

October 2024



The Phoenix: We Rise Together!

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

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

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Superintendent

Otilia Olteanu

Trustee

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Principal

Gisella Avsec

Vice-Principal

Lorne Rembach

Office Admin:

Tina Luchetta
Betty Flynn

Important Dates:

Trending

Week of
Oct 1 - 4

- Autism Awareness Month
- Fresh From the Farm - Deadline for Orders - Oct 4
- Oct 1 - 5 - Mental Health Awareness Week.
- Oct 2 Walk to School Day-Active School Travel Day - Mayor Visit
- Oct 2 - Custodian Appreciation Day
- Oct 3 - 4 Rosh Hashanah - Judaism - Diamond Day
- Oct 4 - World Teacher's Day
- Oct 4 - Fresh From the Farm Last day to order

Week of
Oct 7 - 11

- Oct 7 - Picture Day
- Oct 9-11 Scholastic Book Fair
- Oct 9 - Karate Kids Lunch Program - Gr. 1 - 4
- Oct 10 - World Mental Health
- Oct 10 - Open House- Meet Our Families Night 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Oct 10 - Book Fair Open in Evening
- Oct 10 - Gr. 8 - IB Information Night
- Oct 12 - Yom Kippur - Judaism - Diamond Day.

Week of
Oct 14 - 18

- Oct 14 - Thanksgiving - No School
- Oct 15 - Art Lunch Program Begins today
- Oct 15 - Parent Teacher Conference letter goes out today
- Oct 16 - Vaccination Day - Intermediate Students
- Oct 16 - Karate Kids - Lunch Program

Week of
Oct 21 - 25

- Oct 21 - PA Day - Teacher Directed - Progress Report Card Writing
- Oct 21 - 27 - Waste Reduction Week
- Oct 22 - Art Lunch Program
- Oct 23 - Karate Kids Lunch Program
- Oct 23 - Take me Outside Day
- Oct 24 - Gr. 1 & 2 Farm Trip

Week of
Oct 28 - Nov 1

- Oct 28 Parent Teacher/Conference Scheduler Opens Today
- Oct 28 - Gr. 7 Trip - Footprints of Our Future
- Oct 29 - Art Lunch Program
- Oct 30 - Karate Lunch Program
- Oct 31 - Falloween

October Eco Theme Lights OUT!



This month we are challenged to "Rethink" our use of lighting in our schools and homes. Simply turning lights off when not in use is one very effective way to reduce energy consumption and help the environment. A significant savings in energy is achieved when lights are turned off in classrooms during the lunch period. At Fossil we are assigning someone the responsibility (e.g. an 'energy monitor') for turning lights off in classrooms during the recess and lunch periods. Families are encouraged to do so at home as well. Also, if you know of a light that everyone forgets to turn off, make a sticker or a sign to hang next to the switch that says "Lights Out!"

**COMING
SOON!**

In NOVEMBER

- 1 - Diwali - Hinduism - Diamond Day
- 1 - All Saints Day - Christianity
- 4 - December 5 Deliveries for Fresh From the Farm sometime within the 4 wks. Stay tuned!
- 6 - Gr. 8 @ Tommy Douglas Secondary School
- 7 - School Council Meeting
- 8 - Report Cards Go Home - Hard Copy
- 8 - 10 Report Cards Go Home Electronically
- 11 - Remembrance Day
- 14 - Parent - Teacher - Interview/Conference Night
- 15 - PA Day - No School For Students - Parent - Teacher - Interview/Conferences
- 26 - Paul Davis - Digital Safety Presentations to Gr. 4 -8 Students
- 26 - Paul Davis - Digital Safety Parent Presentation - 6:30 pm

Autism Awareness Month



Mental Health in October

Newsletter

Medicals Update

All families are advised to ensure that when sending food to school that it follows our allergy protocol. All outside fast food providers not vetted by our Lunchbox are highly discouraged.

