



MEMORANDUM

from the **Principal's Desk**

DECEMBER 2020

Dear York Memorial Family and Friends,

Welcome to our 2020 winter Newsletter. Firstly, I would like to say what a rollercoaster of a school year it has been! Covid-19 has impacted communities not only in Canada but around the world and its impact on education is no exception. Yet, despite the extreme challenges associated with dealing with this pandemic **there are many positive things to report here at York Memorial C.I.**



As you are aware this school has had its fair share of adversities and through it all, staff, students and their families have found a way to rise to the challenge every single time. I cannot think of another school community within the TDSB that has learnt and demonstrated what resiliency truly means like York Memorial has. We have gone through physical, logistical, mental and emotional struggles as a collective and as individuals and have managed to work through these struggles with the results being the active and thriving school that we have today! Some student clubs are back up and running and our scheduled meetings such as School Council, Curriculum night, Grade 8 Open House continue to engage families. The restrictions through Covid-19 may have forced us to do things differently, but our ability as a community to think outside the box, our willingness to adapt and the creativity shown by many have allowed for students to continue to receive a quality education. These adjustments have also helped parents to remain in close contact and communication with the school.

We have been fortunate as a school to have technology in place that has been fully utilized to support the in school and remote learning. All students who have requested a device to study at home have been provided with one. We have enough textbooks to allow for each child to have their own individual book if required as part of the instructional delivery. We are indeed fortunate to have key resources readily available during a time when resources for many other schools are sparse.

As you read through this Newsletter, I hope that you gain insight into the strong academics that we value here at YMCI, our great student leadership programs, and just what a great community school we are.

York Memorial Collegiate Institute

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 Etobicoke, On
 M9P 1N8

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<http://www.yorkmemorial.ca>

Principal Ms. D. Drummond
 Vice-Principals Ms. N. Martins
 Mr. J. Masciotra
 Superintendent of Education
 Ms. V. Branco
 School Trustee Mr. C. Tonks

**IMPORTANT
 NUMBERS**

416-394-3001

Attendance

**Guidance
 Ext. 20040**

DD Ext. 20014

!! IMPORTANT DATES !!

Principal's Desk

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Whilst we celebrate our students' accomplishments to date, we must take time to thank our dedicated and supportive teachers, support staff and parent volunteers who work diligently outside of the classroom to ensure that our students can receive a well-rounded education. Their willingness to "go above and beyond" ensures the vibrant, high achieving nature of our school.

Our teachers and support staff have been instrumental in getting the school up and running and ensuring that students are actively engaged in the learning process. A big thank you also to our caretaking staff for the wonderful job that they continue to do to maintain a clean and sanitized school building. York Memorial is certainly able to support student learning well into the future!

Finally, thank you to you our students and families for your patience whilst we continue to adjust to the ever changing directives that are assigned to us. Know that I deeply value the importance of developing a partnership with parents/guardians.

Let me end (as I normally do) with one of my favourite African proverbs which states ***"It takes a village to raise a child"***. Having each student work towards their potential is not done in isolation. Getting through this pandemic and remaining mentally safe and physically healthy takes a team effort. ***I thank you for being on our TEAM; together we will always achieve more!***



Admin Team John Masciotra & Nancy Martins & Donna Drummond—picture taken pre Covid –19.

Nov. 30 - Dec. 14	Food Drive
Nov. 30 - Dec. 16	Door Decorating Competition
Dec. 8 & 9	Awards Assembly
Dec 17	Holiday Assembly (Virtual)
Dec. 18	Holiday Assembly (Virtual)
Dec. 10 -18	Hanukkah
Dec. 18	Last Day for Civics/Careers
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	Boxing Day
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
Dec. 21—Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 4	School Reopens
Jan. 12	School Council Meeting
Jan. 15	OUAC Application Deadline
Feb. 1	Optional Attendance Applications due Deadline to apply for College
Feb. 2	End of 2nd Quadmester
Feb. 3 & 4	Credit Rescue Days
Feb. 5	OCAS Transmission # 2 Last day to make changes on OUAC
Feb. 5	P. A Day (Secondary)
Feb. 8	Start of 3rd Quadmester
Feb. 9	School Council Meeting
Feb. 11	OUAC Transmission
Feb. 12	P A Day - Board Wide
Feb. 15	Family Day - No School OCAS Transmission # 2 Last day to make changes on OUAC
Feb. 19	My Blueprint submission due
Feb. 19	EASA Assembly (Virtual)
Feb. TBD	Parent/Teacher Interviews Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contests
Feb. TBD	Euclid Contest
Feb. 26	Black History Assembly (Virtual)

