



Windham Ridge Public School Community Newsletter Week ending February 3rd, 2023



**Two
Weeks**



**at
a
Glance**



Monday, February 6 (Day 3) Last day for French Immersion grade one registration	Monday, February 13 (Day 3) PLAY Leaders Training (Gr.6-8) Dance-a-Palooza Pledgealopes due
Tuesday, February 7 (Day 4) Pizza lunch Coffee and Chat	Tuesday, February 14 (Day 4) Pizza lunch Dance-a-Palooza
Wednesday, February 8 (Day 5) Astoria Hot Lunch PLAY Leaders Application due (Gr.6-8)	Wednesday, February 15 (Day 5) Astoria Hot Lunch PLAY Leaders Training (Gr.6-8)
Thursday, February 9 (Day 1) Subway lunch Junior Girls Volleyball to Regionals!	Thursday, February 16 (Day 1) Subway lunch Grade 8 start choosing courses for Grade 9
Friday, February 10 (Day 2) Kids Kitchen Black History Month Multicultural Museum Exhibit	Friday, February 17 (Day 2) Kids Kitchen PLAY Leaders Training (Gr.6-8)

Congrats to our Junior Girls Volleyball team who have advanced to the YRDSB Regional Volleyball Tournament!
We will be cheering you on, Phoenixes!

Multifaith Observances



For additional artist info, visit:
<https://www.tammingapaton.com/>

- Judaism 6 Tu B'Shevat*
- Bahá'í Faith 7 Mulk*
- Buddhism 15 Nehan-e (Nirvana Day)*
- Buddhism 16 Nichiren Shonin's Birth date*
- Islam 16 Laylat al-Mi'rāj*
- Hinduism 18 Mahashivaratri*
- New Moon 20 New Moon*
- Christianity 21 Shrove Tuesday (W)*
- Buddhism 21 Losar - Tibetan New Year*
- Christianity 22 Ash Wednesday (W)*
- Bahá'í Faith 26 Ayyám-í-Há*
- Christianity 27 Great Fast begins (E)*

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | February 2023

Black History Month !

Centre for Black Student Excellence

We invite you to explore our new online presence at ydsb.ca/blackexcellence to:

- Access videos, resources and information about community partners.
- Learn more about our work to dismantle anti-Black racism, guided by our strategy.
- Celebrate Black excellence through video, feature stories, podcasts and more.
- Find out about programs available to Black students and families.
- Check out our new community newsletter.
- And much more.

YRDSB Black History Month Events for Students and Families

February 2, 2023: Virtual Storytime By Sandra Whiting

Open to All Students and Families in K-6 In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration

[Register Here](#)

February 17, 2023: Black Excellence Program Master Class 2

Secondary Self-Identifying Black Students in YRDSB Schools

[Register Here](#)

February 23, 2023 9:00-2:00p.m: In Conversation with MARKTD

Dion Walcott and Dr. D'Wayne Edwards at York University for Self-Identifying Black Students Gr. 7 -12 York University Trip- Specific Schools

[Register Here](#)

February 24, 2023: Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight

Open to All: Student & Families [Register Here](#) Virtual or In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration

February 28, 2023: Black Excellence Program

Elementary- Specific Schools

[Register Here](#)

Click on links for the sessions noted in the above flyer:

February 17th - Black Excellence Program Master Class 2

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScO5qjqtF18jXOZcrrKSrmXo-8CERKRHzi8NfLi6GJ38qbePg/viewform>

February 28 - Black Excellence Program

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9bqPgRdzlQxFNp09gSjPH3zYClfj2qsyRw_A7UhAqj1sBw/viewform

**The Centre for Black
Student Excellence
Newsletter**

February 2023

February is Black History Month

WRPS Kick-Off Event:



[Duane Gibson](#)
['Black Canadian 365'](#)

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.



All Windham Ridge PS students participated in a virtual event presented by Duane Gibson. We look forward to our continued learning, unlearning, and understanding of Black excellence over the course of the month of February.

Kid's Kitchen (student profile)

When creating a new account in the Kid's Kitchen Website or updating your child's profile from a previous year, please ensure your child's information is entered correctly. Student lunches are arriving to school with the **incorrect grade, incorrect classroom # and incorrect teacher name on the bag**. Please visit the [school's website for a list of staff names including each of their room numbers](#) if you are unsure when placing your orders online.



