

December 2024



The Phoenix: We Rise Together!

[2 Firenza Road, Woodbridge](#) L4H 2P5

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Bell Times: 8:40 AM - 3:00 PM

Email: fossil.hill.ps@yrdsb.ca



Superintendent

Otilia Olteanu

Trustee

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Principal

Gisella Avsec

Vice-Principal

Lorne Rembach

Office Admin:

Tina Luchetta
Betty Flynn

Important Dates:

Week of Dec
2 - 6, 2024

- 4 - Active School Travel Assembly
- 5 or 6 - St. Nicholas Day (Christianity)
- 8 - Immaculate Conception Day (Christianity)
- 8 - Bodhi Day (Buddhism)

Week of Dec
9 - 13, 2024

- 10 Human Rights Day @ Fossil
- 10- Zoo To You Kindergarten
- 11- Zoo To You Kindergarten
- 12 - Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican)

Week of Dec
16 - 20, 2024

- 16- 20 School Spirit Week
- 16 - Twin Day
- 16 - Las Posadas (Christmas Traditions in Mexico)
- 17 - Red, White and Black Day
- 18 - Culture Day
- 18 - 26 - Hanukkah
- 19 - Sweater Day - School-wide Sing-a-Long and Assembly
- 20 - Comfy Cozy Day and Breakdance
- 20 - Last Day before the Winter Break
- 21 - Pancha Ganapati (Hindu Faith)
- 21 - First Day of Winter
- 21 - 31 - Yule (Wiccan and Neo-Pagan)

Week of Dec
23 - 31, 2024

- 26 - Jan 1 - Kwanzaa (African American)
- 24 - Christmas Eve (Christianity)
- 25 - Christmas Day (Christianity)
- 25 - Eve of Hanukkah (Judaism)
- 26 - Kwanzaa (African Heritage)
- 26 - Boxing Day
- 26 - Jan 1 - Kwanzaa (African American)
- 26 - First Day of Hanukkah (Judaism)
- 31 - New Year's Eve

Trending

December Eco Theme

Reduce Your Footprint!



With the onset of winter, we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Our Board's footprint increases in the wintertime due to our boiler plants consuming fuel. To lessen energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions:

1. Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
2. Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows.
3. 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).
4. Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
5. Wear fall/winter-appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
6. Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.



In January

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 2 - Last Day of Hanukkah (Judaism)
- 6 - Welcome Back from your holiday break!
- 7 - Christmas - Eastern (Orthodox)

- 14 - Thai Pongal (Hindu Festival)
- 14 - New Year (Julian Calendar)
- 15 & 16 - Dental Screening
- 17 - PA Day - No School
- 27 - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 28 - Tour For Humanity - Gr. 5 - 8
- 29 - Lunar New Year - Buddhism
- 30 - Tour For Humanity - Gr. 5 - 8
- 30 - School Council Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 31 - PA Day - No School For Students



There are Many Celebrations During December



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



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, families must 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.



From the Office








Lateness A gentle reminder to ensure that families work with their children to arrive at school on time. We continue to see an increase in students arriving at school late. Lateness interrupts learning. Our goal is to ensure that students arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

Have you moved? Families who have moved to a new address are asked to contact the office immediately to update their family contact information.

Medical families are encouraged to complete and/or submit their child/ren's medical information at the office. We appreciate your cooperation in submitting medical documentation on time to ensure that we keep our students safe.

FOSSIL HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL SHOWS ITS SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Spirit Week December 16th to December 20th 2024

Monday 16th December 2024	<p>Twin Day</p> 	Thursday 19th December 2024	<p>Sweater Day</p>  <p>School Assembly & Sing a long</p> 
Tuesday 17th December 2024	<p>School Cheerful Spirit Day Red, White & Black</p> 	Friday 20th December, 2024	<p>Comfy, Cozy Day & Break Dance</p> <p>comfy cozy day</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snowflake Competition Winners - End of the Gift of Warmth drive

**Wednesday 18th
December 2024**

Culture Day



**Winter Break
Begins**



HOLIDAY HEROES TOY DRIVE - THANK YOU!!!!



A BIG thank you for supporting the Holiday Heroes Toy Drive.

