 11th, your child's Semester 2 Interim Report will be distributed in their Period 2 class. This early indicator allows you to see where your child is, and what may be required to ensure that they have a successful semester. Please keep an eye out for this report, as it can help inform your discussions on Parents' Night.

Semester 2 Parents' Night will be on March 26th, 2020 and we look forward to welcoming you to the school. To book your appointment, please use the Edsby platform, beginning at noon on March 13th. Again, additional information about Parents' Night can be found later in this newsletter.

We will also be hosting our monthly Parents' Council Meeting on March 11th, at 7:00 p.m., in the School Library. We look forward to seeing you then.

Just a couple of more weeks until the well-deserved March Break. Until next time,

Todd Taylor
On behalf of the WCI Admin Team.

Westmount CII

Monday, March 2

- Course Selection Verification distributed

Tuesday, March 3

- STEM Assembly—P4 (Gr.9) & P5 (Gr.10)

Wednesday, March 4

- Course Selection Verification due

Thursday, March 5

- Awards Assembly
- Ski Team—Beaver Valley—Jackson, Popiel
- DD—Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts—Berditchevskaia

Friday, March 6

- AGO—Bonder, Cumming, Folmeg

Wednesday, March 11

- Hockey Tournament—Draxler, Folmeg
- School Council—Library—7:00 PM

Upcoming
Events:



Co-Op Experience

As a grade 11 high school student, I had the incredible opportunity to take a Co-op school credit. Over the course of the semester in my placement at a pediatric physiotherapy clinic, I learned so much about not only the practice, but about myself. Prior to my Co-op placement, I was unsure about what career path I would like to follow and where to direct my focus for the remainder of high school and in post secondary. After spending the semester at the clinic, I now have a good idea of what I would like to pursue in the future and fortunately, I discovered my passion for working with children who have high needs.



At my placement, I was taught so many new concepts and ideas that I had never previously been exposed to. I learned about various diagnoses such as Cerebral Palsy, learned about muscles as well as their movement and functions, how to design and execute exercises, and how to work as a physio and occupational therapist. Aside from the direct learning related to my placement, I gained experience in communicating with parents, children, and co workers. The experience I gained was extremely unexpected as I never realized how much learning took place that could not have been done in the classroom.

As a student at the clinic, I was assisting often, and working with different therapists and children all the time. After getting to know all the staff and making connections with each one of them, I was offered a part time job at the clinic to carry out on weekends and weekdays after school. Although the semester at my Co-op placement has come to an end, I continue to work at the clinic and work to pursue my dream of becoming a pediatric physiotherapist. I am grateful to have amazing new role models in the field to help guide me and to continue to help me further my learning. I would highly recommend any student who is unsure of what they would like to pursue, to take Co-op to explore the occupation of their choice and gain exceptional experiences.

Maya Perez

Semester 2 Parents' Night Information

WCI will be hosting our Semester 2 Parents' Night on the evening of March 26th. Join us from 6:30 until 7:20 p.m. in the school atrium for our informal meet and greet session. This is a great chance to connect with any teachers who just require a quick "Hello". Teachers will be arranged by department. Beginning at 7:20 – 8:30, you'll be able to connect with those staff who you might need a slightly longer conversation with, in various rooms around the school. Look for room location listing posted around the atrium and also on the central staircase.

If you need to book a specific appointment with a teacher (during the second half of the evening), appointment slots will open at 12:00 noon on March 13th using the Edsby (<https://yrdsb.edsby.com/>) website. Please reuse the login details that you would have used for first semester.

If you have any questions (or issues accessing your Edsby account), please contact the Main office.

Numeracy Course

The Ministry of Education has provided special funding for an after school numeracy programs for Grade 9 students. The goal of this program is to build the mathematical literacy skills of students who may be struggling, experiencing minimal success, and who require additional positive intervention to overcome barriers to their achievement in school.

If your child is currently in Grade 9 academic math and you feel that your son/daughter is a student who could benefit from some extra help in mathematics then this may be a good opportunity for them. Your son/daughter will need to attend all sessions to get the maximum benefit from this program. The After School program consists of ten (10) sessions of (1.5) hour and half. Students will attend the sessions to receive intensive instruction designed to build their own comfort, confidence, and competence in mathematics. At the end of the sessions, each student will complete a checklist of strengths and needs.

The course will be taught by a teacher from the mathematics department (Mr. Gregor) and will run on Tuesday and Thursdays after school from April 21 till May 21. We chose these dates specifically to help students prepare for the exam period. We are sure that this program will make a difference in your child's knowledge and confidence related to mathematics.

If you are interested in this course for your child, please read and complete the Student Registration Form which can be obtained from their Grade 9 academic math teacher. Your signature is required as permission for your child to participate in the After School program. Please note that the school is not able to provide transportation for students within the time frame of this program, so there may be a need for you to arrange transportation for your child following each session. In addition, a commitment from 12 students is necessary for this program to be offered.

