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Parent Newsletter: April 1 to April 23, 2021

Administration

Principal:
Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal:
Barbara Caravella

Vice-Principal:
Todd Taylor

Spring has sprung...

Somehow, we already find ourselves at the beginning of April. Where has the time gone. With Passover, Holi and Nowruz all happening in the past couple of weeks, and Easter this coming weekend, we are certainly focused on the return of spring and balmy temperatures.

In case you haven't seen it yet, the WCI Spirit Committee has created an amazing [six minute video](#), featuring teachers and administrators brushing up on their "Yute" speak. The final result is both entertaining and telling. This is just one of the examples of the hard work that the Spirit Committee continues to engage in to improve the student experience here at WCI.

STAY CONNECTED



twitter



Instagram



With Covid case numbers rising in the province, it is recommended that students be prepared to switch to virtual learning on very short notice. If there is a technology need in your home, please contact the Main Office to arrange loan technology. At WCI we share information with you, our larger community, as soon as it is available. Please keep an eye on both [@YRDSB](#) and [@WCI_YRDSB](#) for additional information. We live in times where things are constantly changing, and we strive to share information with you as quickly as possible.

As we move towards the end of the year, planning for various end of year activities are underway. Graduates and their parents have received information about grad photos, and an upcoming memento book. We are still waiting on more information about graduation, but are working behind-the-scenes to ensure that we will be ready.

This first half of this semester ends next Wednesday, April 7th. Grade 10 students in Civics and Careers will switch teachers beginning on the 9th. Midterm report cards will be available on March 27th. Grade 12s looking to unenroll from a class, prior to Full Disclosure, should monitor the Guidance Twitter handle [@WCIGuidance](#) for specific information about the process.

Planning for next year is well underway. Over the next couple of months, your child's courses selection will be collected and combined with other students to decide how many sections of each class we will run. We build the timetable, from scratch, every year. We are still expecting to have any conflicts resolved prior to the end of June and students should expect their timetables at the end of August.

As this point, Locker Partners have been assigned and collected from both Grade 9s and 10s. Grade 11s and Grade 12 students for next year have until this coming Wednesday, April 7th to make their partner requests. They should use the Google Form link that was sent to their @GAPPS email accounts earlier this week. In the event that a student does not choose a partner, a partner will be randomly assigned.

Thank you again for your time and patience this year. We couldn't have done it without you, without the students, without the teachers and without the rest of our amazing staff!

Mr. Todd Taylor
Vice Principal (Alpha M-Z)

Inspire Learning!

Please check our website regularly for updates

[NEWS & EVENTS](#)

[PARENTS](#)

[SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

[GUIDANCE](#)

A Message From The Principal

Important COVID Information for the WCI Community

Hello,

In light of the numerous phone calls we have received plus the many rumours and mis-information swirling about the community we wanted to take this opportunity to clarify COVID procedures and share some important information with you.

When the school is notified about a positive Covid result, we immediately report this information to York Region Public Health. We collect and share detailed information with Public Health, including: test date, results date, the day the student last attended WCI and symptoms. Once the report is filed an administrator is contacted, within a very short time frame, by a YRPH nurse. Please understand that we are on-call to YRPH 24/7 and all three administrators have been contacted late into the evening and on weekend days, if there is an immediate need to share information with our families. If there is a class to be dismissed due to the possibility of a school transmission, we then call each affected family, send home a class/cohort letter, and a general letter to the community. If the positive case has not been in school during the “contagious period” prior to their positive test result, then the case is not considered a school case and no letter is shared with the WCI community. This is what has happened most recently; the positive cases had not been in the building during the contagious period prior to the positive result. These are then not then school cases, but community cases. There are no letters to send home as there are no school cases.

It is always best when students or families get in touch with us regarding a positive Covid result, however even if we don't hear directly from a student/family we will find out from York Region Public Health. Once a positive case is registered through YRPH, a Public Health nurse will determine if the name matches a school report and if they realize they don't have a corresponding school report then the school is contacted and the information is shared with us that way. So no one can “hide” from letting the school know. Whether we are informed directly by a parent, or by Public Health, the process is the same, as outlined above.

As well, “close contacts” are also determined through the reporting process and told to stay home and isolate. A close contact is

“someone who was within 2 metres of the positive person for more than 10 minutes, who lives in the same household or provides care to the positive person, or who had close physical contact with, such as shaking hands, during the contagious period.”

