



Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **January 13, 2023**



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| Monday, January 16 (Day 5) | Monday, January 23 (Day 4) Brave Program (Gr. 7 & 8) |
| Tuesday, January 17 (Day 1) Pizza lunch School Council Meeting- 6:30-8:00 | Tuesday, January 24 (Day 5) Pizza lunch |
| Wednesday, January 18 (Day 2) | Wednesday, January 25 (Day 1) Bell Let's Talk Day |
| Thursday, January 19 (Day 3) French Immersion Information Night for 2023 new grade 1 registrants | Thursday, January 26 (Day 2) |
| Friday, January 20 P.A. Day (no school) | Friday, January 27 (Day 3) National Family Literacy Day |



Multifaith Observances



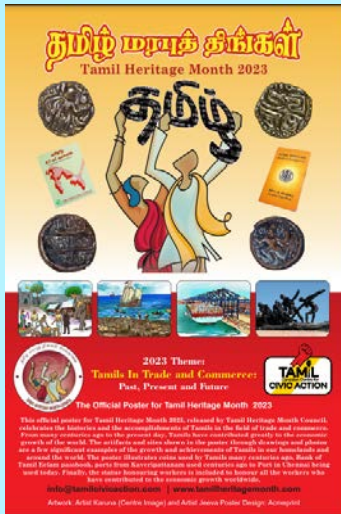
Like the North Star, our elders remind us of where we belong in the world, of who we are. Often it is through the ordinary and the mundane, yet the enduring truth of their gift is extraordinary."

Acrylic on canvas; 36" x 24"

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

- 15 Thai Pongal*
- Bahá'í Faith 15 World Religion Day*
- Buddhism 17 Baizhang Memorial*
- Christianity 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins*
- Buddhism 18 Hakuin Ekaku Memorial*
- Buddhism 19 Eihei Dogen Kigen Birth date*
- Bahá'í Faith 19 Sultán*
- Eastern / Old / Orthodox Christianity 19 Theophany (E - Old Calendar)*
- 21 New Moon*
- Buddhism 22 Lunar New Year (4721) - Year of the Rabbit*
- Buddhism 25 Honen Shonin Memorial*
- Hinduism 26 Vasanta Panchami*
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)*

January is Tamil Heritage Month



On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed in the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming January as Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres. This year's focus is Tamils' contribution towards Economic growth - Past, Present, future.

Also, of significance is January 14, 2023. According to the Tamil calendar, January 14, 2023, begins the month of "Thai." On this day, people of Tamil heritage celebrate Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year's blessings and a time to look forward to the New Year.



Grade 1 French Immersion Registration (new registrations for 2022-2023)

Do you have an SK child that you would like to register for French Immersion, beginning September 2023?

Information Sessions This year our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place on January 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Registration FI registration will begin on January 20, 2023. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2023, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact you by phone or email to collect any necessary information. You are asked to register by February 6, 2023. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations Late registrations are those submitted after February 6, 2023. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

More information on *Registration* can be found on our school's [website](#) or click on this link for the necessary documentation needed for registration.

- [French Immersion Information Session and Registration for January 2023](#)

Advocacy and Allyship

Parent Engagement Event

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

Registration at <http://bit.ly/3VZpttx>

Registration closes: January 27th,
2023



Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Guardian/Parent Engagement Event

Advocacy and Allyship

YRDSB is hosting a 3 part Information series that looks at how to engage and help build shared solutions. Families will build on knowledge about discrimination, racism, bias, stereotypes and how to advocate and become an ally.

1. Understanding and Challenging our Bias

Learn how to understand and challenge our biases. Challenge our Comfort Zones in order to change and grow in a positive direction. Connect with other parents and caregivers and share our ideas and experiences.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: January 31st 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2. Recognizing and Responding to Hate

Learn how to recognize and respond to hate and discrimination, through looking at data, talking through examples and further understanding bias.

Presented by: Shafiq Aziz from Harmony Movement

When: February 22nd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

3. Becoming an Ally

Learn how to become an ally through engaging and listening to lived experiences of discrimination and hate.

Presented by: Soha Mohammad from Working Women

When: March 22nd 6:30pm – 8:00pm



Kid's Kitchen

Kid's Kitchen will resume a hot lunch program every **FRIDAY** starting on Jan. 27th. Please visit their website for an easy, secure online ordering system.

<https://www.kidskitchen.ca/>

Please note - if Buses are cancelled, Kid's Kitchen will NOT deliver lunches

2021- 2022 Yearbook 2022-2023 Yearbook



The **2021-2022** yearbook will be distributed to students in the next few weeks, as indicated by the publisher. We are pleased to inform you that the 2022-2023 yearbook will be delivered and provided to students by the end of June 2023.

