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Parent Newsletter: February 19th—March 5th, 2021

## Administration

**Principal:**  
Sheri Epstein

**Vice-Principal:**  
Barbara Caravella

**Vice-Principal:**  
Todd Taylor

## STAY CONNECTED



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**Please check our  
website regularly  
for updates**

NEWS & EVENTS

PARENTS

SCHOOL CALENDAR

GUIDANCE

## A Message from your Administrators

We're so glad we're back...

Even though we were delayed a day because of the weather, it was so refreshing to have both students and staff back at WCI this week. The building just doesn't feel the same with each and everyone of our community, and we're so happy to see everyone.

With the return to school, we instituted a number of new Covid protocols. Most noticeably, students are now required to self screen daily, using the [York Region Public Health Screening tool](#) (which has been shared with students via email). Once they've completed the self screen, students then fill in the [York Region District School Board Google Form](#) (again, previously shared with students via email) and receive a confirmation. When entering the school through one of three doors, students show the confirmation email to the Office staff, as confirmation that they have completed the self check.

In addition to self-screening, we've made some other changes. As mentioned, all three entrance doors (Main Entrance, near the Family Studies room and near the Arts rooms) are now manned by Office staff every morning. Additionally, all classrooms are now open by 8:25 a.m. and students are encouraged to report directly to their classroom when they arrive. You'll all notice teaching staff outside the building, in the morning to help ensure students as physically distancing and wearing masks when on property.

With the return to school, we were excited to host Inspiration Republic, digitally, for our annual Black History Assembly. Students interacted and engaged with the presenters who spoke about the accomplishments of the Black community in Canada, while sharing some valuable information regarding micro-aggressions and the role of allies in our communities. It was a powerful hour of learning for all involved.

With Semester 2 Start Up behind us, it's time to shift our gaze to next September! Course Selections for the 2021-2022 school year are now open and due later this month. If students have questions regarding the process, please consult the [WCI Guidance Website](#). However, the best place for students to get answers, if they are curious about a specific course, is the teachers. You can find a complete list of staff, the various departments that they teach in, and their email address on the [school website](#), if your child is unsure of who to connect with.

As always, if you have any questions, please connect with a member of the school administration.

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

**Inspire**Learning!

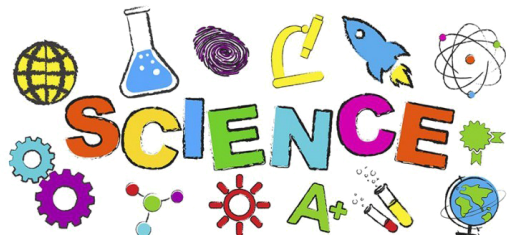
## 2020-2021 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)



This year, EQAO is conducting a field test using a new online assessment for the OSSLT. The YRDSB has decided that secondary schools will not be participating in the OSSLT Field Test during the Spring of 2021. The literacy graduation requirement for students who are graduating during this school year has been waived. Feel free to contact the main office with any questions.

## Classroom Field Work

This week grade 11 Biology students went outside to do some field work in the snow! We searched for lichen species around WCI to determine the local air quality. Based on the number and types of species we found, the air quality seems to be pretty great!



# 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.



# PINK SHIRT DAY!

**Wear your pink shirt to school to show your support!**

**Wednesday February 24th and Thursday February 25th is**

## PINK SHIRT DAY!

WCI staff and students are encouraged to wear **pink** to show support for having a safe and inclusive school where everyone feels welcome.

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"David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt]...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink t-shirts to all the boys in their school". - GLOBE & MAIL

**Cohort A Get Ready  
for...**

**PINK SHIRT DAY!**



Spread some kindness on February 24th!

***WESTMOUNT C.I.***



## News From Guidance

# @WCIGuidance

February 22 to March 5, 2021

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*

### ACCESSING YOUR GUIDANCE TEAM

Please reach out to your ALPHA Counsellor by email. ***Due to the high volume of emails, please allow for 1 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](mailto:cindy.pearlstein@yrdsb.ca)

Mrs. C. Jackson  
Last Name Alpha: I to N  
[cynthia.jackson@yrdsb.ca](mailto:cynthia.jackson@yrdsb.ca)

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

Mrs. N. Popiel  
Last Name Alpha: O to Z  
[natasha.popiel@yrdsb.ca](mailto:natasha.popiel@yrdsb.ca)

### GRADE 12s! PREPARING FOR GRADUATION IN JUNE

#### 1. SUBMIT YOUR 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.

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



## News From Guidance

### 2. CLICK “NOT RETURNING” IN myBlueprint

Grade 12 students have been requested to log into their Pathway Planner in myBlueprint to select “Not Returning” for next year’s course selection if they plan to graduate in June. **#wcicourseselection**  
**#wcigrad**

### 3. ONTARIO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

The deadline for Ontario university and college applications has passed. Now you patiently wait for your application to be assessed. Ensure you are checking your email regularly. Colleges and universities will acknowledge your application and send you follow-up information. Check your junk folder just in case this new unrecognized message ends up there. Carefully read and understand any message you receive from a college or university. If you have any questions, contact the college or university admissions office directly.

**#wcigrad**

### HAPPENING NOW – PICK YOUR COURSES for the 2021-22 School Year

It’s time to pick courses for next year. The process underway. All students were emailed instruction Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The email outlines the “how to” and provides resources. All students now have access to a Course Selection Google Folder. The folder contains EVERYTHING you need to complete course selection. This folder can ONLY be accessed with a GAPPS account. Family members will need to access this information with their child. Counsellors are available to answer questions and give guidance. Please reach out to your ALPHA Counsellor. Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/course-selection> for detailed information and timelines. Regular updates will be sent through Twitter, [@WCIGuidance](https://twitter.com/WCIGuidance)  
**#wcicourseselection**

### DONE - Semester 2 Timetable Change Requests

Timetable changes are done and students are settled into their classes.

[@WCIGuidance](https://twitter.com/WCIGuidance) **#wcitimetable**



### 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](https://twitter.com/WCIGuidance), [@WCI\\_YRDSB](https://twitter.com/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.

# Effective Parenting

**HELPING PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 2 TO 10 LEARN BASIC PARENTING SKILLS IN ORDER TO RAISE A HAPPY, MOTIVATED, WELL-BEHAVED CHILD.**

**Topics will include:**

- the purpose of parenting and parenting styles
- how to enhance communication between parent and child
- nurturing self-esteem and resiliency
- how to set limits, discipline effectively and encourage problem solving



**\$150 per couple | \$100 per person**

(sliding scale available)

We welcome all people regardless of cultural and/or racial background or affiliation

**4 Sessions beginning Monday, February 22, 2021**

**7:00-9:00 pm | Via Zoom**

**For more information or to register, please call 416.638.7800 x 6215**

**Register online! [www.jfandcs.com](http://www.jfandcs.com)**



**[www.facebook.com/jfandcs](https://www.facebook.com/jfandcs)**



**UJA Federation**  
OF GREATER TORONTO



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**Ontario**