YRPH works closely with both the student who is positive, the family, and the school to determine who the “close contacts” are who need to be contacted and remain at home. Not everyone who has seen the person in the last week, for example, is considered a close contact. Only those people whose interaction with the positive case fits the criteria listed above is considered a “close contact”. So for example a student who was with a sibling of a positive student, 6 days before the positive student had any symptoms, is not considered a “close contact”. Once the close contacts have been identified and notified we then monitor the attendance of those students as well, to ensure they are not coming to school. In addition, we are also in regular communication with our elementary partner schools and if any students are positive in an elementary school or a close contact of a positive case in an elementary school, we are also notified about potential close contacts here at WCI and monitor the attendance of those students as well. As you can tell this is all very complicated but we are constantly monitoring everyone as this is something we take very seriously.

Continued...

This year we are taking extra care when monitoring attendance of students as we need this data to determine when students were last in school and if positive cases will result in a class being sent home to isolate. This contact tracing is crucial for Public Health why we cannot mark them present if they are not physically in class.

We also wanted to let you know that just because some YRDSB schools have closed recently it does not necessarily mean they are rife with Covid. Most often it is due to a few covid cases (from the community and not school transmission) and there is not enough staff to safely supervise the students. For example, if the Music teacher in an elementary school tests positive due to a family related exposure, every classroom, teacher and students, that the music teacher worked in must go home and isolate. That could take 6-7 teachers out of a school. This could leave a school without adequate supervision and a result, the school must close. Do not assume that a school closure is due to Covid outbreak but instead seek to find out from someone at that school as it is more likely due to lack of supervision. Supply teachers are in very high demand these days and at times, all YRDSB schools are struggling to find coverage sometimes.

WCI, like all YRDSB schools, continues to be a very safe environment. Our students and staff are 100% compliant with every Covid safety precaution that is in place. All our students wear masks in the building at all times and our staff wear masks and face shields/goggles at all times as well. We have had no transmission of Covid at any point in WCI and we intend to keep it that way. We can achieve this if all members of our community continue to follow the rules and work together.

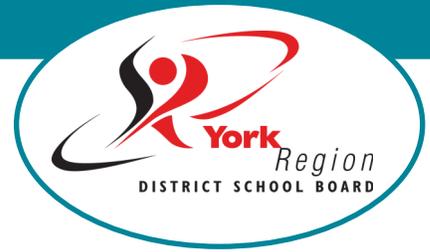
This is a trying time for everyone; especially our students. They are so tired of “staying home” and really miss being teenagers! All they want is to be kids once again. We understand that! We recognize how important it is for our students to have structure, see other people, and remember that there is a place that is also their “home” in addition to their families. Our students also look to us, the important adults in their lives, as to how they should be feeling, what they should worry about, and what they need to do. Let’s work together to ensure that we provide a calm, reassuring presence for our students. Let’s also remember that it is important to have facts, speak with confidence and authority, so that our children feel confident that the adults in their lives are taking good care of them. We are so thankful that you share your children with us, they are wonderful young adults and we truly adore them!

If you have questions or concerns please contact us, we love to hear from you!

Take care and have a wonderful long weekend!

Sheri Epstein
Principal

YRDSB New Website Launch



Visit Our New Website

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at www.yrdsb.ca.

The new website has been designed to be mobile friendly, translatable, accessible, searchable, easy to navigate and to better reflect York Region District School Board and our community. This includes:

- Built-in translation tool
- Enhanced search capabilities
- Built-in accessibility features to meet accessibility legislation
- Revised navigation based on user testing, website analytics and research

Quick access to six of our most accessed pages, including school calendars and school transportation information.

The new website also includes:

A [Family Resources](#) that provides quick access to online tools like Edsby, Google Classroom and School Cash Online, as well as links to information about translation tools, IT support for families and more. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

Updated [Online Student Tools](#) pages provide quick access to students to online learning platforms and resources to help with homework. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

An enhanced [newsroom](#) with access to the latest news, events and videos so you can find out what’s happening around our Board.

Easy access to information about [supports for students](#), [elementary school](#) and [secondary school](#) programs, [adult learning opportunities](#) and more.