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE FOR 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

Name	Position
Stephanie Slobodian	School Council Co-Chair
Anissa Tata	School Council Co-Chair
Tanisha Campbell	School Council Secretary
Apurba Mukherjee	School Council Treasurer
Bonnie Qui	Student Council President
Emily Saylor	Teacher Representative



I would extend thanks to the School Council Executive and the rest of our parent community. Your support is appreciated and never taken for granted. Your involvement in your child’s school life is integral to their ultimate success in high school. As always, I encourage you to become actively involved in your child’s schooling, whether it is coming out to our School Council meetings and workshops or becoming a parent volunteer. **Our next School Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 6:30 pm.** If you require a translator for the meeting, please let us know by contacting the main office.

Screen Shot of December 9th Virtual School Council Meeting



A message from our 2020 YMCI Student Council Executive



@yorkmemorial



Members from top left to right:

President - Bonnie Qiu,

Vice President— Jennifer Trang

Social Chair— Ilhaan Jama

Secretary - Emily Huynh

Treasurer - Mariam Farooq

Junior Vice President— Odessa Ho



@ymcimustangs

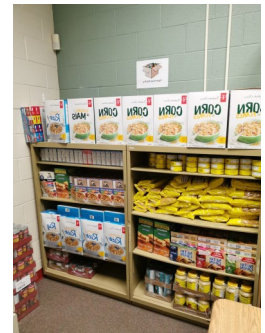
Instagram

Student Council is a six-member team that acts as a liaison between school administrators and the student body – advocating for their concerns and ideas. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, we understand the circumstances and barriers that COVID-19 has posed among us. However, our mission is to make sure that all students get involved and build a school community despite being separated into ‘virtual’ and ‘hybrid’ students through hosting online events. We encourage all students to get involved with the amazing activities being hosted throughout the year and to further check out the ‘Club Info’ highlights on our Instagram page to check out other clubs running this year and how else you can get included within our Memo community!

YMCI Care in Our Community Food Pantry Program

York Memorial C.I has partnered up with the Toronto Foundation For Student Success (TFSS) & Home Depot to provide packages of non perishable food items for YMCI families. With so many families in our community hit hard by the economic fallout from Covid-19 we want to get this food into the kitchens of our students as soon *and* as easily as possible.

Since October a group of York Memorial Student Ambassadors & YMCI staff have volunteered numerous hours to unload the large skids of food deliveries and to pack them in Home Depot donated boxes to go out to families. There are also several parent and staff volunteers who have volunteered their time in delivering the food to the homes of the families who have requested food. To date, over 400 boxes have been delivered and handed out to our families. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to help our YMCI families during this difficult time. We will continue to facilitate this as long as possible. **The food pantry program will continue on a monthly basis into the New Year so look out for the emails about requesting a food box and also signing up as a volunteer driver.**



Thanks to TFSS we also provide 100 breakfasts individually packed for students and 25 lunches daily!



Volunteers meeting on a Saturday to help deliver food packages to families

YMCI Breakfast Program

Donations Welcome



It's simple:

When children are hungry, they can't focus, and if they can't focus, they can't learn.

That's why approximately 420 schools and community based Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs) provide over 150,000 nutritious meals every school day here in Toronto.

York Memorial is proud to provide, thanks to the generous funding from the Toronto Foundation For Student Success (TFSS), over 100 healthy breakfasts, 25 lunches and snacks each school day so that students can focus on learning rather than hunger.

Research shows that when children have enough to eat, they feel energized, concentrate better in class and perform better in school. Also, school attendance increases, not surprising as many students tell us that they make it to school because they know that they can get a nutritious breakfast.

TFSS receives its funding from parent contributions, individual and corporate donations, the City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario. It is our goal to ensure that no child begins the school day hungry. If you'd like to help, please consider a donation to YMCI Student Nutrition Breakfast & Lunch Program.

