

February 2024



The Phoenix: We Rise Together!

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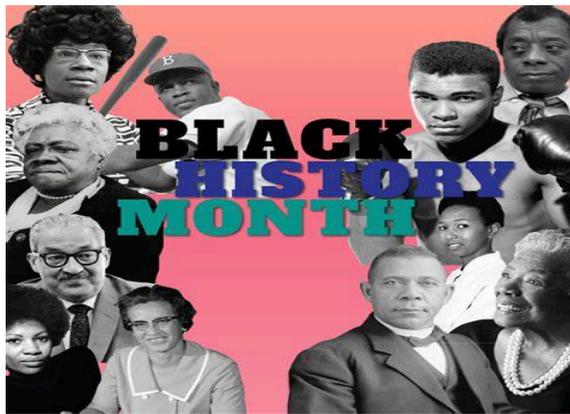
Weekly Highlights:		Trending
Wk of Feb 1 - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February Is Black History Month Feb 2 - PA Day - No School 	<p>February Eco Theme Reduce Paper Towel Tips For Home and School</p>  <p>February's Eco Theme for the month is to reduce paper towel use. How do we reduce paper towel use without compromising the requirements for hand hygiene? Throughout the school, we post signs alongside paper towel dispensers. Students, families, and staff are encouraged to "Use only what you need", to ensure that paper towels do not go to waste. To minimize the usage of paper towels, which adds to our landfills, we encourage our community to use less and possibly use cloth towels, cloth napkins, washable sponges, and handkerchiefs at home. A gentle reminder to all, remember to place a paper towel in the green bin. The Eco Team would like to thank all our families who continue to model Eco Friendly practices in your homes in support of environmental Stewardship.</p>
Wk of Feb 5 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 5 - Last Art lunchtime Programme Class Feb 5 - Dance Instruction begins today Feb 6 - Last Day for Year 2 Kindergarten families to register for French Immersion Feb 7 - Pizza Day, Sweater Day Feb 8 - Junior Volleyball Regionals Feb 8 - School Council Meeting Feb 9 - Lunch Lady Feb 10 - Lunar New Year 	
Wk of Feb 12 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 14 - Valentine Day - For those who celebrate Feb 14 - Pizza Day, Sweater Day Feb 14 - Macca Community Awards Night Feb 16 - Lunch Lady 	
Wk of Feb 19 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 19 - Family Day - No School Feb 20 - Dance Instruction workshops end this wk Feb 21 - Pizza Day, Sweater Day Feb 23 - Lunch Lady 	
Wk of Feb 26 - 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 26 - Carnival Feb 28 - Pizza Day, Pink Shirt Day-, Sweater Day Feb 29 - Grad Photo Day 	

**COMING
SOON!**

In MARCH

- March is Bangladesh Heritage Month
- March is National Nutrition Month
- March 1 - Spring Art Club Program Begins
- March 8 - Art Club Program
- March 10 - Spring Forward - 1 Hour
- March 11 - 15 Spring Break
- March 12 - First Day of Ramadan- Islamic Faith
- March 14 - Sikh New Year's Day - Sikh Faith
- March 19 - 20 Dairy Farmers Presentations
- March 19 - First Day of Spring
- March 20 - Naw Ruz - Bahai Faith
- March 20 - Nowruz - Islamic Faith
- March 22 - Earth Hour YRDSB
- March 23 - Earth Hour
- March 22 - Art Club
- March 24 - Purim - Jewish Faith
- March 24 - Palm Sunday Christian Faith
- March 25 - Holi - Hindu Faith
- March 28 - Holy Thursday - Christian Faith
- March 29 - Good Friday - No School - Christian Faith
- March 31 - Easter - Christian Faith

Every Wednesday is SWEATER DAY!



February: Black History Month and BEYOND
A call for families, parents and community partners to volunteer as part of a collaborative team of staff and student voices!

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.



During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions. (BWW)

Celebrate Black History Month!



Boys and Girls Junior Volleyball

Last week the Boys and Girls Junior Volleyball teams participated in their Area Tournaments at Emily Carr Secondary School. After a long day of intense competition, both teams served, passed and bumped their way into 5th place overall out of 10 teams. Ms. Burnett and Mr. Schafer would like to congratulate all the players on their athletic achievements and fantastic sportsmanship; they represented Fossil Hill proudly. Congratulations to our Junior Girls Team members; great job goes to Mena, Rheyna, Elianna, Cindy, Audrey, Sabine, Sophia, Zoey and Emily. Congratulations to the boys' team, Romer, Ali, Maxwell, Ashwin, Berkay, Ash, Raymond, Ali, Noor, Milad, and Marcus. Ms. Burnett and Mr. Schafer would also like to thank our student leaders for all their help. Great work, everyone!

