

To: School Copy

Keswick High School E-Bulletin - February 17, 2023

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Important Upcoming Dates

February 20	Family Day - no school
February 21	Sr Boys Basketball Semi Final Playoff game @KHS 4:00pm
February 21	Black Excellence Drummer Assemblies
February 22	Grad Photo Retakes
February 22	National Theatre Drama Festival @ KHS Cafe 6:30pm
February 22	Pink Shirt Day
February 23	The Centre for Black Excellence Field Trip to York Univ.
February 23	Ski & Snowboard Team @ Devil's Glen Country Club
February 23	Jr Girls Volleyball @ Sacred Heart CHS 3:30pm game
February 24	Course selections for 23-24 school year due
February 27	Jr Girls Volleyball Team @ Denison SS 3:30pm game
March 1	Jr Girls Volleyball Team @ Williams SS 3:30pm game
March 3	Gr 9 Art Field Trip to McMichael Art Gallery

March 7 SHSM Field Trip to Centennial College

March 13-17 March Break

Respecting our Community Partners

Our community offers several local establishments for students to visit for lunch. We ask that all students respect the environment and our community business partners by properly disposing of all garbage and refrain from any littering. They are happy to serve our students, we just need to do our part to keep our community clean.

Prom 2023 - Save the Date!

Keswick High School will be hosting our Prom on **Thursday, May 25th** at The Manor in King Township (16750 Weston Road). Prom will start at 5:30pm and end at 11:00pm. The evening will include dinner, prom awards and dancing. It is always an exciting event for our Grade 12 students. Tickets will go on sale in early April. More information to follow soon.

Sr. Boys Basketball Team advances to YRAA Semi Finals

Our Sr. Boys Basketball Team is on fire! They are playing in the YRAA Semi Finals on February 21st versus Langstaff Secondary School here at Keswick HS at 4:00pm in the large gym. Everyone is welcome to attend and cheer on this amazing team.

Math Help

The Mathematics Department will be offering a drop in session for extra math support starting the week of Feb 21st.

- No appointments needed – students can drop by room 2027
- Tuesday AM (8:25 to 8:55 am)
- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday @ lunch (11:50 to 12:20 pm)
- Wednesday/Thursday PM (3:15 to 3:45 pm)

Another great resource is TVO Mathify <https://www.tvomathify.com/students>

- Free online 1:1 tutoring with certified teachers
- Available for grades 4 - 12
- Monday to Friday 9 am to 9 pm
- Saturday/Sunday 3 pm to 9 pm
- Student's will need their OEN # to sign up (found on student report card)

Extended Absence Form

If your student is going to be absent from school for three or more consecutive days an Extended Absence Form should be picked up from the Main Office. The student will take the form to each teacher to document the work and/or assignments they are responsible for during the time of the absence. The form is to be signed by the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) and then returned to the Main Office. The form will be reviewed and signed by the Vice Principal. The attendance system is also updated accordingly. The student should pick up the form about 1 week prior to the first day of their absence.

Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List

As part of our commitment to dismantling anti-Black racism, YRDSB is launching the Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List.

Family members subscribed the mailing list will receive information about:

- Updates and programs from the Centre for Black Student Excellence
- Information about Board programs that would benefit Black students, families with Black children
- Community flyers and programs that would benefit Black students and families with Black children

Families can sign up for the mailing list using this subscription form, available at www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence , and can unsubscribe at any time.

The mailing list is one of the key commitments outlined in our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. For more information please visit the Centre for Black Student Excellence.

Keswick High School is in the process of starting a Black Student Association--an affinity group to provide space for self-identifying Black students to speak with their fellow peers and elevate student voice in our school community. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Renee Grant (renee.grant@yrdsb.ca) or Stephanie Ross (stephanie.ross@yrdsb.ca). As a family member, if you are interested in getting involved with the group or have any questions, please contact Casey Daleman, VP (casey.daleman@yrdsb.ca).

The Black Student Association will be meeting every Wednesday after school in Room 1014 at 3:15pm.