Our campaign, while short, will leave a lasting impact on the lives of others this holiday season. All donations have now been picked up by the YRP!

Take a look at what was contributed to the campaign!



Thank you for being Holiday Heroes to those in our community!



Get Ready for Colder Temperatures



As the temperature Cools, please ensure that your child is dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. Students should 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.



IGNITE TECHNOLOGY GRANT

For students with SEA Technology

The Ignite Technology Grant is designed to create **leadership opportunities**, hone **communication skills**, and increase **self-esteem** for students with SEA equipment within their school community.

The goal is to bring **awareness** to the effective and successful use of technology for modern learning.

Applications Open: **October 15, 2024**

Applications Close: **December 6, 2024**

IGNITE your school and community now!

Go to www.yrdsb.ca/ignite now to learn how!



Winter Outerwear Drive for Fossil Hill



Mme Khan is collecting gently used coats, scarves, gloves, and other winter accessories to help students in need. Sizes can range from 4T to adult size S.

Families who would like to donate can drop off items at her office in Room 217.

If any student needs a coat, scarf, or other item, they can email Mme Khan at binish.khan@gapps.yrdsb.ca or speak to her privately. Items will be provided with discretion and are for the student to keep.

Thank you for your support!



Fossil Hill Charity Drive for 360°kids

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year, Fossil Hill Public School has partnered up with the organization **360°kids**. **360°kids works with individuals, corporate, school and community groups to provide both financial and in-kind donations to help support the work to assist at-risk and homeless youth.** We will be supporting the organization with a clothing and hygiene drive. In our effort to raise awareness and deepen our students' understanding as to how their acts of kindness can impact so many youth in crisis. We are proud to be supporting these children as the cold season approaches. We can't control what's happening in the world around us, but we can control how we respond to it and what we do to help others in our local community.

Our participation in this campaign will help change the lives of many youth that have come into difficult times. We understand these past few years have been very different for everyone; however, we are still depending on donors like you to make this year special for many local youths. If you can help, simply have your child bring one of the following new items listed below:

What we need...

- ☐ **White T- Shirts and undershirts (in new packages)**
- ☐ **Hair brushes, combs, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap (in new packages)**
- ☐ **Socks-white sport socks preferred- (in new packages)**

- ☐ **Gift Cards in any denomination to various restaurants, grocery or department Stores (i.e., Walmart, Tim Hortons, McDonalds)**

There is one collection box for each division (primary, junior and intermediate) in front of the office for students to drop off their donation. All gift cards should come to school in an envelope labeled "OFFICE".

This campaign will run from December 1st- December 13th

Donating any of one of these items will be greatly appreciated by **360°kids**. We are stronger together! Thank-you in advance for your support.

Fossil Hill Team

Message from Our Trustee

December 2024



As we approach the winter break, I am happy to share a few updates from the Board of Trustees and to wish you all the very best for the approaching break and holiday season.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

In October, we launched our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan: Building Unity, Achieving Excellence. The plan sets out three priorities that will guide our direction and decision-making as a school board: student achievement, health and well-being, and human rights and inclusive education. It was developed by the Board of Trustees based on feedback received from the community, and we are grateful to everyone who shared their input. It was important to Trustees to ensure that this is a plan that serves the needs of our students and community. I invite you to [learn more about this plan](#).

Family Engagement

Earlier in the fall, we hosted a series of school council forums, bringing together school council representatives for an evening of shared learning and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important role school councils play in our system and to connect with families. Thank you to all of the family members who are supporting the work that we do in schools, including participating on school councils, volunteering in schools, attending events and meetings, sharing information and getting involved in any way to support and strengthen our schools and school communities. Your partnership matters and makes a difference both to your child and to our schools and school communities. Thank you for all that you do.

Some families have asked for tips on encouraging their children to share more information about their school day. Here are [some tips](#) that I hope you find helpful.

As part of our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with families to support your child's education, we also recently introduced the Family Dashboard. The dashboard will offer you secure, one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. If you have not yet signed up, you can find more [information on the Board website](#).

