

Issue No. 11 February 7, 2025

| Dates At A Glance | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Feb 4-11 | Course Selection Classroom Visits | |
| Feb 10 | Photo for Grad Retakes and new students | |
| Feb 11-13 | S1F1 Report Cards eDistribution | |
| Feb 12 | Immunization Clinic | |
| Feb 13 | Course Selection Night OUAC Transmission | |
| Feb 14 | Valentine's Day OCAS Transmission | |
| Feb 17 | Family Day - No School | |
| Mar 1-30 | Ramadan Begins | |
| Mar 5 | Ash Wednesday | |
| Mar 20 | Nowruz | |
| Mar 21-24 | Interim Report Card eDistribution | |
| Mar 31 | <u>Eid-ul-Fitr</u> | |
| Apr 10-11 | Elementary School Tournament | |
| Apr 11 | Sem 2 Term 1 End | |
| Apr 14 | Passover Vaisakhi | |
| Apr 18 | Good Friday/ Holy Friday | |
| May 22 | Prom | |
| June 25 | Graduation | |

| DAILY SCHEDULE | | |
|--|----------------------|---|
| PERIOD | TIME | |
| Warning Bell | 8:50 a.m. | 66 |
| HR | 8:55 a.m 9:00 a.m. | The moment you give up is the moment you |
| 1 | 9:00 a.m 10:15 a.m. | let someone else win. |
| 2 | 10:20 a.m 11:35 a.m. | MotivationalLines.com — Kobe Bryant |
| Lunch | 11:35 a.m 12:40 p.m. | |
| 3 | 12:40 p.m 1:55 p.m. | |
| 4 | 2:00 p.m 3:15 p.m. | Motivationalizates com |
| HELPFUL LINKS: | | CARING & SAFE SCHOOLS: |
| WC Website, YRDSB Website WC Twitter, WC Instagram | | Crimestoppers, Kids Help Phone Report It (YRDSB) |

Dear Woodbridge College Community,

We are pleased to announce that this week we welcomed our new Vice Principal, Talat Sadiq, to Woodbridge College. Ms. Sadiq joins us from Maple High School, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and a deep passion for fostering inclusive and safe environments for all students.

Ms. Sadiq's experience and dedication to education will be invaluable as we continue to strive for excellence in our school community. We are confident that her leadership will inspire and support our students, staff, and families.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Ms. Sadiq. We look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly have on our school.

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Trustee Newsletter Greeting

February 2025

Welcome to the start of the second half of the school year.

Congratulations to secondary school students who have completed exams and culminating activities and are ready to start a new semester, and to elementary school students for all their hard work in the first term. I want to remind families that when report cards are available, you can now access your child's report card through the Family Dashboard.

For students looking at <u>course selection</u> for next year, the <u>Experience YRDSB pages</u> on our website will let you explore the areas that interest you and learn more about the courses, programs and opportunities available in your secondary school.

At the end of January, we recognized <u>Lunar New Year</u>, commemorating the first day of the Lunar calendar. Throughout the month, we also recognized <u>Tamil Heritage Month</u>. In February, we recognize Black History Month, I encourage you to check the <u>Board calendar</u> for upcoming events to celebrate Black excellence and recognize the contributions made by Black Canadians. You can also find information about other upcoming significant dates and events for families.

The <u>Student Trustee election process</u> is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Student Trustees play an essential role in our system, representing student voices at the Board table when we are making important decisions, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to our discussions. I would like to congratulate all of the students who put their names forward for the position and encourage all students in Grades 5-12 to take the time to vote.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank current Student Trustees Hayden Lai and Mitusaan Kugathasan and Indigenous Student Trustee Natalie Pitawanakwat for their hard work, leadership and commitment to student voice.

As a Board of Trustees, we have several important roles that affect the daily life in our schools and Board.

One of those responsibilities is to set the <u>policies</u> that govern the operation of schools in YRDSB. Policies cover important topics, such as <u>assessment and evaluation</u>, <u>field trips</u>, <u>homework</u>, <u>dress code</u>, <u>caring and safe schools</u>, <u>health supports</u>, <u>student leadership</u> and more.

