



## The Phoenix: We Rise Together!

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**Trustee**  
Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

**Principal**  
Gisella Avsec

**Vice-Principal**  
Angue Sterling

**Office Admin:**  
Tina Luchetta, Betty Flynn

Weekly Highlights:		Trending
Wk of Dec 1 - 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Assemblies Are Back - 1:30 pm, Gym</li> </ul>	<h3>December @ Fossil Hill Public School</h3> <p><b>On December 10 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</b></p> <p><b>For December, Fossil Hill Public School will be highlighting the importance of social justice and human rights.</b></p> <p><b>Social Justice means everyone's human rights are respected, protected, and promoted. We at Fossil Hill Public School seek to promote human rights as a means to thrive. We strive to honour our commitment to inclusion and equity as a shared goal with our community partners.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Fossil Hill's Gift of Warmth Drive for December (Hats, Mittens and Socks) Proceeds Donated to Yellowbrickhouse - Student Leadership</b></p> <p>As a school-wide initiative, Fossil Hill students and staff with the help of the Student Leadership Club will be working together to highlight the importance of human rights.</p> <p>For the entire month of December, we will be focused on the Gift of Warmth school campaign. Families are invited to send in donations of hats, mittens, scarves, gloves and socks to be sent to those in need. We will place your donations to decorate our school Holiday tree, all items will then be collected by Friday, December 22nd to be donated to Yellowbrick House.</p>
Wk of Dec 4 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec 4 - Snowflake Snowdown School Wide Competition Launch</li> <li>Dec 7 - Dec 15 - Hanukkah - Judaism</li> <li>Dec 8 - Bodhi Day - Buddhism</li> </ul>	
Wk of Dec 11 - 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec 15- Snowflake Snowdown School Wide Competition ends. Submit entries</li> <li>December 16 - Dec 24 - La Posadas - Spanish</li> </ul>	
Wk of Dec 18 - 24	<b>Spirit Week</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec 18- Twin Day</li> <li>Dec 19- Show your School Spirit Day - Red, Black and white</li> <li>Dec 20- Culture Day,</li> <li>Dec 21 Sweater Day &amp; Sing Along, Winners for the Snowflake Snowdown, First Day of Winter</li> <li>Dec 22 Comfy Cozy Day &amp; Break Dance &amp; Gift of Warmth Drive Ends</li> <li>Dec 21 - Dec 25 Pancha Ganapati - Hinduism</li> </ul>	
Wk of Dec 25 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winter Break</b></li> <li>Dec 24 - Christmas Eve - Christianity</li> <li>Dec 25 - Christmas Day - Christianity</li> <li>Dec 26 - Boxing Day</li> <li>Dec 26 - Jan 1st Kwanza - African American Cultural Holiday</li> <li>Dec 31 - New Years Eve</li> </ul>	
Wk of Jan 1 - 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winter Break</b></li> <li>Jan 1 - New Years Day</li> </ul>	

- Jan 7 - Orthodox Christmas

**COMING  
SOON!**

## In January

- January - Tamil Heritage Month
- Jan 1 - New Years Day
- Jan 6 - Winter Break ends
- Jan 7 - Orthodox Christmas
- Jan 8 - First Day back 2024
- Jan 19 - PA Day - No School
- Jan 25 - 26 - Dental Screening
- Jan 27 Family Literacy Day
- Feb - Black History Month
- Feb 1 - Carnaval
- Feb 2 - PA Day - No School
- Feb 5 - 23 - Dance Instruction Weeks
- Feb 6 - Girls Junior Volleyball
- Feb 8 - Boys Junior Volleyball
- Feb 10 - Lunar New Year
- Feb 19 - Family Day - No School
- Feb 28 - Anti-Bullying - Pink Shirt day
- Feb 29 - Gr. 8 Grad Photo Day



**Thank you to all our families who continue to give back to those in need.**

## December Eco Theme Reduce Your Carbon Footprint



Students and families are encouraged to **This Month's Eco focus is to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint.** It is important to remind ourselves to be aware of our carbon footprint during the winter season to reduce energy consumption. Consider the following actions so we can continue to be mindful of our carbon footprint. Suggested recommendations:

- **Keep heat in your home/building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.**
- Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged, please have it repaired in your home or let your caretaking services team at your school know so they can have it repaired.
- The use of personal heaters is discouraged (the use of electric heaters in rooms that already have heating systems offsets any savings that might be achieved through energy initiatives and programs such as the "Lights Out" program).
- Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
- Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
- Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.
- The [Eco Watch Energy and Waste Website](#) is a great tool for students and staff to learn about energy consumption and waste generation within their own school/building!

