

Week of May 29, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
May 29-June 8	EQAO for Grades 3 and 6
May 29-June 1	Bike to School Week
May 31	Pride Flag Raising
June 1	Grade 8 Grad Trip
June 2	PA Day - School closed to students
June 7	Tour for Humanity - Grades 4-8
June 9	VDPS 2nd Annual Play Day
June 22	Save the Date: Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony
June 26	Save the Date: VDPS Summer Party 4:30-6:30 p.m.

[VDPS website and Calendar](#)

EQAO Schedule

Students in grades 3 and 6 will be participating in EQAO between May 29-June 8. Please see the schedule below. Each session is scheduled for 30-60 minutes, but students may take additional time as needed.

Monday May 29	Grade 6 Reading and Writing Grade 3 Reading and Writing
Wednesday May 31	Grade 6 Reading and Writing Grade 3 Reading and Writing
Thursday June 1	Grade 6 Mathematics
Monday June 5	Grade 3 Mathematics
Thursday June 8	Grade 6 Mathematics Grade 3 Mathematics

Bike to School Week

Dear Parent/Guardians

Bike to School Week Launch Celebration May 29th!

Bike to School Week is May 29 – June 2! Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to bike to school.

What and why celebrate Bike to School Week?

Bike to school week is an annual provincial wide campaign encouraging students to celebrate active forms of transportation. Communities that support active school travel help their kid's

- lead healthier lifestyles,
- reduce traffic and pollution and
- make school zones safer for all road users.**Also**, being able to walk or bike to school with your family and friends is just plain fun!

When cycling remember to

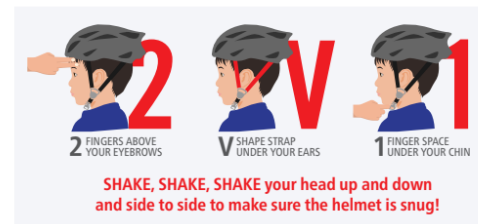
- Wear a properly fitting helmet. Every cyclist under 18 must wear a bike helmet.
- **Air Brakes Chain** – Check your bike tires, brakes and chain before you start riding.
- Ensure your bike has a working bell, white light or reflector at the front, and a red light or reflector at the back. For information and to learn more visit the [Government of Ontario's bicycle safety information](#).
- Cross at crosswalks, if there is one. Walk beside your bike when crossing the road.
- Watch for cars backing out of driveways and turning at intersections.
- Lock your bike in bike racks.
- Be visible and dress for the weather.

MAKE SURE IT FITS!

REMEMBER THE
2V1
SHAKE, SHAKE,
SHAKE RULE!

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ALWAYS WEARS A PROPERLY FITTED HELMET!

It's the law in Ontario for children and youth (under 18) to wear a helmet when bicycling.



PUBLIC HEALTH
1-877-464-9675
york.ca/injuryprevention

York Region

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 the pollution around your school. If you ride the bus you are encouraged to walk to your bus stop.

School Council and VDPS Summer Party

We held our final School Council meeting this past week. Thank you to all attendees and to everyone who has supported School Council initiatives throughout the year.

School Council is organizing one last big event for the year. Save the date for our first VDPS Summer party on Monday June 26 4:30-6:30p.m.

More details to follow.

Indigenous Trustee Greeting – June 2023

Aaniin (Hello), I am Indigenous Trustee for the York Region District School Board and a member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, the only First Nation in York Region and one you may recognize YRDSB acknowledging as their “partner in education” when providing land acknowledgements.

I would like to offer greetings for the month of June, the month when we recognize and celebrate the Indigenous People of Canada, our unique status as Canadians, our history on this land and our many significant contributions. In 1996, Governor General Romeo LeBlanc declared June 21 as National Aboriginal Peoples Day. He said, “On June 21st, this year and every year, Canada will honour the native peoples who first brought humanity to this great land.” In 2017, the name was formally changed, and we now recognize this day as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

June 21 was chosen because it is summer solstice, a time of spiritual significance for Indigenous people. It is a time when the sun is at the highest point in the sky and we experience the longest day of the year, and the most amount of daylight. This is considered powerful medicine and is a time for practicing ceremonies that honour our interconnection with the land and the cosmos.

The Anishinaabe also recognize June as the month of the Strawberry moon, Ode'min Giizis. The beautiful red heart shaped strawberry offers us the teaching of reconciliation and forgiveness. It is the first berry of the season that brings us

that sweetness for life. June offers us many special gifts and much to be grateful for.

People ask what they can do to celebrate Indigenous People Day and as Canadians support Indigenous people in Canada?

We can build our awareness by reading Indigenous books, listening to Indigenous podcasts, and attending Indigenous events. We can create positive change and promote public awareness by lending our support to Indigenous issues. We can also offer land acknowledgements as we do at the beginning of meetings and events in the YRDSB.

However, I believe most importantly to Indigenous people across this planet is to recognize our right to reclaim and practice our Indigenous languages and the important significance of the earth under our feet. Our traditional knowledge and our cultures exist in our languages and without the opportunity to learn them in our schools and speak them in our communities much of our ancestral knowledge will be lost forever.

