

**To: School Copy**

## **Keswick High School E-Bulletin - March 1, 2024**

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### **Important Upcoming Dates**

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

March 5 Semester 2 Photos for Grad Retakes & New Registrations

March 5 Volunteer Hours Information Session for Grade 12's

March 6 - 14 Japan Field Trip

March 7 SNAP Event

March 8 International Women's Day

March 10 Ramadan begins at sunset

March 11 - 15 March Break

March 18 School Council Meeting - [Virtual Meeting](#) at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 Nowruz/Persian New Year Celebration in the Library at lunch

March 25 - 26 Interim Report Cards E-Distribution

March 28 Family Teacher Interview Night

March 29 Good Friday

April 1 Easter Monday

## Arts Camp Application Process

- Students/families should first download the [Application Information Package](#). The package includes program descriptions for Arts Camp 2024 as well as relevant camp information.
- The application process will be completed via a [Google Form](#). The link for which is also provided in the [Application Information Package](#). Applications open February 29th at 9:00am and close March 22, 2024, at 11:59pm. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Students require parental/guardian consent and support of their teacher and school administrator to apply to Arts Camp.
- All payments will be processed using School CashOnline. Only accepted campers will receive a link to the appropriate payment page. Prior registration with School CashOnline must be completed before payment is initiated. Payment deadline is May 3rd, 2024. Please note that late payments will not be accepted.

## Selection Process:

- Students are selected through a random lottery process;
- Approximately one third of camp is composed of secondary students randomly selected from each secondary school that applies;
- Intention during selection is achieve a gender balance of campers;
- First time applicants will be given priority;
- Approximately 50 secondary spaces have been allocated to Counsellors and Counsellors in Training (CIT) in Grades 10-12.
- Offers of acceptance/waitlist will be emailed to families by early April; and
- The Arts Camp Leadership Team has final approval of the roster of students accepted to Arts Camp 2024.

## Secondary School Students for Counsellor / Counsellor-in-Training (CIT) Positions:

- The Counsellor and CIT application processes are now open until March 22, 2024, for students in Grades 10-12. Students interested in a Counsellor or CIT position are encouraged to apply online using the [C/CIT application](#).

Please see these poster for more details: [Campers](#) [Counsellors and CITs](#)

## Grad Retake Day and New Registrations Photo Day March 5

Attention potential Grads of 2024!

Please see the attached [flyer](#) regarding the last day for Grads to have their portrait sittings taken (or re-taken) at the school.

All new students will also have an opportunity to have their photo taken for their Student ID cards.

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day has been recognized for over a century, with the first IWD gathering of over a million people in 1911. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and gender parity. Following the

United Nations' lead, Canada declared March 8 as International Women's Day. To achieve a gender equal world, it is essential to notice and name the existing inequality and examine and challenge unconscious biases and harmful gender-based stereotypes. The International Women's Day 2023 campaign exemplifies this commitment through the theme of [#EmbraceEquity](#).

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality.

Read more at:

[IWD: International Women's Day 2023 campaign theme: #EmbraceEquity](#)

### **Keswick High School Spirit Wear**

We are pleased to offer some spirit wear clothing items for our students. These items are available on School Cash Online until March 8. Delivery is expected mid April. Show your school spirit with one of these wonderful clothing choices.

### **[Spirit Wear Poster](#)**

### **Ramadan**

Ramadan begins at sunset on March 10, with special worship and prayers primarily starting on the following day, March 11. Ramadan ends on April 9 at sunset, followed by Eid-al-Fitr on April 10, when special worship and prayers occur. As many Muslim communities use a lunar calendar to establish the dates for Ramadan, the aforementioned dates are not fixed and are dependent on the sighting of the new moon.

Students who are fasting are encouraged to let our staff know. They are entitled to extra breaks from athletic activities and may wish to have an alternative location to spend time during lunch.

A prayer space is also available for students who wish to use it during the school day inside the library in room 2001F.

### **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter**

The topic for this month is "Time for a Break". Included in this [newsletter](#) is the upcoming Mental Health Curriculum, Substance Use, helpful tips for March break activities, Mental Health Resources and Events. Also some excellent resources for caregivers of students suffering from mental health and addictions related issues. You are not alone, let us help you, help them.

### **Metrolinx One Fare Program**

Effective February 26, 2024, students will only pay once when they transfer between TTC and GO Transit, Brampton Transit, Durham Region Transit, MiWay and York Region Transit. Learn more on the Metrolinx [Website](#).