Information about COVID-19 and schools, including update information, screening tools and frequently asked questions can still be found at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

We hope that the website makes it easier for families to find and access the information you are looking for. When you visit the new website, please take the time to share your feedback, so we can continue to ensure our website meets the needs of the community we serve.



Semester 2 Cohort Calendar

A P R I L

M	T	W	T	F
			B 1	GOOD FRIDAY 2
EASTER MONDAY 5	A 6	B 7	A 8 P1 Rotation	B 9 P1 Rotation
12	13	14 SPRING BREAK		16
A 19	B 20 ◆ RIDVAN	A 21	B 22	A 23
B 26	A 27 REPORT CARDS	B 28	A 29	B 30 ◆ HOLY FRIDAY

M A Y

M	T	W	T	F
A 3 P2 Rotation	B 4 P2 Rotation	A 5	B 6	PA DAY 7
A 10	B 11	A 12	B 13 ◆ EID-UL-FITR	A 14
B 17	A 18	B 19	20 AM - A&B Online PM - Extra Help	A 21 P4 Rotation
VICTORIA DAY 24	B 25 P4 Rotation	A 26	B 27	A 28

- COHORT A- Face to Face
- SPRING BREAK
- STATUTORY HOLIDAY
- COHORT B – Face to Face
- EXTRA HELP AVAILABLE
- PA DAY
- A & B ONLINE ONLY CREDIT CONFERENCING & CREDIT RESCUE

Semester 2 Cohort Calendar

J U N E

M	T	W	T	F
MAY 31 B	A 1	B 2	A 3 Full Disclosure	B 4
A 7	B 8	A 9 P5 Rotation	B 10 P5 Rotation	A 11
B 14	A 15	B 16	A 17	A & B Online All Day 18
B 21	A 22	B 23	A 24	B 25
A & B Online All Day 28	PA DAY 29			

- COHORT A- Face to Face
- SPRING BREAK
- STATUTORY HOLIDAY
- COHORT B – Face to Face
- EXTRA HELP AVAILABLE
- PA DAY
- A & B ONLINE ONLY CREDIT CONFERENCING & CREDIT RESCUE



News From Guidance



April 5 to 23, 2021 UPDATE

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

ACCESSING YOUR GUIDANCE TEAM

Please reach out to your ALPHA Counsellor by email. ***Due to the high volume of emails, please allow up to 2 schools days for a reply.***

Your Counsellor will respond in the appropriate method: email, phone or on-line meeting.

Guidance Counsellors are using Zoom for virtual meetings. If a student sets up a zoom meeting we would prefer the student’s camera to be on. Otherwise, a phone call would suffice.

Contact Information: Please note the change to the ALPHA allocation.

Mrs. C. Pearlstein, *Guidance Secretary*
cindy.pearlstein@yrdsb.ca

Mr. R. Conte, *Head of Guidance*
Last Name Alpha: A to H
roderick.conte@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. C. Jackson
Last Name Alpha: I to N
cynthia.jackson@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. N. Popiel
Last Name Alpha: O to Z
natasha.popiel@yrdsb.ca

GRADE 12s! PREPARING FOR GRADUATION IN JUNE

Reminder! Submit your Community Involvement Hours

Grade 12 students REQUIRE 20 hours of community service to graduate. Many students have not yet submitted their hours for graduation. Please do so asap. New this year! Ten of the 20 hours can be paid hours from a job. If you have questions, please reach out to your Alpha Counsellor. Email proof of completed hours to cindy.pearlstein@yrdsb.ca

For more information and a copy of the community involvement form, go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wcguidance/community-service-hours> #wcigetinvolved #wcigrad

News From Guidance

FULL DISCLOSURE

The Full Disclosure date is the date by which a Grade 11 or 12 student must drop a course that they do not want to appear on their official transcript. This year, there are two full disclosure dates. The first is for Grade 12 students who wish to drop a course before their grades are electronically sent to Ontario universities (OUAC) and colleges (OCAS).

Grade 12 Full Disclosure: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

OUAC/OCAS Transmission: Thursday, April 22, 2021

The second is a full disclosure date for Grade 11 and 12. This year the Ministry of Education is allowing student to complete at least 75% of a course before deciding to drop it.

