

Keswick High School E-Bulletin - April 5, 2024

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Important Upcoming Dates

[Link to Community Google Calendar](#) - to view all upcoming events

April 8	Solar Eclipse/Modified School Day
April 9	Vimy Ridge Day
April 9	YRDSB Summer School Registration Opens
April 9	Drama Workshop
April 10	Eid-ul-Fitr
April 10	International Day of Pink
April 10	Jr. & Sr. Co-ed Volleyball Tournament
April 11	Jr. Badminton Tournament
April 11	Ontario Science Centre Field Trip
April 12	Brook’s Farms Field Trip
April 12	Day of Silence

S.I.N. Clinic

Our school will be hosting a Social Insurance Number Clinic on April 26, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Main Foyer. Service Canada representatives will be at our school to help students and newcomers apply for their Social Insurance Numbers, learn about the Canada Job Bank and Summer Program for Youth and learn about the new Federal Dental Program. This free service is brought to our school communities through a joint project with Service Canada and York Region District School Board. For more information please see the [flyer](#).

Solar Eclipse - Modified School Day - April 8, 2024

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a full solar eclipse will occur, which will block the sun's light in some areas.

In York Region, we will experience effects of the eclipse between roughly 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., which coincides with the scheduled dismissal times for our schools. We have heard concerns regarding the potential for students being outside and inadvertently looking at the sun, which may cause serious health problems, such as loss of eyesight. We have also heard concerns of traffic and students walking home during peak darkness.

Out of concern for student safety, on April 8, 2024, all students in elementary and secondary schools will be dismissed early. Student after school activities will also be cancelled for that afternoon.

Keswick High School Modified Schedule for April 8th, 2024:

Period 1 - 9:05 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

Period 2 - 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch - 11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

Dismissal and School Bus Transportation - 12:05 p.m.

All students participating in a morning co-op placement will have an integration day in the KHS library.

Cafeteria lunch service will not be provided. The Breakfast program will run as usual.

All after school extracurricular activities will be cancelled.

Transportation services such as busing and taxis will be adjusted for the early dismissal. The schedule for student transportation in the morning of April 8 will remain the same. Transportation in the afternoon will be modified to align with the early dismissal time and has been communicated to families.

As you may have seen, some Ontario school boards moved a pre-existing April P.A. Day to coincide with the eclipse on April 8. This is not possible for our board due to contractual obligations, prior commitments and because there is no preexisting April P.A. Day. The Government of Canada website has additional information related to solar eclipses that you may review.

Please know that this decision was made with student safety at its centre. If you have any questions, please contact the school at keswick.hs@yrdsb.ca

Eid-ul-Fitr

Eid-ul-Fitr, also known as the Festival of Breaking the Fast, marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

International Day of Pink

April 10, 2024, is the International Day of Pink. The International Day of Pink is a day when communities across Canada and across the world unite to celebrate diversity and raise awareness about the need to stop homophobia, transphobia, discrimination and all forms of bullying. On this annual day in April, individuals wear pink to show respect for diversity and to demonstrate support for learning and working environments which are safe and inclusive of people from all different backgrounds.

International Day of Pink is intended to create a more inclusive and diverse world. The Day of Pink originated in Eastern Canada, after a few young students decided to stand up against homophobia, bullying and toxic masculinity ([CBC](#)). Although the first Day of Pink occurred 17 years ago, the 2SLGBTQI+ community and students continue to experience homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. Schools and workplaces need to commit to raising awareness, building inclusion and eliminating discrimination for students in 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

All students and staff have the right to learn and work in environments that are free from hate, discrimination, and harassment. Positive acts of advocacy, allyship and solidarity have an impact on our culture and society.

GSA - Day of Silence

Day of Silence is an annual day of action to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, Asexual and additional sexual orientations and gender identities (2SLGBTQA+) students. In Canada, students take a day-long vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of 2SLGBTQA+ students.

Family Mental Health Series Supporting Student of the Chinese Heritage Community

The YRDSB Community Care Social Work series will provide a number of parent/caregiver virtual events to build community, support mental health, and promote healing.

The first session in the series is offered for any parent/guardian of students of Chinese Heritage. Parents, caregivers are invited to join this workshop and engage in meaningful conversations that help students thrive at school. Tips on ways that help strengthen family relationships and emotional wellbeing will be shared. This will be a free virtual event. Please see the [flyer](#) for more details.

Keep the Door Open (Repeated Session): Understand Your Child's Inner World

April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm-7:00pm Mandarin Session

[Registration for Mandarin Session](#)

April 23, 2024 at 7:00pm-8:00pm Cantonese Session

[Registration for Cantonese Session](#)

Please email charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions or difficulties in accessing the registration link.

Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes

Middlefield Collegiate is hosting the Sikh Heritage Month Celebration with the Sikh Educators Voice Alliance and the Sikh Student Association. The focus will be on Sikh Trails in Canadian Landscapes.

Exhibits:

- Keynote Speaker: Kulvir Singh Gill
- Artifacts
- Artwork/Spoken Word by YRDSB Students
- Gatka Performance
- Bhangra Performance
- Community Partners and Vendors

All are welcome to come, learn and celebrate with us on Saturday, April 27 between 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please fill out the [Registration Form](#) by April 22, 2024 if you wish to attend this event.

