



# Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **January 27, 2023**



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Monday, January 30 (Day 4)</b><br>Talent Show audition for grade 2's  | <b>Monday, February 6 (Day 3)</b><br>Last day for French Immersion grade one registration              |
| <b>Tuesday, January 31 (Day 5)</b><br>Pizza lunch  | <b>Tuesday, February 7 (Day 4)</b><br>Pizza lunch<br>Coffee and Chat                                   |
| <b>Wednesday, February 1 (Day 1)</b><br>Black History Month Begins- Kick-Off Event: Duane Gibson Event<br>Astoria greek lunch starts today | <b>Wednesday, February 8 (Day 5)</b><br>Astoria Hot Lunch  |
| <b>Thursday, February 2 (Day 2)</b><br>Subway lunch starts today   | <b>Thursday, February 9 (Day 1)</b><br>Subway lunch  |
| <b>Friday, February 3</b><br>PA Day (no school)  | <b>Friday, February 10 (Day 2)</b><br>Kids Kitchen<br>Black History Month Multicultural Museum Exhibit |

**Save the date: Dance-a-Palooza- February 14, 2023**

## Multifaith Observances



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

- Indigenous Spirituality 1 \*Midwinter Moon (local Oneida)*
- Wicca 2 Imbolc*
- Shinto 3 Setsubun-sai*
- Buddhism 5 Magha (Sangha Day)*
- Judaism 5 Eve of Tu B'Shevat*
- Full Moon 5 Full Moon*
- 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*

**Midwinter Moon:** Midwinter Ceremony takes place over 5 nights in February following the new moon. Food is a big part of the ceremony as it is provided by the creator and includes corn soup with deer meat, squash and turnip (food from under the ground) ...as told by Oneida of the Thames Elders.

## February is Black History Month

### WRPS Kick-Off Event:

### Duane Gibson 'Black Canadian 365'

Black Canadian 365  
[www.blackcanadian365.com](http://www.blackcanadian365.com)

@blackcanadian365 on  
Instagram

D.O. Gibson  
[www.iamdogibson.com](http://www.iamdogibson.com)

@iamdogibson on Instagram

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.

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



## Windham Ridge Talent Show



We're very excited to see so much excitement from our students for our upcoming Windham Ridge Talent Show!

### Audition dates:

January 27 - Grades 1, 3, 4

January 30 - Grade 2

January 31 - Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

Students must come prepared with all items necessary for their audition. Those playing the piano will audition using our school piano. We look forward to seeing all the Windham Ridge P. S. talent!

Mme Song, Mme Suleman, Mr. Halkusis, Mme Lacaille, Mme Plamondon

## 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!

## Windham Let's Talk Day

Wednesday  
January 25, 2023

ScAVENGER  
HUNT!

### YRDSB message:

One of the priorities in the [Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to Foster Well-Being and Mental Health with the ultimate goal of improving student success. As part of this plan, our board acknowledged Let's Talk Day on Wednesday Jan. 25, 2023.

One of the biggest hurdles for anyone dealing with a mental illness is overcoming the stigma attached to it. The annual Let's Talk awareness campaign and day aims to help reduce this stigma and promote awareness and understanding, and talking is an important first step toward lasting change.

### January 25, 2023 at Windham Ridge PS



Our Healthy Schools Committee and Student Well Being Committee have been planning and preparing for continued learning about mental health and well being.

This week for our Wellbeing Wednesday the Student Team introduced 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 and are waiting for this week's reveal!

We look forward to the continued focus this week as we continue to underline the importance of well being for our students.

### Resources for families- click on links



<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/lets-talk-day>

<https://smho-smso.ca/>

## Poverty in York Region 2023

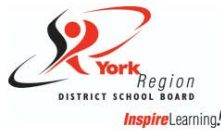
Three Part  
Parent/Guardian  
Workshops



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

# 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](#)

## 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:**

- Refugee Status/ Permanent Resident Status
- Current student of YRDSB
- Newcomer to Canada within the last 5 years
- Must be 14 years of age as of March 1, 2023
- Enrolled or enrolling in grades 9-12

http://bit.ly/3C8P8EG  
Register Today

@connexprogram

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

## February 1st is Winter Walk Day




Winter is a great time to be active outdoors. Bundle up and join others from schools across Canada to celebrate [Winter Walk Day](#) on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Students, parents, teachers and others in the school community are encouraged to walk to and from school, walk at school and walk around the neighbourhood. It's a great way to fit physical activity into your day and enjoy its physical and mental health benefits.