If you would like to support the Student Nutrition Program, you can do so in the following ways:

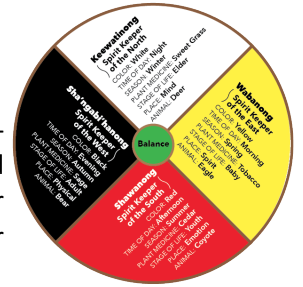
- ⇒ **Online**—Directly to TFSS using the following link. <https://tfss.ca/donate>. You can enter **"Donation For York Memorial C.I."** in the Message for TFSSbox.
- ⇒ **Cheque**—please make cheques payable to **York Memorial C.I** and in the memo line write **Student Nutrition Program Donation**
- ⇒

Donations are eligible for a tax receipt.



Anti-Black & Indigenous Racism

YMCI is committed to eradicating all forms of racism and discrimination. As educators we recognize that we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to provide social justice education and embed it into our daily teaching work because every day social injustice is evident in our students' lives.



We feel strongly that social justice is an ongoing process as opposed to an end destination and we are committed as a school community to see it through. At YMCI social justice entails respect, care, and equity; with a consciousness about the impact of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, family responsibility or family status, marital status, religious or political belief, pregnancy, age, and disability.

By recognizing the dignity of each individual, we seek to build a healthy community based on social justice.

As a staff, we are committed to educating ourselves around issues of social injustice, engaging in self-examination, evaluating assumptions and judgments and listening to and acting upon the voices of students. **We are committed to being positive Change Agents.**



STUDENT SUCCESS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

Assessment “for” learning, “as” learning and “of” learning are key practices to support students, and equity and anti-oppression are at the core of all conversations connected to these practices. Teachers will implement a variety of assessment practices, rich tasks and provide ongoing descriptive feedback for learning.



Credit Rescue Days and Final Evaluations

As per the TDSB directive, there will be no formal end of quadmester exams this school year (except for students sitting Advanced Placement exams). Teachers will instead be providing rich tasks that engage students by allowing for student choice and voice. This has proven to be an effective way that students can demonstrate a consolidation of their understanding and ability to apply what they have learned. Therefore, Quad 2 marks will be based on 100% coursework. **It is therefore essential that your child complete all assignments and evaluations** issued by their subject teacher(s) in order to demonstrate their learning and understanding. This will allow the teacher to give an accurate and fair assessment of your child’s overall achievement and allow the teacher to determine whether the child has met the curriculum expectations of the course.

The final day of Quad 2 is February 2, 2021. **Credit Rescue Days will take place on February 3rd and 4th, 2021**

Reporting for Quad 2

We will not be issuing formal mid-quad report cards except for Civics and Careers.

At the end of Civics and Careers courses, teachers will complete a Ministry Report Card which provides the final mark, one comment and learning skills into Trillium Web Secondary Achievement (mid-quadmester).



Similar to Quad 1, YMCI **teachers will communicate a “mark-to-date” with students and families between January 5-8, 2021** using one of the tools available (i.e. Markbook, BrightSpace, Google classroom, email).

Course Withdrawal/Full Disclosure Date

The Full Disclosure date is January 18, 2021. There will be no mark on the transcript of students who drop before January 18th.

OCAS and OUAC

The TDSB Virtual Secondary School will be responsible for the OCAS/OUAC Reporting for students in the Virtual School. YMCI Guidance Office & Administration will be responsible for reporting students attending hybrid school.

2020-2021 Student Success Team— here to offer support beyond your classroom teacher

Ms. Mastropaolo — Head of Literacy & Student Success

Ms. Pepper—Head of Numeracy & Student Success

Ms. Ostermann—Head of Special Education

Mr. Vujacic—Head of Guidance,

Ms. Saylor—Head of RUSH/AP programming & Specialist High School Major (SHSM)

Ms. Shelle Rankine— Child & Youth Worker

CONGRATULATIONS & HAPPY RETIREMENT TO LC1/LN3 SUPERINTENDENT VICKY BRANCO



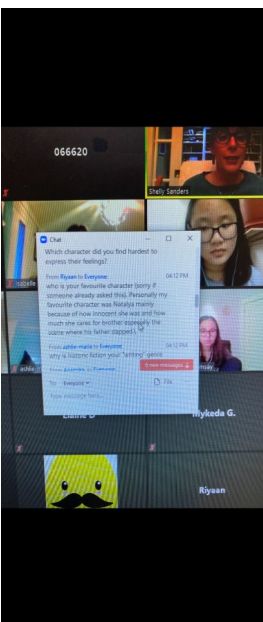
York Memorial Collegiate Institute staff, parents and students would like to congratulate our Superintendent Vicky Branco on her upcoming retirement. Superintendent Branco will be retiring on December 31st, 2020 after enjoying an illustrious and rewarding career within the TDSB. During her 29 years as an educator/leader, Superintendent Branco has served as a teacher in 3 elementary schools, a principal at 2 elementary schools, a Centrally Assigned Principal overseeing the Model Schools initiative, a Superintendent of Education and a System Superintendent. During her time in each role, Superintendent Branco has dedicated her time to serving her school communities with energy, passion, care and commitment.

