

THE HILL

The West Hill Collegiate Institute Community Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Making connections and partnerships is a fundamental part of the learning journey for students at West Hill. This edition of the Hill highlights several opportunities for our students to learn and grow while working with other groups and organizations that enrich their learning experiences. Whether it was giving back to our community by helping to organize the TDSB International Women's Day Conference, exploring career opportunities in the Arts at UTSC, winning awards at the Skills Competition or overcoming their greatest fears to work with false widow spiders, our students enjoyed the chance to learn outside of the classroom.

Mr. Bullen

What is the School Council?

School Council is a group of parents and caregivers who work in partnership with the school administration to improve student student success and achievement.

Who can join School Council?

School Council is open to every parent or caregiver in the Toronto District School Board and all are invited to attend!

Why is the School Council so Important?

Parents and caregiver play an important role in supporting and promoting student success.

This is your chance to listen, to learn and to help develop solutions to the challenges facing our students and the school community.

When and where does the School Council meet?

School Council meets once a month throughout the school year. Meetings are in-person and virtual. Information about upcoming meeting can be found on the school website on the **Parent-Caregiver** page.

How can I join the School Council?

All parents/caregivers of students registered in the school are invited to attend meetings and events, help out and participate in their school community. However, only elected members can vote on items brought to School Council.

NEXT MEETING : WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 @ 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Join the conversation and have your say...scan the QR Code or click the link to take the **Parent-Caregiver Engagement Survey**



Join

THE A-TEAM

As a member of the School Council you will have the opportunity to work closely with our Administrative Team!

"Each family and community has gifts, strengths, and levels of expertise that can help shape what happens in school and the community"

-TDSB Community Support Hub



IMPORTANT INFO FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



Report Card Distribution

Report cards will be distributed electronically to parents and caregivers on Monday, April 24th in advance of Parent-Caregiver & Teacher Interviews. Should you have difficulty accessing the report card, please contact the Main Office at 416-396-6864.

Semester 2 Ontario Secondary Literacy Test



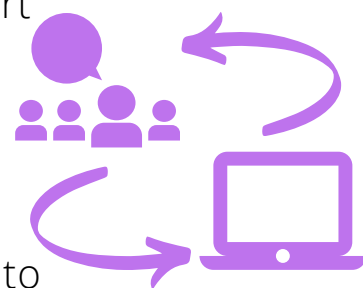
Beginning April 16 through until April 23 students in Grade 10 who are first time eligible and students in Grade 11 who have been previously eligible, will write the EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Successful completion of the test is required for graduation.

Students will be writing both booklets in either their Grade 10 English class or in the case of Grade 11 students in the library with teacher supervision.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the OSSLT, please contact the Main Office at 416-396-6864 or email westhill.ci@tdsb.on.ca.

Ministry of Education's Online Learning Graduation Requirement

The Ontario Ministry of Education's new graduation requirement for secondary students to complete two e-Learning credits as part of the 30 credits required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). It applies only to students who entered Grade 9 on or after September 1, 2020. These courses are asynchronous, which means that students would be learning independently, with the support of a teacher should they need it. students may withdraw from the new online e-Learning requirement. A parent/caregiver or student (18 years of age or older) may withdraw by completing and submitting the Opt-out/Withdrawal form. No explanation or reason is needed to opt out/withdraw. If wish to opt out, the form is attached [here](#) and can be sent back to the school at westhill.ci@tdsb.on.ca or submitted to the Guidance Office. You may also use Permission Click to opt-out on-line.



Honouring International Women's Day

By: Ms. A. Bajaj, Vice Principal

On March 8, 2024 a delegation of West Hill C.I. students were invited by our Director of Education, Colleen Russell Rawlins, to celebrate International Women's Day with her at KPMG Headquarters in Downtown Toronto. The group was treated to an immersive experience at the top of the Toronto skyline. The day was filled with connecting with female industry leaders in finance, human resources and technology, participating in networking skill building workshops, as well as an arts workshop led by Scarborough's own arts entrepreneur Huney Studios. Many of our students remarked on how welcomed and important they were made to feel throughout the day, including getting to sit alongside our Director in some of the workshops. Special appreciation goes out to two of our students, Tamiri and Nabeeha, who were part of the organizing committee and assisted in coordinating this special day together in which lasting memories were made for everyone.