## A Message From Our School Trustee

I hope everyone has had a good start to the school year and is looking forward to the winter break ahead.

As I have been visiting schools and attending events, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication of school staff, the commitment and support of families and the curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm of students. As a Board of Trustees, we continue our commitment to delivering a high-quality education, this also includes striving to create safe, caring, inclusive and respectful school environments where students feel valued and supported.

I want to thank everyone who attended the school council forum held in our area and helped to make the event such a success. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together school council members for an evening of shared learning and discussion. School councils play such an important role in our schools, and we are grateful for all that they do to support students, family engagement and schools.

While we are not yet at the midway point in the school year, many students and families are already looking to the school year ahead, visiting [secondary school open houses](#) and starting to think about course selections for next school year. All our secondary schools offer a variety of courses, programs and opportunities that let students gain skills and experience, explore their interests and begin preparing for the future. Those opportunities are now even easier to explore.

Students can [search from 16 different sectors](#) that interest them, including STEM, Arts, business, manufacturing and many more to discover how they can earn credits, gain experience, skills and certifications in those areas. Visit [www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb](http://www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb) to learn more.

We also offer a variety of [programs for Black students](#) through the Board's Centre for Black Student Excellence. These summer and school-year programs are designed to affirm students' identities and support student achievement and well-being. You can learn more about the programs and how to sign up for the centre's mailing list [on the website](#).

One of our roles as a Board of Trustees is to regularly review Board policies to ensure they are relevant, reflect our mission and values as an organization, and meet the needs of our students. An important part of that process is collecting feedback from the community. [Learn more on the Board website](#) about how you can share your input and see what policies are currently being reviewed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank families for their patience while we work to restore services following [network outages](#) as a result of a cyber incident, and to acknowledge the work of our staff who continue to deliver high quality public education and to restore services.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates for different faiths and cultures during this time of year, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair,

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3



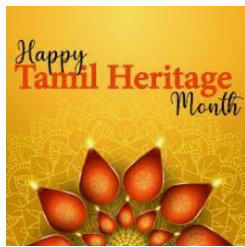
**Fossil Hill PS presents**  
**Snowdown Snowflake School Wide Contest**

**Enter as a class or individual**  
**All entries due by 8:40 am Friday December 15th, 2023**  
**Results will be shared during Spirit week!**

category	my vote goes to...	because...
most creative		
most unique		
most detailed		
most wintery		
shows the most holiday spirit		
best overall		

## **There are Many Celebrations During the Month of December**

During the month of December, our school and community engage in many celebrations, which may include Bodhi Day, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, and Pancha Ganapati, Christmas, New Year and Orthodox Christmas. The month of December is a celebratory time of the year and at Fossil Hill P.S. We look forward to honouring the many celebrations which take place during the month of December!



**Coming in January: Tamil Heritage Month**



### **A call for families, parents and community partners to volunteer as part of a collaborative team of staff and student voices!**

January marks the beginning of Tamil Heritage Month in Canada, a time to reflect on the rich history, culture, resiliency, and strength of Tamil communities across the country. We are reaching out to families to join staff and students in planning this significant month in collaboration with us. Please reach out to our School Equity Lead Mrs. Kala Henry via email: [kala.henry@gapps.yrdsb.ca](mailto:kala.henry@gapps.yrdsb.ca) before December 15th if you would like to share a resource or join in the planning team. We look forward to your support.



**FOSSIL HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL SHOWS ITS SPIRIT**  
**Spirit Week December 18th to December 22nd**



**Monday 18th  
December 2023**

**Twin Day**



**Thursday 21st  
December 2023**



**Sweater Day  
School Assembly & Sing a long**



**Tuesday 19th  
December 2023**

**School Cheerful Spirit Day Red,  
White & Black**



**Friday 22nd  
December,  
2023**

**Comfy, Cozy Day &  
Break Dance**

**comfy cozy day**



- Snowflake Competition Winners
- End of the Gift of warmth drive

**Wednesday 20th  
December 2023**

**Culture Day**



**Winter Break  
Begins**





On December 7 and 13 our Jk-8 students will engage in an interactive workshop with our YRDSB Arts Consultants. Students will gain insight on Dismantling Anti-Black Racism and gaining a better understanding of creating identity-affirming classrooms. Primary workshops will be 30 minutes and Junior/Intermediate workshops will be 60 min. Students will further develop their learning about Race, Racism, Anti-Racism, being an Ally and Culture. We look forward to engaging in the learning in our classrooms.