Leadership Opportunity for students in grades 6-8!

PLAY Leader Training

Feb. 13-17



Our Healthy Schools Committee, in conjunction with York Region Public Health, is excited to bring back the popular PLAY program at Windham Ridge P.S. The Peer Leadership for Active Youth (PLAY) Program trains students in grades six to eight as student leaders to lead children in grade one to grade three in fun recess games and activities.

Students in Grades 6-8 who are interested in leading fun games for our younger students at recess times, are encouraged to submit an application to the office. Our PLAY leaders will:

- help create a more active playground
- role model active, healthy living and being positive and fair
- be responsible for organizing equipment and also to commit to a schedule
- encourage respect and a safe and inclusive playground

The PLAY leaders will be trained by our Public Health Nurse at school over the course of 3 lunch hours on **February 13, 15 and 17th**. We encourage all our Grade 6-8 students to take advantage of this great leadership opportunity.

For more information, please see the attached flyer. [PLAY Program Flyer.PDF](#) In order to be considered for this amazing leadership opportunity, please have your child complete the application form in the link below and please sign and return the application to the office by **Feb.8th**. To access the application, please click on the following link:

[PLAY Student Leader Application Form 2023.pdf](#)

We look forward to the upcoming training and seeing our primary students engaged in fun games at recess times led by our student leaders.

School Council Coffee and Chat



It's that time again...

The School Council invites you to a **Coffee Chat** on **Tuesday Feb 7th, 8:45 am - 10:00 am.**

This is a casual way to meet other parents and learn about our school. Our focus of this meeting is to meet our parent community and talk about things that are upcoming. All parents are welcome to attend! See you there!

Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight



Friday, February 24, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Open to all students and families
Light refreshments will be served.
[Register here](#) for the in-person experience, happening at Thornlea Secondary School.

Further details will be provided upon registration.



Friday, February 24, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Open to all students and families Light refreshments will be served. [Register here](#) for the in-person experience, happening at Thornlea Secondary School.



Further details will be provided upon registration.

In Conversation with MARTK'D

Featuring Dion
Walcott and
Dr. D'Wayne Edwards
(Gr. 7/8)

[Click on Registration Link here](#)



In Conversation with
Dion Walcott and Dr. D'Wayne Edwards

presented by
**THE CENTRE FOR
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Thursday, February 23, 2023
at York University, Keele Campus



Self-Identifying Black students in Gr. 7 - 12 are invited to join the In Conversation with Dr. D'Wayne Edwards President of Pensole Lewis College and Dion Walcott, Director of partnerships for Pensole Lewis College in Detroit MI. This event will be hosted at York University Keele Campus and will include an interactive conversation with Dr. D'Wayne and Dion who will share their inspirational journeys in merging their identities, passion and creativity to develop and lead established careers in the sneakers, art and education industry. Additionally, students will have the chance to explore York University, and the many educational opportunities offered there.

[Register here.](#)



PARENTING SESSIONS
Let's talk about it!

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

Parenting Sessions

Let's Talk About It!

PARENTING SESSIONS
Let's talk about it!

Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations.

We welcome all parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend these virtual sessions!

February 1, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **The Power of Positive Parenting**
For parents of children 0-12. This session will focus on ensuring a safe engagement environment for children. Strategies for creating a positive learning environment, using assertive discipline, having realistic expectations, taking care of yourself as a parent and available community resources and supports will be discussed.
[REGISTER NOW](#)

February 7, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Raising Confident Competent Children**
For parents of children 0-12. This session will focus on strategies to; encourage respect and cooperation, learning to be independent, developing healthy self-esteem and how to be a good problem solver.
[REGISTER NOW](#)

February 14, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Raising Resilient Children**
For parents of children 0-12 years of age. This session will focus on how to ensure a safe and engaging environment for children with strategies to: recognize and accept feelings, express their feeling appropriately, build positive feelings, deal with negative feelings and deal with upsetting or stressful events.
[REGISTER NOW](#)

February 21, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Nurturing Healthy Self-Esteem**
For parents of children and teens. This session will focus on how to create a supportive and engaging environment that helps your child develop and maintain confidence and healthy self-esteem.
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Facilitator: Uma Bhatt, R.S.W. York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families



These free virtual parent presentations are brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families.