The Wonderful World of SHSM

WCI is proud to host three different Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) sectors: Health and Wellness, Arts & Culture and Business. What is SHSM? SHSM is a program, coupled with Co-Operative Education that provides students with various enrichment opportunities through the year. All students earn their First Aid, CPR and WHMIS certifications, regardless of the sector they enroll in. Along with co-op, they take a bundle of academic courses, which most would take anyways, and earn required certifications along the way. Additionally, students participate in Reach Ahead Experiences and Authentic Learning Tasks to further their understanding of their chosen sector. Last year, we visited the Amazon warehouse in Brampton to look at how Arts and Culture and Business collide. This year, students attended the Raptors 905 program, to learn about marketing and sports management. All of the enrichment aspects are provided free of charge. Additionally, specific programs at post-secondary institutions (i.e. Trent, McMaster and Niagara College) provide entrance scholarships for students who successfully complete the SHSM program.

Upcoming certifications for this year include:

Date & Time	Location	Sectors Involved	Title	Proposed Content
03/03 (AM)	WCI - 107	Arts & Culture Health & Wellness Business	Project Management	Students will learn the basics of project management, including how to identify a need, establishing a plan and creating measureable goals.
03/03 (PM)	WCI - 107	Arts & Culture Health & Wellness Business	Customer Service	Students will engage in a variety of tasks, while examining what good customer service is, and how it can impact all facets of a business. Special attention will be paid to the role of social media in maintaining good customer relations.
03/12 (AM)	WCI - 107	Arts & Culture Health & Wellness	Stress Management	Students will learn a variety of different stress management techniques on this morning of mindfulness. They'll also spend time looking at the science behind the practice.
03/24 (AM)	WCI - 107	Arts & Culture Health & Wellness	Wrapping and Taping	Preventive medicine is crucial for both athletes and performers. This workshop will teach students who to wrap and tape joints and muscles effectively to prevent damage.
04/16 (AM)	WCI - 310	Arts & Culture Business	Intro to Graphic Design	Students will learn the fundamentals about graphic design, including layout and design options and also the basics of tools used in the creation of graphics.
04/16 (PM)	WCI - 107	Health & Wellness Business	Advertising Fundamentals	This workshop will explore the world of Advertising, including how advertising works, what makes effective adverts, and how to break through the clutter of our ad-filled world
04/30 (ALL Day)	WCI - 107	Arts & Culture Health & Wellness Business	SPCE - Sector Partner Contextualized Experience	Students will examine how Health Care, Business and Arts and Cultures can collide in the real world. This hands on day, led by an expert in the field, gives students a chance to look at real world problems and brainstorm real world solutions, using a Design Sprint model.

And more opportunities are still to be announced

Students participate in Grade 11 and Grade 12. However, students may starting earning their certifications in the Second Semester of Grade 11, after they have selected Co-op on their course selections for the 2020-2021 school year, complete the online SHSM application and meet with the Regional SHSM teacher.

Additional information about the SHSM program here at WCI can be found at : <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/specialist-high-skills-major> Additionally, students can join the SHSM Google Classroom to keep aware of upcoming events by using the enrollment code of 942uca.

Computers for Students

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), qualified families with children enrolled at our school have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost.

Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at the school and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards*.

Below is a limited income grid for your reference.

Family size	Annual income*
2 people	\$30,286
3 people	\$37,234
4 people	\$45,206
5 people	\$51,272
6 people	\$57,286
7 people +	\$64,381

Desktop computers are available for \$71 and laptop computers are available for \$161, including software, a two-year hardware and labour depot warranty, and delivery to the school. Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household.

If you are interested in applying, please finalize your order no later than **April 15, 2020** by completing an online application at www.rcto.ca/outreach using the group code on the attached program flyer.

Please note: If you do not pay by April 15, 2020 you will not be eligible to receive a computer.

Please note - There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:

- Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income
- Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you may arrange to use a school computer to complete the application online.

Additional information can be found in the flyer, later in this newsletter.

Westmount Welcomes

Hello! I am coming in to teach Civics, but I also teach English and French. I have a passion for languages and hope to inspire kids to love learning languages as well. I look forward to getting to know the students of Westmount and becoming a part of the school community. In my free time, I volunteer with CNIB and enjoy reading books, exercising and traveling.

Alyssa Chankseliani

Swim Team

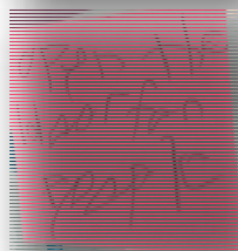
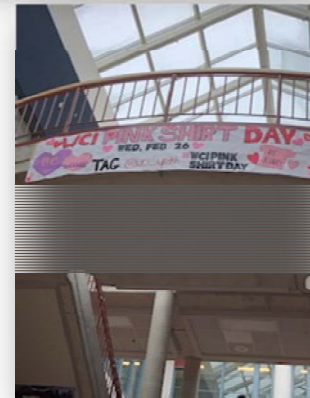
On March 3rd and 4th, David Sung, Maia Koloditzky, and Olivia Ko will be representing Westmount's swim team at the OFSAA provincial championships at the Toronto Pan Am Centre. They all won their races against the best in York Region in December to advance to this final.

