



Windham Ridge Public School Community Newsletter



Week ending: May 19th, 2023



Multifaith Observances

May
Shinto 20 Sanja Matsuri (Three Shrine Festival)
Bahá'í Faith 24 Declaration of The Báb
Judaism 25 Eve of Shavuot
Judaism 26 First Day of Shavuot
Judaism 27 Second (Last) Day of Shavuot
Christianity 28 Pentecost (W)
Bahá'í Faith 29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

June
Indigenous Spirituality
 1 Strawberry Moon (local Oneida) Indigenous Spirituality
 1 National Indigenous History Month

Monday, May 22 Victoria Day- no school	Monday, May 29 (Day 4) Gr 5 to Queen's Park EQAO grade 6
Tuesday, May 23 (Day 5) Pizza lunch Track & Field (JR) EQAO grade 3	Tuesday, May 30 (Day 5) Pizza lunch EQAO grade 6
Wednesday, May 24 (Day 1) Astoria Lunch Swim to Survive Track & Field (INT) EQAO grade 3	Wednesday, May 31 (Day 1) Astoria Lunch Swim to Survive EQAO grade 6-last day
Thursday, May 25 (Day 2) Subway Lunch EQAO grade 3	Thursday, June 1 (Day 2) Subway Lunch Volunteer Tea
Friday, May 26 (Day 3) Kids Kitchen lunch King City HS presentation for Gr.8's EQAO grade 3 and grade 6	Friday, June 2 PA Day (no school)

<i>Save the Date</i>	June 13th	New grade 1 families school visit
	June 15th	Jungle Book Performance
	June 16th	Fun Day
	June 20th	End of Year BBQ
	June 22nd	Grade 8 Graduation
	June 30th	Last Day of School (dismissal at 11:40 am)

Healthy Schools Recognition Certificate

Congratulations! Windham Ridge has received the 2022-2023 *Healthy Schools Recognition Certificate* from York Region Public Health.



Volunteer Tea



WRPS invites you to join us as we celebrate and extend our gratitude for your support of our Windham Ridge PS community.

Please join us on Thursday June 1, 2023 at 10am in our Library.



Track & Field dates



Track & Field for **Junior** grades will be held on Tuesday May 23th and Track & Field for **Intermediate** grades will be held on Wednesday May 24th.

It is suggested that your child comes to school prepared on their designated date with the items on the following checklist :

- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Water Bottles
- Outdoor running shoes
- Nutritious snacks




Applications for new Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) Members

York Region District School Board Seeks Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) Members

Parents/guardians interested in serving as a member of PEAC are asked to submit an application by June 14, 2023.

PEAC supports, encourages and enhances parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. It represents the collective voice of parents who have children attending public schools in York Region. Members are expected to attend a minimum of five meetings each year. The first meeting date for the new membership is November 9, 2023, which is a joint meeting with our Equity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (EIAC).

Interested parents/guardians are invited to submit an application using the [online application form](#). For a copy of the application, please contact Leadership Development and Engagement via email at leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca or by phone at 905-727-0022 ext. 3650.

	<p>Information Session Interested applicants are invited to attend a virtual information session to learn more about this parent and community member engagement opportunity.</p> <p>Date and Time: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Meeting Information: Online virtual ITS Webinar Event meeting link</p> <p>Support If you need assistance to join this virtual meeting, please see How to access the virtual meeting link. A recording of this information session will be available on the PEAC webpage. For more information, please visit the YRDSB PEAC website or contact Leadership.Development.Engagement@yrdsb.ca.</p>
<p>June 30, 2023</p> <p>Early Dismissal</p>	<p>All schools in the York Region District School Board are committed to improving student achievement and well-being. On Friday, June 30, 2023, an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to take part in meetings during the afternoon of that day. These meetings will allow for school staff to engage in culminating activities regarding the review and revision of the School's Improvement Plan as well as year-end and transition activities that support student success.</p> <p>As has been our practice in the past, students will attend school during the morning of Friday, June 30, 2023 only. Students will be dismissed early that day at 11:40 am. Arrangements will be made to ensure that students who are normally bussed to and from school will receive transportation at this time. Parents/guardians whose children attend after school child care should make appropriate arrangements to address this change in schedule.</p>
<p>Every Student Counts Survey</p> 	<p>We thank all of our students who have completed the survey. Please read the following message from YRDSB to all our Grades 1 to 3 families:</p> <div data-bbox="574 1199 1544 1520" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <p> York Region DSB @YRDSB · 4h Attention Kindergarten - Grade 3 families!</p> <p>We've extended the deadline for the Every Student Counts Survey until June 23, 2023.</p> <p>New invitation letters will be sent home in the coming weeks in case you have misplaced yours.</p> </div>
<p>Movie Night</p> 	<p>We thank all our families who attended our end-of-the-school-year Movie Night at Windham Ridge! Thanks to your generous donations, we raised \$ 371.07</p> <p>Proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross to support Turkiye and Syria earthquake relief efforts.</p>