Click on the following links for the sessions noted in the above flyer:

February 7th -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wnNilfZEg-xnCHNuJEmnj_XUNyWL0Mx2doHQny-sknE/viewform?edit_requested=true

February 14 -

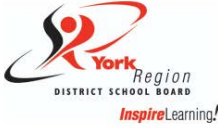

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BKV9bf2Q2KpsjtOLnx8xc1bqNf9ceG52AoPrvKH1EHw/viewform?edit_requested=true

February 21 -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OYeol08vkuTds3zH8cCTOQu8YfPiRoUuxnYHsaGu17s/viewform?edit_requested=true

YRDSB Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

February 2023

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter
February 2023

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

Feeling the Warmth in Winter

[Click here to access to full newsletter](#)

Are you interested in being a Volunteer in the School Community?



GIVE!
Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

Develop Skills to Support Your School Community

Research shows that parent and community engagement increases student achievement, well-being and success.

Learn more about:

- Role of the Volunteer
- Transferrable Skills
- Equity and Inclusive Education
- Communication Skills
- Human Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Self-care and Well-being
- Employment Readiness

Will help you to:

- Build confidence
- Communicate more effectively with students, staff and parents
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in a school
- Build healthy communities
- Meet new people
- Boost Professionalism

Where: Vaughan Welcome Centre, 9100 Jane St. Unit #56, Vaughan ON L4K 0A4
2023 Session dates: February 10, 13, 17, 21, 24, 28 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

[REGISTER HERE](#) FOR THIS FREE PROGRAM TODAY!

bit.ly/3Rb2kTY

For more information:

Martha Samer msamer@ccsyrr.org 437-217-1785	Pauline Guo Pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca 289-637-9901	Oksana Majask Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca 416-568-2252
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Register for these free sessions in February to learn more about parent and community engagement that increases student achievement, well-being and success

REGISTER FOR THIS FREE PROGRAM -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZSQwYo6ZKuBhvJNtCfaUVI7OX4E7gCaXVBuRf6jysg8/viewform?edit_requested=true



Go-Girls

Free Virtual Evening Programs

Go-Girls - Free Virtual Evening Programs for female identified youth
The Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region

Sessions in February and March

- Facilitated by trained female volunteer mentors aged 18+.
- Fun and interactive discussions and activities from the comfort of your
- The program promotes physical activity, balanced eating, self-confidence and stress management.
- Delivered once a week during the evening for six to seven weeks.

<https://york.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/online-go-girls/>

Virtual Go Girls! (girls aged 10-14) on Fridays 6:00-7:00 pm

First Session: Friday February 3 6:00-7:00 pm

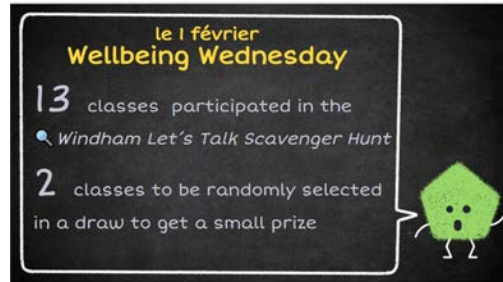
Virtual Little Go Girls! (girls aged 7-9) on Mondays 6:00-7:00 pm

First Session: Monday February 6 6:00-7:00 pm

If you have any additional questions please contact: Yvonne Kelly, Community and Partnership Developer, Inclusive School and Community Services, yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca (905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Well Being Wednesday at Windham

Wednesday
February 1, 2023



13 classes participated in a school-wide scavenger hunt to find letters to unscramble to make a word related to strategies for helping us to cope when we are having a hard day.

Students eagerly discovered the letters around the school. The Mystery Word was 'Coping' !



A draw of the 13 classes took place on our morning announcements. Congratulations to: Mme Walls' class and Mme Abate's class for winning special magnets for each student.

Every Student Counts Survey

Coming Soon!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X52aUXwLzg>

We will be inviting all students in Grades 4-12 and students in Grades K-3 to participate in the 2022-23 Every Student Counts Survey in the Spring of 2023. Surveys will be available online and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

You and your child should have received a letter from the Board notifying them that the survey will be taking place. The surveys will provide the Board and our schools with valuable information about the learning experiences of students and families this year that are used to inform Board and school planning and to support student achievement and well-being.

Students in Grades 4-12 will be given class time to complete the survey at schools. Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to complete the survey at home with their family. Families who do not want their child(ren) to be sent an invitation to participate in the survey will be given a chance to opt their child out of receiving the survey in the new calendar year.