Marketing Taste Test Challenge

Wednesday, March 4th - Period 2
In the Atrium

Pink Shirt Day

Students of our Community class participated in Pink Shirt Day on February 26. We discussed the meaning of bullying and how important it is to stop this behaviour from happening. Each student wrote their own note on how they can show kindness towards another individual.



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

Course Selection for 2020-21

The course selection process for next year has begun. MyBlueprint is now **CLOSED** to course selection. For full details, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection> #wcicourseselection

Course Selection Verification –IMPORTANT CHECKLIST

All students will receive a verification form of their course selection on Wednesday, March 4th. ALL verification forms must be returned with or without corrections to Guidance with a parent/guardian signature by end-of-day Friday, March 6th. Not returning your verification form may result in not getting the course you requested.

All student must complete the checklist of items to verify while looking over their selection. They are:

Gr. 9 students going into Gr. 10

- Selected 8 courses
- Selected 2 alternatives
- Selected the correct level (local, applied, academic) of compulsory courses
- Selected compulsory courses

ArtsWestmount Students

- Selected both Arts credits and the correct credit. Arts credits ALL end in ...**20M**
- Selected the correct repertoire credit (optional) for the Arts vocal and instrumental program

Gr. 10 students going into Gr. 11

- Selected 8 courses
- Selected 2 alternatives
- Selected the correct level Local (L), Workplace (E), College (C), University/College (M), University (U) of compulsory courses which is just English and Math
- Selected compulsory courses
- Selected the correct electives
- You have the prerequisites for the courses you selected

ArtsWestmount Students

- Selected both Arts credits and the correct credit. Arts credits ALL end in ...**3MM**
- Selected the correct repertoire credit (optional) for the Arts vocal and instrumental program



Gr. 11 students going into Gr. 12

- Selected a minimum of 6 courses
- Selected 2 alternatives
- Selected the correct level Local (L), Workplace (E), College (C), University/College (M), University (U) of courses
- Selected compulsory courses
- Selected the correct electives
- You have the prerequisites for the courses you selected

ArtsWestmount Students

- Selected both Arts credits and the correct credit. Arts credits ALL end in ...4MM
- Selected the correct repertoire credit (optional) for the Arts vocal and instrumental program

University Bound Students

- Selected ENG4U + 5 additional M or U courses
- My credit count will be 30 by June

Returning Gr. 12 Students

- Selected a minimum of 3 courses
- Selected 2 alternatives
- Selected the correct level (local L,E, College C, University/College M, University U) of courses
- Selected compulsory courses
- Selected the correct electives
- You have the prerequisites for the courses you selected

COMING UP

Grade 11 and 12 Course Drop Request

Student may now be to request to drop from 4 to 3 courses. Students may drop-in to Guidance any Tuesday, 8:20 to 8:40 or Thursday, 3:20 to 3:40 to complete the paperwork. <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/dropping-a-course> #wcidropacourse

Graduation Ceremony 2020 UPDATE!

Graduation AWARDS of EXCELLENCE nomination are due to Guidance by end-of-day, Friday, March 27, 2020

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>

This will be a graduating class of over 375 students. Our venue has a FIRECODE MAX. capacity of 1200. Therefore, EXTRA tickets will be limited. We recommend not confirming tickets with extended family members until ticket sales in June.

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 is 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.



RCT

Renewed Computer Technology



DO YOU NEED A COMPUTER

Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with access to affordable, renewed computers to help meet education and career goals. Working with **Westmount C.I.** we are offering the following packages.

You can apply for this program if you are:

A resident of Ontario and you are an individual with limited income.

Parents or legal guardians may apply on behalf of a child or youth under the age of 18.

We offer 1 computer, per family, with a limit of 2 per household every one year.

Apply online @ www.rcto.ca using group code: L4J8G3-8B9
Before April 15th, 2020

****Please note: if you do not pay by the date listed above you will not be receiving a computer.***

Desktop Package \$60.00 plus shipping \$11.00 = \$71.00



You get - a desktop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software
Others: Monitor, Keyboard and Mouse

*Computers may not appear exactly as shown

Laptop Package \$150.00 plus shipping \$11.00 = \$161.00



You get - a laptop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote plus learning software

For more information, please contact:

Main Office

Westmount C.I.

P: (905) 882-0277

E: westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca



Visit Us Online @ www.RCTO.ca



@RCTontario



March 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 * Course Selection Verification distributed	3 * STEM Assembly—P4 (Gr.9) & P5 (Gr.10)	4 * Course Selection Verification due	5 * Awards Assembly	6
9	10	11 * School Council—7:00 PM—Library	12	13
<h1>March Break</h1>				
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 * Parents Night (6:30-8:30)	27
30	31 * OSSLT			

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.

