

Week of November 28, 2022

Upcoming Dates	
Nov. 28-Dec. 2	Toy Drive for Toy Mountain
Mon. Nov. 28	Gr. 7 and 8 Public Health Immunizations
Dec. 1	School Spirit Day: Wear Red & White or a Jersey to support Team Canada
Dec. 2	Gr. 8 Grad Tuck Shop - all items \$2.00
Dec. 9	Photo Retakes (morning)
Dec. 14	VDPS Movie night 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	Primary Winter Concert - details to follow
Dec 26 - Jan 6	Winter Break

School Council – Toy Mountain Toy Drive

This holiday season, Viola Desmond P.S. in partnership with our School Council, has decided to stretch our philanthropic legs and jump into supporting a well-known toy drive called Toy Mountain. This initiative is organised by The Salvation Army and CTV, in hopes of creating a mountain of toys for those families in the Greater Toronto Area who are struggling to make ends meet. A group of intermediate students will be leading our toy drive, and with the help of a staff, will be responsible for collecting and promoting this incredible opportunity.

Our week of collection at school will be from November 28 to December 2, and we would love it if each family was able to bring in a new, unwrapped toy for Toy Mountain. We are specifically looking for items suited for babies, tweens and teens. For a list of potential items, please click this [link](#).

Tell your friends and family. This is a great cause for everyone to support.

LET'S HELP BUILD TOY MOUNTAIN!

DONATE BY DEC 8TH

School council is happy to announce we have been invited to help build Toy Mountain with CTV news and the Salvation Army again this year!

This is an opportunity to spread some joy and donate to those in need during this holiday season.

We would appreciate if each student could bring in an **unwrapped toy** to collect in their classroom by **December 8th**. Thank you.

School Council – Family Movie Night

VIOLA DESMOND SCHOOL COUNCIL
IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

Family Movie Night

FEATURING: MINIONS THE RISE OF GRU

PJ's, stuffies & blankets are welcome!

Free Entry

MOVIE TIME

12.14.2022
Start at 5:00 PM
Movie starts at 5:30 PM
Run time: 1.5 hours



VDPS GYM
RSVP by Dec. 2, 2022

Please RSVP by scanning the QR code above so that we can arrange seating by December 2, 2022

Pizza is available for purchase on School Cash Online.

Drinks, popcorn and snacks will be available for cash at the event.

Any outside food or drinks brought to the event must be peanut & tree nut free.

- Large Pizza 10 slices (Cheese or Pepperoni) – \$20.00
- Medium Gluten Free Pizza (cheese or pepperoni) – \$20.00
- Pizza Slice (Pepperoni or Cheese) – \$2.50
- Gluten Free Slice (Cheese only) – \$2.50

**Adult supervision is required for all students attending for the duration of the movie.
Students will not be permitted to stay if they are not supervised by an adult.**

School Council

Viola Desmond School Council

Council Achievements to Date

Accomplishments

- Thanks to our school community we have raised over \$15,000
- We have installed new basketball hoops and playground markings

2020

- Initiated kindness week
- Cookie sales
- Introduced lunch programs inc. pizza
- Movie nights
- Facilitated Fall dance for students
- Winter concert cookie/drink sales
- Curated lunch programs eg drama, dance, cooking

2021

- Virtual yoga night for families
- Received pro grant to host mindfulness evening for parents (Coping through Covid)

2022

- Welcome station at Curriculum night
- Introduced new lunch vendor (Yummy)
- Art for kids card sales
- Sale of Smencils/Airclay
- Begin Collection for Toy Mountain
- Preparations underway for Movie night (Dec)

Proposed School/Community Spirit and Parent Engagement

2022/2023 Financial Objectives

- Fundraise to \$10,000 (inc school fundraising goal)
- Gain funding from Pro grant (partner with other local PS to host event together)

Approved Initiatives

- Meet and greet with parents and sell pizza/water @ curriculum night
- Proposed sales of pencils and air dough
- Movie nights
- Big Box Cards
- Pink shirt sales (spirit wear day)
- Krispy Kreme fundraiser
- End of Year Fun Fair/BBQ

Proposed Lunch Vendors

- TastyYa
- Subway

Proposed Lunch Programs

- Karate
- Cooking
- Art
- Drama

Still under discussion

- Kindness week / Weekly snack shop / Pro Grant / Ice cream sales

Next Steps:

- The council need assistance with all proposed initiatives – if you have time or experience to spare please reach out to us via Ms. Swerling and we will happily welcome you to join a sub committee that suits your interests.
- The proposed fun fair/bbq is our biggest initiative to date – we are looking for sponsors and volunteers to help make the event a success.

