



# Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **December 8th, 2023**



(Click on the numbered items to be linked directly to your selection on this PDF.)

1. [What's up Windham Community Calendar](#)
2. [Multifaith Observances](#)
3. [Author Visit Eboni Morgan](#)
4. [Gingerbread House Fundraiser](#)
5. [Safe Arrival on Inclement Weather Days, Student Absences and Reporting Extended Absences and Vacations](#)
6. [Winter Spirit Wear Week](#)
7. [Yearbook Cover Contest](#)
8. [Grade 8 Popcorn Fundraiser](#)
9. [Youth Speak Presentations, November 30](#)
10. [WRPS School Council Holiday Giving Campaign](#)
11. [Windham Ridge's Talent Show](#)
12. [Learning in Grade 8- Watershed on Wheels](#)

*What's Up  
Windham Community  
Calendar*

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



## Multifaith Observances

Best wishes to all families observing celebrations over the next two weeks!

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

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

## Author Eboni Morgan visits WRPS



### Eboni Morgan's Bio:

My first book, *A Year of Black Girl Magic*, sparked my community work as a way to continue to elevate Black students and the Black community through positive representation, accessible education, Black-focused programming, resources and

support. My passion lies within catalyzing students with a fulfilling, enjoyable university experience. In my free time I love to write, practice yoga, and dance!

Eboni is a graduate from Toronto Metropolitan University and lives in Ontario with her parents.

Eboni will be working with students in grades 4-8 on December 14 and December 15. We look forward to learning from Eboni.

## Gingerbread Fundraiser

Windham Ridge staff will continue with the tradition of creating beautiful works of art through gingerbread house creations.



Students have the option to donate money to get tickets that can then be placed into the buckets of their choice, to get a chance to take home that specific gingerbread creation.

Donations will be accepted and tickets will be distributed beginning on Thursday December 14th until Wednesday December 20th at 10am. The draw will take place on Wednesday December 20th at noon and the gingerbread houses/ creations will be sent home with the lucky winners the same day. Parents will be called to help transport the gingerbread houses/creations home.

- 1 ticket for \$1 donation
- 7 tickets for \$5 donation

Please log into your School Cash Online account to make your donation. All monies raised will be donated to a charity decided by the school's Social Justice Committee.

**Safe Arrival on  
Inclement Weather  
Days  
Student Absences and  
Reporting Extended  
Absences and  
Vacations**

**IMPORTANT TO KNOW: Safe Arrival on Inclement Weather Days:**

If your child is normally dropped off by parents on a regular basis or walks to school, please report the **Absence in EDSBY** before 8:40 am. If the office is unsuccessful in reaching parents or emergency contacts on the Inclement Weather Day, the school is required to call the police to ensure the safety and location of the student.

**Reporting your child's Absence and late:**

**EDSBY**- Please report your child's ABSENCE or LATE by logging into your Edsby account or on your Edsby app. If your child plans on arriving to school LATE, "Create an Absence" and enter *arrival details* in the comment section indicating their late arrival.

**Reporting your child's Extended Absence and Vacation:**

Please notify the school office if your child/ren will be leaving on an early vacation before the start of the winter break or will not be returning to school on Monday January 8th. A PLANNED ABSENCE can be reported by parents In [Edsby](#).

If students are absent more than 15 days, a [Notification of Expected Return to School form](#) will need to be filled out by parents and handed in to the school before the student starts on the extended leave. A copy of this [form](#) can be found on the School's Website.

If the parents/guardians do not report the absence before January 8th and If the office is unsuccessful in reaching parents or emergency contacts in the new year, the school is required to call the police to ensure the safety and location of the student.

**Grade 8 Popcorn  
Fundraiser**





Our grade 8 students will be distributing *Kernels* popcorn for \$3 each during lunch time every Friday, from December 8th to December 22nd to support Grade 8 Graduation events, June 2024. Orders must be placed in advance on [School Cash Online](#) and no cash orders will be permitted.