KHS Environmental Council

The KHS Environmental Council will be running the "Don't Trash Tech" campaign from Feb. 13th to the 24th. Electronic waste or E-waste does not belong in the garbage because electronic devices contain valuable metals that can be recycled into new products. Millions of tonnes of electronics get discarded into landfills every year in Canada, please make sure that yours isn't one of them! Items can be brought to the collection box near the front office of the school.

Accepted items: cell phones, laptops, ipods, cordless phones, monitors, printers, bluetooth speakers, headphones, mice, keyboards, radios, cameras etc. If you have any questions you can contact Mr. Shore (geoffrey.shore@yrdsb.ca).

Thanks for making KHS a greener place!

Opportunities for Self-Identifying Black Students

There are two upcoming field trip opportunities for YRDSB Black Students.

The first is a Master Class on **Friday February 17th**, entitled ***Black Literacies-Music and Culture*** featuring Dr. Mark Campbell DJ, author, scholar, assistant professor and curator. It is a full day event.

The second is an opportunity on **Tuesday February 28**, to engage with Dr. D'Wayne Edwards and Dion Walcott at **York University**. They will be sharing their pursuit in merging their identities, passion and entrepreneurial ventures to develop and lead established businesses and institutions. Students will also have the opportunity to explore York University, and the many educational opportunities offered there. It is a full day event.

Please let Mrs. Ross (stephanie.ross@yrdsb.ca) know if your child is interested in participating in one or both of these events.

Black Excellence Drummer Assemblies on February 21

The musical assembly presentation "Black Canadian Heroes" chronicles the lives and times of Canadians of African descent. From the activities of Mathieu de Costa (the first recorded black person in Canada) to the heroic deeds of figures of the underground railroad, your students will learn about the activities and contributions of black heroes like Josiah Henson (Uncle Tom) and Harriet Tubman (the woman called "Moses") Black inventors and scientists like Elijah McCoy (from whom we got the phrase "the real McCoy") and Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott (the first licensed Canadian-born black physician).

We will also discuss the contribution of war heroes like Richard Pierpont (the exceptionally brave black loyalist soldier) and William Hall (the first Black Canadian sailor as well as the first Black Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross). Students will understand and appreciate the labors of our heroes past should not be in vain.

Guidance Information

Course Selection Information

This past month KHS Guidance Counsellors have been in classrooms delivering information regarding course selections for the 2023-24 school year. We have visited each grade and provided information and handouts on pathways, post-secondary research, how to select your courses through [My Pathway Planner](#), and more.

Students can begin to submit course selections on February 16th and must submit by February 24th. All this information can be found on our KHS website under the Guidance tab.

Links to resources can also be found here:

- [Grade 9 Course Selection Information](#)
- [Grade 10 Course Selection Information](#)
- [Grade 11 and Returning Students Course Selection Information](#)
- [KHS Course Offerings](#)
- [KHS Course Selection Timelines](#)
- [KHS Pathways Planning](#)

Should you or your child have questions about a particular course or pathway, please have them book an appointment with their guidance counsellor through Teach Assist or reach out via telephone or email.

Online Learning Courses and Online Learning Opt-out

With the requirement that students must now complete two online learning courses to achieve their OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma), students now have the option to choose online learning courses through My Pathway Planner during course selection. These two online learning credits are apart of the thirty credits a student must achieve for their OSSD, not a requirement beyond the thirty. If a student wishes to select an online learning course, use the following steps to add it to their planner:

1. Sign into their [My Pathway Planner](#) account using their YRDSB username and password. You must select 'login with school account' and then choose the 'York Region District School Board' first.
2. Click 'High School' on the left hand side navigation menu
3. To add a course, click the '+' button with the planner itself. All course disciplines will come up. Scroll down to look for 'Online Learning Courses'
4. Click on the course code 'ONLINE' and a description of the course will appear
5. While reading the description it will ask you to select the course of your choice. Choose one.
6. Then click the 'Add Course' button. This will add the online learning course to the planner.