Thank you to Superintendent Branco for her leadership; we have all benefitted from her wonderful work and unwavering focus on our students' success, achievement and well-being.

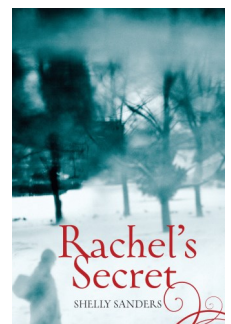
We wish Superintendent Branco all the best in her retirement and thank her once again for her wonderful service in supporting our York Memorial community!

The new Superintendent for our school will be Kwame Lennon. Kwame is the current principal at Glenview Senior P.S.

“A Room of Your Own” Girls’ Book Club – *Rachel’s Secret* by Shelly Sanders



The Girls’ Book Club run by Tanya Lee and Ms. Martins hosted 12 girls and 6 teachers from York Memorial. We were provided with a free copy to read and keep of the novel called, *Rachel’s Secret* by Shelly Sanders. Ms. Martins facilitated a Virtual Book Club meeting on November 23rd where all the participants were able to come together and discuss the book before meeting the author, virtually, on November 27th. The students had a chance to highlight passages/quotes in the book that resonated with them. The author talked about why she wrote the book and the writing process. The author also explained the background and the research that went into writing the book. It was a fantastic discussion to be a part of. Our students asked amazing, thought-provoking questions and made very astute observations and connections with the novel. The students were all so engaged and so excited to part of this amazing opportunity. Their insights, their enthusiasm and their passion was clearly evident. They represented YMCI extremely well, it was a pleasure to watch and listen!



So many of the students are excited to be able to participate in the January Book Club and have already signed up.

The Season of Giving – CoStar Group donates 36 laptops to York Memorial students!

A 2012 graduate of York Memorial, Amoona Mayany got in touch with us several weeks ago with the hope of giving back to her former school community. The real estate company that she works for, **CoStar Group** was looking to donate 36 laptops and York Memorial students came to the top of her mind. All current York Memo students (hybrid and virtual) were given the opportunity to enter their name into a raffle for a chance to win one of these devices. The student winners received an email earlier this week to share the exciting news and have been encouraged to pick up their device before the holiday break. Congratulations to the 36 student winners and a **HUGE thank you to CoStar Group** for their extremely generous donation that will make a difference in the lives of so many of our hard-working students.



Staff from YMCI receiving the chrome books from CoStar staff Amoona Mayany and Jacques-Yves Bourchard

Getting Into the Holiday Spirit here at YMCI- Images from around the school





Memorial Advanced Placement Update

Despite the challenging year that we are currently in, York Memorial’s AP Program remains strong because of the commitment of our many incredible teachers *and* students. We have quite a few new teachers to our AP program this year and we encourage you to check out our newly updated RUSH/AP website at <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/ymci-rush-ap-program/home> to keep up-to-date on all of the exciting news, events and information about spring exams. The cost for AP exams this year is \$120.00 and there is a subsidy available for some families that will bring the cost down to \$75.00 per exam. More information will be sent home with AP students at the beginning of each course. All exam money will be collected in March 2021 and further communication about payment options will be forthcoming in the New Year.

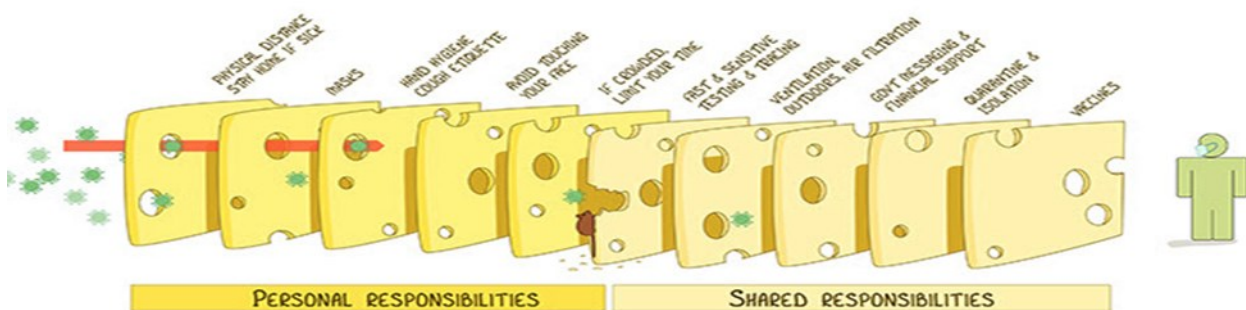
Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Update