Spirit Wear



On Behalf of School Council



School Spirit Wear t-shirts continue to be on sale through Cashonline. The cost for the t-shirt is \$17.00. Please note that all items are final sale, so please check the sizing carefully. Money raised will go towards supporting Arts Initiatives in the school. To access School Cash Online. <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/> We look forward to your child showing their Fossil Hill School Spirit!

Sizes

Adult :T-Shirts XS-4XL

Children :T-Shirts XS(4-6) S(8-10) (M12-14) (L16-18) (XL20-22)

LIVE LINK HERE:

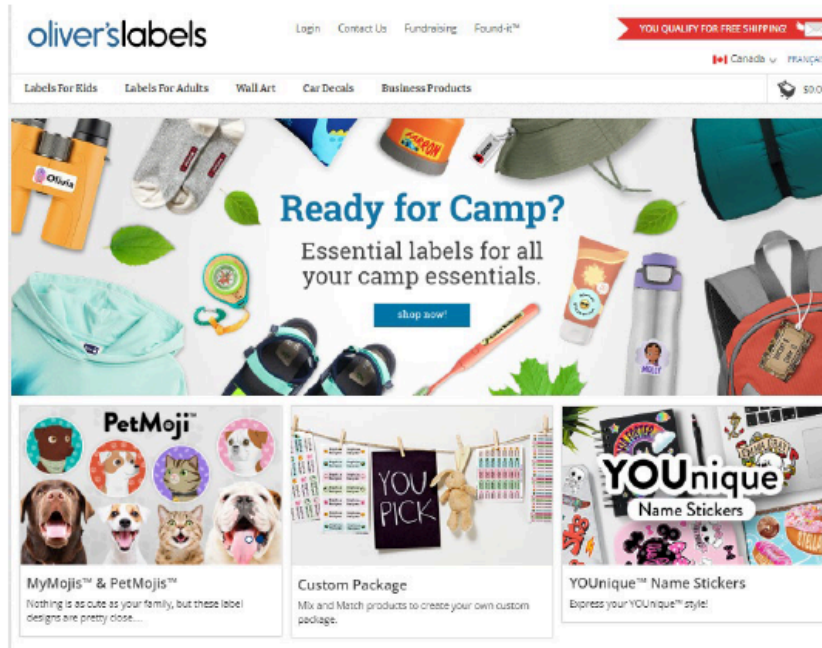
<http://www.oliverslabels.com/FossilHillPS>

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>



Picture Day

Monday, October 7, 2024



Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and literally translates as 'head of the year.' It begins a solemn ten-day period of contemplation and self-examination, called the Days of Awe, that ends with the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah is also known as the Day of Shofar Blowing, the Day of Remembrance, and the Day of Judgement.

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days, and the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. Rosh Hashanah is a two-day new year celebration, beginning on the first day of Tishrei - the first month of the Jewish lunar year. According to the Hebrew calendar, days begin at sundown. Hence, Rosh Hashanah begins the evening before Rosh Hashanah day, which is referred to as Erev Rosh Hashanah

The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the shofar, an ancient musical instrument made from animal horn. The shofar is blown during synagogue services and prayers as a wakeup call to work on mending one's ways as a new year begins.

Many Jewish families gather for a special meal where blessings are recited over different symbolic dishes including apples, honey, dates, and pomegranates. Pumpkins and squash are also commonly eaten among Sephardic¹ families. These foods are intended to symbolize the sweetness and prosperity that the new year will hopefully bring. Some traditions include meals with the heads of fish or lamb to symbolize the desire to be "heads, not tails" or, in other words, to be leaders in the new year and not followers.

These High Holy Days are amongst the most religious days of the year for the Jewish community and are a time for reflection and atonement. Many families attend synagogue, praying for peace among nations, among peoples, and within themselves in the coming year. We acknowledge that there are different levels of observance and ways of observing within the Jewish community.

Yom Kippur October 12, 2024

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement and the Sabbath of Sabbaths, is the most solemn of the Jewish Holy Days.