Orders placed by Thurs Dec. 14 - delivery will be Friday Dec 22nd

## Winter Spirit Week 2023!

We invite students to participate in this year's Spirit Week! Thank you to student leaders for finalizing these choices! A reminder that participation in Spirit Days is voluntary.

### Winter Spirit Week @ Windham Ridge P.S. 2023!

lundi le 18 décembre	mardi le 19 décembre	mercredi le 20 décembre	jeudi le 21 décembre	vendredi le 22 décembre
 <p><b>Inside Out Day</b></p> <p>Wear an item of clothing inside out as a way of making us all stop and think. Be kind because you never know how someone is feeling inside.</p>	 <p><b>Vacation Day!</b></p> <p>Imaginez la chaleur du soleil de l'été à la plage ou le soleil d'hiver en faisant du patinage!</p> <p>Choisissez votre tenue préférée pour une journée de soleil!</p>	 <p><b>Festive Winter Hat Day!</b></p> <p>Avez-vous une tuque festive ou une tuque préférée pour célébrer l'arrivée du congé? <u>Phoenixes</u>-montrez vos esprits hivernale!</p>	 <p><b>Sports Day!</b></p> <p>Portez des vêtements sportifs, comme des maillots ou des casquettes, pour montrer ton 'look' Fifa ou sportif!</p>	 <p><b>Cozy Clothes Day!</b></p> <p>Finissons l'année 2023 ensemble, enveloppés dans nos vêtements préférés et chaleureux!</p>

## Yearbook Cover Contest

We are thrilled to inform you that there will be a **Yearbook Cover Contest** in our school. Students are welcomed to share their creativity and take part in this event. Participants can work individually, in partners or in a group. Please take a look at the criteria listed below. Two individual students' cover's will be chosen to be on the front or back of the 2023-2024 yearbook.

Students will be able to drop off their cover at Mme Saadati's room, room 119 by **Friday January 12th**. Please encourage your child (children) to read the criteria if they are interested in participating.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Date for submission : Friday January 12th
- Windham Ridge colours
- Name of school
- Slogan "Dare to dream"/touchstone
- Year (2023-2024)
- Your name at the bottom right corner



**Yearbook Cover Contest!**  
Due by: Friday, Jan 12

**CRITERIA**

- NO PHOENIX
- Windham Colours
- Name of school
- Slogan/touchstone
- Year [2023-2024]
- Name, bottom right corner
- Size of paper: 8.5" by 11"
- Include French and English words

**BE CREATIVE**  
Feel free to work with friends!

• Possible themes:  
-Community  
-collaboration





### Presentations:

Thursday November 30, 2023

- Think outside the box + be creative
- Possible themes : community and collaboration
- Size of the paper 8 and 1/2 x 11
- French + English
- Images that don't include a Phoenix

We were so happy to have Youth Speak back to Windham Ridge to support our students with continued learning about mental health and well being. The students were very engaged in the sessions.

See program descriptions below of the learning that your child(ren) engaged in:

#### Grades 1-3: Building a Self-Care Toolkit:

An interactive program that is designed to introduce primary aged children to emotions, feelings words and coping tools. Participants will follow along on a forest adventure with Skippy and Rory. As they face obstacles, they will use tools they collect along the way. Skippy and Rory will use teamwork to overcome and work through these challenges to make it through the forest. Participants will learn coping skills and strategies to use in their lives when they face challenges and obstacles.

#### Grades 4-6, 7-8: Online Overdrive

@YouthSpeakCAN presenters shared authentic stories with students in grades 4-8, specific to online habits & well being. This one-hour assembly will provide students with a deeper look into the impact that online use may have on their mental health and overall well-being. Youth Speakers sharing their personal stories affected their self-esteem, choices, social groups, and self-concept. Students will leave with a greater understanding of the choices they are making online and how to interact and use technology in a healthier way. We look forward to continued learning and partnerships with Youth Speak as the year progresses.