With the shift in practise for so much of what we do in education to a virtual platform, our SHSM program has done the same for this year. For both our Health & Wellness and Arts & Culture SHSM students, certifications, trainings and workshops are still being held but they are now exclusively online. So far this year we have had students’ complete virtual certifications in CPR & First Aid, Infection Control, Leadership, Cancer Research through Princess Margaret Hospital and an upcoming session on music as a form of therapy. The variety and number of options for students is quite remarkable as this program continues to grow at York Memorial and province wide. This year we have more than 130 grade 11 and 12 students in one of our SHSM programs .



THE SWISS CHEESE RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANDEMIC DEFENCE

RECOGNISING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING SPREAD



EACH INTERVENTION (LAYER) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES).
MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.

DESIGN BY: DR. JEFFREY
VIRALOLOGY/COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES
WITH THANKS TO JOOP LAUREN, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH & THE USE OF SWISS
BASED ON THE SWISS CHEESE MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION BY SVENSK T. BERSON, 1996
VERSION 3.1
UPDATE: 24oct2021

HOW THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OPERATES DURING COVID!!!

As is the case all over the world, there have also been many changes to York Memorial's Guidance Department this year. This year York Memorial students are found in three different learning models:

- A) ***We have approximately 200 students currently learning in Virtual school.*** These students are on-line for their entire quadmester and are under the Virtual school umbrella for many components such as University PIN numbers, Night School registrations, class log ins and passwords, class instruction, attendance and report cards. Even though Virtual students are not technically part of York Memorial we are still their Guidance Department and we are happy to help whenever possible.
- B) ***We have approximately 500 students learning in the Hybrid model here at York Memorial.*** These students attend classes in person for approximately 50 % of their schedule and the rest of their classes are taught by York Memo teachers on-line. These students are expected and encourage to use York Memorial's Guidance Department for all concerns. They can email, fill out a Guidance Google form or phone any time.
- C) ***We have approximately 80 York Memorial students who are learning through the REMOTE model.*** This means that these students have a York Memorial timetable and are being taught by York Memorial teachers. The difference between these learners and the Hybrid learners as that the remote learners do all of their learning from home. These students are also expected and are encouraged to access York Memorial's Guidance Department for any questions and/or concerns.
- D) If students are interested in moving from one learning style to the other it is important to note that it is ONLY possible to consider this at the beginning of each new quadmester. The third quadmester will begin on February 8th. However, it is important to note that for students who are currently at York Memorial they WILL NOT be able to transfer over to Virtual school at anytime during the year.

Also, it is important to note that students who are currently in Virtual school—can only switch back to York Memorial IF THEIR TIMETABLE IS ABLE TO BE MATCHED UP WITH OUR CURRENT SCHEDULE—THIS IS NOT EASY TO DO.

All students, regardless which model they are operating under should be registered in our ***Guidance Google Classroom:***

Guidance Google Classroom Codes:

Grade 12s—f45colq

Grade 11s—b6o73mx

Grade 10s— ly46aeg

Grade 9 — kc25v54

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Getting Involved

November and December are very busy months for all of York Memorial's students as there is a lot going on. Our grade 9s are receiving their first high school report cards, our grade 10s and 11s are thinking about future career possibilities and next year's courses and our grade 12 students are preparing to make some of their most important decisions of their young lives: which universities or colleges should they apply for? (see Grade 12 Update)

At York Memorial we realize that a student's academic standing is very important and although it is the one area that will be measured more often than all the others we must realize that it is only one part of a student's education. A student's ability to feel comfortable in school, to feel good about themselves and to learn and practice respect, responsibility and conscientious behaviour are all important areas of education that must be highlighted.

