



## Week of October 30, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Oct. 31	Fall Dance School Spirit Wear Orders - last day for free shipping to school
Nov.	Hindu Heritage Month
Nov. 1	Gr. 8s visiting Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School
Nov. 2-9	Holocaust Education Week
Nov. 3	Picture Day
Nov. 6-20	Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser - details to follow
Nov. 8	School Council Meeting 6:30 PM
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day assembly at 11:30 AM
Nov. 16 (PM) and Nov. 17 (AM)	Parent teacher conferences - more info to follow
Nov. 28	Gr. 7 and 8 Immunization Clinic

[VDPS Website and Calendar](#)

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

### **Holocaust Education Week**

The week of November 2nd to 9th marks the annual Holocaust Education Week. Learning about the Holocaust in classrooms, schools, and workplaces across the YRDSB is critical to countering antisemitism and other forms of hate.

The Holocaust was the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish people by the Nazi regime and its allies, and it's critical that we not allow this cruel chapter of modern history to fade from memory. During Holocaust Education Week, we also want to acknowledge that people of colour, the Romas, people with physical disabilities, and those who identify as 2SLGBTQI+, among others, were targeted and murdered by the Nazis. As one means of working towards a world free of intolerance, racism, discrimination, and hatred, educators are encouraged to discuss the Holocaust and the many

people who put their lives on the line in the face of antisemitism and other forms of hate.

Our students will participate in age appropriate learning during Holocaust Education Week.

### **School Council – Fall Dance Oct. 31**

Our VDPS School Council is helping to organise a Fall Dance scheduled for Tuesday, October 31. Students will rotate through the gym for an active period of dancing and fun. Everyone will also be offered a snack and a glow stick. We will have an alternate space and activities available for students who do not want to participate in the dance. More details to follow.



### **Halloween**

Regular teaching and learning will make up most of the day on **Tuesday, October 31**. For students who wish to celebrate Halloween at school by dressing in costume, please keep these reminders in mind:

- No replica weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Costumes should be respectful of others. Symbols or objects representative of a person's culture or religious beliefs should not be worn as a costume.
- Students may wish to wear orange/black or autumn colours instead of costumes.
- No Halloween masks may be worn.
- Students will not be able to use washrooms to change into costumes, so they should wear something that is comfortable and appropriate for outdoor play during recess.
- Treats and other food items may not be shared.
- After Halloween, please remember to keep all snacks containing nuts at home.

### **Hindu Heritage Month**

On December 8, 2016, the province of Ontario designated November as Hindu Heritage Month as outlined in the Hindu Heritage Month Act. November 2022

marked Canada's first official Hindu Heritage month. Hindus first arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century. During various waves of immigration, Hindus from all parts of the world continued to make Canada their home from the 1960s to present day. Canada is the proud home to nearly 830,000 Canadians of Hindu heritage, and many have settled in the Greater Toronto Area, including York Region.

## **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/>

## **PA Day – November 17**

Please see below for information about the next Professional Activity Day.

**Length:** Full Day

**Topic:** Report Card Preparation, Reporting to Parents, Ongoing Communication

**Entity Hosting:** All Elementary Schools

**Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s):** Parent/Teacher Interviews onsite

**Description:** Parent/Teacher Interview on site. Full Day of Professional activities focused on reporting to parents and ongoing communication regarding student achievement and well-being, involving Parent/Teacher Interviews.

## **A Message from York Region Public Health**

The image is a promotional flyer for York Region Public Health. It features a blue and green color scheme. At the top left, a green speech bubble contains the text 'HEY PARENTS!'. To its right, the text 'KEEP YOUR KIDS HEALTHY AND IN SCHOOL' is written in white on a blue background. Below this, the question 'Are your child's immunizations up to date?' is posed in blue. Underneath, it states 'It's your responsibility to tell York Region Public Health, not your doctor's.' in blue. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, with the text 'Update online now! york.ca/GetImmunized' next to it. On the right side, there is a photograph of three diverse children smiling. At the bottom right, the York Region logo is displayed, featuring a stylized star and the text 'York Region'.

# VDPS Weekly



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

## **School Spirit Wear**

School Spirit Wear for 2023-2024 is available on our [School Spirit Wear Store](#). Orders placed by October 31st are eligible for free shipping to the school.

VIOLA DESMOND  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
**SPIRIT WEAR  
IS BACK!**

T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, SWEATPANTS, HATS AND  
MORE ARE ALL AVAILABLE AT OUR SCHOOL  
SPIRIT WEAR STORE.

[HTTPS://VIOLADESMONDPS.TOPUNIFORMS.STORE/](https://violadesmondps.topuniforms.store/)

CLASS OF 2024 HOODIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR  
OUR GRADE 8 GRADUATES.

FREE SHIP TO SCHOOL OPTION AVAILABLE UNTIL  
OCTOBER 31ST  
PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

# YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!

Friday, November 3rd, 2023



## Showcase Your Best Smile

- Students will be photographed at school.
- On photo day, no order form or payment is due.
- Review your images and purchase online with ease!



### DON'T FORGET

School photos are a Canadian tradition to capture the school year and preserve your continued growth.



### GET REMINDERS

Sign up for notifications at [edgeimaging.ca/photoday](https://edgeimaging.ca/photoday) to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.



## 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](mailto:oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca) or 416-568-2252.

[Register Here](#)