## 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 Jariani (Afghan/Iranian CPD)  
[maryam.jariani@yrdsb.ca](mailto:maryam.jariani@yrdsb.ca) 905-727-0022 ext. 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 گرگه های روانشناسی آینده (ارتباط سالم بین والدین و فرزندان)
- یادگیری قوانین برنامه دانش آموزان دبیرستان
- راه های ارتباط با مدرسه
- توضیح خلاصه در مورد سیستم آموزشی در کانتا
- آشنایی با مشاور و منابع موجود برای سلامت روان دانش آموزان
- آشنایی با مسئول جامعه ایرانی/افغان
- شرکت در نظرسنجی برای موضوع گرگه های فارسی

تاریخ: فوریه 15، 2023

ساعت: 7:30-6:00 بعد از ظهر  
مکان: دبیرستان الکساندر مکنزی

برای اطلاعات بیشتر یا شماره زیر تماس بگیرید :

## 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>

SAAAC Autism Centre  
Presents:  
Caregiver Orientation:  
New Autism Diagnosis



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

Message  
From  
Our  
Trustee

Crystal Yu

February 2023

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is **communicating with the public**. I hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate my role as trustee and how I can support you, and to answer some of the questions I am often asked as a trustee.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families, but also ensuring I am available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. I am happy to assist you.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of 12 trustees elected during the municipal election process, and one Indigenous trustee appointed through a separate process. Eight of the 12 elected trustees are new this term, and we are all looking forward to connecting with families and fulfilling our roles to support student achievement and well-being.

## What do Trustees Do?

In addition to communicating with the public, we are also responsible for:

**Establishing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan.** This [plan](#) sets out our priorities as a school board and guides our direction and decision making as a system.

**Setting policy.** [Policies](#) govern the operation of our schools and organization, including field trips, school transportation, homework, caring and safe schools and much more. You can find out which policies are up for review in our [meeting agendas](#), or which [policies are out for comment](#) on the website. Your participation in this process is important to ensuring our policies are serving our communities and align with our priorities.

**Setting an annual budget.** I look forward to sharing more information about this process with you in the coming months as we engage in [budget](#) consultations.

**Participating on Board and Advisory Committees.** You can find the dates and agendas for these meetings on the Board website. You are welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory and Board Committee meetings](#).

**Hiring the Director of Education.** This process is governed by the [Director of Education Selection Policy](#), and we will keep you updated as this process progresses. In the meantime, I am deeply grateful to Interim Director of Education Scott Yake for his commitment and service.

**Advocating for quality public education.** I became a school board trustee

because I believe in public education. I believe in the potential of each and every one of our students and our responsibility to nurture their learning, growth and achievement. Our decisions as a board are centred on our commitment to deliver the best for our students.

## What's Happening in YRDSB

[Kindergarten](#) registration opened January 20 for families with children who will start Kindergarten in September 2023.

[French Immersion registration](#) is open from January 20-February 6 for students entering Grade 1 in September 2023.

[Student trustee elections](#) are currently underway. All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the student trustees who will represent them next school year.

In February, we recognize Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black people to the fabric of our society. I encourage you to visit the Board's [Centre for Black Student Excellence webpage](#) and [newsletter](#) to learn more about upcoming events during Black History Month and what's happening in the Board to celebrate Black excellence. Family Day and the March Break are also approaching and we hope everyone enjoys the break. There are a number of other events for families coming up and I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#).

## New Schools

One of the other questions I am asked, particularly in growing communities is about new schools or capital projects. I can let you know that in our municipality the following [capital projects](#) have received approval:


- [Oak Ridges Secondary School](#)(current site for Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning). Opening date to be determined.

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in our school board. Visit the [newsroom](#) or website homepage at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow the Board on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#). Read your school newsletters and emails. I look forward to staying connected with you.

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

## 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@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)  
(905) 895-5155 ext.5124

Coming Soon!

Dance-a-Palooza  
Fundraiser

February 14, 2023

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTS


WINDHAM RIDGE PS 3RD ANNUAL

# Dance-a-Palooza


FUNDRAISER

**FEBRUARY 14**


Our 3rd annual Dance-a-Palooza 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 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 the draw. Each student will also receive a bonus ballot just for returning the pledge envelope.\*

 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 [wrrpscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wrrpscouncil@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 a pass 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.