

Week of May 1, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
April 30	Class Placement Parent Input Form Due
May	Jewish Heritage Month Asian and South Asian Heritage Month
May 5	Every Student Counts Survey (Gr. 4-8)
May 10	School Council Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
May 15-19	VDPS Wellness Week
May 17	Discover Kindergarten Event for students starting FDK in 2023
May 24	York Region Public Health Dental Screening and Gr. 7/8 Immunizations (more details to follow)

As May approaches, the YRDSB takes pride in recognizing Asian and South Asian Heritage Month as well as Jewish Heritage month. This month provides a vital opportunity to explore, understand and affirm the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of these groups of Canadians.

[VDPS website and Calendar](#)

Autism Acceptance and Awareness Month

Throughout the month of April we have been engaging in learning about autism acceptance and awareness including:

- In class activities
- An interactive bulletin board display where students answered true/false questions about autism
- Alley Kelner, a parent from our school community, spent a day meeting with classes to talk about neurodiversity
- A school-wide assembly focusing on inclusion and acceptance



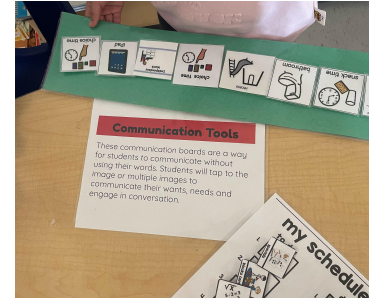
VDPS Weekly



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

- Peer awareness workshop run by junior and intermediate students
- Classroom buddy activities

It has been a busy and meaningful month of learning!



Parent input form for 2023-2024 School Year

Each year we invite parents to complete a **Class Placement Parent Input Form.** This form is for Parents/Guardians of children who will be attending Kindergarten to Grade 8 at Viola Desmond P.S. or Grade 3 French Immersion at Romeo Dallaire P.S. for the 2023-24 school year

Input that is received via this form by **Sunday, April 30th 2023** will be considered and shared during placement meetings. Please **DO NOT** send messages directly to your child's teacher. **Only** requests submitted via this form will be taken into consideration.

Please note that we DO NOT accept specific teacher requests. Final decisions regarding student placements remain the responsibility of the Principal and the school staff.

Ministry mandates on class size may impact class placements into September, as a result, we are unable to share class placement information with families until the first day of school.

Thank you for partnering with us.

Mental Health Newsletter link

Within, Between & Around Us

2023 Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and Beyond Toolkit



Goose

Our goose is back and she laid more eggs! A reminder to please stay away from the garden bed in front of the office. We have put up pylons to mark the area. Geese are very protective and these friends have been seen and heard honking at people and cars when they get too close, so please exercise caution in the area.



Lunch Assistants Needed

Are you available from 1:00–2:00 p.m. and interested in working as a lunch assistant? If so, please contact the office for more information.

Every Student Counts Survey

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.

On May 5, students in Grades 4–8 at Viola Desmond P.S. will be invited to complete the student survey and will be provided with in-class time to complete



it. We will be sending a letter home with students from Grades K-3 who are invited to complete a survey at home with their parent, guardian or caregiver.

Health and Safety

A reminder that families are still asked to use the [School Screening Tool](#) before sending your child(ren) to school each day. We want to help one another stay healthy, so please do not send ill children to school.

School Cash Online

Field trips, yearbooks, fundraisers and some **hot lunch programs** are paid for by families using School Cash Online. If you already have an account, ensure it is set up to provide you with **notifications** of new items.

If you do not yet have an account, please see the attached information page with instructions for setting up an account.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

We are continuing to receive calls and emails from families who are not receiving commercial emails (fundraisers, lunch time programming, hot lunch programs). If you wish to receive this information, you **must** [opt in](#).

Workshops



Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)
invites you to

Family Engagement Conference 2023: Creating Dynamic Futures

Please join us to learn about mental health, special education,
and ways to navigate the education system with appearances
from children's authors Amaya James and Erica London.

Keynote Speaker: Dwayne Morgan

When:

Saturday, May 13, 2023

10:30am - 2:30pm

Light refreshments will be served

Where:

Richmond Green High School

1 William F. Bell Pkwy in Richmond Hill

[Register Now !](#)

Follow Us On Twitter [@AEBSyrdsb](https://twitter.com/AEBSyrdsb)

For additional information please contact aebzca@gmail.com

[REGISTER HERE](#)