

Keswick High School E-Bulletin - March 3, 2023

In this Newsletter

- Important Upcoming Dates
- Respecting our Community Partners
- The Great Gulp - Environmental Council
- Prom 2023 - Save The Date
- Formal Wear Needed
- Every Student Counts Survey
- Math Help
- Extended Absence Form
- Mental Health Supports - Earthquake affecting Turkiye (Turkey) and Syria
- Centre for Black Student Excellence
- Moving Forward Hand in Hand - supports for African Caribbean Canada Heritage
- Guidance Information
- Vaping in the Washrooms
- Food Pantry Program at KHS
- News and Events

Important Upcoming Dates

March 6 - 10	Black Mental Health Week
March 6	SNAP Floor hockey tournament @ Cardinal Carter HS
March 7	SHSM Field Trip to Centennial College
March 7	Tentative rescheduling - Drama Festival
March 8	International Women's Day
March 8	World Down Syndrome Day
March 8	Black Literacies Field Trip
March 10	KHS Environmental Council Challenge the "Great Gulp"
March 13-17	March Break (no school)
March 21	International Day to Eliminate Race
March 22	Art Field Trip to Clearwater Farms
March 24-27	Electronic Distribution of Interim Report Cards
March 26	Epilepsy Awareness Day
March 28	Field Trip to Ripley's Aquarium for Literacy course students
March 30	Parent Teacher Interview Night

April 4	Toronto Symphony Orchestra Field Trip
April 7	Good Friday (no school)
April 10	Easter Monday (no school)
April 12	Co-ed Volleyball Tournament @ Uxbridge SS

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.

KHS Environmental Council the “Great Gulp”

In recognition of World Water Day during the month of March, the KHS Environmental Council is organizing the "Great Gulp" for Friday, March 10th at 10:20 a.m. The Great Gulp is a school-wide synchronized gulp of tap water that will highlight the problems we have with the way we use, consume and manage water in our communities.

Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle for Friday, March 10th when the entire school will take a synchronized gulp of water. The Environmental Council will be holding a pop-up Great Gulp table at lunch next week where students can win a free reusable water bottle after answering some water knowledge questions.



You are invited

to join students, educators, families, and workplaces across Canada to raise awareness about drinking water and reduced single-use plastic bottles.

In celebration of [World Water Day](#) (March 22), during the month of March, people across Canada are invited to take part in The Great Gulp by taking a drink of tap water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug, in regions where safe and healthy tap water is accessible. If you live in a community where tap water is not safe to drink, please contact EcoSchools Canada so we can explore how to join advocacy efforts in your area.



The Great Gulp is inspired by the Region of Peel and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

ecoschools.ca

Many people do not have access to clean drinking water and we shouldn't take ours for granted! Take care of your water KHS!

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 5:30 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m. 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.

Formal Wear Needed

Do you have formal wear you'd like to donate for local proms/graduations? We are collecting clean, gently used formal wear to support prom and the local elementary school graduation celebrations in June. The students will be given these items for free.

We are looking for the following items:

- Formal dresses (all sizes)
- Younger style suits (size 38-44)
- Costume jewellery
- Dress shoes

Any items not used by students will be donated to Girls Inc. for their prom/graduation events. Please drop off your donations to Keswick High School.

Every Student Counts Survey

Student and family input is important to us. The York Region District School Board will be conducting the Every Student Counts Survey with students (Grades K-12) to help us better understand our student population and school communities.

In the Spring of 2023, students in Grades 4-12 will be invited to complete the student survey and will be provided with in-class time to complete it. Translated versions of the survey will be available. Contact us at 905-476-0933 or keswick.hs@yrdsb.ca for more information.

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 a.m. to 8:55 a.m.)
- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday @ lunch (11:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.)
- Wednesday/Thursday PM (3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.)

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 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday/Sunday 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- 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.

Mental Health Supports in Light of the Earthquake affecting Turkey (Türkiye) and Syria

In light of the earthquakes, Family Services York Region is offering four supportive mental health gatherings for families, students grade 6-8 and students grades 9-12.

Please see the attached flyers for more information.

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 3:15 p.m.

Moving Forward Hand in Hand

York Region District School Board, in collaboration with The Alliance of Educators for Black Students presents: Moving Forward Hand in Hand. Family workshops supporting students of African

Caribbean Canada Heritage. This virtual workshop series is free. Please see the [Registration Link](#) for more information.

Guidance Information

Course Selection Update

Course selection for the 2023-2024 school year is now complete. The deadline to submit courses was February 24th. 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.

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 Friday, March 10th. If your child is interested in one of these opportunities, have them book an appointment with their guidance counsellor for more information.

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 PM on Friday, March 24th, 2023 and are available at 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 2023. (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 31, 2023

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 p.m. - 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.

News and Events

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, including:

Managing Negative Self Talk, Fostering Your Child's Emotional Resilience - Mandarin Session, Triple P Parenting Sessions - March, Raising Resilient Children, Centre for Black Student Excellence

Newsletter for March, Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter for March, Homestay Families Needed, York Region Traveller Safety Plan Virtual Information Sessions.

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>

This message is being sent on behalf of the York Region District School Board and/or your child's school in compliance with the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation. 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.

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