



Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **February 2nd, 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. [Tune In-Tamil Heritage Podcast](#)
4. [February- Black History Month](#)
5. [Message from Trustee Crystal Yu](#)
6. [Booster Juice](#)
7. [Junior Volleyball](#)
8. [Carnival at WRPS](#)
9. [Terra Cotta Heart Shaped Cookies](#)
10. [School Council Meeting](#)
11. [Big Brothers Big Sisters Peel York Program](#)
12. [Student Mental Health and Well Being Supports](#)
13. [March Break Camp](#)
14. [UBUNTU Healing Circle](#)
15. [Winter Walk Day](#)

What's Up Windham Community Calendar

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



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.

Tune In YRDSB

[Click here to access Tamil Heritage Month episode](#)

BOARD NEWS

Tune In YRDSB: Tamil Heritage Month

In this episode of the Tune In YRDSB podcast recorded during Tamil Heritage Month, hear from Tamil staff members and students as they share their experiences. Learn how Educators for Tamil Student Success was created and continues to support students.

[Listen to the episode now](#)

February is Black History Month

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

We are excited to welcome back D.O Gibson for a virtual event on February 13, 2024 for participation by all WRPS students!

See student and family events below available for registration:



Toronto Organization Dedicated to Supporting Black Excellence



"It's About Excellence"



The Engaged Parent: Navigating the School System for Black Student Success



Click the image to explore the resources to support K-12 learners!

[Click Me!](#)

The Black Business and Professional Association, Toronto ON



"Raising the bar of Excellence"



Student Events and Family Engagement

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families. Register Here	Dr.Bette Stephenson Cafeteria
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr.Joi Spencer and Dr.Kerri Ullucci Register Here	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families	Dr Bette Rm 113

5:00pm - 6:30pm

Light refreshments will be served.

Register In person Experience
Details to be shared upon registration.

[Register Here](#)

We look forward to sharing our classroom and school foci on Black History Month over the course of the month of February with the WRPS community.

Message from Trustee Crystal Yu

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. [Black Voices](#) aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPS accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion](#) registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to

their interests.

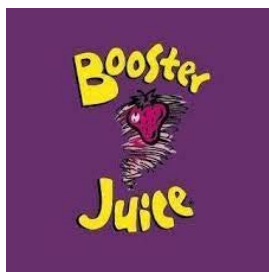
You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Crystal Yu, Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

Booster Juice Grade 8 Fundraiser



For the first time ever at Windham Ridge, our Grade 8 students are excited to be selling **Booster Juice** smoothies!

The smoothies will be delivered during lunch time on Tuesday February 20th. The Booster Juice smoothies will be available in 355ml (snack size) for \$5.75 each.

100% of the proceeds will go towards supporting grade 8 end-of-year events.

Booster Juice follows the YRDSB PPM150 guidelines for Nutritional Standards and the smoothies are nut and dairy free.

Please select from the following 3 options:

- Mango Mania - passion fruit, guava, strawberry and mango
- Starberry - passion fruit, guava, strawberry and banana
- Berry Blossom - passion fruit, guava, raspberry, strawberry and blueberry

Last day to order is Wednesday February 14th

Junior Volleyball

Congrats to our Junior Girls and Junior Boys Volleyball Teams for outstanding perseverance and demonstration of respectful sportsmanship at two tournaments this week!

Junior Girls brought home the first place pennant and the Junior Boys brought home a third place win!



We are Phoenix proud of each team member and staff for their dedication and accomplishments!

Carnaval 2024 at WRPS



February 9, 2024

What is Carnaval?

