

School Council Meeting


Wednesday, September 21, 2022



We are on Indigenous Land

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

A rectangular image with a dark teal background. The top half shows a starry night sky. The bottom half shows a dark silhouette of a forest line. A quote is centered in the upper half.

“Land acknowledgments are a stepping stone to honouring broken treaty relationships.”

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

01

ABOUT US

Introductions
READY, SET , HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTATION

02

SCHOOL COUNCIL ROLES

Selecting our 2022/2023 WCI
School Council

03

INFORMATION ITEMS

Key messages/information to
start the school year

04

YOUR THOUGHTS

Ideas for meeting topics for
2022-2023

If You Are Joining Us Online



- ▶ Cameras are optional
- ▶ Turn your mic off
- ▶ Use the Chat to pose a question or make a comment

WCI Administration



Ms. Susan Maharaj

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Rory Gangbar

VICE-PRINCIPAL (A TO L)

Ms. Lana Fisher

VICE-PRINCIPAL (M TO Z)



WCI's Guidance Department

Mr. Pressman (A to D)

Ms. Jackson (E to M)

Ms. Popiel (N to Z)

Guidance Secretary

Ms. Zacatenco





WCI Supports

- ▶ **TEAM SPECIAL EDUCATION:**
 - ▶ Mr. Salsberg (Department Head)
 - ▶ Ms. Diaz (Assistant Head)
- ▶ **WOLF'S DEN (STUDENT SUCCESS):**
 - ▶ Ms. Tran (Child/Youth Worker)
 - ▶ Ms. Rosenberg
- ▶ **TEAM LITERACY:**
 - ▶ Ms. Jarvis



Westmount Collegiate Institute

welcome to



Our School: Westmount CI

OUR STUDENTS

260 Grade 9 students

288 Grade 10 students

249 Grade 11 students

291 Grade 12 students

TOTAL: 1088 students
(With some new registrations to add)



OUR STAFF

6 Secretaries

1 Library Technician

1 TST

5 EAs & CYWs

10 Caretakers

70 Teachers

3 Administrators

96 Total Staff!

WCI – Home of the Wolves!



Wolves

work best as a pack.

Our mascot represents:

Wolves are complex, highly intelligent animals who are caring, playful, and above all devoted to family .

Wolves educate their young, take care of their injured and live in family groups.



Covid -19

Keeping Safe



- Parent/guardians should screen their child for COVID symptoms daily.
 - Stay home if you are unwell or unsure
 - [Covid Screening Tool](#)
- Masks are optional, encouraged
- Hand hygiene - hand sanitizer available
- There is an isolation room in the school if a student feels unwell while at school
 - Rapid Antigen Tests as required
- Assemblies and performances will take place in person
- Cafeteria Service expected to be running
 - Currently projected for the week of September 19

ATTENDANCE

Safe Arrival Procedures

- Attendance submitted within the first 15 minutes
- Email message from Inform will be sent out
- Parent/Guardian calls to inform that student should be at school
 - Confirm with Classroom Teacher
 - Next steps at school
 - Communication with Parents/Guardians
 - Communication with Emergency Services

Semester 1 Timetable

Time	
8:40 – 8:45	Land Acknowledgement/ National Anthem
8:45 – 10:00	Period 1
10:25 - 11:20	Period 2
11:20 – 12:25	Common Lunch
12:25 – 1:40	Period 3
1:45 – 3:00	Period 4

A graphic consisting of three overlapping, tilted rectangular shapes. The top shape is light green and contains the text 'ready?'. The middle shape is light purple and contains the text 'set?'. The bottom shape is light blue and is empty. The text 'high school!' is positioned below the green and purple shapes.

ready?

set?

**high
school!**

Some Helpful Tips

Adolescence is a Balancing Act

SECONDARY SCHOOL

**Academic
Responsibilities**

Social Life

**Extra- curricular
Activities**

**Social Emotional
Wellness**

Physical Health



*There are two lasting bequests we can
give our children.*

*One is roots.
The other is wings.*

~Hodding Carter, Jr. (1907-1972)
Southern U.S. progressive journalist and author

Tip #1

Be Proactive, Be Interested

- Your child needs to know that you are interested and will be involved in their education.
- Research has found that students with interested parents perform better at school.