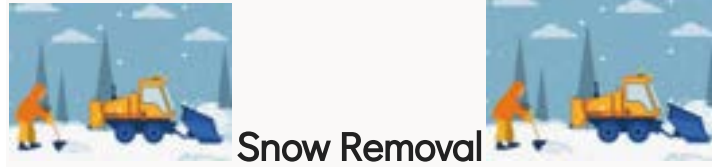
We hope you continue to see evidence of your child's learning. This year, that includes welcoming [school police](#) presentations in partnership with York Regional Police on community safety topics, such as road, bike and pedestrian safety for elementary school students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize the outstanding, dedicated and professional staff members throughout our system who work hard to provide your children with clean, safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. They provide students with learning supports, resources and opportunities that will help them develop skills, knowledge and

experiences that will benefit them now and in the future. They collaborate with families and community partners, knowing that these partnerships make a difference to student achievement and well-being. To our staff members, thank you for all that you do.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3



Snow Removal

Since there are no portables on our school property, contractors will not be plowing the tarmac space this year. As a result of this, our caretaking staff will be plowing walkways on school property. The City of Vaughan will be responsible for plowing the surrounding area. Reference the image below.



Integrated Elementary Arts @ Baythorn!



At YRDSB, we are committed to continuous improvement, and we continue to focus on **Student Achievement**, promoting and supporting high expectations for all, **Health and Well-Being**, building healthy environments and positive relationships, and **Human Rights and Inclusive Education**, learning and growing together, and affirming our diverse identities.



There are 4 Regional High School Arts Programs and 1 Regional Arts Elementary Arts Program in YRDSB. The Arts@Baythorn invites students to explore Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music integrated into learning each and every day in a collaborative and cooperative learning environment.

Applications are open on [Edsby](#) from January 13 - 26, 2025.

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Collaborative workshops are being held February 18 - 20, 2025.

These dates are firm.

To apply or for more information

Please visit the [Baythorn Arts webpage](#).

*The [Edsby application link](#) will open on January 13, 2025.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to baythornarts@gapps.yrdsb.ca



Inclusive School and Community Services

Transit Assistance Program (TAP) For Those who Qualify

York Region is offering the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) to help make transit more affordable for eligible residents.

- Eligible TAP participants can receive a 50% discount on regular Adult single ride York Region Transit (YRT) fare using a PRESTO card. After 40 trips, rides are free for unlimited travel for the remainder of the calendar month.
- Anyone in the family can use the TAP card, including students going to high school
- Please Visit : [Eligibility and How to Apply for TAP](#)
- **New Applications and Renewals for 2025** are now being accepted by telephone. There are a limited number of new spots available so apply soon.
Please contact ACCESS YORK at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75581. All Students turning 18 should apply in their own right.
- If you require language interpretation for this call, simply say the language you speak when connected at the number above and interpretation services will be put in place.

If you have any additional questions please contact:

Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer, YRDSB
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

On Behalf of our Intermediate Student Council

Cookie sales will be back in the new year! Beginning on Friday, January 10, our students will have the opportunity to purchase a cookie. There will be no cash sales for this fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information through Cashonline.



Understanding and Navigating the Education System



presented by
**THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session

**Monday, December 16, 2024
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Families, parents, caregivers, please join us for our monthly virtual meeting where families with Black children come together to learn about resources and upcoming programs for Black students in both elementary and secondary schools.

Agenda:

- Presentation - Ways to support our children
- Upcoming Programs and events
- Question and answer session

Please register ASAP.

A Zoom meeting link will be sent after registration.

Let us come together to empower our students and build a stronger community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Register now.

If you require further information, please contact
BlackStudentExcellence@yrdsb.ca



On behalf of the School Council



We would like to thank all our families who contributed to this year's Terra Cotta Cookie Dough fundraiser, which generated \$554. We look forward to receiving our tasty treats! Our delivery date will be on Thursday, December 19, 2024, in the afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding our Cookie Dough Fundraiser, do not hesitate to contact the office.

FOSSIL HILL PS ART CLUB BY ROMA CRAFTS INC.