Promote School Council Communication

Accomplishments

- Enabled hybrid and in person meeting Wed Sept 28 & November 2, 2022

Next proposed meeting dates:

- Jan 11 2023
- March 1st 2023
- May 10th 2023

- Minutes are taken at every council meeting and are available for all to read on the school website or can be obtained from the school office

- Regular communication in weekly school newsletter

- Subcommittees meet regularly with executive council

- Whole school community are welcome to participate in council meetings. Only executive have voting rights.

- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter : @violaDesmondYR

Who are we?

Co-chairs: Sarah & Pam
Treasurer: Tali
Fundraising: Liana, Jodie, Jacky, Sabrina
Lunch Programs: Tanya
Members at large: Keren, Nasrin, Courtney

Workshops and Events – York Hills Fall Group services.

For the most accurate and updated information you can access all our upcoming groups and webinars through York Hills website.

Groups: <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/group-services/>

Webinars: <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/workshopsandwebinars/>

You can also find our webinars on Eventbrite. Follow us on Eventbrite for any updates or additions to our webinar schedules.

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/york-hills-centre-for-children-youth-and-families-10725006171>

The York Region District School Board, in collaboration with Taibu
Community Health Centre
Black Health Alliance: Pathways to Care Project &
Support and Growth, invites you to

Moving Forward Hand in Hand

Parent/caregiver series supporting students of African Caribbean Canadian
Heritage

Free 4-part workshop series for the 2022-2023 school year

Workshop 1 of 4

**Understanding the impacts of anti-Black racism on children and youth mental
health**

November 23rd, 5:00- 6:30 PM

LOCATION: [Thornhill Community Center](#)

November 30th, 5:00- 6:30 PM

LOCATION: [Newmarket Community Center](#)

Locations are accessible to persons using mobility devices

Join us for an evening of community, conversation, light
refreshments and knowledge exchange.

Please [Register here](#) by November 20th

For more information, please contact the YRDSB Community Care Team School Social Workers for the
African Caribbean Diaspora Tracy Thomas-Elleston, tracy.thomas-elleston@yrdsb.ca or Melanie
Beckford melanie.beckford@yrdsb.ca.



Introduction to Mental Health 認識心理健康/ 心理健康

This session in Mandarin and Cantonese will help you gain an understanding of mental health, mental health issues, associated stigma and coping strategies and community resources.

這講座將讓大家了解什麼是心理健康、心理健康問題、相關的謬誤、應對策略和社區資源

講座將帮助大家與心理健康相關的一些常見問題以及應對策略和社區資源

To register for a Mandarin session:

[點擊這裡報名普通話講座](#) or scan the QR code



To register for a Cantonese session:

[點擊這裡報名國語講座](#) or scan QR code



HONG FOOK
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

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

Date: **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

Time: **7-8:30pm**

Location: Google Meet link will be provided upon registration.

Presenters:

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

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

Hannah Xu (MPH)

Hong Fook Mental Health Association
Youth Program Worker

For more information, please contact:

Community Care Team
School Social Worker
Charmaine Tong
charmaine.tong@yrdsb.ca

Inclusive School and Community Services
Community & Partnership Developer
Pauline Guo
pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca

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



Worth Repeating:

School Start-Up Forms

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/>

Safety Before and After School

Our school follows a soft entry model. Doors are open from 8:55–9:10 am and staff supervise students indoors. There is no staff supervising outside on the school yard. The expectation is for students to enter the building as they arrive.

- Please do not leave your children unsupervised before or after school. This includes dropping them off at the kiss and ride loop to wait for the bell to ring.
- Please do not allow your children to ride scooters or bicycles on school grounds during arrival or dismissal
- Please do not play soccer on the playground during arrival or dismissal

We have many parents, grandparents and children on our property during arrival and dismissal, and we want to keep everyone safe.