Current Grade 4 or 5 students can APPLY for the Arts@Baythorn full-time school program 2024-2025 (For students going into Grade 5 or 6 in Sept 2024).



The **Arts@Baythorn** allows students to explore **Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music** Integrated into learning each and every day in a Collaborative and Cooperative learning environment.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/baythorn.ps/arts/Pages/default.aspx>

REMINDER Check the website for updated information.  
Application Registrations opens: January 15, 2024 and closes January 29, 2024 (late applications not accepted)  
Collaborative Workshops held: March 4, or 5, or 6, 2024 (these dates are firm)



## Our Ecosystem

Black E.S.T.E.E.M.(Entrepreneurs, Scientists, Technicians, Engineers, Economists, Mathematicians) is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing Black girls' interest and confidence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

<https://www.blackesteem.org/>



## Hindu Heritage Month

Fossil Hill Public School  
Hindu Heritage Month  
led by Students of Hindu Heritage and Student  
Voices

### November as Hindu Heritage Month Recap

A heartfelt thank you to student voices and students of Hindu Heritage who led the series of presentation workshops for the Primary, Junior and Intermediate grades . The Hindu Heritage month presentations were well organized, educational and an enjoyable experience for students and staff alike .

Thanks to Mrs. Henry and Mr. Colosimo in your ongoing efforts to foster student voices and craving spaces of belonging and mattering for our diverse student population. The students attending showed so much excitement and enthusiasm while exploring the musical instruments, learning about cultural clothing, dressing up and making Rangolis.

We were proud of the many talents shown by students engaged in this venture. We reaffirm our commitment to students to feel a sense of belonging and mattering within the diverse communities here at Fossil Hill Public School.

Every Wednesday, beginning on  
January 10, 2024

is

Pizza Day

at

Fossil Hill P.S.



**Little Caesars®**

Session #2 – January 10 - March 27

Put in your order through Cashonline here:

<https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>

No Cash Sales



## Labels for Belongings

Fossil Hill Families, are you looking for labels for your belongings? School Council has the direct link to assist you with customizing labels for you and your family. Sign up and join in through Fossil Hill Public School. Labels will be mailed directly to your home. As an Oliver's **Labels** Fundraiser, Fossil will earn 20% commission every time someone places an order.

Our custom website address is now live at:

<http://www.oliverslabels.com/FossilHillPS>

oliver'slabels

Login Contact Us Fundraising Found-it™

YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SHIPPING

Canada Français

Labels For Kids Labels For Adults Wall Art Car Decals Business Products

\$0.00

### Ready for Camp?

Essential labels for all your camp essentials.

shop now!

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Nothing is as cute as your family, but these label designs are pretty close....

#### Custom Package

Mix and Match products to create your own custom package.

#### YOUUnique™ Name Stickers

Express your YOUUnique™ style!

**LIVE LINK HERE:**

<http://www.oliverslabels.com/FossilHillPS>



Student Transportation Services of York Region  
is pleased to announce two NEW online school bus safety  
programs for 2023-2024!

These exciting new programs are funded by the Province of Ontario and are exclusively available from ~~Intertrain~~.

**\*\* There is no cost for schools and the programs are highly recommended. \*\***



Online  
Interactive  
30 minutes in length  
Includes Teachers Guide!

**FOR JK TO GRADE 3**

The loveable Buster the Bus hosts  
this interactive program on-line!



**WHAT'S  
NEW?**

New amber  
light system!



**WHAT'S  
NEW?**

New amber  
light system!

Junior/intermediate  
students review  
the school bus  
safety rules so  
that they are able  
to set the best  
example possible  
for younger students  
when riding on  
the school bus.

*The Original*  
**RIDER ROLE MODEL  
PROGRAM**  
*Starring YOU!*

Online  
Interactive  
30 minutes in length  
Includes Teachers Guide!