LUNCH RECESS



DEADLINE

JANUARY 24

5 ART PROJECTS

\$96.05

ONE ART PROJECT TAKES
TWO DAYS TO COMPLETE

DAY 1—DRAWING

DAY 2—COLOURING

- ABSTRACT ART
- IMPRESSIONISM
- GRAPHITE
- GOLD/SILVER ART
- CARTOON STYLE

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM

Please email the form to romacrafts@hotmail.com

GR 1 TO 4 TUESDAYS—10 WEEKS—\$85+HST=\$96.05

FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1, 8, 15

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 email me your password with the form.

CASH/CHEQUE CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE OFFICE TOGETHER WITH THE FORM

The reference pictures of art projects are for them to get creative ideas

To turn those into their own unique style of art

****One subsidized spot is available for families in need. Please contact the School principal for consideration**

****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





LUNCHES MADE EASIER

Sign up for Lunchbox by
SchoolCash Online to order
lunches for your children



lunchboxorders.net

Introducing Fossil Hill's Spirit Wear



Starting at \$17.00

**Visit School Cash
Online for details**

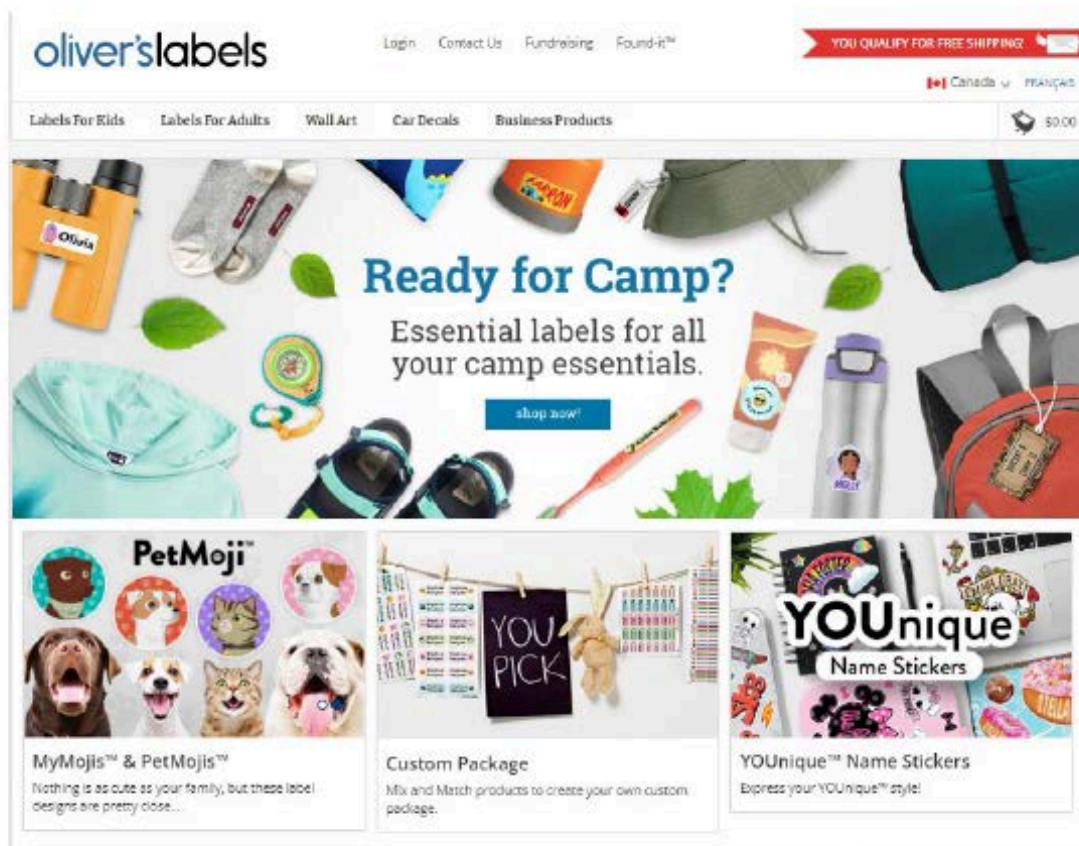


Labels for Belongings

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>

**TO ALL OUR FAMILIES WHO
CELEBRATE DURING THE HOLIDAY
SEASON, BEST WISHES FROM FOSSIL!**