STEM+ UTSC Research Partnership

By: Ms. G. Pedroso, ACL Experiential Learning & Mr. P. Johnson, Science Teacher

This semester, Ms. Pedroso and Mr. Johnson's Grade 9 **STEM+** Science classes have been given the opportunity to work with **University of Toronto Scarborough Campus** researchers, graduate and undergraduate students to co-develop a science enrichment program aimed at enhancing our students' scientific investigation skills, as well as boosting student interest and engagement in post-secondary Science programs at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus.

The focus of our students' work with the UTSC faculty and mentors has been designing and conducting a science experiment to study animal behaviour using live invertebrates. The live invertebrates' students have been working with includes *Steatoda* spiders also known as false widow spiders.

This month students were able to work with the spiders and test how male spiders can find female spiders when mating in nature. Students were gifted with an invaluable experience, a notebook, pizza lunch and tour of the campus.



Making Connections through the Arts @ UTSC

By: Ms. T Daley, Vice Principal

In February, students from West Hill were invited by the the Arts, Culture and Media Department at UTSC to engage in a fun-filled afternoon of post secondary and career exploration.

The ACM @ USC is a collection of 8 programs: Arts Management, Art History, Journalism, New Media Studies, Media Studies, Music and Culture, Theatre and Performance and Studio Art. As one of the fastest growing Humanities programs within UTSC their goal was to connect with our students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 through a series of engagements meant to introduce students to careers, programs, and faculty in the arts, and to reduce the anxiety around post-secondary transitions and increase representation of marginalized communities at UTSC.

Students from Ms. Maharaj's English classes, Ms. Butler's Visual Arts classes and Ms. Rahim's drama classes enjoyed breakout sessions at the Doris McCarthy Gallery, the Lee Browne Theatre, and toured areas of the campus stopping to take in the Ma Moosh Ka Win Valley Trail--a fully accessible, on-campus site that facilitates learning about, from, and on the land on which the UTSC is built. Before leaving students had the chance to hear from current ACM students and ask questions about their career goals and future plans. A few lucky West Hill students received some extra special swag.

Thank you to our partners at UTSC for making this experience for our students possible.



TDSB SKILLS COMPETITIONS WIN!

By: Mr. D. Shafransky, Acting ACL of Family Studies & Business

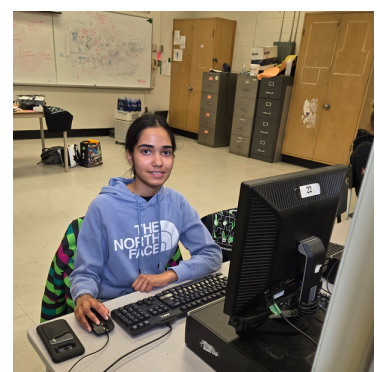
This past March, the TDSB hosted the 34th Annual Secondary Technological Skills Competition at various locations in Toronto. West Hill CI had three students participate: Jawad R., Nirvana K. and Mudabbir A..

Jawad competed in the Job Interview Competition where he had to submit a resume and cover letter and then undertake a gruelling interview process. At the end of the competition Jawad was awarded the Bronze medal for his efforts.

Nirvana competed in the IT Office Software Solutions for Business Competition where she had to spend the day solving tasks and creating documents on Microsoft Office software including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. After performing functions like mail-merge, inputting formulas and creating graphs Nirvana was awarded the Gold Medal in her competition.

Mudabbir competed in the Prepared Speech Competition where he wrote and delivered a five minute talk on How the Skilled Trades and Technologies can navigate the ever increasing advancements being made in technology. With his knowledge and research on A.I., his confidence, charm and charisma, Mudabbir was able to secure the Gold Medal for the best prepared speech in TDSB. This is an unprecedented back-to-back gold medal performance as he was also the TDSB Skills Prepared Speech champion last year.

With their first place finishes, Mudabbir and Nirvana earned their spot at Provincials and will now be competing in SKILLS Ontario this spring in Mississauga.



