



Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/ Guardians /Caregivers,

Next week marks the end of Semester 1 and the start of Semester 2. Please be sure to closely review the **Upcoming Events** section below for important dates and schedules.

The morning of Wednesday, January 29th is our Mark Review Day. Students will attend class according to our special schedule (details listed below) to review their exams and final marks.

Friday, January 31st is the first day of Semester 2. We will be following a shortened day schedule. Students who were not able to review their marks on Mark Review Day can make an appointment with their Semester 1 teacher(s) to review their marks between 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Best wishes to all of our students who are writing exams next week!

If you have missed or would like to review our past *Weekly Updates*, please visit our [school website](#).

Sincerely,

Praveena Sivarajah
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Zorica Prekajski
Vice Principal (A - L)
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Upcoming Events:																														
January 27th - 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams, AM/ Credit Rescue By Appointment, PM 																													
Wednesday, January 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Review Day - Special Schedule <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Wednesday, January 29 Semester 1 Special Schedule (Day 1)</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Period</th> <th>Start Time</th> <th>End Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">AM Mark Review</td> <td>1</td> <td>09:00</td> <td>09:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>09:35</td> <td>10:05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>10:10</td> <td>10:40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10:45</td> <td>11:15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lunch</td> <td>11:15</td> <td>12:15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PM</td> <td colspan="3">12:15 - 3:15 pm Complete Not Repeat (CR) P1,P2,P3,P4 by Appointment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Wednesday, January 29 Semester 1 Special Schedule (Day 1)					Period	Start Time	End Time	AM Mark Review	1	09:00	09:30	2	09:35	10:05	3	10:10	10:40	4	10:45	11:15		Lunch	11:15	12:15	PM	12:15 - 3:15 pm Complete Not Repeat (CR) P1,P2,P3,P4 by Appointment		
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Thursday, January 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PD Day - No Classes 																													



Friday, January 31

- First Day of Semester 2 - Special Schedule

Friday, January 31 Semester 2 Early Dismissal Schedule (Day 1)		
Period	Start Time	End Time
1	09:00	10:00
2	10:05	11:05
Lunch	11:05	12:05
3	12:05	1:05
4	1:10	2:10
2:15 - 3:15 pm - Semester 1 Mark Review P1,P2,P3,P4 by Appointment		

Students of the Week

Name	Teacher Nominator	Description
Xoran W.	Ms. Hashemian	Xoran is an extremely dedicated student, who consistently participates in class discussions. Your hard work and attention to detail, while receiving ongoing feedback does not go unnoticed! Keep up the excellent work!
Alice M.	Mr. Sharma	Alice's commitment to academic success in our Gr9 Fitness class is the main reason for her "student of the week" nomination. Not only has she worked hard, but also encourages others in our class to stay healthy and active. Her consistent positive attitude has indeed been a great addition to our class. Congratulations Alice!
Krish M.	Mr. Sharma	Krish has been an exemplary student in our Gr9 Phys Ed class who never fails to make everyone smile with his positive attitude and gracious approach towards learning. Not only is he one of our top achievers, but also loves to support others and is always ready to collaborate on different health and wellness topics. Congratulations Krish and best of luck for Semester 2!
Rebecca T.	Mr. Sharma	Rebecca is in our Gr10 Phys Ed class and has been very successful through her persistent efforts to participate in our daily fitness activities every single class with no days of absences. She is indeed a very talented and motivated athlete with a friendly personality who always jumps ahead when others need support and/or clarification in our class. Congratulations Rebecca and best of luck for Semester 2!
Manha J.	Mr. Sharma	It has truly been a rewarding experience teaching Manha, who is in our Gr9 Fitness class and has gone above and beyond our class expectations. Her willingness to learn new health concepts and ability to master course content has allowed her to become very successful alongside serving as a helping hand for others in our class. Congratulations Manha and best of luck for Semester 2!
The Grade 12 Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context class (NDW4M)	Ms. Roopa Cheema	This small and special class tackled big ideas with brilliance and with an open heart. The warm rapport created by the students made everyone feel included and welcome. They cheered each other on when their peers needed extra encouragement. I couldn't name just one student because each and every one contributed to the kindness and comedy every single morning. Thank you, NDW4M students, for being so truly awesome!



