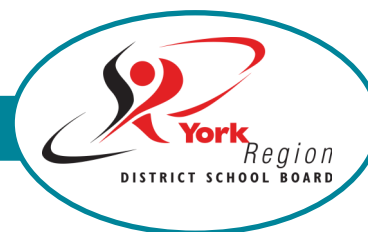




1000 New Westminster Dr.
Thornhill ON, L4J 8G3

905-882-0277

Attendance: 905.882.0277 x 238



Parent Newsletter: November 13th to November 27th, 2020

Administration

Principal:

Sheri Epstein

Vice-Principal:

Barb Caravella

Vice-Principal:

Todd Taylor

STAY CONNECTED



twitter



Instagram



**Please check our
website regularly
for updates**

NEWS & EVENTS

PARENTS

SCHOOL CALENDAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUIDANCE

A Message from your Administrators

This year, we've all been asked to stretch, expand and adapt more than ever. And it is important to remember that we've done a great job of it so far. Thanks to our students for making it work, our teachers for being flexible and to you, our parents, to make sure that your child is getting what they need.

November is a time of reflection and remembrance. This week, we've observed both Holocaust Education Week and Remembrance Day. Special thanks to the History Department, and their student volunteers who helped to ensure that these important milestones were our focus.

As we've mentioned, we sent out a Mid-Semester Wellness check and were overwhelmed by the response. It provided valuable insights as to what was going on, and confirmed what we were seeing. We, as the WCI Community, have made changes to better support everyone's mental health, but appreciate that further tweaks may be needed. You'll find a summary of the changes, in the School Council Presentation link, found later in this blurb. We'd ask though, if you have any other thoughts or ideas about how we can continue to improve, to reach out to us.

We know the value of keeping you informed. There is a lot of information and it seems that it is changing rapidly. If you haven't done so already, please follow [@WCI_YRDSB](#) on Twitter, and consider following our other school accounts (including Guidance, our various other departments and extra curricular clubs). We're also updating our webpage, as soon as new information becomes available, so please check there often as well.

As usual, if you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to connect with us. Be well and stay safe.

Todd Taylor VP (Last names M - Z)

InspireLearning!

OSSLT Graduation Requirement (2020-2021 Graduates)

Recently, the Ministry of Education has announced that the literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-2021 school year.



Grade 9 Math EQAO (Semester 1)

We have been informed that all YRDSB schools will not be participating in this semester's Grade 9 EQAO assessment for Math. More details to follow.



Semester 2: Virtual School or Adaptive School

Earlier this week, you should have received an email from YRDSB Director Louise Sirisko, inquiring as to your decision, in terms of your student's placement for Second Semester. A couple of points to clarify:

Secondary Virtual School

- 4 75-minute periods a day, with a set lunch break.
- Courses are at the same time every day for the semester.
- Classes are conducted entirely online and the expectation is that students are online for the duration of the entire school day.
- Courses are taught by teachers from across the board.

Adaptive Model at WCI

- A repeat of this semester, when students will attend a face-to-face block in the morning, and three online classes in the afternoon.
- Courses will rotate with each rotation (every 10-12 instructional days)
- Courses are taught by WCI Staff.

If you wish to keep your child in the same model they have been in this semester, **you are not required to do anything**. If, however, you wish to change your child's programming for Semester 2, please complete the survey by the indicated deadline (November 16th, 8:00 a.m.). We expect that this will be the **only** opportunity for parents to make a decision about their child's Semester 2 education.



We still have not finalized what second semester is going to look like yet and as a result, Semester 2 timetables have not been settled. We understand that you may have questions or concerns about your child's semester 2 timetable. We plan to address these questions and concerns as soon as we are able to. We will notify you through [Twitter](#), the [school/guidance website](#) and this bulletin when that process begins. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Midterm Report Cards (Semester 1)

All students will receive a midterm report card for semester one. York Region District School Board will be issuing electronic copies of the Semester 1 midterm report cards on November 19-20, 2020. The electronic copy will be sent to the student's GAPPs email and instructions on how to access the report will be emailed to all families prior to their release. Any questions about the electronic report card distribution process, feel free to contact the main office. Please contact the Guidance department if you have any questions about dropping a course, the OCAS/OUAC upload of midterm marks, or full disclosure for transcripts.



