

Week of December 4, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Dec. 4-15	Food Drive for Vaughan Food Bank
Dec. 4-18	Gr. 8 Grad Fundraiser - "Candy cane wishes"
Dec. 8	Photo Retakes - complete the Photo retake form if needed
Dec. 20	Primary Winter Concert - more details to follow
Dec. 25-Jan 5	Winter Break

[VDPS Website and Calendar](#)

[YRDSB 2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#)

Viola Desmond PS Food Drive **in support of the Vaughan Food Bank**

Dear Families,

From Monday, December 4th to Friday, December 15th, our school will be collecting canned and dry food items to donate to the Vaughan Food Bank in an effort to help families in our community.



Did you know that each month, more than one million Canadians benefit from food bank services, and that one third of them are children? Community food drives help ensure that children and their families have access to food assistance when needed. Every donation helps and we hope that our combined donations will make a meaningful difference for those in need.

Items will be collected daily in your child' classroom.

Thank you for your help!

Here are some donation suggestions:

Rice	Juice boxes
Flour	Soups
Canned meats/fish	Stews
Pasta	Cooking oil
Pasta sauce	Apple sauce
Peanut butter	Jam or jelly
Dried and canned beans	Gluten free products
Sugar	Sugar free items
Milk powder	Meal replacements
Baby formula	Hot/cold cereals
Diapers and wipes	

Active School Travel Contest

This December 6th –20th , students at Viola Desmond P.S. are encouraged to participate in a Photo Contest to support Active School Travel.

We are happy to introduce you to Waddles the Penguin, the mascot for the Photo Contest! Students are encouraged to look for Waddles around the school zone on their walk to and from school and take a photo. To enter the contest, email the photo to activeschooltravel@yrdsb.ca for a chance to WIN a Horseshoe Valley Resort lift ticket (valued of \$100)

We encourage you to walk to school and get searching!

If your child rides the bus to school they can also participate by colouring the Waddles colouring page and submitting to the email listed above see colouring on the last page of the Family Weekly

IMPORTANT: When emailing a photo or coloured sheet please also include the child name as well as our school's name and the grade the child is in.

Note: there will be TWO posters placed up near the school. Only 1 submission per student is permitted.

Photo Retakes

If your child needs a photo retake or if they were absent on our first photo day, please complete [this photo retake form](#) so we know to take your child's photo on retake day, Friday December 8th.

Grade 8 Grad Fundraiser

In hopes of spreading holiday cheer and sending well wishes this season, the grade 8s will be selling Candy Cane Grams. The event is called **"Candy Wish"** and will take place from Monday December 4th to Monday December 18th.

Candy canes will be sold for **\$1.00** each. Students will have an opportunity to write a "Candy Wish" that will be attached to the candy cane and then the candy cane wishes will be delivered to recipients on Friday, December 22.





What's on at VDPS

There are many extra curricular activities happening at VDPS. Our wonderful staff have volunteered their time to coach and supervise clubs including:

- Junior volleyball
- Lego club
- Beading club
- Junior and Intermediate Robotics club
- Play Leaders

In the new year we plan to offer some paid extracurricular activities as well. These programs are run by outside providers such as Act One Productions (see flyer below) and Create IT. Stay tuned for more details.

School Council

Thanks to all parents who were able to join us for the last School Council meeting. At the meeting we discussed future meeting dates as well as the formation of committees for future events such as a movie night and end of year event. If you would like to join one of these committees, please complete this

[**School Council Committee Sign Up Form**](#)

Board Games, Puzzles, and Legos

Do you have gently used board games, puzzles or Lego that you no longer need? We are hoping to expand our collection of games, puzzles and Lego for our Board Games club as well as for use during indoor recesses.

We need items in good, gently used condition, that have all the pieces.

If you have some games, puzzles or Lego to donate, please bring them to the office.

Thank you!



Message from Our Trustee - December 2023

I hope everyone has had a good start to the school year and is looking forward to the winter break ahead.

As I have been visiting schools and attending events, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism and dedication of school staff, the commitment and support of families and the curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm of students. As a Board of Trustees, we continue our commitment to delivering a high-quality education, this also includes striving to create safe, caring, inclusive and respectful school environments where students feel valued and supported.

I want to thank everyone who attended the school council forum held in our area and helped to make the event such a success. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together school council members for an evening of shared learning and discussion. School councils play such an important role in our schools, and we are grateful for all that they do to support students, family engagement and schools.