As our first partners in education, we value input from families and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation.

Please contact Research Services at research.services@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions or visit the [Board website](#) to learn more.

Every Student Counts Survey

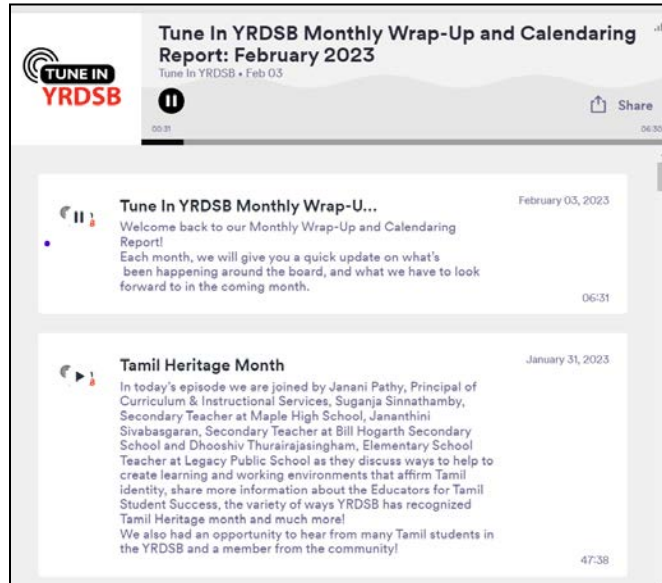
Public Survey Consultation

York Region District School Board will be conducting the Every Student Counts Survey with students in Grades K-12 from April 24, 2023 - May 12, 2023. As part of the survey development, we are asking families to review our [draft surveys](#) and provide their feedback.

Student and family feedback is critical to the survey development process and helps to ensure that the survey is an accurate reflection of our school communities. Responses made through the feedback form are voluntary, confidential and anonymous. The feedback form will be available from February 3, 2023 - February 10, 2023. To learn more, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/escs


Tune In YRDSB

Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling.



Meet and Greet for Farsi Speaking Families

جلسه ی آشنایی و خوش آمدگویی برای خانواده های فارسی زبان دبیرستان "الکساندر مکنزی"


Meet and Greet for Farsi Speaking Families at Alexander Mackenzie H.S.



By attending this Farsi session, you will:

- Meet with a psychotherapist and psychologist and learn about healthy relationships between parents and students and various relevant topics for future workshops
- Meet with the school Social Worker and learn about mental health services for students within the YRDSB
- Meet with the Afghan/Iranian Community and Partnership Developer
- Learn more about your child's report card, board policies and communication with the school
- Learn about the education system
- Participate in a survey for future workshops

Speakers from Inclusive School and Community Services, Mental Health & Psychology Services, Alexander Mackenzie H.S., and partners from Family Services York Region and Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region.

Date: February 15, 2023
Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Location: Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

For more information, please contact: Maryam Jarani (Afghan/Iranian CPD)
maryam.jarani@yrdsb.ca 905-727-0022ext. 3512


جلسه ی آشنایی و خوش آمدگویی برای خانواده های فارسی زبان دبیرستان "الکساندر مکنزی"

مزایای شرکت در این جلسه فارسی :

- آشنایی با روانشناس و یادگیری در مورد موضوعات کارگه های روانشناسی آینده (ارتباط سالم بین والدین و فرزندان)
- یادگیری خواندن کارنامه دانش آموزان دبیرستان
- و راه های ارتباط با مدرسه
- توضیح خلاصه دیوریز سیستم آموزشی در کانادا
- آشنایی با مشاور و منابع موجود برای سلامت روان دانش آموزان
- آشنایی با مسئول جامعه ایرانی/افغان
- شرکت در نظرسنجی برای موضوع کارگه های فارسی

تاریخ: فوریه 15، 2023


ساعت: 6:00-7:30 بعدازظهر
مکان: دبیرستان الکساندر مکنزی

برای اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره زیر تماس بگیرید :

Sex Trafficking

Parent Virtual Session



SEX TRAFFICKING
Instances of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are a growing concern in York Region.

Youth as young as 12 are being recruited!

Would you know it if you saw it?
What could you do?

February 22, 2023 | Session A: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Session B: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.