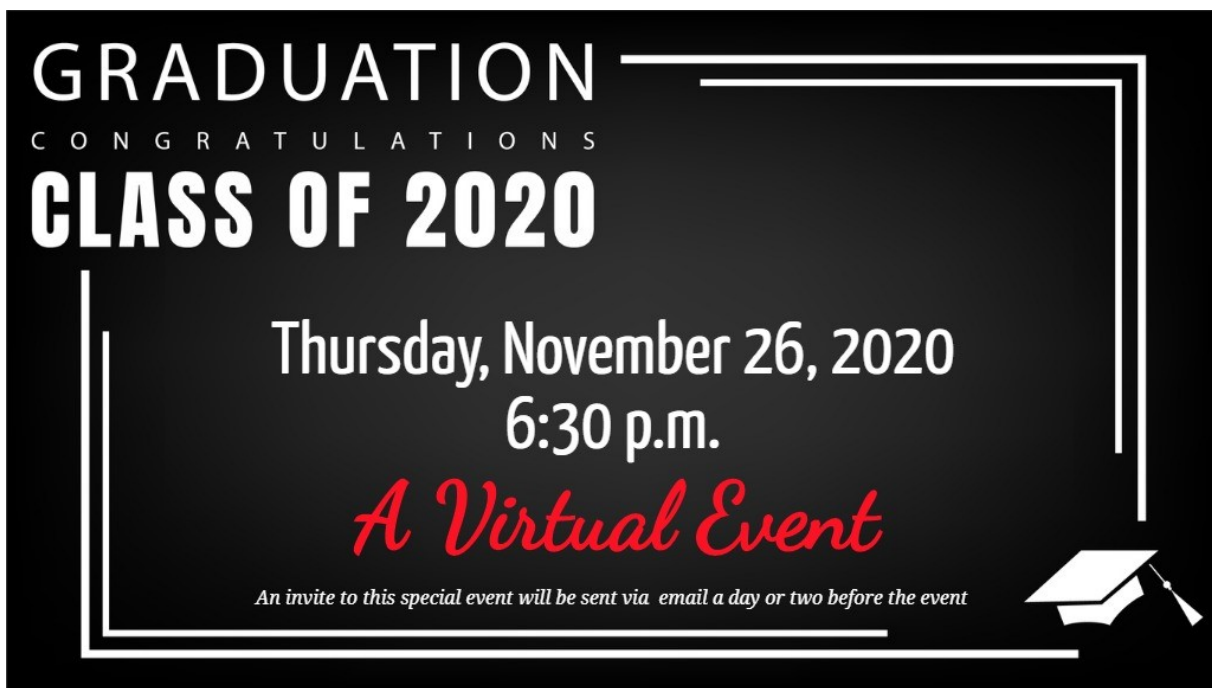
Cohort Reminder!



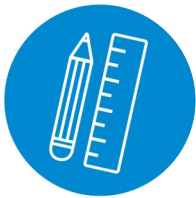
Because of the PA Day today, the Cohort Schedule paused. This means that students who last attended school on Thursday of this week (Cohort A) will not return to school until **TUESDAY**. Students in Cohort B (who were last in school on Wednesday) will be in the building on **MONDAY**.

School
Council

This past Wednesday, on the 11th, we hosted our November Parents' Council meeting, with the focus on Course Selections and the Mid-Semester Wellness Check. If you didn't get a chance to attend, please feel free to view the presentation [here](#).



A Message from the Student Success Department



Attention Grades 9, 10, and 11 students! The peer tutoring club is hosting virtual tutoring sessions on Google Meet every Wednesday at 3:20 pm. If you need help understanding course material, studying for a test, or doing homework, feel free to join us in our Meet! Follow our Instagram [@wci_peertutors](#) and add our Google Classroom (code: dndk4e5) for more information!.



Hey Parents/Guardians!