If you and your child feel that completing two online learning credits does not fit their learning style, you can choose to have them opt-out. If a student chooses to opt out it does not affect their ability to graduate or post secondary pathways. If a student wishes to opt-out, use the following steps to complete this through course selection:

1. Sign into their [My Pathway Planner](#) account using their YRDSB username and password. You must select 'login with school account' and then choose the 'York Region District School Board' first.
2. Click 'High School' on the left hand side navigation menu
3. Students will see an 'Online Learning Opt-Out' box in the first slot of their plan for next year. Click on the '+' button in the slot. If you do not see an 'Online Learning Opt-Out' box in the first slot - no action is needed - either the student has already opted out or will be asked to confirm their decision in a later grade
4. Once the student clicks on the '+' button, review the information in the description that pops up.
5. Click 'Add Course' if you wish to opt out of the requirement.

Updated Grade 10 Pathways

There is an update to course pathways available to students choosing Grade 10 courses for the 2023-2024 school year. KHS will now be able to offer applied pathway courses in both English (ENG2P1) and Science (SNC2P1). This is a change in previous plan to only offer the academic and locally developed courses.

Should you have questions regarding pathways for your child, it is recommended that you gather information from the following resources to help make an informed decision:

- Subject Teacher
- Guidance Counsellor
- Special Education Resource Teacher
- Researching post-secondary requirements and pathways

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is a globally recognized day in support of anti-bullying, upstanding behaviour and simple acts of kindness. On February 22, 2023, we are encouraged to practice kindness and wear

pink to show that we do not tolerate any form of bullying and uphold these values throughout the year.

York Region Arts Camp

York Region Arts Camp is taking place May 27th - June 3rd. Celebrating over 30 years on the shores of a private lake in the Haliburton Highlands, Camp White Pine is host to a unique yearly camp for York Region District School Board students. Arts Camp is an intensive week-long immersion in visual, studio and performance art programs and experiences. YRDSB teachers, community artists and student cabin leaders plan and facilitate differentiated arts programs and support a unique, inclusive environment for campers. There are 250 students ranging from Grades 7-12 from across York Region who attend morning and afternoon arts-based programs augmented by other daily workshops and engaging whole-camp activities. This memorable and dynamic week-long camp culminates in a studio tour and performance night.

Please click the link below for more information.

[York Region Arts Camp](#)

Graduation Date Change

Please be advised that we have changed the date of our Graduation ceremonies from June 28th to **June 26th**. Please update your calendars!

Vaping in the Washrooms

We need your support. Several students are reporting that they feel unsafe within our washrooms as other students are vaping. As we monitor and find students vaping we do speak to them, reach out to families and follow progressive discipline. We are worried about the safety and the health concerns caused by vaping. Here is some information that we will be sharing with students and would like your support in having these dialogues at home too: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/student-support/caring-and-safe-schools/substance-use-and-misuse/vaping-and-e-cigarettes>

Please do not permit your children to bring vapes or vape cartridges to school. We will be working with Tobacco Enforcement Officers to provide information to your children around the health concerns associated with vaping and the consequences for breaking the by-law around vaping on school property. This may include being issued a ticket or summons.

Please refer to the link below to discuss vaping with your teen.

[TALKING WITH YOUR TEEN ABOUT VAPING](#)

Food Pantry Program at Keswick High School

We are proud to announce that Keswick High School will be a pick-up location for students and families to access food that has been donated from the food bank of York Region. Any student can access and take part in this program, no questions asked.

Students can scan the QR code around the school to sign up or contact Mrs. Sedgwick or Mrs. Tweddle for more information.

Another option is that families may email Mrs. Sedgwick directly at pamela.sedgwick@yrdsb.ca

Distribution will occur on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:10-3:30 p.m. for those picking up by vehicle or large quantities.

Non perishable food donations are also welcome. Please bring any donations to the main office.

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.

For more information on these and upcoming events, 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 any emails from Keswick High School, please contact the school directly to have your email address deleted from your child's Student Information Record.

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