Please stay tuned for news from our upcoming sports teams.

Mental Health

We are eager to share with you some exciting updates. Fossil Hill continues to move forward with our 'Mental Health and Wellness' journey. A team of Mental Health Leaders, composed of teachers and intermediate students, has been established and has been busy throughout the month of January. Mental Health student leaders worked hard to finalize a 'Team Logo' which consists of the phrase, "*A Student Voice For a Student Mind*". When these student leaders lead school-wide activities, they will wear a t-shirt with their team logo on it so they can be easily spotted by the school community. Starting in January, our school has implemented weekly 'Wellness Wednesday Moments', where the entire school pauses and takes part in a brief activity. To date, we have discussed: Healthy Relationships, Positive Affirmations, Bell Let's Talk Day, and practised "Rainbow Breathing", a breathing exercise that helps students calm their bodies and their minds. In addition, our student mental health leaders have worked diligently in collaboration with their teacher partners to create 'Mental Health Awareness Presentations' for the school with the goal of providing education on Mental Health. This is very exciting as this is the first time student-led presentations of this nature have been done at Fossil Hill. Students broke off into three, smaller divisional specific groups, to ensure the material being presented was tailored to the targeted age group, relevant, and engaging. Please join us in congratulating our staff and students for their dedication and hard work this past month.

Mental Health Committee: Ms. Shamis, Ms. Sobel, Ms. Vecchio, Ms. Yoo

February 10 - Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a significant and meaningful cultural celebration for many people of East and Southeast Asian heritage including Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Indonesian communities, to name a few. It is celebrated across the Asia-Pacific and diaspora communities around the world. This holiday commemorates the first day of the Lunar Calendar. The date is determined by the appearance of the moon and usually takes place between late January to early February. For some, this occasion has religious significance as well.

Lunar New Year is celebrated where families come together, enjoy traditional foods and activities. Many countries also have their own unique ways of celebrating the event. These could include families coming together to spend time with one another, sharing of traditional meals, and engaging in traditional activities such as cleaning the house and performing ceremonial rituals to elders and ancestors. For example, in many Chinese communities, customs may include: cleaning houses, paying off debts, settling old arguments, and other means of making a "fresh start." In the Korean community, the ceremonial ritual of seh-bae (deep bow) is performed to the elders and ancestors. Families share the traditional meal of rice cake and dumpling soup and play traditional games such as yut-nori.

Schools across YRDSB will acknowledge this occasion through various activities that promote sharing and understanding of the diverse practices across Asian communities in the weeks to come.



Grad Photo Day!



Thursday, February 29, 2024 is Grade 8 Graduation Photo Day. Please send your child to school with a white collared shirt for their Grade 8 Graduation photo.

Message from Our Trustee-----February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board – the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is Black History Month. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder winter weather this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion](#) registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at course selection in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca. Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3

Lost & Found

Scheduled Pick-Up February 14, 2024



Carnaval

Fossil Hill will be celebrating French culture and traditions on **Monday February 26th 2024** when we host a mini winter Carnaval for **Grades 4-8 students**. Carnaval de Québec began in 1894 and continues to be the largest winter festival in the world. It is organized every February to break up the long winter months.

In 1955, Bonhomme Carnaval became the mascot and representative of the festival. He continues to make Carnaval the joyous event we know today. Bonhomme is a 7-foot tall snowman who wears a red toque and an arrow sash.



Visitors to the festival in Québec can participate in many activities while enjoying a variety of food. Activities include winter sports, such as hockey and ice skating, as well as snow sculpture carving, parades, a masquerade, fireworks, canoe races, and of course, visiting Bonhomme's ice palace!

Check out the link to the official Carnaval de Québec website!

<https://carnaval.qc.ca/en>

Students will be participating in outdoor activities between 10:40 am and 12:15 pm so we ask that students be dressed appropriately in boots, snow pants, jackets, gloves, hats, and scarves.



**MACKLIN HOUSE WELCOMES MARCH BREAK CAMP at
Fossil Hill P.S. Julia.houston@mhdc.ca**

Fossil Hill School Council Night

**Join us to learn about school updates, the
plans for the school year and upcoming
school events.**

Your voice matters!

When: Thursday, February 8, 2024 (In person)

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fossil Hill Library



All are welcome!
Childminding will be provided.

