

Week of November 6, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Nov.	Hindu Heritage Month
Nov. 2-9	Holocaust Education Week
Nov. 6-20	Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser - details below
Nov. 8	School Council Meeting 6:30 PM
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day assembly at 11:30 AM (Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend)
Nov. 16 (PM) and Nov. 17 (AM)	Parent teacher conferences - more info to follow
Nov. 17	PA Day (parent teacher conferences). Students do not attend school.
Nov. 28	Gr. 7 and 8 Immunization Clinic

[VDPS Website and Calendar](#)

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



Daylight Savings

A friendly reminder that we turn back the clocks this weekend. We hope you enjoy the extra hour!

Fall Dance

Thank you so much to all our parent volunteers for helping to make our Fall Dance a huge success! The decorations looked fantastic and students loved the glow sticks.

We are also so proud of our Gr. 8 leaders who planned the music, and then took turns being DJs, Dance Leaders, and quiet activity leaders throughout the day.





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

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for students in SK-Gr. 8 will be held in person on November 16th (after school) and 17th (morning). You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and learn more about the classroom.

Families will use Edsby, an online platform, to schedule a meeting time with their child's teacher. You will receive an invitation to sign up for a meeting time once the schedules are available.

[Edsby](#) is a cloud-based platform that lets families easily reserve times to meet with your child(ren)'s teachers. YRDSB in partnership with Edsby have created a secure platform that protects the privacy of information for families.

Families that already have an Edsby account may use their previously created account. Families who **do not have** an Edsby account will need to create one to access the online appointment scheduler for their child's teachers for the virtual conference. **An up-to-date and valid email address must be provided to your child's home school.** For help creating an Edsby account, [instructions can be found on the Board website](#). An email from York Region District School Board with instructions on how to create an Edsby account will be sent to your email inbox. If you do not receive the email, please check your junk mail folder to ensure you do not miss this opportunity.

Below is the sample invitation email sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) on behalf of YRDSB.

Edsby has been chosen by [school board name] to provide a modern way for parents and guardians to follow their children's progress at school, receive school updates, and much more.

You are receiving this Edsby invitation because you are listed as a parent or guardian of Lily Goddard.

To activate a new Edsby account, or to connect this student to your existing Edsby account, please [click here to accept](#).

If you have any questions regarding Edsby please contact the school office.

To watch a video that describes how to set up your parent account please use the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/edsby/edsby-help-videos-for-school-administrators/video/144798060>

If this message was sent to you in error, or you do not wish to join Edsby, please [click here to decline](#).

Important Timelines

- November 8th** Interview scheduler opens at 9:00 a.m. for booking. Log into your Edsby account. An invitation to book appointments will be sent to your Edsby account and a notification to your email. Instructions for signing up for interview slots are found [here](#).
- November 14th** Interview Scheduler closes at 4:00 p.m.
- November 16 - 17th** Parent Teacher Conferences. Students are welcome to attend with their parents.

Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser **November 6-20**

We are raising money for our school and participating with Terra Cotta Cookies to bring you delicious, peanut and nut-free cookies you will love. There are 13 items to choose from total. There are 12 flavours of delicious cookie dough (including 2 gluten free choices and a vegan option!) each box contains 40 x 20g "Dough Drops™".



Store the compact boxes in your freezer and easily bake when you want warm, fresh cookies. You can bake as few or as many as you would like at a time! (Make sure you stock up because they won't last long once you taste them!) There is also an option for already baked shortbread in a lovely gift box, perfect for gift giving.

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](#).

School Start-Up Forms

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