We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers, educators, staff and community!
[Register today!](#)

York Region District School Board in a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

This session will provide awareness and information about:

- What is sex trafficking
- How to identify signs of someone who may be in the process of being recruited or is already being trafficked
- Who is at risk
- Available resources and supports in the school and community

More Information:
Oksana Majaski
Community & Partnership Developer, YRDSB
Oksana.Majaski@yrdsb.ca



[Click here to access full document and registration link](#)

Black History Month

Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum Exhibit

Coming Soon!



Windham Ridge is pleased to bring the museum experience to our students in an interactive museum exhibit on Friday, February 10th.

The Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum presents educational, interactive African centered Black History Month presentations featuring African Canadian, African American, African Caribbean and Continental African Innovators and Inventors. The presentation will provide highlights of African contributions in STEM/STEAM and provide a representation of innovators that will allow our students to see themselves and their identities represented in the curriculum.



The focus of the exhibit, “The International African Inventors Museum” teaches people of all nationalities about the important contributions that Africans have made throughout history. It is a mobile museum which features a range of African inventions including the window cleaner, the eggbeater, space shuttle retrieval and more.


The exhibit showcases Innovators of African descent from the Europe, United Kingdom, Africa, Caribbean, North America, South and Central America and Oceania.

Website: <https://multiculturalmuseums.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSH4xVOLwQU>

Federal Housing Benefit for Renters Who Qualify

Click below:
[One Time Canada Housing Benefit for Renters](#)



Inclusive School and Community Services

Federal Housing Benefit for Renters Who Qualify

The Federal Government has introduced a one-time, \$500 tax-free benefit.

- It is for low-income renters who:
 - Have an Adjusted Family Net Income (AFNI) for 2021 of \$35,000 or less for families, or \$20,000 or less for individuals.
 - Spent at least 30% of their adjusted family net income on renting their principal residence in Canada in 2022.

This is a one-time benefit administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

- To be eligible you do not need to already be receiving other housing benefits
- Applications are open until Friday March 31, 2023.

For eligibility and additional details please visit:
[One Time Canada Housing Benefit for Renters](#)

If you have any additional questions please contact:
Yvonne Kelly,
Community and Partnership Developer,
Regional Portfolio on Poverty/Intersections of Poverty
Inclusive School and Community Services
yvonne.kelly@yorkregion.ca
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Pathways to Careers in Skilled Trades

[Click here to access the resource!](#)



Pathways to Careers in Skilled Trades



A guide that helps students start a career in skilled trades and assists educators and parents in support of that pathway.



Newcomer Youth Program



Connex Newcomer Youth Program (Virtual)

Begins in March 2023

- ENGLISH LEARNING
- LIFE SKILLS
- BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS
- CONNECTION TO SCHOOL
- CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY
- AND MORE


[REGISTER NOW](#)

Eligibility:


- Multiple Status/ Permanent Resident Status
- Current student of YRDSB
- Newcomer to Canada within the last 5 years
- Must be 16 years of age as of March 1, 2023
- Enrolled or enrolling in grades 9-12

<http://bit.ly/3GAFRE0>

Register Today



@connexprogram



[Click here to access full document and registration link](#)

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTS



WINDHAM RIDGE P.S. PRESENTS

Dance-a-Palooza

FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 14

Our annual Dance-a-thon fundraiser is coming up on February 14th. With the money we raised last year, we were able to purchase some much needed resources for our school. All classes will have scheduled time in the gym moving and dancing to live music from a DJ, and the rest of the day will be back to academics.



Pledge forms will be sent home soon.

For every \$5 raised, students will receive 1 ballot to enter into a draw for the prize they have chosen.

Pledge form & money are due back to the office no later than **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th**.



If you would like to donate a prize, please bring it to the school office or contact the parent council at wrpcouncil@gmail.com. Some of the prizes that were donated in previous years included gift cards to various stores and restaurants, new games, movie and sporting event tickets.



Prizes include school experiences like principle for a day, gift cards, and gift baskets. The grand prize is two season's passes to Canada's Wonderland! **Prize draws will be on Feb 19th.**

100% of the proceeds will support the students at Windham Ridge PS!
Thank you for your generosity!

*Please note that your student does not have to participate in the dancing to be eligible for a prize. A quiet activity room will be available.

Dance-a-Palooza
Fundraiser

February 14, 2023

Pledg-e-lop
have been sent home