



Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **April 12th, 2024**



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Multifaith Observances

Best wishes to all families observing celebrations!

[Here is the link](#) to the Multifaith calendar.

[Here is the link](#) to the YRDSB list of significant faith day observances.

Wishing staff, students, and families Happy Vaisakhi on April 13, 2024!

[Click here to view YRDSB's Diamond Day Series about Vaisakhi](#)

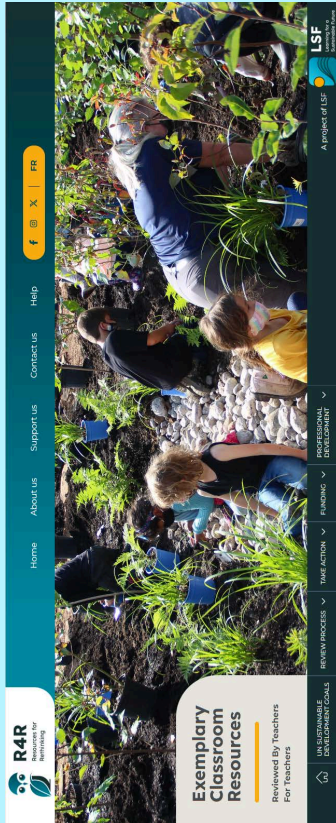
What's Up Windham Community Calendar

[What's Up Windham Community Calendar](#)



April is Earth Month

April 22 is Earth Day!



Small Steps Can Make Big Change This Earth Month

It's Earth Month and there are steps we can all take to help reduce our environmental footprint.

- Use active travel. Taking the school bus and walking, riding or biking to school helps reduce pollution and traffic congestion in our neighbourhoods. It's also great for your mental health, well-being and academic performance.
 - If you drive, consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules). Even this small change can make a difference.
 - The walk to school is also a great time to connect, look for signs of spring and appreciate the changing season.
- Reduce your energy and water use.
 - ◆ Turn off lights, TVs, computers, when you do not need them
 - ◆ Turn off the tap when you're not using the water.
- Reduce your waste.
 - ◆ Using a refillable water bottle for example, helps to reduce the use of plastic water bottles.
 - ◆ Bring your own bags to the store. Reuse whatever items you can. Repair items that are broken instead of throwing them away.
 - ◆ Recycle wherever possible instead of contributing to the landfill.
- Plant a tree, native plant or vegetable garden.
 - ◆ Learn about native species and plants that attract birds, bees and butterflies.

Explore the outdoors! There is no better way to celebrate Earth Week than going for a walk.

Check out [York Regional Forest](#) to discover nature in your backyard. Want to take your Earth Day celebrations out of the classroom? Why not visit one of Ontario's 290 conservation areas? [Here's a map](#) to help you locate the one nearest to you.

Don't forget to check [Whose Land](#) to acknowledge whose territory you are on.

For inspiration on using nature as a classroom, Resources for Rethinking offers a [Step Outside guide](#) that highlights what's happening in nature seasonally.

To amplify the effects, turn Earth Day into Earth Week or Earth Month and select a variety of activities to support collective learning and action for a week or month.

Working together, we can all help to take steps to protect this beautiful planet we live on.

The Great Big Crunch!



A loud 'CRUNCH' was heard across Windham Ridge PS on Friday April 12th!

Staff and students crunched into local Ontario apples ordered for each staff and student in support of healthy food at school!

WRPS recognized International Day of Pink on Friday April 13, 2024!



<https://www.cbc.ca/kids/watch/video/2171199043584>

International Day of Pink is intended to create a more inclusive and diverse world. The Day of Pink originated in Eastern Canada, after a few young students decided to stand up against homophobia, bullying and toxic masculinity ([CBC](#)).

Although the first Day of Pink occurred 17 years ago, the 2SLGBTQI+ community and students continue to experience homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. Schools and workplaces need to commit to raising awareness, building inclusion and eliminating discrimination for students in 2SLGBTQI+ communities.



On Friday, we listened to the story [Say Something by Peter H. Reynolds](#).

We discussed the importance of inclusion beyond wearing pink. We agreed that inclusion needs actions & words.

Students were left to consider their own 'speech bubbles'. [Click here to watch the story and explore this challenge posed to WRPS students.](#)

**'Pause To Play'
Challenge
is coming back to
WRPS!**

**In partnership with
York Region Public
Health**

**School-wide
Challenge**



Research indicates that physical activity can help support mental health and wellness in children and youth. It can also promote positive emotions and self-esteem.