Yom Kippur completes the Jewish Days of Awe and is the conclusion of what is commonly referred to as the High Holy Days. According to Jewish tradition, it is on this day that G-d¹ seals each person's fate in the Book of Life. Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many Jews work on mending their behavior and asking for forgiveness, as well as forgiving others.

Yom Kippur is dedicated to introspection, prayer, asking G-d¹ for forgiveness, committing to charitable endeavours, fasting, and abstaining from use of electronic devices. Like Shabbat, no work is to be done on Yom Kippur, from the time the sun sets on the ninth of Tishrei until the stars come out in the evening of the next day.

As this is a solemn High Holy Day that focuses on repentance and self-reflection, it is not customary to wish a happy holiday. You may, however, wish those observing a peaceful and easy fast. Customary greetings include "G'mar chatima tovah," meaning "May you be sealed in the Book of Life."

Yom Kippur concludes with a single blast of the shofar, an ancient musical instrument made from an animal's horn.

Please be mindful that there are different levels of observance and ways of observing within the Jewish community.



The **FOSSIL HILL OPEN HOUSE** **MEET THE FAMILY NIGHT**

OCTOBER 10, 2024

WHAT IS MEET THE FAMILY NIGHT?

We warmly invite you to come into our school, meet our dedicated staff, and engage in meaningful discussions about our curriculum. This evening is designed to foster collaboration and build a strong partnership between parents, students, and teachers.

To accommodate everyone, we will be hosting open drop-in times from 5:00-6:30 p.m. These sessions will provide an early chance to lay the foundation for our vital three-way educational partnership. The drop-ins are intended for all stakeholders to learn about the content of the curriculum that will be taught for this school year.

Our staff is excited to meet you and looks forward to working together to ensure a successful and enriching academic year for all our learners!

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00-5:00 p.m. | Join us on the tarmac to meet the teachers and you have the option to purchase items from our food trucks! |
| 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Classroom Visits for Open Drop-Ins for Families and Teachers to Meet |
| 6:30 p.m. | Thank you for coming! Goodbye! |



Scholastic Book Fair-Oct 9-11

We will be open during MEET THE FAMILY night from 5:00-6:30 p.m.



This is the Book Fair our Students Have Been asking For!

For over 60 years, Scholastic Book Fairs have been inspiring kids with the power of book choice, connecting them to their best selves through the expansive, expressive world that's unlocked by declaring "I am a reader." From bonding with characters to sharing with fellow book lovers, it's a lifelong journey that starts at the Fair.

[Explore the books your child can't wait to read!](#)

- Keep an eye out for the highlights flyers from your school to see our selection of featured books. Circle the titles or make a wish list.
- Watch [book trailers](#) together! The characters in books inspire children and send their imaginations wandering. Say hello to these lovable friends!
- Save the date! Mark down when the big days are on your calendar.

TOP 10 BOOKS

See the top books kids can't put down. [Browse Featured Books](#)

Meet the Headliners

Get a sneak peek at the characters your kids will be talking about in these book trailers. [Watch Book Trailers](#)

There's a Book for Everyone Take a closer look at our expert-picked selection of titles. [Browse the Junior Flyer](#)

All Purchases Benefit OUR School

When our kids buy books they love, Fossil Hill can turn Fair earnings into more books and better classrooms and a Learning Commons for this season and years to come.

See you at the BOOK FAIR!



October 2024

Dear Families:

Our Scholastic Book Fair, which will take place from **October 9th -October 11th, during school hours as well as on October 10th from 5:00-6:30.**

For students, it's one of the most anticipated events of the school year—but we need volunteers to make it happen. We hope that you can offer your time and talents to help students experience Bookjoy firsthand! And every purchase at the Fair directly benefits our school. So, it's a win-win!