Our teachers really miss the students!
Can you please help to encourage your children to turn their cameras on during the afternoon synchronous lessons. It would help to build community, rapport and let everyone get to know each other.

WCI Clubs

You can also visit our [CLUBS](#) page on our website for more information.

| Club Name | Student Advisor(s) | Teacher Advisor(s) | Meeting Day |
|---|--|--|---|
| Chess Club @chessclub.wci | Ethan C. | Mr. Zhou | Tuesday's Once a Month |
| Computer Programming | David K. | Ms. Calapa | Wednesday's Twice a Month |
| Dance Council | Alexandra V. Alexandra A. Iris S. Ariel S. Sydney Y. | Mrs. Willingham | Wednesday's Twice A Month |
| Debate Club @debateclubwci | Michelle I. | Ms. Romano | Monday's Twice A Month |
| DECA @wmtdeca | Zale I. Romy L.levy | Mr. Coates , Mrs. Rosen Ms. Duong | Wednesday's Every Week from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm |
| Eco Team @wci_ecoteam | Rebeca B. Sara P. and Julia S. | Mr. Soon Shiong | Wednesday's and Thursday's Twice a Month |
| Financial Investment Club | Jordana N. | Mr. Coates , Mrs. Rosen | Thursday's Twice a Month |
| French Club | Sophie S. | Ms. Jarvis | Wednesday's Twice a Month |
| HOSA Westmount @hosa_westmount | Karina K. and Irene G. | Mr. Soon Shiong | Friday's Twice a Month |
| Law Club @lawclubwci | Shira L. | Ms. Lambert | Thursday's Twice a Month |
| Math Contest Club | Karina K. Ivan B. | Mr. Gold | Thursday's Twice a Month |
| The Mindfulness Club @Themindfulness_club | Samantha B. | Ms. Mabrucco | Tuesday's Twice a Month |
| Social Justice Club @socialjusticeclub_wci | Adelle P. | Mr. Dolha | Wednesday's Twice a Month |
| The Shield Initiative @shieldinit | Megan S. | Mr. Danjoux | Friday's Twice a Month |
| Spirit day Committee @WCI_YRDSB | Allyson S. | Ms. Alweyn | Thursday's Once a Month |
| The Cooking Club @wci.cooking | Matthew K. and Taylor K. | Ms. Tarver | Monday's Twice A Month |
| The Westmount Jewish Club | Nessa M. | Ms. Tobias | Thursday's Every Week |
| Tune Talk | Maddie S. and Jaimie F. | Ms. Tarver , Mr. Gorewicz | Friday's Once a Month |
| WCI Virtual Fitness Club @wcifitness | Eitan E. and Cole R. | Mr. Welch , Mr. Pressman | Thursday's Every Week at 4:00 pm |
| Writers Guild @wci_writersguild | Arielle P. Ellie M. and Shira L. | Mr. Mcloughlin | Thursday's Twice a Month from 3:30 pm - 4:40 pm |

News From Guidance

@WCIGuidance

November 16 to 27

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

Guidance is OPEN but doing things differently

Please reach out to your ALPHA Counsellor by email. Your Counsellor will respond in the appropriate method: email, phone or on-line meeting. In order to minimize personal contact, please do not walk into Guidance. Please e-mail us first and we will take it from there.

We are now equipped and meeting with students using Zoom. If a student sets up a Zoom meeting we would prefer the student's camera to be on. Otherwise, a phone call may suffice.

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

Mrs. C. Pearlstein, *Guidance Secretary*

cindy.pearlstein@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. C. Jackson

Last Name Alpha: I to N

cynthia.jackson@yrdsb.ca

Mr. R. Conte, *Head of Guidance*

Last Name Alpha: A to H

roderick.conte@yrdsb.ca

Mrs. N. Popiel

Last Name Alpha: O to Z

natasha.popiel@yrdsb.ca

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Apply to an Ontario College or University

Application Process for both NOW OPEN

Ontario College: <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/college>

Ontario University: <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/university>

#wcigrad

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grade 11 Check-in Class Visits – December 7 to 10, 2020

The Guidance Team will visit all grade 11 classes and go over what students need to begin thinking about and to prepare for their grade 12 year. #wcigr11

News From Guidance



WESTMOUNT WOLFPACK
Throw Me To The Wolves And I Will Return, Leaping The Fence

Our Pack Leaders are ready to Mentor!