In collaboration with
York Region District
School Board

SAAAC Autism Centre
Presents:

Caregiver Orientation:
New Autism Diagnosis



[Click here to access the full flyer and registration information.](#)

Winter Giving by
Windham Ridge PS

*Thank you to our WRPS
community for their
contributions to the 2022
Winter Giving initiatives!*



January 9th, 2023



Surrounding kids
in crisis with care

www.360kids.ca

360°kids

80F Centurian Drive,
Suite 200
Markham, ON L3R 8C1

T: 905.475.6694
F: 905.475.5733

Windham Ridge Public School
32 Red Cardinal Trail, Richmond Hill, ON L4E 3Y4
To the attention of: Nilou Saadati

To the classes of Windham Ridge Public School,

On behalf of 360°kids, I am writing to express our sincerest gratitude for your generous contributions to our **Gifts That Matter** holiday fundraiser through the 'Adopt-a-Youth' campaign. The gifts that you and your team provided for the 27 youth were met with smiles, cheers and brought joy to the youth we serve when they needed it the most.

For many of the youth we serve, the holiday season can be very emotional and challenging – as many of these youth do not have family support, stable housing or employment, or have recently experienced or are at risk of homelessness. Your gifts helped solve some of these problems and provide a bright spot during dark times for youth in crisis when the youth in need some much-needed cheer.

Your support has made a profound impact on the lives of the youth who access our services, and your sponsorship has helped bring joy and happiness to their lives. Your kindness and generosity will not be forgotten and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

We truly appreciate the support we've received from compassionate and dedicated community members like your school; our 2022 Gifts that Matter campaign was tremendously successful. We go into 2023 knowing we can continue to provide vital services to kids in crisis and bring

Here's what you've made happen...

Over
\$24,455
in online gift
catalogue
donations!

Approx. **\$23,000**
donated goods for
our program sites
(food, clothing,
hygiene items,
etc)!

8 special holiday meals
for all the kids staying
in our
emergency/extended
housing!

107 Youth
"adopted" by
incredible
donors with
over \$25,000 in
in-kind gifts!

360°kids has been operating programs for 33 years to give youth the security they need to transition from crisis into a state of safety and stability. We take an approach that surrounds youth with care, inspires them to rebuild their lives, and teaches them skills to overcome some of the toughest obstacles they will ever face. This 360° vision helps thousands of youth become healthy, independent people who make a difference in our communities. We are so grateful that you are helping us provide valuable programs to youth throughout York Region.

Sincerely,

Alianna Sprague
Community Giving Associate
Alianna.Sprague@360kids.ca



Support. Inspire. Overcome.

The Centre for Black Student Excellence

January 2023 Newsletter



We invite you to explore our new online presence at www.yrdsb.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- [Click here to access the full newsletter](#)

Creating Identity Affirming Spaces and Practices to Support Muslim Learners

Families and Community Event

iscs@yrdsb.ca'."/>

Click below to register:

bit.ly/3FJo4OD



Well Being Wednesdays at Windham Ridge PS

On Wednesday of this week, our announcement team shared the focus of **Bell Let's Talk Day** and why it's an important day for all Canadians and our WRPS students as we continue our learning about well being:



'We all know that feelings and emotions are a big part of our mental health- let's watch this video which shares examples of how we all have things that make us happy or sad, and talking about it is important!'

<https://youtu.be/r7QUtdIRbkc>



Click below to access registration form and details:

<https://bit.ly/3WUA3mK>

A SEAS Networking Event



Happy New Year everyone! We are delighted to invite you to our second networking event for this year. Please join us for an opportunity to meet, greet, and network with our team and each other as we welcome the New Year.

This session will involve discussions around pedagogy and practice to support, and advocate for East Asian students and families. Hope to see you there!

When: Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

Where: Du Hsiao Yueh (Warden Ave & Steeles Ave)
7040 Warden Ave, Markham, ON L3R 5Y3

Time: 4:45pm - 6:15pm

Please register with this [Google Form](https://bit.ly/3WUA3mK) by Tuesday, January 17, 2023 <https://bit.ly/3WUA3mK>

For additional inquiries, please contact: bronson.chu@vrdsb.ca or alicewan-ling.chu@vrdsb.ca

Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) is a group of 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.

Poverty in York Region 2023

Three Part Parent/Guardian Workshops



Inclusive School and Community Services

Parent/Guardian Virtual Workshops

Poverty in York Region 2023

All parents, guardians and staff are welcome to attend any or all of the free virtual workshops about poverty, housing rights and resources in York Region.

1. Making Ends Meet during COVID, Inflation and a Housing Crisis – Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello
Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 - 8:30 pm

2. Tenant Rights to Housing – Guest Speaker Margaret Flynn with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights
Wednesday, Feb 8th, 7:00pm-8:30pm

3. The Impact of Poverty, Intersectionality and Classism on our Students, Parents and Family Engagement - Presented by Community and Partnership Developers Yvonne Kelly and Pauline Costello
Monday, February 27th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

[Register](#) for any or all three workshops.

A virtual link will be provided prior to the each event.

[Click here to register for one or all three workshops.](#)

School Council Meeting



School council meeting: January 17th, 2023- 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Virtual or In Person- WRPS Library

Virtual link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 280 085 896 283

Passcode: qhByya

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

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

We look forward to our continued partnership with the School Council as we collaborate to serve each student and family of Windham Ridge PS.

Child-minding will be available!