Further, recognizing Indigenous relationship with the land and taking the time to build land awareness and connection is imperative. We must practice environmental stewardship and protect our greenspaces. Walk in nature, plant, or hug a tree, help a turtle across the road, sing to the water, just be with the land. It does little to offer a land acknowledgement if we do not acknowledge the earth on which we live. The earth is our mother, this is why we call her "Mother Earth" in our Anishinaabe creation stories. We are extrinsically interconnected; without her we would not exist. As her children we must care for her and protect her. Stand with Indigenous people by honouring her, this is the most important land acknowledgement you can give.

Chi-Miigwech and Happy Indigenous People's Day!

Your Indigenous Trustee, Lauri Hoeg

This is a good [resource and activity guide for students](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf)

https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-CIRNAC-RCAANC/DAM-PPLCOM/STAGING/texte-text/nIPD_activity_guide_2018_1528380426091_eng.pdf

Message from Our Trustee - June 2023

Dear families,

As we approach the end of the school year and the start of the summer break, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make this school year a positive one. This is our first school year since 2018-2019 that has not been interrupted by closures as a result of COVID-19, and it has been such a pleasure to visit schools and school events over the past few months and see students, staff and families connecting and learning together.

I think it's important to acknowledge the effect the pandemic has had on students; and we have made it a priority to put supports in place for student learning, achievement, mental health and well-being. We also continue to work hard to create safe, inclusive and caring learning environments where our students know and feel that they matter and belong.

June is also a time when we look ahead to transitions - students moving ahead to new grades, new schools and new adventures. Thank you to the school staff who support students through these transitions. Congratulations to all of our graduating students moving on to secondary school or post-secondary pathways. We are so proud of all that you have achieved, class of 2023, and wish you all the very best in what comes next.

I also want to acknowledge all that you have done, as family members, to support your child and our schools - whether that's asking your child about their learning, communicating with their educators, attending school events, reading the information that comes home from the school, sharing feedback, completing surveys, tracking down library books, volunteering on field trips and in the classroom, participating in school councils, and so much more. We are grateful for all of the ways you support your child's learning and our public education system.

Communicating with families remains an important priority for us. I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many families throughout the school year and appreciate how important it is that we remain connected to you. In

VDPS Weekly



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Twitter: @ViolaDesmondYR

In addition to communication from your child's school, there are also many ways you can stay connected with what is happening in the Board, including our [newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [award-winning podcast](#). We were also very pleased to launch this year the [Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List](#) for families looking to receive information directly related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

As we approach the summer, we look forward to welcoming students who will be participating in our variety of [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) summer learning programs. I wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer break.

Estelle Cohen

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 4 and 5

Workshops/Events

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Parent/Caregiver virtual workshop supporting students of the Tamil Diaspora

June 1, 2023 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Parents and caregivers are invited to join this workshop to learn about supporting their children's academic, emotional and social well-being. The session will provide practical tips to create space for open conversations about mental health and well-being, ways to provide support and resources available through YRDSB and the York region community.

Register here on our [Google Form](#). Link to join will be provided via email following registration.



யோர்க் பிராந்திய மாவட்டப் பாடசாலைச் சபையானது எங்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் நல்வாழ்வுக்கு ஆதரவளிக்கின்றது

உங்கள் பிள்ளை, கல்வியிலும் உணர்வு மற்றும் சமூக ரீதியாகவும் சிறந்த ஆதரவைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதனை விரும்புகின்றீர்களா?

*இது தமிழிலும் ஆங்கிலத்திலும் வழங்கப்படும்

பேச்சாளர்கள்

Nijatha Subramaniam, MSW, RSW - Community Care Team
- Social Worker for the Tamil Diaspora

Thanara Rajakulendran, M.Sc, M.Psy (Clin.)
- Psychoeducational Consultant

இதைப் பற்றிக் கலந்துரையாட இணையத்தில் எங்களுடன் இணைந்து கொள்ளவும்

- உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளுடன் ஊடாடுவதற்கும் இணைந்துகொள்வதற்கும் உரிய உதவிக்குறிப்புகள்
- உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளின் நல்வாழ்வு மற்றும் உணர்ச்சிகளின் நிலை மாற்றங்களுக்கு ஆதரவளிப்பதற்கான வழிமுறைகள்
- கல்வி ரீதியாகவும் சமூக ரீதியாகவும் சிறப்பாகச் செயற்பட அவர்களுக்கு உதவுவது எப்படி என்பதைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளல்
- YRDSB மற்றும் யோர்க் பிராந்தியச் சமூகத்தில் இதற்குரிய ஆதரவளங்கள் கிடைக்கும்

ஜூன் 1, 2023 பிப 6:00-7:30 வரை

இங்கேயுள்ள எங்கள் [Google](#) படிவத்தில் பதிவு செய்யவும்

பதிவு செய்வதற்கான காலக்கெடு: மே 26, 2023

பதிவுசெய்த பிறகு, இதில் சேர்வதற்கான இணைப்பு மின்னஞ்சல் மூலம் வழங்கப்படும்.

கேள்விகள் அல்லது வசதிகள் தொடர்பான கோரிக்கைகளுக்குத் தயவுசெய்து மின்னஞ்சல் செய்யவும்: nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca

