

Week of September 25, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Sept. 25-29	Safety Week
Sept. 28	Terry Fox Event- Please submit permission forms
Sept. 29	Observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 4	School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Curriculum Night
Nov. 3	Picture Day

Wishing all who are observing Yom Kippur, a meaningful day

Fall Fun Day

We had a fantastic Fall Fun Day! Thank you to all the staff who organised the event and to the student leaders and student participants.

It was wonderful to see all of our students learning new cooperative games, taking turns, and being kind to one another. We also learned that *lots* of our students really enjoy apple sauce pouches as a healthy snack.



Terry Fox Event

On Thursday, September 28th students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be taking part in the annual Terry Fox School Walk/Run (Rain date - October 5th).

Our school is proud to play an important role in keeping the legacy of Terry Fox going. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the heroic efforts of Terry over the next few weeks as well as raise much needed funds for cancer research. Through our participation in the Terry Fox School Walk/Run, we are encouraging leadership in our students and creating positive agents of change in our school community and beyond.



Please consider making a donation to the Terry Fox Foundation this year. **You can make an online donation** at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ViolaDesmondPublicSchool> or, if you prefer, you can **send a toonie or five dollar bill in with your child** - every Toonie for Terry or Fiver for Fox makes a difference! Our fundraising goal is \$1200 and all donations go directly to support cancer research, donations will be accepted until October 6th.

We are very excited to be part of this year's event, thank you so much in advance for your support!

Lunch Assistants Needed

If you or someone you know is available to work as a lunch assistant from 1:00-2:00 PM daily, please contact the office for more information. This is a paid position.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

Every year on September 30, Canadians observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. It is a day to educate and promote awareness of residential schools and their lasting legacies of trauma, suffering and genocide of Indigenous Peoples. These institutions were designed to assimilate Indigenous children and to eradicate Indigenous cultural practices. The topic of residential schools first appears in the newly revised Social Studies curriculum in Grade 1. Given the observance of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, many Educators K-12 will take on this topic as part of their instructional program.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, observed on September 30th in Canada, is a solemn occasion dedicated to acknowledging the historical and ongoing injustices faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit. It serves as a vital step towards reconciliation and understanding, providing an opportunity to learn about the painful legacy of residential schools and the enduring trauma experienced by Indigenous communities. On this day, schools across the country also recognize Orange Shirt Day, which specifically remembers the story of Phyllis Webstad, a survivor of the residential school system, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day at school. These events in schools take on a solemn tone as students and educators engage in activities and discussions that foster empathy, respect, and awareness of the hardships endured by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations. We encourage YRDSB staff and students



to wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 29, 2023, to recognize the resiliency, bravery and survival of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.

Safety Week

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, building occupants and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 25 to 29, 2023) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to Board Policy #669.0 for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

General Supports for Emotional Well-Being:

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7, <https://kidshelpphone.ca/>
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.
- Trans Lifeline: <https://translifeline.org/>
- Black Youth Helpline: <https://blackyouth.ca/>
- Naseeha Helpline: <https://naseeha.org/>
- 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: <https://www.youthline.ca/>



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

Bus Transportation

Please go to the [School Bus City website](#) to confirm your bus stop or get information regarding transportation delays.

If there is a change in your child's transportation needs, please email the office (viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca) so we can update our records.

We know that there have been several buses that are experiencing delays. We have communicated with Transportation Services, and they are working on a solution. Thank you for your patience and understanding

School Council

All parents/guardians are invited to participate in our School Council. If you are interested in running for an elected position, please complete the nomination form that will be shared in the YRDSB school forms email that will be sent out shortly. The first School Council meeting for this school year and the elections will take place on **Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

School Cash Online

Please sign up for School Cash Online as soon as possible. We will soon be posting hot lunch programs and other items available for purchase.

Field trips, yearbooks, fundraisers and some **hot lunch programs** are paid for by families using School Cash Online. If you already have an account, ensure it is set up to provide you with **notifications** of new items.

If you do not yet have an account, please see the information below with instructions for setting up an account.