Tip #2

Set Goals With Your Child



- Check their timetable.
- Ask questions.
- Listen closely to what your child has to say.

Tip #3

Start the Day Right

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Remove electronics from the bedroom.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Arrive on time.
- Period 1 starts promptly at 8:40 a.m.



Tip #4

Attendance

- Daily attendance is essential for success.
- If your child is ill, please keep your child at home.
- Notifications are sent home when a student is absent from class.
- Call the school when your child is absent.
 - Voicemail and email available 24 hours a day.
- For Doctor's appointments which occur during the school day please call the school in advance. —
- Students must sign out/sign in at the office with parent/guardian permission.
- Extended Absences - form required.
- Truancy - please do not excuse.



Tip #5

Support Expectations

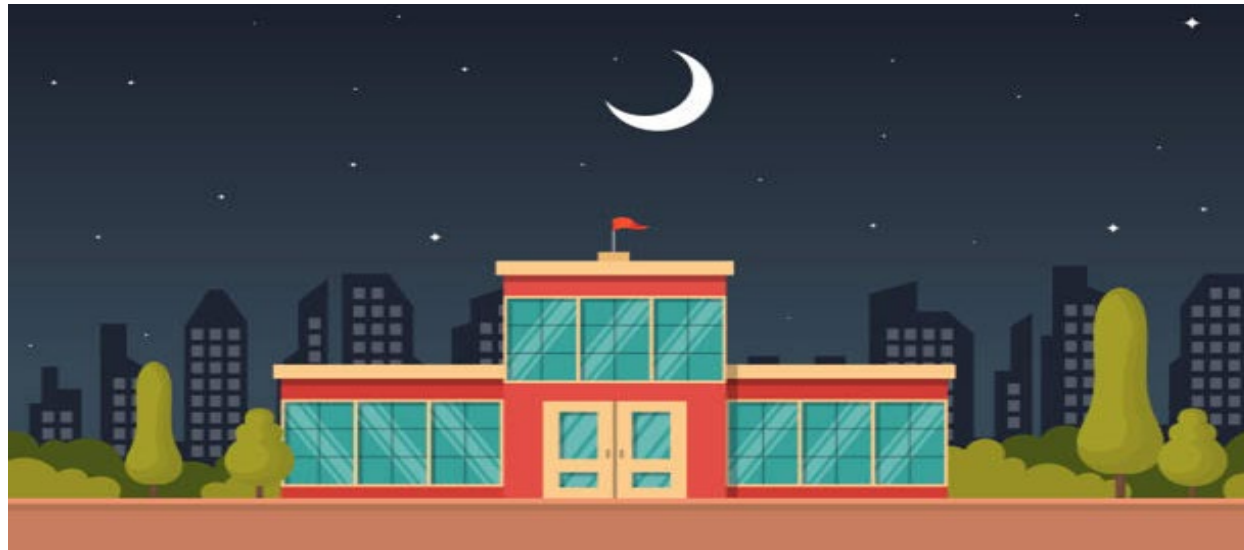
- Supply Teachers
- Studying for test or completing assignments during another class
- Anxiety
- “My kid wouldn’t lie to me”
- Dealing with Concerns:
 - “Chain of Command”
 - Sleep on it
 - At least 2 sides to every story
 - No problem is too big!



Tip #6

After School

- The school day ends at 3:00 p.m.
- Ask questions.
- What did you learn at school today?
- Review course outlines for unit topics and components of assessment and evaluation.



Tip #7

Homework

- Provide a quiet place to do homework.
- Check on what homework is being completed.
- If you are concerned that your child does not have homework, please contact the teacher.



Tip #8

Cyber Parenting

- No student will need to use the computer every night, all night to complete homework.
- Monitor electronic devices and their use.
- If you are worried – please call us.
- Supports available: guidance counsellor, student success teacher, CYW, social worker, etc.



Westmount Wolf Pack

Fostering a community of caring through mentoring and leadership

- Gr. 9 students (pups) will be grouped into “Wolf Packs” and assigned a Pack Leader through their homeroom.
- The Pack Leader is a Grade 12 student.
- “A buddy system” - so that all students new to high school have a “big” friend they can talk to, ask questions, get advice, etc
- Club Day - Sept. 22 (lunch)
- HOWL Day - Sept. 29 (all day)



School Rules and Policies

Stuff you need to know about...

