



Week of November 20, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Nov.	Hindu Heritage Month
Nov. 6-20	Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser - last day to order is Nov. 20
Nov. 20-24	Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week
Nov. 28	Gr. 7 and 8 Immunization Clinic
Dec. 8	Photo Retakes

[VDPS Website and Calendar](#)

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

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](#)

Future meeting dates:

Wednesday, January 17

Wednesday, February 21

Wednesday, April 3

Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser November 6-20

The last day to order cookie dough drops is Monday, November 20.

Cookie Dough Drop Boxes are \$15.00 each and Shortbread Gift boxes are \$10.00. For more information and to place an order please go to [our fundraising page](#).



Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week

From November 20–24 we recognize Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week. At our school, it is important that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. This week serves as a reminder to our school community about bullying and how to respond. During this week students will engage in learning activities that reinforce positive behaviours that respond to and prevent bullying.

Bullying is a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Bullying can take many forms. Some include:

Physical – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property

Verbal – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments

Social – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them

Electronic (commonly known as cyberbullying) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media

Bullying is never acceptable at our school. All members of our school community are encouraged to stand up and support each other. Should there be concerns about bullying or if you have any questions please contact us.

You can also report events that happen at school, at school-related activities, online or off school property if they negatively affect a student or the school climate through [YRDSB's Report It tool](#). This tool is available on the homepage of our school's website or on www.yrdsb.ca. You may also choose to make a report anonymously.

For more [information and resources on bullying and cyberbullying](#), please follow @YRDSB or visit www.yrdsb.ca.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and inclusive school community.

School Start-Up Forms

VDPS Weekly



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

If you haven't already done so, please complete the School Start-Up forms as soon as possible. We require these forms for many aspects of school programming. They can be found here: <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>

Workshops and Events



Youth Gambling Awareness Series

This workshop series offers educational prevention sessions to parents and caregivers. Participants will engage in learning on gambling awareness, including potential risks, making informed decisions and healthy and active living.

We welcome all parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend these free virtual sessions!

November 7, 2023: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Game Bling: When Gaming Meets Gambling

This session explores unconventional forms of gambling available to minors, the signs of problem gaming and gambling, and explores the potential risks of these activities. Parents will learn strategies on how to help your child make safe and healthy decisions and information on community support services will be provided.

November 14, 2023: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Gambling, Money and Decision Making: Financial Literacy and Gambling

This session discusses items of value used by youth to bet with, and analyzes factors leading them to participate in games of chance to make money. Financial risks of gambling will be explored while providing safety tips and information on community support services.

November 21, 2023: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Media Impact

This session will explore the increased youth exposure to gambling-related content on social media platforms while providing media safety tips for parents as well as information on community support services.

November 28, 2023: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Stigma and Gambling

This session will define stigma associated with gambling while providing factual knowledge and awareness to support a compassionate approach to reducing stigma and facilitating an open dialogue. Information on community support services will also be shared.



[Register](#) Now For These Free Sessions Today!

These free information sessions are organized by York Region District School Board in collaboration with YMCA of Greater Toronto Youth Gambling Awareness Program (YGAP).

For more information please feel free to contact: Oksana Majaski, Community & Partnership Developer at oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca or 416-568-2252.

[Register Here](#)



Keep the Door Open: Understand Your Child's Inner World 敞開孩子的心房/敞開孩子的心房

This session in Mandarin and Cantonese will share tips on ways that lead your child to open their inner world and take care of their emotional wellbeing under the influence of both traditional Chinese culture and Western culture.

本次研討會將探討傳統華裔文化和西方文化的影響下如何有效地關愛和照顧孩子的心理健康。

這次的講座將探討傳統華裔文化和西方文化的影響下如何有效地關懷和照顧孩子的心理健康。

To register for a Mandarin session:
[点击这里报名普通话讲座](#) or scan QR code



To register for a Cantonese session:
[點擊這裡報名粵語講座](#) or scan the QR code



Parents, Guardians, Caregiver and Students

Join us to learn and share with your community how the families are supported!

Date: **Tuesday, Nov 21st, 2023**

Time: **6:00pm-7:00pm (Mandarin 普通话)**
7:00pm-8:00pm (Cantonese 粵語)

Location: **Virtually**

Presenters:

Hannah Xu (MPH)

Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Youth Program Worker

Charmaine Tong (M.S.W., R.S.W.)

York Region District School Board
Community Care Social Worker (Chinese Heritage Community)

For more information, please contact:

Community Care Social Worker (Chinese Heritage)
Charmaine Tong
charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca

This free session is brought to you in partnership with Hong Fook Mental Health Association and Community Care Team of York Region District School Board