



Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **February 23rd, 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. [Pink Shirt Day](#)
5. [Lost and Found items](#)
6. [WRPS Winter Challenge #3](#)
7. [Talent Show](#)
8. [WRPS Sports Updates](#)
9. [Volunteering in our School](#)
10. [Revised Time for April 8th - Early Student Dismissal](#)
11. [Grade One French Immersion Registration](#)
12. [English Scholastic Book Fair](#)
13. [March Break](#)
14. [Caring and Safe Schools Mid-Year Presentations](#)
15. [SEAS Family Engagement Evening](#)
16. [Kids Kitchen - March Special](#)

What's Up Windham Community Calendar

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



Multifaith Observances

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

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



What does Black History Month mean to grade 2 students at Windham Ridge PS?

Reflections after @iamdogibson virtual event and talk about what is a 'dream'. Students of Mme Priore's grade 2 class reflected on ideas of love, inclusion, and kindness.

On the virtual morning announcements, leaders of Black excellence were highlighted including:

- **Mary Ann Shadd Cary**
▶ Canada Post stamp honours abolitionist Mary Ann Shadd
- **Portia White** ▶ The Story Of Portia White
- **Oscar Peterson** ▶ Heritage Minute: Oscar Peterson
- [Herbert Carnegie](#)

Click below to access a video compilation of some of the other learning experienced by WRPS students: https://youtu.be/SIZ1mqS_mqA

We look forward to students' continued learning in classes and throughout the school year.

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday,
February 28, 2024



What is Pink Shirt Day?

Pink Shirt Day is a globally recognized day in support of anti-bullying, upstanding behaviour and simple acts of kindness.

On February 28, 2024,, we are encouraged to practice kindness and wear pink to show that we do not tolerate any form of bullying and uphold these values throughout the year!



On February 28th, we invite all students to wear pink to show support for this internationally recognized day.

[Click here to learn about the Canadian story behind Pink Shirt Day.](#)

Lost and Found Items

Lost and Found items will be on display outside the gym doors until Friday March 8th.

After this date, the items will be bagged and donated to a local charity.



WRPS Winter Challenge #3!



mardi 13 février
Windham Winter Challenge # 3: *Guess whose mug!*
 Focus: **Healthy Relationships with Staff**

1. Visit the Front Office Display
2. Analyze the 5 mugs
3. Write down your guesses
4. Submit your Answer slip into the Submission box

****This is NOT a timed race. 1 submission per student.**

Mug reveals will be on **Friday!**
1 WINNER per division
 *depending on participation

le mardi 20 février
Windham Winter Challenge # 3: *Guess whose mug!*
ROUND 2
 Focus: **Healthy Relationships with Staff**

1. Visit the Front Office Display
2. Analyze the 5 mugs
3. Write down your guesses
4. Submit your Answer slip into the Submission box

****This is NOT a timed race. 1 submission per student.**

Mug reveals will be on **Friday!**
1 WINNER per division
 *depending on participation

Mug A: Mme Pape 	Mug B: Mme Priore 	Mug C: Mme Gallant
Mug D: Mme Gaudreau 		Mug E: Mme Pirvu

Windham Winter Challenge # 3: *Reveal!*

Mug A: Mme Florido 	Mug B: Mme C 	Mug C: Ms. Song
Mug D: Mme Dhukai 		Mug E: Mme Koka

Windham Winter Challenge # 3: *Round 2 Reveal!*

WRPS staff decorated their own paper mug with pictures of things they enjoy and students have had the chance to guess who the mugs belong to!

Students have been excited to guess the owner of the mugs and the Well Being Spaces committee announced winners on the virtual morning announcements on the past two Fridays.

Congratulations to all students for learning a bit more about their teachers and to those who made correct guesses and were able to choose a prize!

Talent Show

We are excited to celebrate the talents of students at the Windham Ridge Talent Show on **Thursday February 29th, 2023 !**

Please see information below:

- 9:15am- performances by grades 1-4
- 1:15pm- performances by grades 5-8



Parents/Guardians are welcome to join either performance. A reminder that all visitors need to sign in the office on arrival before proceeding to the gym for the performances.