Junior Girls Volleyball's Shows Promise

By: Mr. E. Gold, ACL Student Engagement, Athletics & Leadership

The West Hill Collegiate Institute Junior Girls Volleyball Team embarked on a season filled with promise and potential, despite many players being new to the sport. Initially grappling with the fundamentals and intricacies of volleyball, they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Under the guidance of their coaches and the mentorship of seasoned teammates, the junior girls quickly adapted, honing their skills and deepening their understanding of the game.

As the season unfolded, so too did the remarkable transformation of the team. What began as a group of girls excited to learn volleyball soon evolved into a cohesive unit, seamlessly executing plays and strategies with newfound confidence and precision. Each practice session and match became an opportunity for growth and development, as the players supported one another and pushed themselves to new heights.

The season high took place at the St Patrick's Vipers Volleyball Tournament. The team battled at the all day event and concluded with the girls taking home the consolation championship and a pizza party for the team!

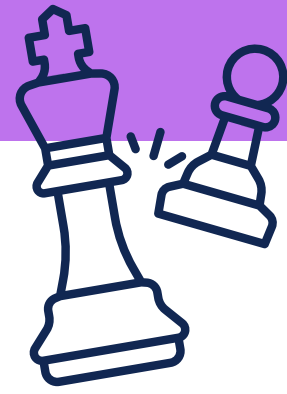
In regular season gameplay the team demonstrated resilience and perseverance during the 2023-2024 season as they moved up into the Tier 1 East division. The team marched their way to the East Region Quarterfinals where the girls played extremely well but unfortunately came up just short.

The Junior Girls Volleyball Team should take pride in how far they've come. The season ends with a sense of pride and satisfaction, knowing that they have not only exceeded expectations but also laid the foundation for future success. Great job girls!



WARRIORS GAMBIT

By: Ms. C. Jansen, Computer Science Teacher

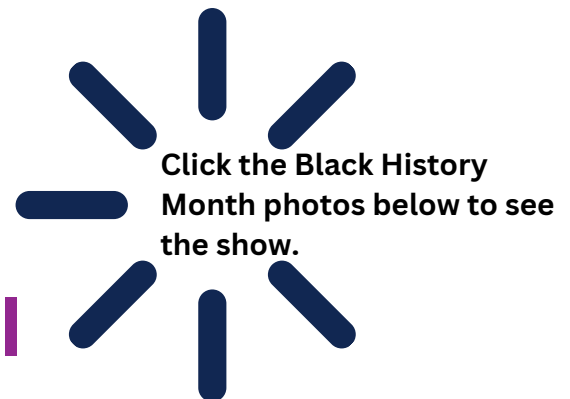


Eight members of our Chess Club had a great time attending two chess tournaments this past month at Georges Vanier Secondary School and Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute. It was a great experience for all those who attended.



Celebrating BLACK

Excellence at West Hill



On February 26th, West Hill's Black Student Union presented an assembly which celebrated Black history, heritage, excellence and joy through song and the spoken word. This assembly was thanks in no small part to the work of many people. Thank you to Mr. Lim, Ms. Rahim and Mr. Singh for supporting the BSU, Stage Crew and other student performers in presenting a great show!



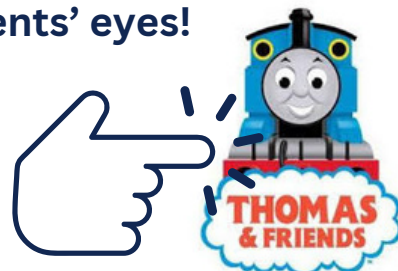
ESL Career Exploration

By: Ms. C. Kalerante-Prinos, ACL, Moderns & English Learners Support

On Wednesday, March 6, ESL students had the opportunity to attend a trades fair and get information on various careers for their future. Exhibits such as Humber College Culinary, Toronto Police, Next-Steps Employment Center, York University and Nelvana Animation studio were among the interesting booths students had to visit. Thank you to Welcoming Communities to the TDSB for organizing this event.



See the Nelvana animation demonstration of Thomas the Tank Engine through our students' eyes!