While we are not yet at the midway point in the school year, many students and families are already looking to the school year ahead, visiting [secondary school open houses](#) and starting to think about course selections for next school year. All our secondary schools offer a variety of courses, programs and opportunities that let students gain skills and experience, explore their interests and begin preparing for the future. Those opportunities are now even easier to explore.

Students can [search from 16 different sectors](#) that interest them, including STEM, Arts, business, manufacturing and many more to discover how they can earn credits, gain experience, skills and certifications in those areas. Visit www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb to learn more.

We also offer a variety of [programs for Black students](#) through the Board's Centre for Black Student Excellence. These summer and school-year programs are designed to affirm students' identities and support student achievement and well-being. You can learn more about the programs and how to sign up for the centre's mailing list [on the website](#).

One of our roles as a Board of Trustees is to regularly review Board policies to ensure they are relevant, reflect our mission and values as an organization, and meet the needs of our students. An important part of that process is collecting feedback from the community. [Learn more on the Board website](#) about how you can share your input and see what policies are currently being reviewed.

VDPS Weekly



Ph: (905) 585-0033 & (647) 749-4316 Email: viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca
Twitter: @ViolaDesmondYR

I want to take this opportunity to thank families for their patience while we work to restore services following [network outages](#) as a result of a cyber incident, and to acknowledge the work of our staff who continue to deliver high quality public education and to restore services.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates for different faiths and cultures during this time of year, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Estelle Cohen

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 4 and 5

[Baythorn Arts Information Link](#)



Integrated Elementary Arts@Baythorn!

Current Grade 4 or 5 students can APPLY for the Arts@Baythorn full-time school program 2024-2025 (For students going into Grade 5 or 6 in Sept 2024).



The **Arts@Baythorn** allows students to explore **Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music** Integrated into learning each and every day in a Collaborative and Cooperative learning environment.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/baythorn.ps/arts/Pages/default.aspx>

REMINDER Check the website for updated information.
Application Registrations opens: January 15, 2024 and closes January 29, 2024 (late applications not accepted)
Collaborative Workshops held: March 4, or 5, or 6, 2024 (these dates are firm)

Winter Lunch Programs

“BEAUTY AND THE BEAST” ACT ONE RETURNING TO VIOLA DESMOND



WE'RE LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC, FUN LOVING CHILDREN WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US TO REHEARSE AND PERFORM THIS SHOW!!!

This Winter, Act One Productions is proud to offer our children an incredible theatrical and musical experience. The program is a musical presentation for kids where they will learn to act, sing and dance and have the opportunity to perform their show to an inviting audience after a brief rehearsal period. The show will be directed by ACT ONE. ACT ONE has produced shows at RHA, The York School, Holy Trinity, Bayview Glen, Leo Baeck, Associated, Bialik, Wilshire, Denlow, Harrison, Forest Hill, Cedarvale, Windfields, Bayview Hill, Anne Frank, Viola Desmond, Nellie McClung, Pleasantville and others.

Day and Start time:	Fridays 1-2 pm
Eligibility:	Grade 1-8
Start Date:	January 12, 2024
Rehearsal Location:	TBA at Viola Desmond
Performance dates:	April 7 th at the York Woods Library Theatre

Session 1 (Introductory Sing and Dance Along-five weeks):	\$250 plus hst=\$282.50
Session 2 (Continued Performance Program-five weeks):	\$125 plus hst=\$141.25
Total Cost for Both Sessions:	\$375 plus hst=\$423.75

The program consists of **two optional sessions**. The first five weeks are the sing along rehearsal weeks where children will learn how to sing and dance the production numbers and learn to emulate the different characters in the show. Session 1 is group oriented. Parents can choose to enroll for Session one only. **For those looking to continue on and obtain a role in the show and take part in the performance of the musical at the theatre, they must enroll for the second session in addition to the first session.**

Children cannot enroll for session 2 without first enrolling in Session 1 as Session 1 is a prerequisite to session 2)

- Session One Rehearsal dates: January 12, 26, Feb. 9, 16, 23
- Session Two Rehearsal dates: March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 5
- Dress Rehearsal at the Theatre April 7th for those enrolled in both sessions.
- No rehearsal Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and March 15 (Professional Activity days/March Break).

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To Register: SIGN UP EARLY !!Space is limited to 40! Please complete and SCAN the application and send an E-TRANSFER to actone@rogers.com. For those taking part in the performance, tickets will be made available closer to the performance-\$30 General Admission seats/\$40 Premium seats (front rows of the theatre)

Name: _____

Grade _____ Rm: _____

Home Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Work Number: _____ Email: _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ALEX MOSES at 416 879 3241/actone@rogers.com



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