Grade 11 and 12 Full Disclosure: Thursday, June 3, 2021

Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/dropping-a-course> for instructions on how and when to drop a course. #wcidropacourse #wcigrad #wcigr11

Graduation Updates

For everything Graduation, please bookmark the [Graduating Class NEWS](#) page of the guidance website

COURSE SELECTION – THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

Students have selected and verified their courses. This process is now closed and the school will begin timetabling the school for next year.



Stay connected and “in the Loop”

Bookmark the [Guidance Department’s website](#) It will be the “go-to” for all relevant information pertaining to school for all grades.

Now more than ever, please follow [@WCIGuidance](#), [@WCI_YRDSB](#) on Twitter for real time notifications. During this time, social media has become the most effective way of communicating information.

Spread the word. Remind friends and family of the Westmount community to follow us on Twitter.

Graduation Memento Book



Graduation is approaching and so is the Grad Memento Book! You can make a purchase on School Cash Online.

The Yearbook Committee would like to ask all parent/guardian to submit baby photos of their children and a message of what they were like growing up/when they were born. These photos and messages will be featured in the Grad Memento Book, so please add a clear photo and a message of maximum 50 words.

Please sign into the Grads 2020-2021 Google Classroom using your child's GAPPS account and fill out the form under "BABY PICTURES OF GRADS & PARENT MEMOS". The classroom code was emailed directly to your child's GAPPS account. The deadline for baby photos and messages is APRIL 9th, so please make sure you submit as soon as possible!



It's time to send in your quotes and photos to be featured in the Grad Memento Book! For your quote to be accepted, you need to join the Grads 2020-2021 Google Classroom using your GAPPS account and fill out the Google form that is posted under "GRAD PHOTOS & QUOTES".

The classroom code was emailed directly to your child's GAPPS account.

The deadline for quotes is APRIL 9th, so make sure you submit as soon as possible Wolves!

The time has come to vote for this years MOST LIKELY'S!

Submit the names of your peers who you think fits the description the best!

To submit, you need to join the Grads 2020-2021 Google Classroom using your GAPPS account and fill out the google form that is posted under "MOST LIKELY TO".

The classroom code was emailed directly to your child's GAPPS account.

The deadline for most likely' s is APRIL 9th so make sure you submit as soon as possible Wolves!



WCI Spirit Committee



The WCI Spirit Committee tested teachers & Admin on their knowledge of today's slang. We hope this video puts a smile on your face.

You can check it out on the @wci_yrdsb [Instagram](#)/[Twitter](#). Or you can watch it by clicking the YouTube icon below.



Stay tuned for Episode 2 next week!





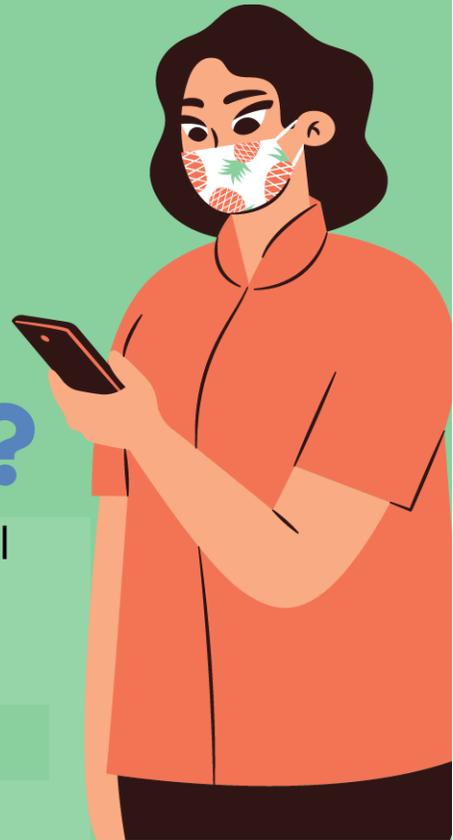
Epilepsy Awareness



HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR STUDENT SCREENING?

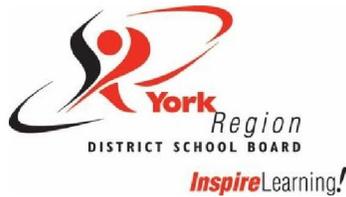
In accordance with Public Health, all students must screen themselves before entering school.