If the winter festival has lasted for so long, it's because locals have made it their own. Québec City residents join in the activities in droves, inviting family and friends to visit during the carnival and supporting the event financially by buying passes and candles. The event's deep roots in Québec traditions is another of its strengths. Ice canoes, snowshoes, dog sledding, snowmen, snow forts, slides, skating, and other winter sports have long been part of Québec culture. They are all a key part of the carnival and help it feel authentic to visitors for whom ice-cold winters are more of a novelty.

https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/en/citoyens/patrimoine/quartiers/saint_jean_baptiste/interet/carnaval_hiver_quebec.aspx

On Friday, February 9, students at Windham Ridge will be enjoying a fun-filled day with outdoor games, hot chocolate or apple cider and indoor activities to celebrate Carnaval 2024.

All students will be playing outdoor games, enjoying some hot chocolate, completing a winter art activity and watching a movie.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, as they will be spending extra time outside during the carnival.

If you have any questions about the activities we have planned for the day, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

-Winter Carnaval Committee (Mme Ip, Mme Gaudreau and Mme Rozenberg)

Terra Cotta Cookies



Terra Cotta Cookies - Vanilla Heart Cookies

Windham Ridge will continue to sell Terra Cotta (Vanilla Heart) Cookies for \$2.00 each. The next cookie distribution will be delivered during morning snack time on **Thursday February 8th**. These yummy cookies are individually wrapped, and made in a peanut and nut-free facility! 100% of the proceeds will go towards supporting school activities.

Limited quantity available. Go to [School Cash Online](#) to order.

School Council Meeting



The next **WRPS School Council Meeting** will take place on

Wednesday February 7, 2024

6:30pm-8:00pm

Virtually and in person (school library)

Agenda to be shared at a later date

Virtual login information: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 220 088 822 549

Passcode: prqAxN

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Click here to access the agenda for the February 7 School Council Meeting](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel | York


Click on image or [here](#) to register!

 Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF PEEL | YORK



YOU'RE INVITED!

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF PEEL YORK IS RUNNING TWO SEPARATE GROUP PROGRAMS THIS WINTER THAT WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY (ZOOM) IN THE EVENING!

 VIRTUAL GO GIRLS! (AGES 10-14) AND VIRTUAL LITTLE GO GIRLS! (AGES 7, 8 AND 9) ARE FREE GROUP MENTORING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CONNECT AND EMPOWER KIDS AND YOUTH OF VARYING AGES AND LIFE STAGES.

EACH PROGRAM IS FACILITATED VIA ZOOM BY TRAINED VOLUNTEER MENTORS WHO ARE AGED 18+ AND FEMALE-IDENTIFIED. PARTICIPANTS ARE PROVIDED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN FUN AND INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOME. EACH PROGRAM PROMOTES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, BALANCED EATING, SELF-CONFIDENCE AND STRESS MANAGEMENT. THEY ARE DELIVERED ONCE EACH WEEK DURING THE EVENING VIA ZOOM FOR 6 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS).

VIRTUAL LITTLE GO GIRLS!

FOR GIRLS AGED 7-9

- SESSION 1: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 2: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 3: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 4: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 5: WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 6:00-7:00PM
- MARCH BREAK (NO SESSION)
- SESSION 6: WEDNESDAY MARCH 20 6:00-7:00PM

VIRTUAL GO GIRLS!

FOR GIRLS AGED 10-14

- SESSION 1: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 2: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 3: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 4: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29 6:00-7:00PM
- SESSION 5: THURSDAY MARCH 7 6:00-7:00PM
- MARCH BREAK (NO SESSION)
- SESSION 6: THURSDAY MARCH 21 6:00-7:00PM



REGISTER NOW!

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR VIRTUAL GO GIRLS! OR VIRTUAL LITTLE GO GIRLS!, PLEASE VISIT THE LINK BELOW:
[HTTPS://PEELYORK.BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA/GO-GIRLS-REGISTRATION-FORM/](https://peel.york.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/go-girls-registration-form/)
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL [ANDREW.HUNTER@BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA](mailto:andrew.hunter@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

Student Mental Health and Well Being Supports

Girls Inc. York Region After School Program:

<https://girlsincyork.org/after-school/>

-A free program open to girls aged 9-11 with objectives such as active living, eating healthy, building confidence, and academic improvement

-Held at Maple Leaf Public School, Meadowbrook Public School, and Wellington Public School, but open to students from all schools



One Stop Talk:

<https://onestoptalk.ca/>

-A free provincial counseling service by registered therapists accessed through web chat or by phone Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST.



