

# Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **February 16th, 2024**



(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. [February- Black History Month](#)
4. [Early Student Dismissal April 8th](#)
5. [English Scholastic Book Fair](#)
6. [Eboni Morgan Author Visit](#)
7. [March Break](#)
8. [Booster Juice](#)
9. [Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations](#)
10. [Friendship Dance and Class Experiences](#)
11. [Grade 8 Course Selections](#)
12. [Elementary Term 1 Report Card message to families](#)
13. [New Grade 7 and 8 Mental Health Literacy Modules](#)
14. [SEAS Family Engagement Evening](#)
15. [Youth Speak Bullying Prevention - Online Session](#)

## What's Up Windham Community Calendar

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



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

**Multifaith  
Observances**  
Best wishes to all  
families observing  
celebrations!

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

## February is Black History Month

This week, WRPS students and staff engaged in learning with D.O. Gibson about Black Canadian Excellence. Students were excited to learn from D.O. and we invite families to speak to their children about their learning.

Additionally, learning during Black History Month continues in class and on the virtual morning announcements.

Click below to access a video compilation of some of the learning experienced by WRPS students over the course of last week.



[https://youtu.be/SIZ1mqS\\_mqA](https://youtu.be/SIZ1mqS_mqA)

### Student Events and Family Engagement

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - <b>Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr.Joi Spencer and Dr.Kerri Ullucci</b>  <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Online <b>Register to Receive Link</b>
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - <b>Open to All: Student &amp; Families</b> <b>Light refreshments will be served.</b> <b>Register In person Experience</b> <b>Details to be shared upon registration.</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Dr Bette Rm 113

## Early student dismissal April 8th

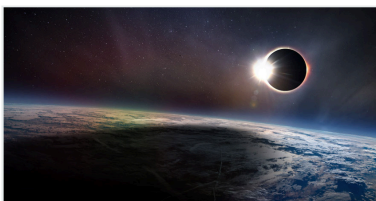
On Monday, April 8, 2024, a full solar eclipse will occur, which will block the sun's light in some areas.

In York Region, we will experience effects of the eclipse between roughly 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., which coincides with the scheduled dismissal times for our schools. We have heard concerns regarding the potential for students being outside and inadvertently looking at the sun, which may cause serious health problems, such as loss of eyesight. We have also heard concerns of traffic and students walking home during peak darkness.

Out of concern for student safety, on April 8, 2024, all students in elementary and secondary schools will be dismissed early. Your school will confirm and communicate the actual dismissal time. Student after school activities will also be cancelled for that afternoon.

#### Your guide to solar eclipses

Very important! Looking directly at the sun, without appropriate protection, can lead to serious problems such as partial or complete loss of eyesight.



©2019, Illustration of a total solar eclipse. (Credit: Canadian Space Agency)

Transportation services such as busing and taxis will be adjusted for the early dismissal. **WRPS students will be dismissed at 11:40am.**

The schedule for student transportation in the morning of April 8 will remain the same. Transportation in the afternoon will be modified to align with the early dismissal time and will be communicated to families.

As you may have seen, some Ontario school boards moved a preexisting April PA Day to coincide with the eclipse on April 8. This is not possible for our board due to contractual obligations, prior commitments and because there is no preexisting April PA Day.

We are working with child care providers to determine their plans for the day. If you have questions about child care, please contact your child's child care provider directly.

The [Government of Canada website](#) has additional information related to solar eclipses that you may review.

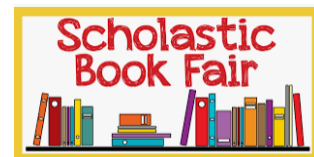
Please know that this decision was made with student safety at its centre. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

YRDSB

## English Scholastic Book Fair



WRPS will be hosting an English Scholastic Book Fair from **March 25th to 28th**. All proceeds are directed back to purchasing resources for the WRPS library!



## 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 March 18th and 19th. We look forward to learning from Eboni.**

## March Break March 11th to 15th



Please notify the school office if your child/ren will be leaving on an early vacation before the start of the March Break or will not be returning to school on Monday March 18th. A PLANNED ABSENCE can be reported by parents In [Edsby](#) at any time before your departure.

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

## Booster Juice Grade 8 Fundraiser



Thank you to all our families who have purchased smoothies to help support grade 8 end-of-year events.

The smoothies will be delivered during lunch time on Tuesday February 20th.

## Caring and Safe Schools Mid- Year Presentations

Monday, February  
26, 2024

To support and promote positive student behaviour, students will attend the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations on **Monday February 26, 2024**. These presentations underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussing school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- YRDSB and School Code of Conduct (including items that are not to be brought to school)
- Staying safe online
- Progressive discipline, and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

### Promoting Behaviour

In the Mid-Year Presentation, students learn about following the YRDSB and the School Code of Conduct. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape

products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

### **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



### **Mental Health**

We will stress the importance of connection to students as we continue the school year. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