### **York Region Public Health - School Immunization Letter for March Break**

We have been asked to share this important notice about immunization information from York Region Public Health to all our parents, guardians and families in our school community. Please see this important [letter](#) from York Region Public Health.

### **Partner Dogs Canada - Therapy Dog Visits**

Partner Dogs Canada will be attending Keswick High School on the first Friday of every month to provide an optional opportunity for students to attend a lunch session with trained therapy dogs in support of mental health and well-being.

All the dogs attending are certified therapy dogs, and they are vaccinated and in good health. A handler will monitor each dog's interactions with students.

We believe that this is an excellent opportunity to support students, but understand that there are also some challenges to consider as some students may be allergic to or fear dogs. The dogs will only be located in the library for the one-hour session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will only interact with pupils who voluntarily wish to attend. The dogs will be away from the classrooms, so the possible spread of dander is limited throughout the building and only students wishing to participate will be interacting with the animals.

We respect the needs of all students in providing a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Their next visit will be Friday, April 5, 2024.

Please let us know if you have any additional concerns or questions regarding the presence of therapy dogs in our 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<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Graduation 2024 with updated information about Caps & Gowns**

Grade 12 students, save the date for your Graduation on **June 26 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** at Keswick High School.

The \$40 Graduation Fee, including your cap and gown (you are not permitted to cross the stage without one) will be available on school cash online on **Friday March 1 (not March 25, as previously stated from last week's bulletin)**. Each graduating student will receive 3 tickets.

We apologize for the error. Any questions or concerns please email [kelley.demers@yrdsb.ca](mailto:kelley.demers@yrdsb.ca)

### **Guidance News**

## **Course Selection Update:**

Course selection for the 2024-2025 school year is now complete. The deadline to submit courses was February 23th. Over the past week, Guidance has followed up with students who required additional assistance with submitting course selections. Parents/guardians should have received an approval email that allows the ability to confirm your child's course selections.

Should you have any questions regarding your child's course selections, please contact their guidance counsellor.

## **Neighbourhood Network Grade 12 Workshop:**

Next Tuesday March 5, 2024, during Period 2, there will be a workshop for all Grade 12 students in need of completing their Community Involvement Hours. Neighbourhood Network, a community organization, will be coming in to speak with the students about how to connect with organizations, navigate their website and successfully complete their 40 hours of Community Involvement.

## **Summer Pathways Programs:**

There are several Summer Pathway Programs students can participate in and earn 1 - 2 credits, such as Cooperative Education (Co-op), OYAP-Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and College Dual Credit courses.

Registration for these summer programs is now OPEN. The deadline to register is on Friday, March 18, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.\_

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/two-credit-summer-co-op-registration-opens>

## **Neighbourhood Network Give Back Awards:**

The Give Back Awards are an annual \$1,000 cash prize awarded to 20 graduating students from high schools in Aurora, Georgina, King Township, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville. The Awards are presented to students who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to community involvement.

Applications are open until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22th, 2024 and are available at [www.nnetwork.org/GiveBackAwards](http://www.nnetwork.org/GiveBackAwards). Winners will be announced during National Volunteer Week.

[Neighbourhood Network](#) is a York Region organization that multiplies community giving and creates caring and vibrant neighbourhoods by promoting volunteerism, linking resources, and supporting local charities and agencies.

## **SCHULICH BUILDERS Scholarship for Skilled Trades:**

Schulich Foundation is thrilled to announce a new scholarship program focused on skilled trades. They are awarding 100 scholarships for skilled trades at 10 colleges, with a value of \$40,000 per award for two-year diploma programs and \$20,000 per award for one-year certificate programs.

KHS can nominate up to 5 students for this scholarship. Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, meet college requirements and are enrolling in a full-time, eligible skilled trades one-year certificate or two-year diploma program at a participating college starting in Fall

2024. (Each college has their own list of eligible programs, which can be found on their respective websites)

Participating colleges include: Algonquin, Centennial, Conestoga, Durham, Fanshawe, George Brown, Humber, Loyalist, Mohawk and Sheridan College.

If you are interested please contact your Guidance counselor to be considered for nomination.

Deadline to contact Guidance and express interest is March 13, 2024.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kristie.miller@yrdsb.ca)

## 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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## 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](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

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