Return to In-Person Learning for the 2025-2026 School Year

VSS students who want to return to in-person learning for the 2025-2026 school year must have a parent/guardian complete the [Return to In-Person Form](#). The deadline to complete this form is Friday, January 31st by 11:59p.m.

Semester 2 Timetables

All VSS students will be emailed a copy of their Semester 2 timetable on Monday, January 27th.

Students will also be provided a link to our *Timetable Course Request Form*. Students may request a change to their second semester timetable by completing the form. The deadline to request a timetable change is Monday, February 3rd by 3:15pm.

The Guidance Team will try their best to accommodate student requests. **However, most of our courses are full, so changes may not be possible.** If a change is possible, the Guidance Team will connect with the student by Monday, February 10th regarding their updated timetable.

Please only use the *Timetable Course Request Form* to request timetable changes. Emailing the Guidance team directly will only slow down this process.

Night School and Summer School

Students who were unsuccessful in a compulsory course during Semester 1 can consider registering for night school or summer school.

Night school registration is open until January 31st. Please visit the [TDSB Night School Website](#) for [registration](#) links and [course offerings](#). Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as classes are filling up quickly!

Summer school registration will open in the spring. Please look for announcements on BrightSpace.

Special Education and Inclusion Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Sessions

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer a variety of drop-in and topic-specific sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers throughout the 2024-2025 school year. These sessions provide valuable information, resources, and support to help families navigate special education programs and services.

[Drop-In Sessions-Families](#)

[Parent Engagement Sessions-Families](#)

Honouring African Heritage Experiences

People of African descent have a rich legacy of cultural practices and traditions across generations. The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with various community educators is excited to offer diverse learning experiences focused on



honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean and Black students' identities. These African-centred programming and learning experiences provide opportunities for students, staff and caregivers and community members. Please find the menu for January.

[Link to calendar](#)

Interview Preparation Workshop

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is excited to offer an online Interview Preparation Workshop. This workshop is designed to help prepare students for upcoming interviews by providing them with the necessary skills to succeed.

Interview support will also be given to Black Student Summer Leadership Program candidates.

This workshop will highlight:

- The interview structure;
- Common questions;
- Preparing your interview responses;
- Body Language tips;
- How to handle difficult questions;
- Q&A opportunity.

Date: February 4, 2025

Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

[Registration link](#)

TDSB celebrates Family Literacy Day 2025!

January 27th, 2025, is recognized in Canada as a special day dedicated to family literacy, encouraging families to read, explore, and learn together. Family Literacy Day is organized by ABC Life Literacy Canada and celebrated annually. This year, the theme of Family Literacy Day is “Learn to be Green, Together,” which is an excellent opportunity to combine literacy with learning about sustainability as a family.

Please visit Family Literacy Day to learn more about this important day and access relevant resources. Visit our [TDSB Virtual Library](#).

Additionally, please note programs being offered in Toronto Public Library locations across the city at [Family literacy day: Toronto Public Library](#).

Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club and Podcast

Chancellor’s Professor in the Department of Psychology and Director of the Mental Health and Well-Being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH; <https://carleton.ca/mental-health/>) housed at Carleton University created the “Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club” (<https://carleton.ca/mental-health/mewerths-reading-for-well-being-community-book-club/>) to help combat misinformation and disinformation around wellness.

He chose evidence-based books, selected as Professor Pozzulo’s Picks, to help members sift through the thousands of titles available for improved well-being. The Book Club is open to all



and there is no cost in joining or being a member. The objective is to connect people with the science and strategies for improved well-being.

He wrote several pieces for a general audience discussing the benefits of reading and community. He did a piece for The Conversation in the summer when he first started the Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club,

<https://theconversation.com/summer-reading-4-books-on-well-being-that-you-can-rely-on-229863>

General information about the book club can be found on the MeWeRTH website,

<https://carleton.ca/mental-health/mewerths-reading-for-well-being-community-book-club/>.

He also started a “Reading for Well-Being Podcast” where he interviewed the authors of the selected books to help readers understand the science behind the strategies that they can use to help improve their well-being.

You can find the Reading for Well-Being Podcast at these locations:

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ReadingforWellBeingPodcast>
- Spotify: [Listen here](#)
- Apple Podcasts: [Listen here](#)
- Libsyn: [Listen here](#)

Please see the [attached poster](#) for more details.