An Immersive Art Experience

By: Ms. J. Rahim, Acting ACL of the Arts

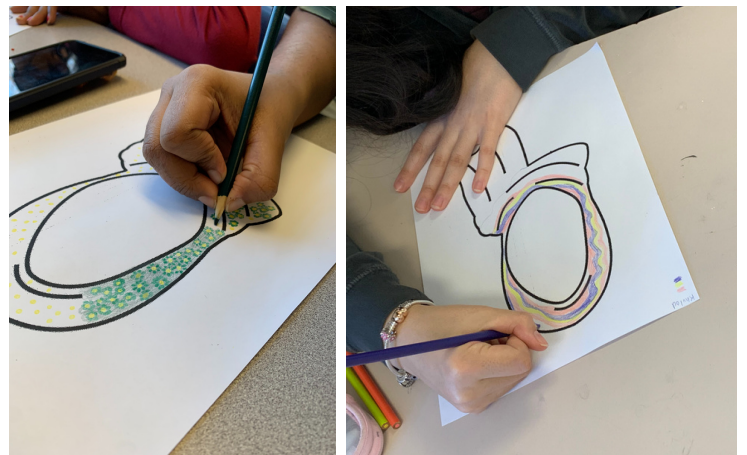
Ms. Eng, Ms Butler and Ms. Rahim's Arts classes attended a field trip to Arcadia Earth Immersive Experience to explore sustainable art! They engaged in interactive experiences like VR, Augmented Reality and recycled material sculptures in preparation for their final culminating assignment!



Ms Porretta's Nutrition and Health class learn to use the creaming method to make delicious chocolate cookies in their first food lab.



Ms. Porretta's Fashion class design a Hijab to celebrate World Hijab Day 2023. The challenge - choose 3 colours at random to create the design!



By: Ms. S. Porretta, Family Studies Teacher

Badminton Team Victory

By: Mr. A. Khan , DD-ISP Teacher, Ms. K. Turner, SNA & Ms. L. Mohan, EA

At the end of March, nine student-athletes from West Hill's DD program participated in a TDSB-wide badminton tournament at Sir William Osler High School. We brought home 2 gold medals and 2 silver medals and had an awesome time competing against and spending time with peers from across the City.



Wrestling Mania

By: Mr. C Sands & Mr. C. Lim, Wrestling Coaches

The West Hill wrestling team started up again this year, and had an incredible season of hard work and breakthrough performances. The team came 2nd overall at the South/East regional championships, with the girls placing second overall and the boys placing third overall.

We had 11 student-athletes reach the City championships, and 3 athletes (Fatima, Mrunali, and Yevin) qualify for OFSAA in Hamilton, even winning a few matches at the province-wide tournament! Congratulations to the entire West Hill wrestling team for a season of roller coaster emotions, tough matches, and forming strong bonds as a team.



SAVE THE DATE!

STEM + Night on the Hill



Thursday | May 16

Join us for a cross-curricular night showcasing environmental leadership, creativity and design!

Class of 2024 Dates to Remember



THE SURVEY WILL BE OPEN MAY 1 TO MAY 15.



COMPLETE THE GRAD SURVEY

TELL US ABOUT YOUR POST-SECONDARY PLANS & APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

VIEW THE LIST OF SPECIAL AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN BREAKFAST

Thursday | June 4, 2024

Vote for the Valedictorian



WEST HILL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Save the date

Thursday | June 27, 2024
@ 1 pm

This year's ceremony will be held at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus.

Formal invitations & tickets will be available in June. There will be a limit of 4 guests per graduate.

PROM 2024

Thursday | May 23, 2024

@ 6 pm (until 11 pm)

Fantasy Farm Event Centre
50 Pottery Rd, Toronto*

Important Dates: April

Hispanic Heritage Month
Latin American Heritage Month
Sikh Heritage Month

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 16-19 | OSSLT |
| 17 | Late Start @ 10:00 am |
| | Semester 2, Term 2 Begins |
| 23 | OSSLT Make-up Test |
| 24 | Late Start @ 10:00 am |
| 25 | Guidance Career Day |
| 26 | Mid-Term Report Card Distribution |

Important Dates: May

Asian Heritage Month

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Mental Health-Cultural Pride Showcase |
| 9 | Student Activity Council Elections |
| 16 | STEM+ Night on the Hill |
| 20 | Victoria Day |
| 22 | School Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. |
| | Late Start @ 10:00 am |
| 23 | Prom |
| 26 | Late Start @ 10:00 am |
| 31 | Black Student Leadership Conference |

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