### **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were

harmful and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

**Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment**

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

**Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

**For More Information**

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

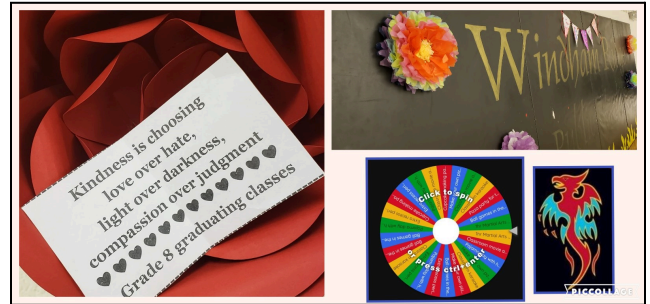
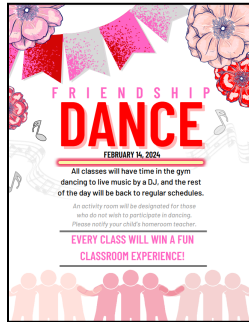
Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

**Grade 8 - Course Selection for Gr 9**

Please be aware that **My Blueprint** is live and students are now able to submit courses for high school starting today until February 23rd at 4:00pm. All students must complete My Blueprint even though they have decided to leave YRDSB.

## Friendship Dance and Class Experiences

Thank you to the  
WRPS School  
Council for  
organizing this  
school event, and to  
the School Council  
and WRPS staff for  
supporting class  
experiences!



Windham Ridge PS gr. 8 leaders, School Council reps, staff, & students danced to tunes of a DJ on Valentine's Day to celebrate kindness, as a school community.

This year each student benefitted from a class experience! On Friday, we used a virtual spinning wheel and each class won a special experience, thanks to support from staff and the WRPS School Council..

See list below of experiences awarded to classes:

Make your own pizza
Cupcake making party for the entire class
Pizza party for the class
Classroom karaoke
Extra recess period for the entire class
Classroom movie and popcorn
Ball games in the gym
Pajama day with hot chocolate
1hr Martial Arts session at school

Ask your child about what class experience they were awarded! Thank you to all families who supported the grade 8's by purchasing a Treat Bag to enjoy at the dance!

## Elementary Term 1 Report Card - Message to families

You will be receiving Term 1 report cards soon and there is new information for families who would like to know more about the revised language curriculum for Grade 1-8 students and Early Reading Screening for year one and two Kindergarten students.

You can find this information on the school board website. The information posted on the website is available in multiple languages using the translation tool drop down menu on the top right corner of the webpage. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

## New Grade 7/8 Mental Health Literacy Modules Support Student Mental Health and Well-being

This fall, the Ministry of Education has introduced a series of three modules per grade to support the **existing mental health literacy expectations** within the grade 7 and 8 **Health** and **Physical Education** curriculum.

This series of three 40-minute modules per grade will be delivered by educators to support the existing mental health literacy expectations within Strand D of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. They're not new learning – they offer ways to enhance the delivery of the existing curriculum and focus on mental health literacy.

This learning will help equip students with inclusive, culturally responsive, evidence-informed knowledge, skills, and strategies to support their mental health and well-being.

There are important reasons to bring these modules into the classroom:

- Students **want** to learn more about mental health at school.
- This learning helps students develop skills that support positive mental health.
- Mental health learning supports learning in all other areas.
- This learning can encourage conversations and help students in need reach support.
- As caring adults in the lives of young people, we want students to be well.

Here is an [introductory video](#) that provides more information

If you have questions about this learning or mental health supports, please contact

## SEAS Family Engagement Evening

### Understanding the Ontario Education System

#### Session 1

Welcome to our first “Family Engagement Evening” supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System. In this first session, we will provide an overview of the K-12 Ontario Education System with an emphasis on transitions, pathway planning, the OSSD and the course selection process.

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

This event is brought to you in partnership with Community and Partnership Developer for East Asian Families, YRDSB Inclusive School and Community Services, CCSYR Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region, NEKS (Network of Educators for Korean Students) and Curriculum and Instructional Services of YRDSB.



Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Location: Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham, ON L3P  
7P5

Please [register](#) by Monday, February 26, 2024

<https://bit.ly/3Ot1p0X>



For additional inquiries, please contact: [pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca) or  
[bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca](mailto:bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca)

Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) is a group of YRDSB educators and supporters who are committed to responding to the lived experiences of East Asian students by advocating for their improved achievement and well-being through equitable practices. Building relationships with students, families, educators, community members and partners are also a focus of our work.

# Youth Speak Bullying Prevention - Online Session

Thursday, February  
22, 2024

6:30pm-7:30pm  
online

Thank you to the  
WRPS School  
Council for  
organizing this  
event!



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2024 6:30-7:30PM ONLINE

## Windham Ridge PS Online Session

welcomes YouthSpeak Charity, for an engaging virtual session to support our well-being & equity initiatives within our school community.

### Program: **Bullying Prevention**



#### Parents will:

1

Be inspired by personal stories of trained youth speakers

2

Increase understanding of issues related to bullying and cyberbullying

3

Learn strategies for how to support youth

4

Gain information on resources

Join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81900427379?pwd=UIZTbk44QVl6M2tOSm9BdWovYjNXZz09>

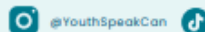
YouthSpeak Charity is dedicated to youth mental health and well-being. In 20 years, we have reached over 350,000 youth & caring adults through 3250+ speaking events throughout Ontario.

*YouthSpeak's vision is for all youth to be inspired and empowered to live resilient and meaningful lives.*

[www.youthspeak.ca](http://www.youthspeak.ca)

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@YouthSpeakCharity