We understand that getting involved in the school by participating in one of our countless clubs or athletic teams is greatly limited this year due to COVID but we have worked really hard to still offer a few on-line clubs and opportunities, so please contact the Guidance Department if interested. As a school, we are committed in our belief that when clubs and teams start up again that you encourage your child to get involved. Clubs/teams will allow your child to make new friends, learn life skills and help them get the most out of life. As a staff here at York Memorial, we understand the value of extra curricular activities and as such, we have volunteered our time towards the creation and running of well over 75 teams and/or clubs here at York Memorial.

Don't wait, get involved today! Please see our Guidance Department for information regarding any team and/or club you may be interested in.

GRADE 12 UPDATE

Our grade 12 students are entering the Winter Break with some very important home work. Our students need to use their break to decide if they are applying to university, college, an apprenticeship, place of employment or a fifth year of high school. There are many important deadlines for each option that must be watched carefully. As our students are preparing for their university and/or college applications they should be aware of the following:

Whether they are a Virtual student or a Memo student this year, all of this information still applies to each one of them.

- a. Seriously consider their first term marks and use these marks to help decide which programs they should be applying for.
- b. All grade 12 students have already received their university application numbers (P.I.N.) and should now be familiarizing themselves with the ***E-Info*** site as well as ***OntarioColleges.ca*** site for as much information as possible. If students have not already picked up their university PINs please see the Guidance Department ASAP.
- c. The deadline for students to apply to University (OUAC) is January 15th but we recommend that all students have their application AND payment completed by January 8, 2021.
- d. The deadline for College (OCAS) applications is February 1, 2021.
- e. The Guidance Department will have a one-on-one Routine Interview with every single grade 12 student prior to the application deadlines in order to discuss future plans. If a student would like an interview but has not yet been contacted, please come to Guidance and speak to your counselor.
- f. If students have any questions at all, we are hopeful that these students will take the initiative to speak with their subject teachers as well as their guidance counselor ASAP.
- g. REMEMBER, even if you are a VIRTUAL school student you are still A YORK MEMORIAL student so please, please, please reach out to our Guidance Department with questions and/or concerns.

YORK MEMORIAL'S NEW STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Memo Ambassadors



The Student Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for the students at York Memorial. Each candidate had to fill out an application, attend an interview, and if successful, join the twenty-nine others who showed interest and determination in this program presented by Mrs. Saylor and Mr. Vujacic.

Our first workshop was scheduled for early November but with COVID we had to reschedule. Our Ambassadors have still been busy decorating display boards, producing promotional videos, assisting with our very active and successful FOOD PANTRY and assisting in a number of charitable events within our community. If your child is interested in becoming a Student Ambassador, they need to contact the Guidance Department. We look forward to helping out, organizing events and getting more involved this year! We can already tell that this new year will be promising....



Written by Samarah Marques, Lillian Ong & Kayla Williams

An Introduction from our School Social Worker

Hello! I'd like to introduce myself as Annette Grossi, the TDSB School Social Worker at York Memorial Collegiate Institute. For those of you who were unaware, every TDSB school has a School Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor who can provide a number of supports. Some families may feel uneasy knowing the school has this type of support and I thought I would take a moment to clarify a few things to support further connection.



-School Social Workers provide VOLUNTARY support to students and families. Before working with a student, caregivers would either meet the Social Worker at an SST (School Support Team Meeting) or have the school request a form be signed by Caregivers. This gives us permission to contact a family and discuss our role and how we may be of support.

-The only time we may proceed without parental permission is if a student presents as being in crisis. Once we have met with the student and determined how they could be supported moving forward, we would provide support to caregivers in getting connected to appropriate resources.

-All information provided in meetings or discussions with the School Social Worker are bound by *confidentiality*. *Without written or explicit permission from the Caregivers, we cannot share details with school staff or outside agencies. Social Workers, as are all staff and volunteers, are bound by the policies around our Duty to Report to appropriate child welfare agencies. In doing this, we recognize our specific duty to also advocate and support the wellbeing of families and children and can often be of assistance to families who may be involved with Child Welfare agencies, acting as advocates and collaterals.*

-At times, we may provide support in classrooms, presenting topics around social skills, managing stress and finding effective ways to communicate. If families wish to seek information about alternative support options, I encourage families to reach out and hopefully I can be of assistance in finding appropriate connections that may be more meaningful for your family. This can be for a school connection or one in the community.

-If you are worried about the impact this will have on your child's academic and social outcomes, I assure you that accessing Social Work supports will not hinder your child in accessing the education they are all entitled to receive.