WRPS Sports Updates

Intermediate Basketball



Congrats to the intermediate girl's basketball team who demonstrated skill and phenomenal teamwork to place 2nd of ten teams in Central areas! Hats off to the intermediate boys basketball team for advancing to the regional finals in March!

Coaches and students shone brightly and represented WRPS with Phoenix pride! Awesome teamwork, sportsmanship, and Phoenix perseverance!

Volunteering in our School

If you are planning on volunteering in your child's classroom, attend an upcoming field trip, or help out with a school event, please ensure the necessary papers are submitted to the office before the date:

If you are a **returning volunteer** and we have your *Vulnerable Sector Check* on file in the office, please complete and submit the following 2 forms to the office before you start volunteering (these forms need to be updated annually):

- 1) [Confidentiality Agreement Volunteer/Visitor](#)
- 2) [Volunteer Annual Offence Declaration](#)

If you are a **new volunteer** to our school, please complete and submit the following 2 documents to the office before you start volunteering:

- 1) Vulnerable Sector Check* - go to <https://www.yrp.ca/en/services/vulnerable-sector-check.asp>
- 2) [Confidentiality Agreement Volunteer/Visitor](#)

* [Volunteer Letter](#) (All applicants applying for a volunteer position must provide this letter from our school, indicating that the position is a **volunteer, non-paid position**).

Revised Time for April 8th - Early student dismissal



Last week, we sent you a message, after the York Region District School Board announced that to ensure student safety due to the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, that all schools will be dismissing students early.

Unfortunately, in order to ensure transportation services (school bus and taxi) can accommodate all schools' early dismissal, there will be a slight adjustment in our dismissal time.

Please note that Windham Ridge PS will dismiss at 12:10pm. (REVISED TIME)

The safe arrival program will remain in place, if your child is not attending school on April 8, please record their absence. Student after school activities, including extra-curricular activities will be cancelled on April 8. We're sorry for the confusion and appreciate your cooperation and support to ensure student safety during the solar eclipse. If you have any questions, please contact the main office

Grade One French Immersion Registration

It's not too late to register for Grade One French Immersion for September 2024

Parents/guardians of Senior Kindergarten students **currently enrolled in a YRDSB school** entering Grade 1 in 2024 and wishing to enroll in the FI Program:

- can email or call their home school office (where your child currently attends) and declare their intention to register in FI.
- WRPS office will contact parents by email requesting that you forward **ONE** piece of identification showing your address to complete the registration. (Visit our [website](#) for acceptable documentation for Proof of Address)
- Please forward your documents by email to Windham Ridge at Windham.ridge.ps@yrdsb.ca. See below a list of acceptable documents.

Families registering students who **do not currently attend a YRDSB school** will need to complete [full registration paperwork](#) and email it to windham.ridge.ps@yrdsb.ca

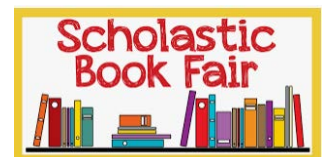
Information required for FULL registration includes:

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements if applicable
- Proof of Residency of the student - **Two** documents needed, **ONE** from Category A and **ONE** from Category B (Visit our [website](#) for acceptable documentation for Proof of Address)

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!



If you choose to send money with your child to purchase items from the book fair, **please speak with your child(ren) about keeping their money secure while at school.**

We do not encourage students to share money with their friends and we ask families to review this with their child(ren).

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.

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 harmed 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.

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 or 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.

**Kids Kitchen -
March Special**

MARCH SPECIAL

Ordering is Easy. Kid Approved. Stress Free.



SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS

Gluten-friendly, vegetarian and other menu options available online!

Online orders can be completed up until 10am the previous business day.

We're here to help!
information@kidskitchen.ca

 www.kidskitchen.ca



KiDs KiTchen.co