



# BEYNON FIELDS P.S.

Community Newsletter

October 27, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please review below some important updates and reminders.

## Grade 8s Going to Grade 9 Information

DATE	ACTIVITY
From Tuesday, November 2, 2023 to Thursday, January 11, 2024	The <a href="#">Grade 8 Open House - Information Nights</a> are posted on the Board website.
Between February 15, 2024 to February 23, 2024.	Current YRDSB Grade 8 students who plan to attend a YRDSB secondary school must select secondary school courses in My Pathway Planner

## Halloween 2023

We recognize that some students will come to school on October 31 in costume. Please remember that costumes should be respectful of others.

- Symbols or objects representative of a person's race, culture, ethnicity, or religious beliefs, should not be worn as another person's costume, nor should costumes that caricature social identities through stereotyping. Be sensitive to images and media use.
- No Halloween masks are to be worn
- No replica weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Students should only use single use make-up (sharing of make-up is not recommended)

## Holocaust Education Week

November 1 - November 9, 2023 marks the annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW). Learning about the Holocaust in classrooms, schools, and workplaces across the YRDSB is critical to countering antisemitism and other forms of hate.

The Holocaust was the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish people by the Nazi regime and its allies, and it's critical that we not allow this cruel chapter of modern history to fade from memory. During Holocaust Education Week, it is important to also acknowledge that other racialized people, the Romas, people with physical disabilities, and those who identify as 2SLGBTQI+, among others, were also targeted and murdered by the Nazis. As one means of working towards communities free of intolerance, racism, discrimination, and hatred, educators are encouraged to discuss the Holocaust and the many people who put their lives on the line in the face of antisemitism and other forms of hate.

Holocaust Education re-humanizes those who experienced and continue to experience the impact of the Holocaust. By giving voice to the victims and survivors, we can ensure historical contexts are not trivialized.

### **Hindu Heritage Month**

On December 8, 2016, the province of Ontario designated November as Hindu Heritage Month as outlined in the [Hindu Heritage Month Act](#). November 2022 marked Canada's first official Hindu Heritage month.

Hindus first arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century. During various waves of immigration, Hindus from all parts of the world continued to make Canada their home from the 1960s to present day. Canada is the proud home to nearly 830,000 Canadians of Hindu heritage, and many have settled in the Greater Toronto Area, including York Region.

"By proclaiming the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario." - Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016 Hinduism is considered by some as one of the world's oldest religions, dating back over 10,000 years. With over 900 million followers worldwide, Hinduism is the third-largest religion.

Hinduism is a henotheistic religion that worships one God without denying the existence of other gods. Some of these deities include Brahma, Shiva, Paarvathi, Lakshmi, Ganesha, Muruga, Kaali, and Vishnu, along with others. Hinduism consists of many traditions and festivities that are celebrated throughout the year. Diwali, Navaratri, and Ganesh Chaturthi are some celebrations in which Hindus participate in Ontario, Canada, and around the world.

### **Treaties Recognition Week**

Did you know that the first week of November is officially Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario? 2023 is the [100th year anniversary of the signing of the Williams Treaty](#). When learning about the significance of this signing, consider the 2018 negotiated Settlement Agreement as well as the [statement of apology](#) made by the Canadian Government on November 17, 2018. During the week of November 5-11, 2023, we recognize the importance of treaties and bring awareness to the treaty relationships between First Nations, Métis and Inuit and non-Indigenous people throughout the province. There are 46 treaties in Ontario, and we all have a responsibility to recognize, learn about and honour these treaties.

### **Tune In YRDSB: Holocaust Education with Yad Vashem**

Please check out the recent YRDSB podcast on Holocaust Education: [Holocaust Education with Yad Vashem : So They Remember: A conversation with author Maksim Goldenshteyn](#).

### **Startup Forms**

We have found that there are a number of students who have not had their start up forms completed. We ask that if you haven't yet done so, to please complete the startup forms.

Parents/guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start-up forms to complete. It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions. The forms can be found at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>. [Tips are available](#) if you need additional information on how to log in to the Student GAPPS account to complete the forms.

Please note:

- You must be signed in to your child's student GAPPS account to complete the form. Please remember to sign out of one account before signing into another. Additional information is available on the Board website on [how to login to the student account to complete the forms](#).
- If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the school office.
- Parents/guardians must complete a separate form for each child attending school. Please ensure you log out of one student account before logging into another. You will not be able to submit the form twice logged into the same student account.

### **Student Mental Health and Addiction Newsletter - November**

Please find the YRDSB Student Mental Health and Addiction Newsletter for the month of November [available to read here](#).

### **Not an Experiment Vaping and Youth**

York Region Public Health is sharing information on tobacco-free living. Please see [this letter to families](#).

### **BFPS Scholastic Book Fair**

BFPS is holding a Scholastic Book Fair from Nov 9 - 17. Please [see the flyer](#) for more information.

### **Remembrance Day at BFPS**

On November 10, we will be holding Remembrance Day assemblies for all students. The Junior/Intermediate Choir will be performing. Members of that choir are asked to wear black on the bottom and white on top.

### **Youth Gambling Awareness Series**

There are a number of upcoming sessions for parents/caregivers. For more information and to register please [see the flyer](#).

### **Professional Activity Day Plans - November 17**

Please find the plans for the PA Day on November 17, [available here](#).

### **The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | October 2023**

The Centre for Black Student Excellence newsletter is dedicated to educating families about resources in York Region District School Board in alignment under the Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy Implementation Plan. You can [read it here](#).

### **GIVE - Get Involved. Volunteer in Education.**

Develop Skills to Support School Communities. This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information and to register, please [see the flyer](#).

Sincerely,

BFPS Administration