Allergies/Medical Conditions:

- If there is something we need to know – tell us!

Video Surveillance Cameras

- We have cameras throughout the school
 - not in classrooms, washrooms or change rooms
- Only Administration is permitted to watch surveillance video

Visitors to the School

- **Visitors are allowed in the school** with an appointment
- If you are here for a scheduled appointment please check in at the Main Office

Full –Time Status

- All our students must be full -time – we are not a part -time institution
 - Part-time students hurt a school in many ways

Grades 9 to 11

must be enrolled in 8 courses

Grade 12

must be enrolled in 6 courses

We cannot timetable around your outside courses!

Appropriate Attire

- Students must be wearing clothing that is conducive the learning environment (activities, footwear)
- Appropriate language and graphics
- Sunglasses or hoods will not be permitted inside the building

Emergency Information

- Please ensure we have your up to date address, phone numbers and email addresses

Electronic Devices/Technology

- Are permitted in the building
- Are to be used according to the classroom teacher's wishes
- Are the student's responsibility

Lockers

- Students will have access to lockers

Drop Off & Pick Up

- Before school starts and when the day ends it gets very busy at the front of the building – it takes a few minutes but everyone always manages – be patient!

School Council

- Great way to stay informed about school events and business
 - Join our meetings and get the inside scoop!
- At least 4 meetings will be held during the year.
- **Our first meeting September 21, 2022**

Code of Conduct

We are committed to providing a safe, caring and inclusive, learning and working environment for all our students and staff.

YRDSB's Code of Conduct extends to all classes.

Four aspects of social responsibility:

- 1) Contributing to the classroom and school community
- 2) Solving problems in peaceful ways
- 3) Valuing diversity and defending human rights
- 4) Exercising democratic rights and responsibilities

Student Success

- Student Success Teacher: Ms. Stephanie Rosenberg (also a Special Education Resource Teacher)
- Role:
 - Monitor students who we feel could be at risk of failing a credit – she will work with the student to try to ensure that he/she earns her credit
 - Work with students who have failed a credit to try and “recover” that credit
 - Communicate with parents/guardians of students she is monitoring as necessary
 - Runs a Peer Tutoring Club once a week after school – any student can come for help with any subject

“Food for Thought”

*Your Children are not
A masterpiece
That you create.
They are their own masterpiece,
Creating themselves,
And you have been given
the privilege
of watching them
be the artist*

- J. Warren Welch

Special Education

OUR LOCATION: Room 231 (Next to the WOLF DEN)

WHAT WE DO:

- Identified students will be assigned a Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)
- Develop and update Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Monitor ongoing student progress
- Resource in a classroom
- Advocate with/for students to promote student success
- Liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of student needs



Guidance Department

Personal, Academic & Career Counselling

The Guidance department is CLOSED to walk -ins. Students/Family members should reach out to Counsellors by e -mail. Counsellors will respond and set -up an appropriate method to meet. For example, by phone or on -line meeting.

Department Staff

- David Pressman (A to D)
- Cynthia Jackson (E to M)
- Natasha Popiel (N to Z)
- America Zacatenco – Guidance Secretary

Social Worker

- YRDSB

GOOGLE: Westmount Guidance <https://sites.google.com/site/wciguideance/>

GUIDANCE SERVICES

What Can Guidance Do For You....?

- ❑ **NOTE: Check you email from Guidance regularly - @gapps account. We send out important information throughout the year.**
- ❑ **Guidance Office - Room 102**
- ❑ **Visit your Counsellor. Student last name:**
 - A-D Mr. Pressman**
 - E-M Ms. Jackson**
 - N-Z Ms. Popiel**
- ❑ **Help with...course changes, credit counselling consultation, continuing education opportunities, graduation requirements, course selection throughout high school, information regarding community involvement hours**

GUIDANCE SERVICES.... *cont'd*

- ❑ Post-secondary preparation and planning..Ontario University Fair (Oct. 1 & 2), College Fair (Oct. 19 & 20), local post-secondary fair at Maple HS (Nov 3). Check out open houses around the province.
- ❑ Guidance will host assemblies to help you navigate your plan, followed by smaller group workshops
- ❑ Book an appointment through the Guidance Secretary - Ms. Zacatenco - for Social Emotional Counselling, Career Counselling, Academic Counselling or any other topics you may want to discuss.