Supports for Students with Autism and their Families

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis
- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please **register** by Apr. 28, 2024.

This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board. For more information, please email shani.blake@yrdsb.ca or pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca

Please note that Childcare will not be provided.

Student Mental Health Strategy Implementation Team Presentation Series “Lamps” - Phase 2

Family series supporting learning about mental health.

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the ***Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)***. The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The second session is “**Technology Use and Mental Health, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers**” and will occur virtually on May 29 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety.

These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages. If your preferred language is not offered, we recommend watching with a friend or family member who is able to translate.

To register please visit [this link](#).

Please Register by May 28th, 2024

York Region Camp Summer Subsidies for Children and Youth

Free Recreation, Sport Programs, Summer and Overnight Camps

For Children and Youth ages 4-18 whose families participate in one of the following:

- Ontario Works

- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Rent Subsidy (including STAR and Ontario Housing Benefit)
- Child Care Fee Subsidy (income below \$43,000)

Some programs are only eligible to families in York Region Housing Communities

- Housing York Inc.
- Non-Profit Housing
- Cooperative Housing

For More Program Information and Eligibility:

Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit york.ca/recreationsubsidies

Guidance News

YRDSB Summer School Registration

YRDSB Summer School registration will open Tuesday, April 9th. YRDSB students can register online via [My Pathway Planner](#), please refer to the [my Pathway Planner Student Tip Sheet](#) on how to register. See course offerings and locations below:

- [2024 Secondary Summer School Courses and Locations](#)
- [2024 Online Learning \(Asynchronous\) Secondary Summer School Course List](#)

Please book an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor to discuss summer school registrations. Your Guidance Counsellor will need to approve your summer school registration.

Course Selection Approvals

The KHS Guidance Department hopes that you have had the chance to reflect on the courses you have selected for next year. It is now time to review and confirm the courses selected in My Pathway Planner for the 2024/2025 school year. It is important to ensure that you have selected the appropriate course codes, the correct pathway, and courses of interest.

To verify your courses, please log into 'My Pathway Planner':

1. Visit the [Keswick High School website](#) and scroll down to find the 'My Pathway Planner' logo/link on the bottom right hand side. Click the link.
2. Using your school username and password, please sign in. This is the same login as your GAPPS account.
3. Click "High School" on the left hand side dashboard and review the courses you have chosen for next year.

If you would like to make a change to your course requests, including alternate courses, please complete the [Course Change Confirmation Form 2024](#) using your GAPPS account only and submit by TUESDAY, APRIL 9th at 3pm. If you DO NOT NEED to request a change, please DO NOT complete the google form. If we do not receive a response from you, your course selection will be confirmed as is.

Community Involvement Hours

Students in Ontario are required to complete 40 Hours of Community Involvement activities to graduate in June 2024 with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. If you are a Grade 12 graduating student, please submit to KHS Guidance the documentation of any outstanding/unrecorded hours as soon as possible or by the latest June 1st.

A useful resource is 'Neighbourhood Network' which provides a directory of activities in our community requiring volunteers: www.neighbourhoodnetwork.org.

Grad 2024 Hoodies

We are pleased to offer a Graduation Hoodie for the Class of 2024. These hoodies are the perfect way to showcase your accomplishment.

These hoodies are available on School Cash Online from April 8th to May 3rd. They are available in red or black for \$48 (Small – XL) or \$51 (2XL and above). Delivery will be early June.

Graduation 2024

Graduation is on **June 26 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** at Keswick High School.

Prom 2024

Keswick High School will be hosting our Prom on Thursday May 23, 2024 at The Manor which is located at 16750 Weston Road in King Township.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 10:30 p.m. The evening's events will include dinner, prom awards, and dancing. Tickets are \$105.00 and will go on sale on School Cash Online on Monday March 18 to Thursday April 18.

We look forward to an exciting evening of celebration with our Grade 12 students.

Attendance

If you want to report a student absent please contact our attendance direct line at 905-476-7823 for quicker service, this will help you bypass the switchboard and it is a

24/7 answering machine. Email easier for you? Feel free to email your child's absence at keswick.hs@yrdsb.ca as it is monitored regularly.

Math Help Room

Is your student looking for some extra math support? If they are needing some additional support outside of class time and individual teacher help they can drop by the Math Help Room (no appointment necessary). Located in the math pod in Room 2027.

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday Lunch 11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Wednesday afterschool 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Thursday afterschool 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Students can look for the posters around the school or speak to their math teacher. If you have any questions please contact Kristie Miller at kristie.miller@yrdsb.ca

Student Mental Health Supports

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30-4:00 pm for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.
- Hong Fook Mental Health Association: 647-619-9030 Asian youth brief counselling services
- Evergreen: 416-499-2185 grief counselling

Upcoming Opportunities

There are many upcoming programs and events for YRDSB families and their students.

Please visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/keswick.hs/NewsEvents/Pages/default.aspx> for new events, programs and sessions that our board offers in partnership with different community resources.

Please visit our website at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/keswick.hs/Pages/default.aspx>

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If you no longer wish to receive commercial electronic messages, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

If you no longer wish to receive any emails from Keswick High School, please contact the school directly to have your email address deleted from your child's Student Information Record.

Report It

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. You can find [Report It](#) on the homepage of the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@YRDSB_KeswickHS](#)