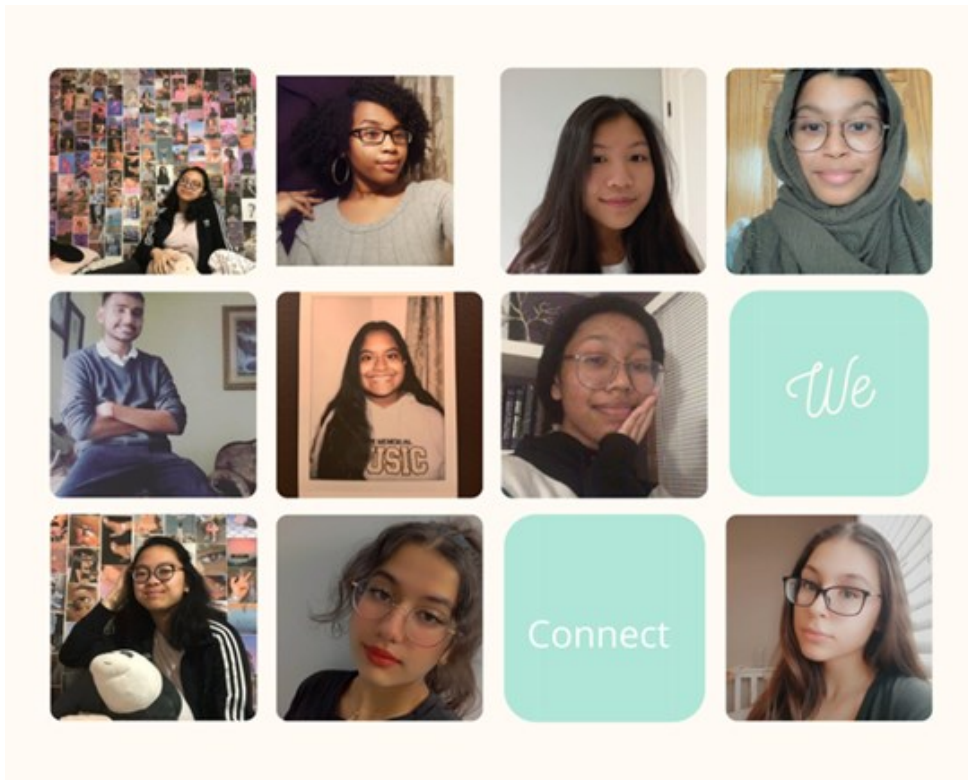
-Social Workers work closely with our Professional Support Services colleagues, including: Child and Youth Services, Psychology, Speech and Language Services, and Occupational/Physiotherapy services.

-If the school recommends Social Work support, you are not obliged to accept my services, but I'm happy to discuss your options in the school setting as well as in the community.

Lastly, a little about myself. I am a parent to three boys under 14, one of whom is Autistic. I am a White Woman, who is Cis-Gendered and who has practiced Social Work for over 20 years. I state this as I feel it is important for people to know I respect who you are and where you come from. This may mean that accessing my services may be of concern to you and I want to honour your feelings. If you are uncomfortable accessing Social Work services through your school, I am happy to support access to culturally, racially, and gender-based services that would better suit the needs of your family. These have been challenging times for all of us, and whatever support will work for your family, I hope to help in ensuring your children thrive and find success as they navigate High School and move towards Post Secondary learning.

Sincerely,

Annette Grossi – annette.grossi@tdsb.on.ca



I would like to introduce one of our newest clubs, the “**Memo WeConnect Club.**” Memo WeConnect started last school year by grade 12 students Enas and Divya. The goal of the group was for students to connect with other students around the issue of Mental Health & Well Being and to help remove the stigma associated with Mental Health within the YMCI community. Due to Covid 19 the focus of the group shifted to engaging their peers who were feeling isolated and disengaged from the school community by meeting on Friday nights to engage in activities such as Kahoot, Skribbl, Family Feud and Jeopardy.

Our mission is to empower students to educate one another by creating a safe environment where everyone who is part of the YMCI community can access information and support for their mental wellness through various programs, events and activities. WeConnect is creating a culture of peer to peer support within our schools that will bring about positive changes within our community by helping students strive to be their best self mentally, academically and socially.

I would like to take this opportunity to also introduce the 2020-2021 student leaders and invite you to join the **google classroom code: ir3f24n.** This is where you will find information about activities being held.