Stay Informed/Stay Connected

Email:

- Best way to reach teachers is through email.
- We all have the same address – first.last@yrdsb.ca

Stay Connected with School:

- School website
 - Google “Westmount C.I.”
 - WCI twitter - @WCI_YRDSB
 - Instagram – wci_yrdsb
- **BLOG:** <https://westmountci.blogspot.com/>

Please Ask Questions!

If you have any questions, please email
westmount.ci@yrdsb.ca



School Council Specific

Wednesday, September 21, 2022



School Council Meetings



- ▶ Organization
- ▶ Time Management
- ▶ Active Participation
- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ School Wide Perspective

The Role of YRDSB School Council



The role of School Council is to improve student learning and to develop a shared sense of accountability for the public education system among both parents and educators.

“The Board believes that school councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing input into relevant Board and school-level decisions and by encouraging the involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning.”

(YRDSB Policy 262.0)

Selection of School Council Executive



*Thank you to Heidi
for being our Chair last year!*

Who is interested in these roles for this year?

Chair (or Co-Chairs)

Treasurer

Secretary

We can vote if we have multiple candidates who are
interested

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS

- Call school council meetings, prepare the agenda and chair the meetings;
- Communicate with the school principal, senior Board staff and trustees, as required;
- Ensure that minutes are recorded, parents are consulted, fundraising meets Board policies, and the bylaws are reviewed annually;
- Strong oral and written communication skills.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER

- Provide Council with updates on balance of available funds;
- Strong oral and written communication skills.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY

- Take minutes at each meeting;
- Review and edit minutes and forward to one of the chairs;
- Strong oral and written communication skills.



Selection of School Council Executive



Our 2022-2023 School Council Executive:

Co-Chairs: Heidi Amernic & Gary Morris

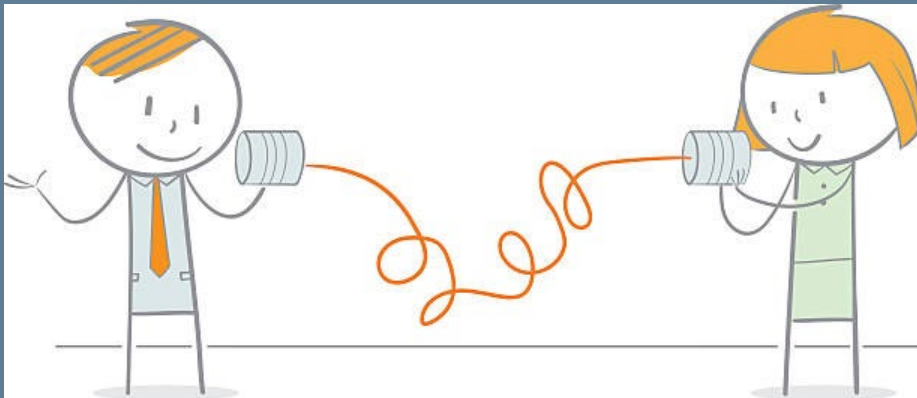
Treasurer: Zvi Vaxman

Secretary - Shared by Executive

Information Items



Communication between School & Families



- ▶ WCI Blog
 - ▶ <https://westmountci.blogspot.com/>
- ▶ WCI Twitter
 - ▶ @WCI_YRDSB
- ▶ Email
 - ▶ firstname.lastname@yrdsb.ca
 - ▶ e.g., lane.fisher@yrdsb.ca
- ▶ Phone
 - ▶ 905-882-0277



A
SAFE
PLACE

A
CARING
PLACE

A
LEARNING
PLACE

We are fully committed - not just compliant when it comes to implementing YR Public Health requirements to keep our school community safe

COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT

Before entering, please assess yourself (and, if applicable, your child or other dependents) for symptoms of COVID-19.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 INCLUDE:



FEVER
(Temperature of 37.8°C or greater)



NEW OR WORSENING COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH
(Dyspnea)

OTHER SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 CAN INCLUDE:



SORE THROAT OR DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING



NEW SMELL OR TASTE DISORDERS



NAUSEA/VOMITING, DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL PAIN



RUNNY NOSE, OR NASAL CONGESTION
(related to seasonal allergies, post nasal drip etc.)