We will be encouraging students to power down all electronic devices. Reducing recreational screen time (outside of school or homework) is important to decrease sedentary behaviour, increase physical activity and improve concentration and the ability to learn.

This school-wide challenge will take place from April 22-26.



Students will be bringing home a one-week tracking sheet to track their screen time in comparison to physical activity time.

We invite families, who are interested in participating, to complete the tracking sheet and initial it each evening and remind their children to bring it back the next day. This school-wide challenge is one of the components of our Healthy Schools Action Plan in partnership with York Region Public Health.

**Clean Up
Green Up**



This year we have registered once again for the City of Richmond Hill's **Clean Up Green Up** initiative for Earth Day.

This will take place on **Friday, April 26th throughout the day.**

Students will be receiving small bags, gloves, and clothespins to collect litter on our school property to be picked up for disposal by Richmond Hill services.

We look forward to continued actions to demonstrate respect and care for our outdoor spaces.

**2024 Grade 8
Reach Ahead**

**For Registration information
- click on the following link:
<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/elementary-school/summer-programs/2024-grade-8-reach-ahead>**

The York Region District School Board will once again be offering Grade 8 Reach Ahead programs where students can earn a high school credit! This course is for students who are currently completing Grade 8 and entering Grade 9 this Fall.

These 18-day acceleration courses start Wednesday, July 3 and end Friday, July 26.

Students are required to attend class from 8:45 a.m. to 3:33 p.m., with two 15-minute scheduled breaks and a 40-minute lunch period. Register early to avoid disappointment. Decisions to run courses are based on sufficient enrolment and teacher availability.

2024 Elementary Summer School

2024 Elementary Summer School

Grade 6, 7 and 8 Summer School (In-Person and Remote Learning)

Grade 6, 7 and 8 Summer School (In-Person and Remote Learning)

The York Region District School Board offers a Grade 6, 7 & 8 Summer School program. This 15-day literacy and numeracy program is designed to reinforce curriculum and is not an acceleration opportunity. Students must register in the program for their current school grade. For example, a grade 7 student would register for the grade 7 program as it reinforces grade 7 content.

Additional resources are being added to this program to support student success in de-streamed Grade 9 programs. This program will be offered both in-person and through remote learning. Students must select their preference of learning model at the time of registration.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/elementary-school/summer-programs/2024-elementary-summer-school>

Supports for Students with Autism and their families

This session will support parents, guardians and families with:

- Understanding Autism
- Process for diagnosis
- YRDSB referral process
- School supports
- Community resources

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Location: Unionville High School, 201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON L3R 8G5

Please **register** by Apr. 28, 2024.

This free information session is organized by Inclusive School and Community Services in partnership with Student Services of York Region District School Board.

For more information, please email shani.blake@yrdsb.ca or pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca Please note that Childcare will not be provided.

School Council Meeting



**Wednesday April 17, 2024
6:30pm-8:00pm**

**Virtually and in person
(school library)**

Virtual login information:
Microsoft Teams meeting

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 237 512 076
312

Passcode: SFKVcG

All parents/guardians are invited to join us on Wednesday April 17th for the School Council Meeting. See agenda below:

1	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acknowledgement African Ancestor Acknowledgement • Approval of minutes
2	<p>Administrators' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent Show • Carnaval • Grade 8 Trip- Ottawa, May 8-10 • Autism Awareness Month • Eboni Morgan visit • The Big Crunch • Pause to Play • Clean Up Green Up • International Day of Pink • Primary PD • Gardening Club • Alpha Rhythm Roots • Swim to Survive • VORC • Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Assembly • EQAO • PEAC- April 18 • Crossing Guard (Red Cardinal & Lupine)- returned April 15 • Cost Sharing Update and School Council Purchases Update

3	<p>Teachers' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest of Reading Trip to Harbourfront • Sports (basketball, volleyball, badminton) • Science Fair • Club Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reading Club ◦ <u>Colouring Club</u> • Intramurals- indoor soccer • Jump Rope • Grade 6 Social Studies Fair
4	<p>Treasurer's report</p>

5	<p>Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising- Class Experiences • Parent Engagement • Pro Grant speakers- \$600- Paul Davis (possible lunchtime session) • Grants: Tree Planting grant • Healthy Spaces • Volunteers • Communications: spring newsletter & class experiences • Student Programs: Robotics
6	<p>New Business: Submit new business items to Jodie and Parvaz via wrpcouncil3@gmail.com by Monday April 15, 2024.</p>
<p>Proposed Future Council Meeting Dates : June 5th</p>	