- ◆ Content Creators (Instagram-MemoWeConnect)- Amanda Nguyen and Shariqah Alam
- ◆ Activity Leaders (Zoom - Kahoot, arts and craft) - Angelica Treleven, Margarida Carreira, Nathan Singh and Shujana Alam
- ◆ Engagement Leaders and Liaisons - Elaine Diabuyu, Mariam Farooq and Jessica Brijba
- ◆ Staff advisors- Ms. Mastropaolo, Mr. McAlpine and Shelle

Written by CYW Shelle

YORK MEMORIAL C.I. STAFF 2020-2021



S. Akinfemi



A. Archer



R. Arquilla



P. Bitasi



C. Calitri



L. Cheng



M. Chopra



N. Crogan



A. Cross



C. Cutajar



J. DeIerno



P. Dittilo



D. Drummond



V. Flara



J. Fortuna



M. Gagne



M. Ghose



J. Goodridge



M. Harding



C. Hidalgo Toledo



R. Jack



A. Kalyvitis



P. Keane



U. Kelleymaharaj



D. Langer



T. Loukes



J. Makusika



N. Martin



J. Masciotra



A. Massina



S. Mastropasalo



J. McAlpine



A. Merrian



E. Octave



D. Oei



S. Oran



C. Ostermann



S. Osvadya



A. Oyapora



L. Parker



M. Pepper



N. Phillip



G. Phillips



M. Pich



C. Porter



S. Rankine



M. Sanchez



E. Saylor



K. Sesto



J. Trunison



B. Theodorou



C. Turner



C. Vujacic



M. Wesley

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For calling in absences, please call the main School number and select option 1 to leave a voicemail message

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Wellness wall of feelings created by Student Athletics Association

Hello Mustangs,

As COVID marches on and the school year continues to be compromised we must all acknowledge the importance of staying mentally healthy and with that in mind, here is some information that everyone should know.

Why Mental Health Is Important:

Mental health is important because it affects every aspect of our lives, the way we think, how we feel and how we act. When we are mentally healthy we are better equipped to handle stress, anxiety and any changes which may occur in our everyday lives. It builds resilience - the ability to bounce back from our problematic situations. Taking care of our mental health helps us to enjoy more things in our lives and helps us enjoy the people in our families and our communities.

How can we improve our Mental Health:

- ◆ Eating Well
- ◆ Talking to someone we trust
- ◆ Exercising
- ◆ Brain Breaks
- ◆ Getting Good Sleep

Getting Help

I am encouraging all students to reach out to your social worker, your teachers, your guidance counsellors, your caring adults, myself or anyone who can help you get the help and support you need. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of courage and self-understanding and I want you to know that others are here to assist you, when you need it.

Sincerely,

Shelle, Your Child and Youth Worker

Brain Games

Brain games are a great tool that can be used to exercise your mind and help contribute to overall wellness. These brain games can be even more fun if you share them with friends or family!

Riddles

<p>You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat.</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>What English word has three consecutive double letters?</p>
<p>I have keys, but no locks and space, and no rooms. You can enter, but you can't go outside.</p> <p>What am I?</p>	<p>What disappears as soon as you say its name?</p>

1) They are all married 2) Bookkeeper 3) Keyboard 4) Silence

Brain Training

There is a great new app for mobile devices which provides over 45 games designed to sharpen brain skills. The games are appropriate for all levels (4 years and older). The app is totally free and can be used to sharpen problem solving, memory, language and numeracy skills. The app also lets you turn the games into competitions with friends and family! Enjoy!



Download "Peak - Brain Training" wherever you download apps for your mobile devices.



Help Limit the Spread of Covid-19 by ensuring that you do the Daily Self Assessment. If your response is yes to any of the questions listed below, please stay home, self isolate and follow

Toronto Public Health Advice.



COVID-19 K – 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL

Please complete before entering the school.

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*



Fever > 37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste



Feeling unwell,
muscle aches
or tired



Stuffy or
runny nose



Headache



Sore throat or
pain swallowing



Nausea,
vomiting
or diarrhea

If "YES" to
any symptom:



Stay home
& self-isolate



Get
tested

Or



Contact a health
care provider

2. Is there a child or sibling in your household who has one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has the student travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has the student been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? Yes No

5. Has the student been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If "YES" to
Questions
2,3,4 or 5:



Stay home
& self-isolate



Follow public
health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Updated December 2020

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

TORONTO Public Health