We regularly review Board policies to ensure they are updated and reflect the current context, <u>priorities</u> and needs of our community and system. An important part of this process is inviting feedback from the community, including families. You can find a <u>list of all policies and those currently out for comment</u> on our Board website and I encourage you to take a look.

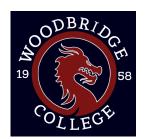
Trustees are also responsible for setting the Board <u>budget</u>. As we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 school year budget, we will be once again reaching out to families and inviting you to share your input and feedback. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it; your voice is an important part of the process.

We are also working through the District Action Plan to reflect and align with the new <u>Multi-Year Strategic Plan</u>. This plan outlines how we will achieve the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan and focus on serving all students.

I wish everyone all the best as we go into the second half of the school year.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3



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Attendance at WC

ATTENDANCE ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents/ guardians please email attendance absences to <u>woodbridgecollege.attendance@yrdsb.ca</u> Please note, EDSBY is **not** monitored for student absenteeism.

School Council Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Families wishing to connect directly with our School Council can do so by emailing: woodbridge.college@sc.yrdsb.ca

YRDSB Resources and Opportunities

Black History Month Events

Students, families and staff are invited to inspiring evenings as we celebrate Black History Month with interactive performances, student showcases and dinner. Please register one week before each event. Please also note that this is a revised flyer as the date of the last event has been changed as a result of the upcoming elections.

YRDSB Black History Month Events Updated

For further information, please email the Centre for Black Student Excellence at blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca.

Understanding and Navigating the Education System - Monthly Info Session

Please see February <u>flyer</u> for more information and registration.

Severe Weather - Bus or School Cancellations

With winter weather here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an inclement weather or extreme cold day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency winter events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

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Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media,

Board and school websites and on X @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days is outlined in the Board's Severe Weather policy.

Tenants Rights Workshop

You are invited to free Virtual Tenant Rights Workshops offered in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights from January through April 2025. Please see <u>link</u> for more information and registration.

Centre for Black Excellence Mailing List

We would like to encourage families to subscribe to the mailing list to stay up to date with information about school board and community events and programs that would benefit Black students and families with Black children and updates on Board efforts to dismantle anti-Black racism.

Please see our flyer for more information on how to subscribe to the mailing list.

360°Kids Information Flyer

360°kids is dedicated to helping at-risk and unhoused youth by providing essential support services in housing, employment, health, and education. Please see our <u>flyer</u> for more information.

YRDSB Family Dashboard

A family portal including;

- parent/guardian authentication
- secure access to report card links
- links to useful information for parents/guardians

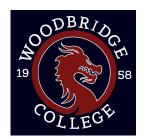
Newsletter

Sankofa Mentoring Program

The Sankofa Mentoring Program is for students in grades seven to twelve, online on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and two Saturday's per month in person 10 am to 1pm at Bur Oak Secondary School, Markham Ontario. The environment creates a safe space for students, and mentors to come together in unity and learn more about their heritage. Through collective work/responsibility, we have created an environment where creativity and cooperative economics work together to engender self-determination. The program was developed in the follow structure:

- Rooted in an Afrocentric Framework
- Three tier model (life skills, community engagement and civic responsibility)
- Highlights the principles of the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles) Unity, Self-Determination Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, Faith, and Self-Respect

Register Here



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CO-OP & Pathway Opportunities

The 2025 Talent City Vaughan Youth Careers Expo

This event is designed to connect students with incredible **summer job opportunities** while helping them build valuable networks with local employers.

Why Should Your Students Attend?

Access Summer Jobs: Meet employers offering great summer roles all in one place.

- **Networking Opportunities**: Build connections with businesses and organizations hiring for the upcoming season.
- It's Free: The entire event is free for students to attend!