March Break Camp
offered by York
Region Educational
Services

<https://yorkeducation.org/marchbreakcamp/>

MARCH BREAK CAMP RICHMOND HILL



DONCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL
124 BLACKMORE AVE, RICHMOND HILL ON L4B 2B1

York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered non-profit organization.

We offer every camper a free half-day camp.



DATES:
MARCH 11-15, 2024

TIME:
9 AM - 4 PM
HALF-DAY AND EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE

AGE:
5-12 YEAR OLDS

CAMP CURRICULUM

- SPORTS (FUN AND ACTIVE)
- TEAM-BUILDING
- PROBLEM-SOVLING

ADDITIONAL PERKS:

- A FREE HALF-DAY TRIAL
- GRADUATION CEREMONY
- FREE BOOKS

SCAN &
REGISTER:



(416)-475-6622

info@yorkeducation.ca

yorkeducation.org/marchbreakcamp

UBUNTU Healing Circle for students in grades 7-12



York Region District School Board **UBUNTU HEALING CIRCLE** **Winter/Spring 2024**



A virtual healing circle for Black identified students across YRDSB to join together in an inclusive affinity space, focused on supporting emotional well-being. This space is one that has been created to promote healing, wellness and resilience for Black identified students.

The group will be facilitated by members of the School Social Work Team. Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend and participation will occur virtually.

Grades Served: Grade 7 to Grade 12 students from schools across YRDSB

Modality: Virtual offering

Language of Service: Services will be offered in English.

Total sessions: 8 sessions

Date: Wednesday, February 28th, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Weekly)

For more information, or to sign up: Please ask your Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, SERT, Student Success Teacher, Principal, or Vice Principal to contact either:

Melanie Beck
at the follow



1

/ 1



Winter Walk Day and Winter Walk Month



February 7th is Winter Walk Day and the start of Winter Walk Month

Tips for Winter Walking: Walking to school in winter not only benefits student physical and mental health, well-being and academic performance, it's also fun.

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe and enjoy winter walks to school.

1. Dress for the weather. Wear layers. Don't forget your hat and mitts.
2. Protect your feet. Wear warm socks and winter boots. They will protect your feet from snow, rain and cold and have good grips.
3. Be visible. Wear bright clothes, stay on the sidewalks and make sure cars can see you when you cross the road.
4. Allow a little more time. Prepare your winter gear the night before, and give yourself a little more time to walk to school.
5. Try walking like a penguin. It's fun and practical.
6. Enjoy the snow. Catch snowflakes, talk about what you love most about the winter.
7. Obey road signs. The seasons change but road safety rules remain. Stop at roads and crosswalks. Cross with a crossing guard where possible. Look out for cars.

Use active travel wherever possible. We encourage families all year round wherever possible to take the school bus or school transportation, or to [choose active travel](#), like walking or biking. Active school travel benefits student mental health, well-being and academic performance, builds social connections and reduces traffic and pollution around schools.

It's never too early to start to teach road safety. Your child will become a safe, responsible and independent pedestrian by experience and practice. Starting them as young as kindergarten will equip them with the skills they need to walk on their own in all seasons at an earlier age.

If you are driving, please follow road rules. Remember that our school zones are busy with students and families. It is important that we all follow the rules to ensure student safety.

- Use the kiss and ride. Do not use dedicated bus lanes.
- Consider parking near the school and walking the rest of the way (obeying all neighbourhood parking rules).
- Obey all speed limits and road traffic signs in school zones.
- Focus on the road and watch for crossing guards and students crossing the road.