Workshops and Events



A Different Kind of Healthcare

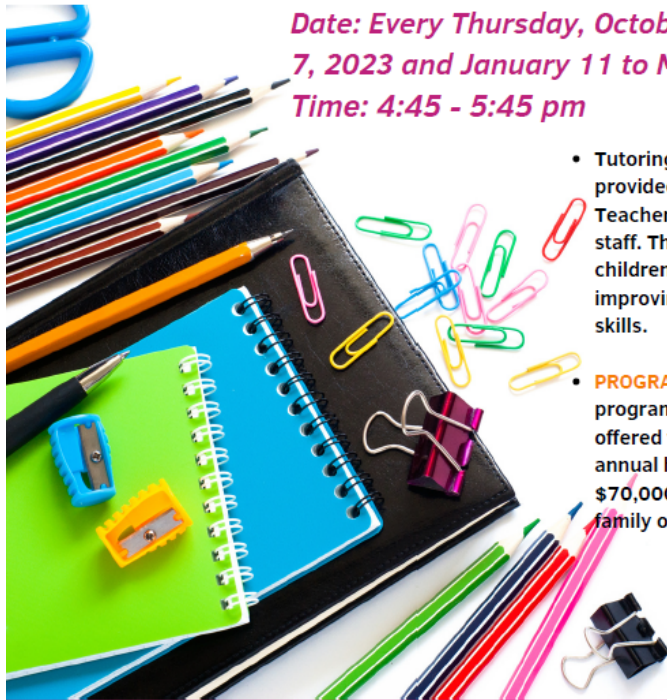


Ready for Success Tutoring Program

Free Math and English group tutoring program for students in grades 1 to 6

Date: Every Thursday, October 12 to December 7, 2023 and January 11 to March 28, 2024

Time: 4:45 - 5:45 pm



- Tutoring and program activities are provided by York University's Teacher Candidates and VCHC staff. Through group tutoring, children and tutors focus on improving literacy and numeracy skills.
- **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:** The program is free of charge and is offered to families with a gross annual household income of \$70,000.00 or less (based on a family of 4).

To register, contact Kelly:

EMAIL: Klo@vaughanchc.com

CALL: 905-303-8490 Ext. 2653

If awaiting email communications from VCHC staff, please remember to check "junk" folder in your inbox to ensure you receive our email communications.

 [@vaughan_chc](https://twitter.com/vaughan_chc)

 [vaughan.vchc](https://www.facebook.com/vaughan.vchc)

 [@vaughancommunityhealthcentre](https://www.instagram.com/vaughancommunityhealthcentre)

 www.vaughanchc.com

This flyer can be provided in an alternative format.

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND

Pow Wow 2023

BSKAABIYAAN
Returning to Self

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

Dance Specials! \$\$\$

EMCEE - MEEGWANS SNAKE
HOST DRUM - WHITETAIL CREE
HEAD DANCERS - ASHLEY & SID MANESS
ARENA DIRECTOR - ANIMIKEENCE PLAIN

SUNDAY SUNRISE CEREMONY + SUNDAY GIVEAWAY

REGISTRATION OPENS 11AM GRAND ENTRY 12PM	SUTTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL 20798 Dalton Road, Georgina, ON	CONTACT INFO Lauri Hoeg Pow Wow Coordinator 289-716-4193 lauri.hoeg@georginaisland.com Find us on Facebook by searching "Georgina Island Pow Wow 2023"
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\$2 ADMISSION

**THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT
PLEASE NO PETS**



Pow Wow Protocols

- Do your research before you attend. Pow wows are fun events, but they are also sacred. Learn about the history and significance of pow wows.
- Listen to the MC and follow their instructions. They will guide you on protocol.
- Be respectful at the event.
- Ask before taking photos. There are some times that should not be photographed.
- Pets are not permitted to attend. This community event is also alcohol and drug-free.
- Do not touch a dancer's regalia. It is not a costume.
- Bring your own chair. Do not sit in someone else's chair, or a seat reserved for someone else.
- Remember that you are a guest. Have fun and ask questions.