Event Details:

Date: Friday, March 7th, 2025
 Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

• Location: Father E. Bulfon Community Centre, 8141 Martin Grove Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4L 3W9 You can find all the details and registration link here:

 ← Register for the 2025 Talent City Vaughan Youth Careers Expo

Valuable Learning Opportunities through Cooperative Education

Attention Students in Grades 10 and 11, Parents and Guardians,

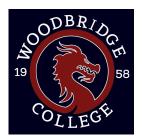
We are excited to share with you an invaluable opportunity for students to explore real-world work experience and enhance their education through Cooperative Education. This program allows students to gain practical work experience in areas that complement their personal strengths, interests, and educational needs while preparing for the next stage of their lives, whether it be in apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

What is Cooperative Education?

Cooperative Education, or co-op, enables students to participate in learning experiences outside the classroom in real-world work environments. It connects classroom learning with workplace experience, providing students with a deeper understanding of their studies while preparing them for future career opportunities.

Benefits of Cooperative Education:

- Gain Practical Work Experience: Students have the chance to apply academic knowledge in real-world situations in areas that align with their personal strengths and career aspirations.
- Discover New Personal Strengths and Skills: Students will develop and strengthen key skills, both technical and interpersonal, in a work environment.
- Actively Learn as a Responsible Team Member: Experience life as a member of a professional team, learning the
 essential traits of reliability, communication, and collaboration.
- Access Workplace Opportunities Not Available to Students Prior to Formal Training: Co-op teachers assist in securing placements that may not be readily available to students without prior experience, opening doors to career fields that align with their interests.



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- Extend High School Experience: Co-op allows students to gain hands-on experience before deciding on their post-secondary path, helping to confirm career interests and better understand career options.
- Confirm Career Decisions: Experience first-hand the job you're interested in before committing to post-secondary education, including apprenticeships, college, or university.
- Network and Build Contacts: Students will make valuable connections in their field of interest, providing future networking opportunities and gaining references for future employment.
- Develop Marketable Skills for Success: Co-op helps students acquire the professional skills necessary to thrive in today's workplace, giving them a competitive edge as they transition into post-secondary and employment

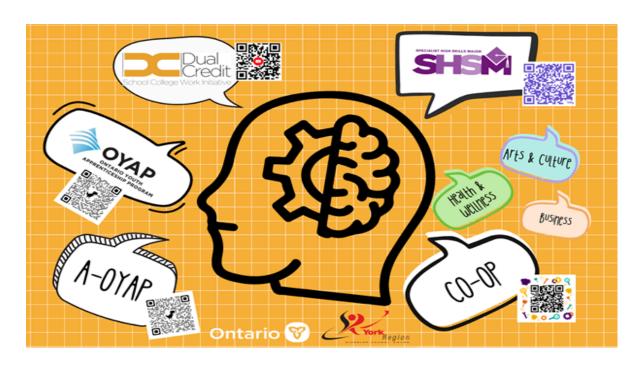
How to Get Involved:

We encourage students in grades 10 and 11 to consider this fantastic opportunity. Speak with your guidance counselor or email *christina.bazzo@yrdsb.ca* for more details. The co-op program will allow you to gain valuable experience that will benefit you in both your academic and career journey.

Thank you for supporting your student's growth and development as they embark on this exciting learning opportunity. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that Cooperative Education will have on their future.

Check out our Student Spotlight on Instagram: @woodbridgecollege

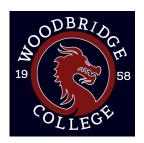




Health Care Plans for Students

If your child has a serious life-threatening allergy or medical condition, please inform the office to complete the appropriate medical forms. There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. To help create an allergen-safe environment, do not bring nuts or nut products to school.

It is critical that parents and guardians share information with us about students' serious or life-threatening medical conditions or other health-related matters so that we can create fulsome Health Care Plans that



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help keep students safe. We encourage students, who are able, to contribute to the creation of these plans too.

Please access forms below as needed. Completed forms and medication can be placed in a sealable bag, with the student's name marked on the bag and left in the Main Office As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Health Care Plan Form Diabetes Health Care Plan Asthma Health Care Plan Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan

Guidance Corner

1. Students and/or parents are able to make a Guidance appointment with Ms. Kolianou or Ms. Neally through teachassist. Please wait for a response to see if your chosen date and time are available.