**Online Overdrive Student Tip Sheet (Gr. 4-6)**

**PRACTICE SAFE ONLINE HABITS**

- **USE PRIVACY SETTINGS:** Turn your LOCATION off while on devices and apps.
- **BE MINDFUL OF TIME SPENT ONLINE:** Being mindful helps you to not overuse time spent on apps and devices. Try not to spend more time on your device before bed.
- **Only go to chat rooms that are credible.** For example, Kids Help Phone (www.kidshelpline.ca)
- **BE CAREFUL** what you post on social media.
- **Only accept and add people you know.**
- **DO NOT ACCEPT STRANGERS.**

**EFFECTS OF ONLINE OVERUSE**

- Poor sleep quality
- Body image concerns
- Negative thoughts & comparisons
- Isolation
- Lack of social skills
- May cause procrastination and short attention span
- A strain on shoulders, neck, and back

**FLIP THE SWITCH**

**ASK YOURSELF:** Are my comments helping someone, hurting someone, including myself?

**THINK BEFORE YOU HIT SEND.**

**Online Overdrive Student Tip Sheet (Gr. 7-12)**

**SAFE ONLINE HABITS**

**SETTINGS:** Turn OFF LOCATION while on devices and apps. **TAKE TIME:** This helps to not overuse your apps and devices. Try not to spend your device before bed. **CHAT ROOMS:** Only go to chat rooms that are credible. For example, Kids Help Phone (www.kidshelpline.ca) **POSTING:** Be careful what you post on social media and add people you know before you post.

**EFFECTS OF ONLINE OVERUSE**

- Poor sleep quality
- Body image concerns
- Negative thoughts & comparisons
- Isolation
- Lack of social skills
- May cause procrastination and short attention span
- A strain on shoulders, neck, and back

**YOUTH SPEAK FOR SELF-CARE STRATEGIES, RESOURCES, INFO AND MUCH MORE!**

www.youthspeak.ca (505) 567-0604 office@youthspeak.ca

#youthspeakcan @youthspeakcan youthspeakevents

have on their mental well-being. Youth their personal stories affected their

## WRPS School Council Holiday Giving Campaign



The Windham Ridge School Council toy drive, in partnership with TAIBU Community Health Center, is well underway! Thank you to those who have contributed. We still have a need for items in the 13-14 year old range.

Suggestions include:

1. Hygiene and grooming products (teen pack with deodorant, face wash, tooth brush, body wash, etc)
2. Sketch book + art pens, pencils, other supplies
3. Anime inspired things like t-shirts or Manga magazines
4. Black Panther items
5. Headphones
6. Bluetooth speakers
7. Face and body hair trimmer
8. Sports equipment (soccer balls, footballs, basketballs)
9. Insulated water bottles or coffee mugs
10. Ring lights, wireless phone chargers, extra long phone charger cords
11. Cookbooks, DIY project kits

Please drop off your donations into the bins outside the front office by **Tuesday December 11.**

WRPS School Council



## Windham Ridge's Talent Show



The time has come for interested students to start thinking about showcasing their talent at our famous Windham Ridge Talent Show. Many students have already signed-up for the talent show and students can continue to sign up until Friday, December 15th.

Auditions will take place late January and early February. The show will take place prior to March break and the date will be shared once it is determined. We are looking forward to student's sharing the amazing talent at WRPS!

**Learning in grade 8!**

**Watershed on Wheels**

**Partnership with  
Toronto and Region  
Conservation  
Authority**

On Friday December 1, the grade 8s took part in "Clean water, Clear Choices" a workshop run by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.



Students learned about the water cycle and where our drinking water comes from. They explored common sources of pollution and how our daily choices impact our watersheds and ecosystems.



Working in small teams, students then explored miniature filtration tools and built a water filtration system to clean polluted water. They discussed which strategies were particularly helpful, and how their filtration systems mirrored processes used to clean our tap water in water treatment plants. Students also learned about types of pollution that are especially difficult to extract, such as medication and microplastics, and what they can do to minimize their impact.

