



# Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **January 26, 2024**



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## 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.

## 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

[Click Me!](#)

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

[Click Me!](#)

Student Events and Family Engagement		
Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of <b>Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families.</b> <a href="#">Register Here</a>	Dr.Bette Stephenson Cafeteria
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 Register to Receive Link
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

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.

## Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter - January 2024

THE CENTRE FOR  
BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Centre for Black Excellence [www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence](http://www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence)

Welcome to a new year! We are continuing to share information that supports families of Black children and stay tuned for other events coming up in February for Black History Month throughout the community and the YRDSB.

[Click here to access the full January newsletter!](#)

### January 27, 2024

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day



January 27, 2024 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This date was designated by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in November 2005.

The day reaffirms “that the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people along with countless members of other minorities, will forever be a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice” (UN General Assembly A/60/L.12).

This day serves as an international memorial day for the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, which saw the murder of 6 million Jews, 250,000 to 500,000 Roma people, 200,000 to 250,000 persons with disabilities, and 15,000 people who were LGBTQ+. January 27 marks the date when the Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945.

[Click here to explore more information about this today through the UNESCO website](#)

## 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](http://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](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

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

January 29, 2024

**National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia**

January 29, 2024 is the [The National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia](#). YRDSB joins Muslim communities across York Region and Canada in mourning, commemorating and standing together against Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate.

The National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia serves as a reminder of the importance of taking an unwavering stand against all forms of hate, racism, and discrimination and the work needed to recognize and eradicate anti-Muslim hate.

To support Muslim students and families, please see mental health supports available for YRDSB students and families:

- [Cedarway Therapy](#): trained and experienced clinicians from diverse backgrounds, speaking different languages (English, French, Arabic, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi), and offering culturally and spiritually responsive services.
- [Naseeha](#): provides an anonymous, non-judgmental, confidential and toll-free peer support helpline for youth experiencing personal challenges. Naseeha's services are open to all regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, family makeup, social status, income, ability, physical and mental health, and religion.

**AEMS Storytime:  
January 31, 2024**

Registration closes  
January 29, 2024.

Click below to register:

**Student/Family Registration:**  
<https://forms.gle/ix282GZkRGxm3j5QA>

AEMS invites students, families, and educators to join us in listening to and exploring affirming texts from a diversity of authors!

Following the read-aloud, students and families will have the opportunity to engage in related activities, while educators participate in a panel discussion and explore K-8 lesson plans and other resources for integrating identity-affirming texts into daily teaching practice.

THE ALLIANCE OF EDUCATORS FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

**AEMS STORYTIME**  
Communities Coming Together

VIRTUAL SESSION  
WEDNESDAY  
31 JANUARY, 2024  
5:30 - 6:30 PM

AEMS invites students, families, and educators to join us in listening to and exploring affirming texts from a diversity of authors!

Following the read-aloud, students and families will have the opportunity to engage in related activities, while educators participate in a panel discussion and explore K-8 lesson plans and other resources for integrating identity-affirming texts into daily teaching practice.

Students, families and educators of all identities are welcome!

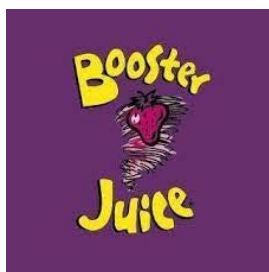
Student/Family Registration: <https://forms.gle/ix282GZkRGxm3j5QA>  
Educator Registration: <https://forms.gle/UYaY4dZtchHfRb19>

**\*Registration closes January 29, 2024**

*Mommy's Khimar*  
Aisha Hashmi-Bigle  
Illustrated by Daisy Green



## Booster Juice Grade 8 Fundraiser



Big news Windham!

Booster Juice has arrived at Windham Ridge PS. Be on the lookout for Booster Juice sales coming soon on School Cash Online, brought to you by the Grade 8 Fundraising Team! Proceeds will support subsidising grade 8 end-of-year events.

## 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!

## Terra Cotta Cookies



### Terra Cotta Cookies - Vanilla Heart Cookies

Windham Ridge will be selling Terra Cotta (Vanilla Heart) Cookies for \$2.00 each. The cookies will be delivered during morning snack time on **Thursday February 1st**. 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](#)

## Volunteers Needed!



Hello dear community,

The hot lunches are back up and running next week and volunteers are needed to organize and distribute the lunches. We would love your help. Please review the form linked below and see if there are any days or slots that you can chip in. Feel free to forward to other parents that may be able to assist.

Please note that volunteers new to the school will need to submit a vulnerable sector screening form, and returning volunteers will need to sign the annual defense declaration. All volunteers also must sign a confidentiality agreement. If you need help with any of these forms please email [wrpscouncil3@gmail.com](mailto:wrpscouncil3@gmail.com)

Volunteer sign-up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15LMTUJu2zReumZDkZ1T9Etn7BojAoB3i5DQ2sCKnlss/edit>

WRPS School Council Co-Chairs, Jodie and Parvaz

## Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community

To book consultations and/or for any questions please contact Nijatha Subramaniam via email at [nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca) or by phone at 905-727-0022 ext. 4138 (voicemail only)



### Coffee with Tamil Social Worker

\*Service in English and Tamil

Join our Social Worker for the Tamil Diaspora, Nijatha Subramaniam virtually to chat about:



- Tips to engage and connect with your child
- Ways to support your child's well-being and emotional ups and downs
- How to request and navigate getting support for your child at school
- Guidance for current challenges and concerns experienced by your child
- Resources in the York Region community to support your child's needs

Consultation sessions are offered by video conference or telephone.

For more information and/or to book a consultation, please contact Nijatha Subramaniam at [nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:nijatha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca) or 905-727-0022 ext. 4138 (voicemail only).





Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel | York

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



# 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).



## 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.