If you're available to lend a hand at this upcoming event, please contact me and share which Fair activities interest you most. Opportunities to assist include:

• Advertising • Decorating • Setting up the Fair • Helping shoppers at the Fair • Checkout • Packing up the Fair

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully,

Ms. Katherine Valkanas

Teacher Librarian

Katherine.valkanas@yrdsb.ca

IB Presentation

October 10, 2024



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAMME

SAVE THE DATE

Students who start Grade 8 in September 2024 and their parents/guardians are invited to attend an International Baccalaureate Programme information session on:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

Information sessions will run at each of the five YRDSB schools that offer IB programming:

- Alexander Mackenzie High School
- Bayview Secondary School
- Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School
- Maple High School
- Milliken Mills High School

Thanksgiving

Monday, October 14, 2024

YRDSB and our Fossil Hill Staff would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all of our staff members, not only for their outstanding efforts to support our students and our families each and every day, but for supporting each other.

We have much to be grateful for this year. This month we celebrate [World Teachers Day](#), and earlier this month, we celebrated [National Custodial Workers Recognition Day](#), where we recognized our Caretaking teams. Earlier in September, we celebrated [IT Professionals Day](#) and I look forward to celebrating other staff groups throughout the year.

For those who celebrate Thanksgiving, I wish you and your families a very happy celebration. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable long weekend on October 14, and you are able to take some time to partake in activities and experiences that bring you much joy and happiness.



Take Me Outside Day

October 23, 2024



Falloween - October 31, 2024



On Thursday, October 31, we will celebrate Falloween at Fossil Hill P.S. We encourage students to wear fall colours, (brown, red, yellow, black and orange). For those who do not wish to wear fall colours, costumes are permitted. Students who celebrate the tradition of Halloween as an occasion in costume at our school must comply with the Safe School's policy. Costume accessories including, but not limited to, toy guns, knives, axes, swords, etc. are not in compliance with York Region District School Board's Safe Schools Policy #668.0. Bringing any of these items to school at any time during the year can result in suspension. Please note that this policy applies to all students JK-Grade 8. Due to school safety restrictions, no inflatable costumes are allowed. These costumes (which include built-in fans) keep potential aerosols suspended in the air.

We would also like to remind students and families that are choosing to wear costumes to please be respectful of others when choosing costumes. If something is representative of a person's culture or religious beliefs, then it should not be worn as another person's costume. Halloween costumes worn at school should not include costume masks. Make-up can be worn in place of masks as it encourages easy breathing and allows for unobstructed visibility. Please ensure costumes are of an appropriate length and do not become tripping hazards. Additionally, we ask that students not come in costumes that may be scary to other students (i.e., gory costumes)

This is an appropriate time to remind families of our adherence to the school policy of maintaining a nut-safe environment. Before, during or after Halloween, we ask that you refrain from sending with your child candy or snacks that are **NOT** peanut or nut-free. We wish to keep our anaphylactic children safe.

If you do not wish your child to partake in such activities, please speak to your child's teacher for details of what will be done and we will arrange an alternate program. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to having a safe and enjoyable



If your child is away or absent, the office needs to be notified by noon the day of if you would like us to keep your child's lunch in the fridge for one day.

Islamic Heritage Month

<https://islamicheritagemonth.org>

This year Islamic Heritage month celebrates the achievements of Muslim scientists, doctors and healers. In the schools front foyer you will find this display showing how Muslims contributed to medical science. Prayer and Islamic knowledge are always the launch pad for medical research for Muslims. You will see the prayer mat, hat and prayer beads on display in our school



International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual celebration of active transportation that takes place around the world throughout the month of October. IWALK Month officially launches October 2, 2024 (first Wednesday in the Month of October). When walking to school, here are some important safety tips to remember

- Look all ways before you cross the street. Always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing.
- Cross at intersections and crosswalks, when possible.
- Always make eye contact with drivers before you cross the street.

- Obey traffic signals and signs.
- Use a sidewalk if there is one.

