

# Northern Highlights



## Community Update

Week of September 30th, 2024

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DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Sept. 30 Day 4	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day	October is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Islamic Heritage Month</li><li>• 2SLGBTQ+I History Month</li><li>• Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month</li></ul> School Picture Day - Tuesday, October 8, 2024 IB Information Night at Dr. G.W. Williams - October 10, 2024 Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Tuesday Oct. 1 Day 5		
Wednesday Oct. 2 Day 1		
Thursday Oct. 3 Day 2		
Friday Oct. 4 Day 3		

### \*INFORMATION & UPDATES\*

**SEEKING GENTLY USED BOARD GAMES AND PUZZLES:** We are seeking donations of new or gently used board games, card games and puzzles for our students to enjoy during indoor recess. These items provide fun, engaging activities that encourage social interaction and problem-solving on inclement weather days. If you have any games or puzzles that your family no longer uses, we would greatly appreciate your contribution! Donations can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you for supporting our school community!

**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:** At the end of September, we recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. On this date, we commemorate the harm done to Indigenous peoples by the residential school system. We pause to honour the victims and survivors, and we reflect on the [Truth and Reconciliation calls to action](#).

It is incumbent upon us to understand and to teach the history of the land that we share, our treaty responsibilities, the truth about Canadian and Indigenous histories and the promise of reconciliation, particularly as an education system. By exploring the truth of Canada's past treatment of First Nations peoples and the contemporary issues faced, we continue our journey towards reconciliation.

As we raise the Every Child Matters flag outside all of our schools and work locations, I encourage everyone to think about our ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation. While this week is dedicated to it, the work must and will go beyond it.

In our classrooms, we will continue to engage in Indigenous ways of learning and knowing throughout the year. By embedding Indigenous Education throughout the curriculum, we will continue to learn about and celebrate Indigeneity and the beautiful and historic cultures of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island who have been on this land since time immemorial.

On this day, schools across the country also recognize [Orange Shirt Day](#), which specifically remembers the story of Phyllis Webstad, a survivor of the residential school system, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day at school. These events in schools take on a solemn tone as students and educators engage in activities and discussions that foster empathy, respect, and awareness of the hardships endured by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations. We encourage YRDSB staff and students to wear an orange shirt on Monday, September 30, 2024, to recognize the resiliency, bravery and survival of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.

**GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION POW WOW:** One of the many actions we can take toward truth and reconciliation is attending events such as pow wows. Georgina Island First Nation is our closest Indigenous partner and our partner in education. It is our great honour and privilege to again host the [Georgina Island First Nation Pow Wow](#) at Sutton D.H.S on September 28-29.

Pow wows are gatherings and celebrations of culture. We were so pleased to see so many staff and families from the school board attending over the past few years. Visitors are welcome to attend and should familiarize themselves with [pow wow protocols](#) to ensure you are being respectful. It's a wonderful opportunity for celebration, learning and developing and enhancing relationships.

**FALL TENANT RIGHTS WORKSHOP:** Tenants' Housing Rights Free Virtual Workshops Fall 2024. All parents are welcome to attend any of these free virtual workshops. Click [here](#) for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH:** 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. 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 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. If your child is eligible for bus/student transportation, have them walk to the bus stop. Riding the bus is sustainable!

#### **\*INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS\***

**YORK REGION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (YRES):** YRES Fall Workshops offer free virtual programs like the French Reading Club and Young Scientist, designed for K-12 students to spark interest in various subjects. Additionally, in-person workshops at community centers are available for students in Grades 6-12 and offer topics such as Discovering Volunteering Opportunities. Thanks to the support from community partners, all programs are provided at no cost. Please [click here for in-person programs](#). Please [click here for virtual programs](#).

**FARM TO FRESH:** Farm To Fresh is a fundraiser that allows families to purchase fresh produce from local farmers in our area. This initiative supports our farmers as well as NLPS as we receive 40% of the profits. These funds help to support our students in various ways. Families may place orders for vegetable or apple bundles through School CashOnline. The due date to order is Friday, October 11, 2024.

**PIZZA LUNCH ORDERS:** Please place orders for pizza through School CashOnline before Thursday, September 26, 2024. Late orders after this date will NOT be accepted.