[HTTP://BIT.LY/YRDSBSCREEN](http://bit.ly/YRDSBSCREEN)



USE THE BITLY LINK OR QR CODE to complete this form everyday prior to entering school. You will have to show confirmation before entering the building.





Student Mental Health and Addictions Resources for YRDSB Families

Social Connection and the Power of a Listening Ear

A year later, we continue to experience uncertainty with lockdowns and social distancing; we long for social interaction with peers, friends, and families beyond our immediate social circles. This month's newsletter will focus on the importance of maintaining and expanding our social connections by offering a listening ear while following Public Health guidelines.

Restrictions limiting in-person interactions have left many parents and students feeling a sense of isolation, sadness, anxiousness, and frustration, among other feelings. The importance of offering a listening ear could not be more pronounced as many feel disconnected and alone. According to [CMHA](#) 'really listening' is the key to a meaningful connection. Active listening is a part of effective communication skills that can support building a real connection with other people. It can take some getting used to, especially when behind a mask and distanced six feet apart or even behind a virtual screen.

The importance of offering a listening ear to understand what a person might be experiencing is a small act that can make a meaningful difference. [Leon F. Seltzer Ph. D.](#) explains why feeling understood is essential to our wellbeing and how it connects us to others, allowing us to feel welcomed.

Included below are some tips to build connection safely by offering a [sympathetic ear](#):

- Reach out in a manner that feels safe and follows Public Health guidelines i.e., phone call, zoom, text, and other creative ways.
- Take the time to let the other person know you are there for them. *"I am here for you. I am listening. Tell me what's on your mind..."*
- Show empathy and understanding by validating what is being said. *"I hear you, and it makes sense why you would feel this way."*
- Acknowledge their feelings.

- Be present in the moment with the person.
- Listen to understand and take the necessary time to absorb the information.
- Ask questions when appropriate. The questions should be curious, open-ended, and ones that do not contain an answer. *"Can you tell me more about what that was like for you?"*
- Pay attention to body language by facing the person to show you are listening.
- Avoid advice-giving, interrupting, making assumptions, or judgments.
- Let the conversation flow.
- Be honest about how much time you can offer to connect.

Following these tips should help you get started on building meaningful connections through the act of listening.

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has created various resources for educators, parents and families, and students regarding supporting student mental health by developing healthy relationship skills. Check out some more tips from School Mental Health Ontario on [reaching out](#), so you can be your best to support your children.

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented issues and concerns for our community, our country and the world. As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well.

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health during this pandemic. Resources for students, parents/guardians as well as community resources are listed. In addition, there are various links to YRDSB mental health supports as well as community supports available during the school closure. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports During COVID](#).

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#).

If you have COVID-19 or need support isolating we can help.



Information on staying safe and protecting your family



Safe and designated self-isolation centre



Emergency Financial Assistance



Delivery of meals and groceries



Social check-ins, virtual group programs and more



Masks and sanitizer kits

All services are free

Contact Us

Have questions about COVID-19 or supports available when testing?



905-226-7332



www.vaughanhc.com



@vaughan.chc



@vaughan_chc

Scan me!





OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK YOUTH

Are you driven?

Thursday, April 8, 7-8pm
Live streamed with Q&A

RSVP NOW

There is a world of well-paying career opportunities in the automotive industry.

Hear from industry professionals about their journey, explore career opportunities, and learn about post-secondary pathways and scholarships to help you get there.



AGENDA



Keynote - future of auto industry and the need for diversity and inclusion (15 minutes)
Don Romano, President and CEO, Hyundai Canada



Educational pathways - general information on pathways through post-secondary to careers in automotive (5 minutes)
Joe Lauzon, Marketing Officer, ABSC@GeorgianCollege



Auto industry overview - overview of main industry sectors and opportunities that are lesser known (10 minutes)
Oumar Dicko, Chief Economist, Canadian Automobile Dealers Association



Panel of industry professionals - guided panel and Q&A for panelist representing the different sectors of the auto industry (30 minutes)
Joyce Tshiamala (Moderator) District Customer Experience Manager, Hyundai Canada

PANELISTS



Jennifer Okoeguale
Corporate Special Events, Public Relations at Toyota Canada Inc.



Emiliano Void
National Operations Manager, Cox Automotive Canada



Nial Boatswain
General Manager, Drive Auto Group

Presented by:



YRDSB families register [HERE](#)