THE LUNCH LADY

We are proud to be serving

Fossil Hill PS in Woodbridge on Fridays beginning January 12th, and every Friday thereafter! Please place your order before 7am the day of delivery!



Ready to place your first order?
Visit order.thelunchlady.ca to get started!



Register for an account



Add student(s) (customers) then select Order Now



Select order delivery date



Add items to cart (return to calendar for more dates)



Check out and complete your order



Relax and let us do the rest!



Special Food needs? Email us before your first order.



Reduce single use plastics. Bring your own cutlery from home.



Sick child? It happens. Email us before 8am to receive a credit.

We're here to help! Contact Pam at Brampton@thelunchlady.ca

FOSSIL HILL ART CLUB BY ROMA CRAFTS INC.

GRADE 1 TO 4—FRIDAYS

10 WEEKS—\$85+HST=\$96.05

LUNCH RECESS SESSION 2—5 ART PROJECTS

DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 17



#1-FLOWER #2-ABSTRACT FLOWER POT #3-TEA SET #4-PANDA BEAR

Pen & Ink Art 3D Clay Art Designing Black & white art

#5-FREE STYLE ART—ART WORK OF THEIR CHOICE

REGISTRATION FORM IS NEEDED FOR THE NEW STUDENTS

Please email romacrafts@hotmail.com for the form

GR 1 TO 4—FRIDAYS—10 WEEKS

MARCH 1, 8, 22, APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, MAY 10, 17, 24

ROMA CRAFTS INC.—RAJI—romacrafts@hotmail.com

E-TRANSFERS TO romacrafts@hotmail.com

Please include your child's name, grade & school in the message section.

Please use my company name romacrafts as the password or email me your password

**LIMITED SPACES—FIRST COME—FIRST SERVE

ALL CLASSES CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED.

MISSED CLASSES ARE NEITHER REFUNDABLE NOR TRANSFERABLE

Kindergarten Registration OPENED ON JANUARY 19!

We are open for Kindergarten Registration. Families are encouraged to visit our office from 9:00 to 3:00 pm or register through the portal P.S. <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/fossilhill.ps/info/Pages/School-Registration.aspx>

French Immersion

Grade 1 French Immersion (FI) Information Sessions and Registrations

Information is available on the [Board's website](#). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program will take place in French Immersion schools on **January 18, 2024, at 7 p.m.** Program locations and additional information is available on our [website](#). If families are unable to attend the information session, they can hear about the French Immersion program on the [Tune In YRDSB: French Immersion Podcast](#).

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 19, 2024. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2023, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact families by phone or email to collect any necessary information. Families are asked to **register by February 6, 2024.** Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 6, 2024. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association
presents: 2024 Black History Month Celebration

Creative Storytelling

February 27th, 2024
3:00pm to 4:00pm

Fossil Hill P.S. Library
2 Firenza Rd
Woodbridge, ON L4H 2P5



FEAT. LOCAL AUTHOR
YOLANDA T. MARSHALL

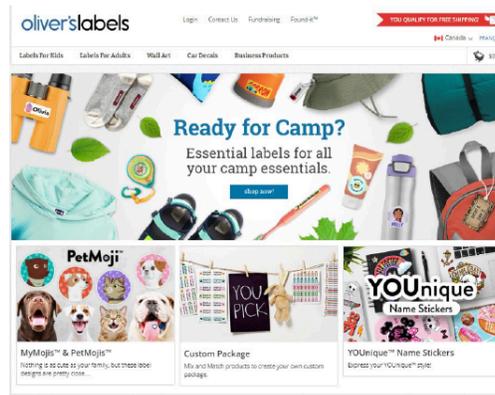


Labels for Belongings

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>



LIVE LINK HERE:

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

Kleinberg New School Opening Update

Student Registration

Holding schools will be accepting registrations for all grades, including Kindergarten, with the required documentation, for the new school opening in September 2024. Parents will receive detailed information sometime in January in supporting the new school registration process.

New School Information Meeting for Families

New school information meetings with Superintendents and Trustees will occur in **late February/early March**. In early January 2024, we will be sharing information to holding school parents/students regarding:

- the new school information meeting;
- an FAQ; and
- a letter for our current Grade 7 (Unnamed Kleinburg/Nashville Elementary School), students holding at our school giving them the option to remain at their holding school until graduation.

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](#). Visit York Region's website to reference details about symptoms, transmission, treatment and testing:

<https://www.york.ca/health/covid-19/symptoms-transmission-treatment-and-testing>

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 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](#).