Great News! [Westmount Wolf Packs](#) have been formed and our Pack Leaders are ready to meet their grade 9 pups.

Last week our Grade 12 Wolf Pack Leaders reached out to their grade 9 student mentees via their GAPPS email account.

Pack Leaders have been assigned to students at Virtual School and Westmount period 1 classes. If you have a student in Grade 9, they should have heard from their Pack Leader by Friday, Nov. 13th. If they do not receive a "hello" email by then please have your student message Mr. Conte in Guidance at roderick.conte@yrdsb.ca

This year our Wolf Packs will be Zoom Packs. All mentoring will be done virtually. Your Grade 9 student will have a senior student they can go to regarding anything school related.

We are excited to kick-off Grade 9 student mentorship program. We sincerely believe that our Pack Leaders will help our Grade 9's navigate through this unprecedented and sometimes challenging year.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Westmount Wolf Pack please reach out to Mr. Conte in Guidance at roderick.conte@yrdsb.ca

FAMILY INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

PLANNING & FUNDING POST-SECONDARY

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS FALL TOUR

NOV 10th 7 - 9 PM ET

NOV 25th 7 - 9 PM ET

[Seeking Scholarships](#) is hosting a parent workshop which provides information on sources of funding and grade by grade strategies to prepare for postsecondary education. The workshop also includes a Q&A session.

Parents can [REGISTER NOW](#) for either of these dates.

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** [@WCI Guidance](#), [@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.





powered by

 PIKTOCHART

If you are considering changing your child's school choice for semester two, either to or from the adaptive model, please visit:

<https://forms.yrdsb.ca/SecondaryModelChangeRequest/>

All responses are due by 8:00 a.m. on November 16th.



Idayr • Learning Disabilities Association of York Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

For students in grades 8-12 who are preparing for or in high school and are identified with a Learning Disability and/or ADHD

This 4 session program focuses on building skills for vocational and academic success, such as, self advocacy, learning strategies, study and test skills, learning your accommodations, etc.

Dates available throughout October 2020

Via Zoom

\$35/session for members

\$50/session for non-members

To register e-mail
tresa.jules@ldayr.org

SOAR Academic Skills Program

Grades 8-12





Parenting the Child/Teen with AD(H)D

For parents of children or teens who have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder

Topics will include:

- what exactly is AD(H)D and its types
- the impact of AD(H)D on your child and your family
- gaining an understanding of your child's AD(H)D and executive functioning
- specific parenting strategies needed for parenting children with AD(H)D and creating positive change in your family
- the importance of advocating for your child/teen



\$175 per couple or per person

(sliding scale available)

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

4 Sessions Thursday, November 19, 2020

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/groups



UJA Federation
OF GREATER TORONTO



United Way
Greater Toronto



Ontario



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 Tuesday, November 24, 2020

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/groups



UJA Federation
OF GREATER TORONTO



United Way
Greater Toronto



Ontario



Register

For registration information and pricing please contact

Deondra Duncan
905-884-7933 ext. 05
deondra.duncan@ldayr.org

Pricing

\$300 for Members
\$350 for non-Members
Fees are non-refundable

With Support From



Fall/Winter Sessions

Online Via Zoom

Partial subsidies available for qualified individuals, please contact us for more information.

Designed for children ages 6-16 with a primary diagnosis of learning disabilities and/or ADHD

In a safe, encouraging and positive environment,
learning social skills
has never been so much fun!

Skills learned include introducing oneself, ways to make friends, responding to teasing, being a good winner and a good loser, dealing with emotions, problem solving, relaxations, and self-esteem. Maximum 6 kids per session, with a caring staff to child ration of 1:3.



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 the **York Region District School Board** we are offering the following packages that will be **shipped to your home**:

You can apply for this program if you are:

A resident of Ontario and you are a low-income individual

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 at this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/203025281499254>

using group code: **STDDT-84B | UPRDGT-4E8**

All systems include our **STANDARD 2-YEAR DEPOT WARRANTY**

batteries not covered by warranty.