For an up-to-date list of all symptoms, visit york.ca/covid19

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:

- Do not enter and return home immediately
- Seek assessment and testing as early as possible at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre
- Self-isolate for 14 days (including any members of your household or people you had close contact with from 48 hours before symptoms)

STAY INFORMED.
Visit york.ca/covid19
1-800-361-5653

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HOW TO PUT ON A FACE MASK

Cloth or non-medical face coverings are required inside all commercial establishments in York Region. Just as you cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, wearing a mask provides an extra layer of protection to others. Medical and surgical masks, including N95 respirators, should be saved for our front-line health professionals.



- 1. Perform Hand Hygiene**
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 2. Secure the elastic loops of the mask around your ears**
If your mask has strings, tie them securely behind your head.
- 3. Cover your mouth and nose with the mask**
Make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
- 4. Do not touch the front of the mask while you wear it**
Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if you accidentally touch your mask.

HOW TO REMOVE YOUR MASK

Do not touch the front of your mask to remove it

- 1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- 2. Remove the elastic loops of the mask from around your ears or untie the strings from behind your head.**
- 3. If you are wearing a disposable mask hold only the loops or strings and place the mask in a garbage bin lined with plastic. Cloth masks should be washed after each use.**
- 4. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer after taking the mask off and disposing of it or throwing in the laundry.**

A few tips to keep in mind

- Ensure the right side of the mask is facing outwards
- Do not share masks. Do not reuse single-use masks
- Do not use masks on children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Replace a disposable mask once it becomes damp or soiled. Wash a cloth mask in the laundry after each use
- Do not leave any discarded masks in places where others can come in contact with them such as shopping carts, bus stops, or on the ground
- Wearing a non-medical mask is NOT a replacement for physical distancing. Keep a 2-metre distance whenever possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19

For more information, visit
york.ca/COVID19

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How to correctly use hand sanitizer

- 1. Apply one squirt**
- 2. Rub hands together**
- 3. Rub until dry**

Important Tips:

- Use hand sanitizer when:
 - soap and running water are not available
 - hands are not visibly soiled
- Use moistened towelettes followed by hand sanitizer when hands are visibly dirty and soap and water are not available
- Choose an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains between 60% and 90% alcohol
- Children should be supervised when using hand sanitizer product
- Do not apply hand sanitizer near an open flame

Note: alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers must not be placed within 15cm (six inches) of a source of ignition (e.g., electrical outlet, light switch).

1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-252-9933

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services
Public Health

www.york.ca



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Correct Handwashing Procedures Procédure correcte de lavage des mains

- 1 Wet Hands**
Mouiller les mains
- 2 Soap**
Prendre du savon
- 3 Lather** (minimum 20 seconds)
Faire mousser (minimum de 20 secondes)
- 4 Rinse**
Rincer
- 5 Towel dry or use an air dryer**
Sécher les mains avec une serviette ou utiliser un séchoir à air
- 6 Turn taps off with towel**
Fermer le robinet avec la serviette

PUBLIC HEALTH
1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-512-4220
york.ca/COVID19



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Caring & Safe Schools Assemblies

Emergency Preparedness



Possible Topics to Explore This Year @ School Council



▶ Course Selection/SHSM

▶ Applying to Apprenticeships,
University and College

▶ Accessing Financial Support for
Post-Secondary

▶ Substance Abuse

▶ Job Opportunities

▶ Community Partners

▶ Wellness/Mental Health/Well-Being

▶ Technology

Course Selection

**Presentation by Guidance
later this year**

**Post Secondary Fair
November 3rd hosted by
Maple H.S.**

**Additional ideas from
attendees:**

- **Financial Literacy (there is an investment club and finance course)**

Meetings Ahead for 2022-2023*

Wednesday, November 9

Wednesday, March 1

Wednesday, May 3

Thank you

FOR COMING!