For anyone who can't walk or cycle to school every day, we encourage you to try choosing an active mode of travel two or three times a week, or consider parking and walking a block to decrease the pollution and improve safety around your school. If you choose to drive, please be mindful of students who walk and cycle, drive slowly and be highly vigilant of your surroundings. Benefits of Active School Travel Improves student academic performance by making students more alert and better prepared to learn. Improves both physical and mental health. Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones and around our school community. Improves air quality. Encourages social interaction and improves social skills. Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future. It's fun! For more information about IWALK Month please visit: Ontario Active School Travel IWALK Month

Welcome to our Fossil Hill School Council
2024-2025

Many thanks to all our parents who came out to our first School Council meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024

Miranda Chan & Nina Taylor	Co-Chairs
Lale Kayhan & Sumbul Naqvi	Treasurers
Adrienne Crookshank	Secretary
Kimberlee Harris-Kelsey & Anna Vuong	Communications Officers
Monik Bali, Eva Brandt, Sylvia Denton, Ramandeep Hazin, Sonali Joshi, Sarah Lee, My Linh, Nilufar Poshtiban	Voting Members

Our School Council for the 2024-2025 School Year!



Terry Fox - Our Outstanding Results!



Terry Fox School Run

We raised \$ 3025! Way to go Fossil!

October 21st PA Day - No School For Students

There is no school for students on October 21, our upcoming PA day. As per PPM 151, Administrators are required to electronically share their PA Day plans with the School Council Chair(s), a copy is posted in the main office. The PA day plans are also posted on the Board's public website. Refer to the email sent out on Friday, October 4, 2024.

Welcome to the
Fossil Hill Public School
Library Learning Commons (LLC)



September 2024

Dear students and families,

My name is **Mrs. Katherine Valkanas** and I am very excited to be your **Teacher Librarian** this year! I am also the music teacher at Fossil Hill Public Schools and I am excited for the opportunity to work with all of our students, families and community members this year as the school's teacher librarian!

My goal for the LLC, is that ALL students, families and community members feel that they **BELONG** and **MATTER** at FHPS. We will accomplish this, by working together to ensure that when each student walks into the library, they see themselves in the learning environment, resources and learning experiences, while also learning about our whole community. This year in the LLC we will foster a love for reading through lessons, book exchanges, book fairs, inquiry, makerspace/STEM challenges and much more! I can't wait to collaborate with everyone (staff, students, families, community members) and work together to transform this space into the "learning hub" of the school.

Each week, your child will have the opportunity to sign out a book from the LLC. Please make sure to send the book back on your scheduled day, so that they can choose a new book. If you are still enjoying your book at home, please let your teacher know and we will extend your book for another week.

Please encourage your child to enjoy reading their borrowed texts, take care of our library materials, and return them for more.

*I encourage all families to also **ENJOY** the library books **WITH** your children!*

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Katherine Valkanas

Teacher Librarian
905-653-8055
katherine.valkanas@yrdsb.ca

KARATE KIDS PROGRAM: starting on WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9th

The Karate Kids class is designed to engage students in physical activities that promote social bonding while also helping with self-regulation, self-discipline, confidence and leadership skills. Offered to students in grades 1 to 4, the program is a fun blend of non-contact martial arts, fitness, and character education.

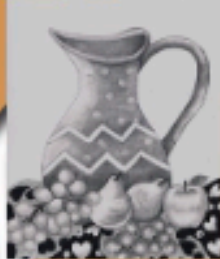
This 40-minute class will run during the lunch recess on Wednesdays for 10 weeks with a graduation ceremony at the end of the program.

TO REGISTER: Space is limited

- 1. Visit www.karatekids.ca**
- 2. Click the register button located at the top right corner of the screen**
- 3. Enter school code: FOSS24**

This is a popular program that is currently running in over 85 schools across Ontario. You are invited to visit their website for more detailed information at www.karatekids.ca

FOSSIL HILL ART CLUB BY ROMA CRAFTS INC.



FREE
STYLE
ART

LUNCH RECESS

DEADLINE

OCTOBER 11

5 ART PROJECTS

\$96.05

ONE ART PROJECT TAKES
TWO DAYS TO COMPLETE

DAY 1—DRAWING

DAY 2—COLOURING

- ABSTRACT ART
- IMPRESSIONISM
- GRAPHITE
- CARTOON STYLE
- FREE 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

OCTOBER 15, 22, 29, NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

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.

**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