2. Course Selection Support Night

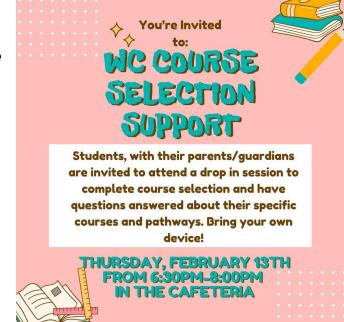
Students, with their parents/guardians are invited on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 6:30-8:30 PM in the *Cafeteria* to attend a drop-in session to complete course selection (on MyPathwayPlanner) and have guestions answered about specific courses and pathways

- Bring your own device
- Submit your course selection
- Explore French Immersion, Coop, SHSM and/or grade specific courses

Guidance will be visiting classes Feb 5th to 11th to help answer any questions students may have. The course selection window will be open from Feb 13th to Feb 21st.

Below are the course selection presentations for each grade.

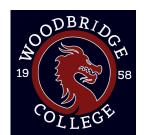
- Grade 9 presentation
- Grade 10 presentation
- Grade 11 presentation
- **Grade 12 presentation**



View the 2025-2026 Course Calendar to help you select the appropriate courses for next year.

Scholarship Report

Please view the February Scholarship Report for upcoming scholarships and tips for post-secondary.



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Mental Health Supports

Student Mental Health and Addictions Letter

February 2025 - Wellness at Home: Building a Foundation for Mental Health
January 2025 - Continuing the Journey: Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being

Inclusive School and Community Services

Inclusive School and Community Services support schools in developing a learning and school environment that is respectful, supportive and welcoming to all. This includes building and maintaining strong partnerships with parents, community, community organizations and social service agencies to ensure the Board is able to meet the diverse needs of our school communities. See YRDSB website for details.

Services to Support Mental Health

- Family Services of York Region 905-883-6572
- Trans Lifeline: https://translifeline.org
- YRDSB Trans Student Support Group Bi-weekly meetings 3:30 4:30 contact Max at max.denley@yrdsb.ca Also offered in: Ukrainian, Russian, Dari, Mandarin and Arabic

Academic Supports

YRDSB Student Tools and Supports

Supporting Mental Health:

Crisis Mental Health Supports for Students:

- <u>310-COPE</u>: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) avail.24/7
- <u>KidsHelpPhone:</u> 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 available 24/7, <u>https://kidshelpphone.ca</u>
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 available 24/7

Culturally Relevant Mental Health Supports:

We recognize the importance of supporting our students, families, and staff during these challenging times. While many remember and reflect on current events, in response, the following culturally responsive supports are available to our families:

1) TAIBU Community Health Centre

- Clinic: 416-644-3536 http://taibuchc.ca/en/
- Taibu provides intersectional, equity-based and culturally affirming practices for YRDSB students who self-identify as Black:
- Individual Therapeutic Counselling for individuals and parents/families/caregivers.
- Referrals for individual counselling can be made via your school's Social Worker or Psychology Services Professional.
- Group workshops for students (after school). Inquiries regarding potential workshops can be addressed to: Brittany Creighton, BSW, MSW, RSW Diabetes Education Program Social Worker / Health Promoter - Mental Health and Wrap Around Services TAIBU. <u>BCreighton@taibuchc.ca</u>

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2) Black Youth Helpline

- Call 416-285-9944 Toll Free 1-833-294-8650
- https://blackyouth.ca/contact-us/
- Black Youth Helpline

3) Harriet's Youth Support Line

- 24-hour emergency / crisis response line: 1-877-695-2673
- Text messaging available for young people who do not feel like speaking to someone, but are still in need of help
- Contact info@tubmancommunity.org or jdunn@peacebuilders.ca for additional inquiries.

4) NACCA - Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA)

Call 905-781-6222 - https://www.naccacommunity.ca/nacca-youth.html

5) Tropicana

• (416) 439-9009 - https://tropicanacommunity.org/defy-your-label/

6) Sikh Family Helpline: Sikh Family Helpline (1-800-551-9128)

7) Naseeha Helpline: Naseeha Mental Health

8) 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: LGBT Youthline

9) PFLAG Canada York Region: 1-866-YR-PFLAG (977-3524) https://plfagyork.ca