*Computers may not appear exactly as shown

Basic Desktop Package

Fee - \$60 plus \$0 shipping

Group code: STDDT-84B

Dual Core
4 GB RAM
160 GB Hardrive
Includes: Windows 10
Monitor, Microsoft Office, Power Supply, Sound Card



Upgraded Desktop Package

Fee - \$200 plus \$0 shipping

Group code: UPRDGT-4E8

i5 (minimum spec)
8 GB RAM
500 GB
Includes: Windows 10
22" Monitor, Microsoft Office, Power Supply, Sound Card, Ethernet



For more information, please contact:

Mitch Doorey

P: 416-646-5753

E: mdoorey@rcto.ca

Visit Us Online @ www.RCTO.ca



@RCTontario



Idayr • Learning Disabilities
Association of York Region



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Occurs every second Tuesday at
9:30AM of each month via Zoom

Welcomed to parent(s) and/or
guardian(s) who are
accepting and managing their
child's Learning Disability and
or ADHD.

Our Support Group shares
common experiences, handles
emotions and strategizes for
strengths and challenges in a
positive way.

Contact

renee.flannery@idayr.org
or 905-884-7933 ext. 004

JF&CS

**JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILD
SERVICE OF GREATER TORONTO**

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

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2020

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.

Please note that all groups will be offered virtually via the ZOOM platform and require consents to be filled out and returned to the Coordinator.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS under 68 BEREAVEMENT

A six session evening group for men and women under 68 years of age and who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Topics to be discussed may include: coping with grief, living with loneliness, changing relationships, and new beginnings.

Tuesday, October 13 | 7:30pm-9:30pm

THE JEWISH RAINBOW ALLIANCE

Join us for a support group for parents who are allies of LGBTQ+ individuals. Monthly meetings. **Pre-registration is required.**

Wednesday, October 14 | 7pm-9pm

MINDFULNESS: THE ART OF LETTING GO

Join us for a one session workshop providing the tools to successfully release negativity and begin to foster positivity, happiness and feelings of well-being. Topics include: becoming more self-aware; creating a gap between stimulus and response; learning to release negative thoughts and emotions; paying attention to the wisdom of the body and fostering positive emotions.

Sunday, October 25 | 9:30am-12:30pm

EFFECTIVE PARENTING

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

Monday, October 26 | 7pm-9pm

OR

Tuesday, November 24 | 7pm-9pm

WIDOW/WIDOWERS 68+ BEREAVEMENT

A six session daytime group for men and women over 68 years of age and who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Topics to be discussed may include: coping with grief, living with loneliness, changing relationships, and new beginnings.

Tuesday, October 27 | 1:30pm-3pm

OR

Thursday, October 29 | 1:30pm-3pm

ONE FAMILY, TWO HOMES

A six session series for parents experiencing separation and divorce. Topics for parents include: tips for keeping the kids out of the conflict, trends in family law and the impact of separation and divorce on children.

Tuesday, October 27 | 6:30pm-8pm

MIND, BODY, CONNECTION for Women PART 1

Join us in a six session group for women who want to begin learning the practice of mindfulness and meditation in a safe and supportive group setting. Topics will include: stress and anxiety reduction, connecting with your mind and body, enhancing your self-worth and self-esteem, and learning about general relaxation and happiness.

Tuesday, October 27 | 1:30pm-3pm

OR

Tuesday, October 27 | 7pm-8:30pm

OR

Wednesday, October 28 | 1:30pm-3pm

ADULT CHILDREN LOSING A PARENT

A six session group for adult children who have recently lost a parent. Topics include: coping with grief, loss and legacy and resolving unfinished business.

Tuesday, October 27 | 7:30pm-9pm

LOOKING AHEAD; LIFE AFTER SEPARATION

A 6 session group for individuals who are separated and wanting to explore the issues of: coping with change; feelings of anger and loss; living alone and loneliness; resources for a new lifestyle.

Wednesday, October 28 | 7:30pm-9pm