**FOR GRADE 4 TO 8**

~~Intertrain~~ will be contacting your school to provide you with your unique website link to the programs!

To speed up the booking process,  
please have your bell times and  
student counts (JK to 3, 4 to 8) ready!

This project is made possible through  
financial support from the Government of Ontario.



## School Closures

Emergency closures will be considered when conditions may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site.

In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and aftercare programs will not operate if schools are closed.

## Health Reminders

As winter approaches, it is also a good time to review how to [protect yourself from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses](#).

Screening: Students and staff who have symptoms of illness can [take the COVID-19 self-assessment here](#). Individuals can screen daily for signs of illness and stay home when sick.

Personal Protective Equipment Masking: Masks are not required for students, staff and visitors in schools, school board offices, or on student transportation, however YRDSB learning and working environments continue to be mask-friendly.

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs): All Ontario School District School Boards will have continued access to RATs until December 31, 2023. RATs are available to staff/students on request. RATs are also available through other locations, including at your local pharmacies.

Vaccines: Vaccination is one of the best ways to protect you and your family from COVID-19 and the flu. Everyone aged 6 months and older is able to get their COVID-19 and flu vaccines now. Book your appointment at [york.ca/Covid19Vaccines](https://york.ca/Covid19Vaccines) or call Access York (1-877-464-9675). You can also get vaccinated at a [participating pharmacy](#), doctor or nurse practitioner. Learn more about the [flu shot](#) and [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Cleaning protocols/funding: YRDSB will continue to review our cleaning protocols to ensure we always meet current public health requirements.

Ventilation: School-specific ventilation information is available centrally on the [Board's website](#).



## Get Ready for Colder Temperatures

As the temperature Cools, please ensure that your child is dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change of clothes is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid losing clothing, it is recommended that parents/guardians label all articles of clothing, including, but not limited to boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants.

## Translate Tools on York Region Website

On our Board website, we have translation tools to help some families translate information for Google Classroom, Google Docs, etc. Click on the link above for further information.

## SEWING PROGRAM

**Do you want your child in Gr 4 - 8 to learn to sew?** We are extending the sewing program to **March 4 - 6, 2024**. The learning Sewing program will take place **March 4 - 6, 2024**. Your child will participate in the program for one 50 minute period on one of the selected dates. If you have paid for the program already you don't need to pay again. For the families who haven't signed up yet, there is still an opportunity for you to pay for this amazing learning activity using **Cash Online**. In order for the program to run we need 200 or more students to participate. This program is an extension and a part of your child's education. The session is intended to provide the students with life skills, such as building confidence and developing Growth Mindset, using their art skills, etc.

**Sewing Studio**  
A sewing program that focuses on mentorship, confidence, inclusion, and equity!

Denise Wild's Sewing Studio is coming to our school with a specialty program like you've never seen before – a dynamic, engaging sewing workshop that breaks the creative mold! The Sewing Studio's team of stereotype-busting mentors will guide each student through success, teaching everyone how to sew using a sewing machine. Boys and girls, that means you! Each child will gain confidence, develop their growth mindset, and complete their very own customized project from start to finish, all while being motivated and inspired!

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

- We come to your school with 12 to 30 sewing machines and our all-star team, and we set up a creative maker space in your library, gym, or available classroom.
- We teach every child (as young as 4 years old) how to properly, safely, and successfully use a sewing machine.
- Highly skilled sewers and mentors coach kids, working on a 1-hour basis, providing an incredible, hands-on experience.
- Confidence building exercises give a 360-learning experience.

**Our all-star sewing instructors are also:**

- Fashion designers
- Entrepreneurs
- Athletes
- TV personalities
- Coaches
- Musicians
- Interior designers
- Personal trainers
- Medical professionals
- Motivational speakers

**DENISE WILD**  
CO-FOUNDER  
Denise Wild is a professional artist, author, and sewing expert who appears regularly on CP24, CTV, The Morning Show, The Morning Star, The Morning Star, The Morning Star, The Morning Star, The Morning Star.

**ROLAND ACHEAMPONG**  
CO-FOUNDER  
Roland Acheampong is an accomplished entrepreneur with a background in corporate sales, marketing, management, and human development.

SewingStudioClasses.com | info@denisewild.com | (888) 448-7706  
See program photos under the hashtag #sewingkidsdenisewild on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.