Messaging from Scott Yake

YRDSB Interim Director of Education

[Please click here to access the message from the YRDSB Director of Education, Scott Yake.](#)



WRPS GSA

Windham Ridge PS is thrilled to announce that it will be starting up a GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance). The GSA is a club for students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ and for students who want to be allies, supporting the 2SLGBTQ+ community. The club is supervised by teacher advisors.



Our school and the York Region Board of Education believe that all students must be treated with respect and dignity and all students must have access to schools where they feel safe, welcome, accepted and included.

Staff advisors will visit classes from grades 6-8 over the coming weeks to share the messaging above with students.

Lunch Schedules



Pizza	Tuesday	until June 20th
Astoria	Wednesday	until June 21st
Subway lunch (current session)	Thursday	Until May 11th
Subway lunch (new session)	Thursday	May 18th until June 22nd

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

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



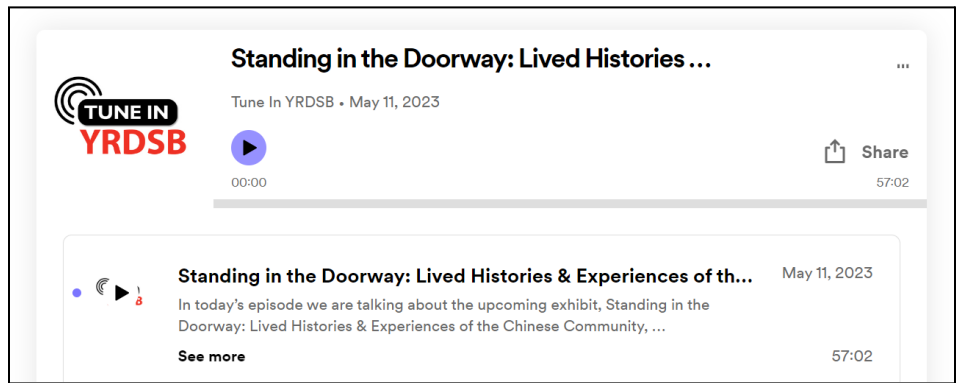
Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

May 2023

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

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community



Learn more about the upcoming exhibit, Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community in the latest Tune In YRDSB podcast episode.

The exhibit is a collection of personal stories and artifacts that shed light on the experiences of Chinese immigrants in Canada during the early 1900s, and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

[Click here to access the podcast.](#)

WRPS School Office News And Reminders



Planning on Moving?

If your child/ren grades 1 to 7 will not be returning to WRPS in September, please notify the school office by emailing windham.ridge.ps@yrdsb.ca.

Extra Clothing for all grades

With wet and muddy Spring days ahead, please send extra clothing with your child (especially socks & pants) in a labelled Ziploc bag that they could keep on their hook or in their locker. Students should also continue to have indoor shoes and only wear their outdoor shoes during morning and lunch recesses.

Lunches/snacks/water bottles

In the event that you need to drop off your child's lunch, we have a table to the right of the entry doors where you can leave your child's lunch for them to pick up at 12:50pm. There are pens and labels to write your child's name onto their lunch. As per YRDSB's [website](#), "Individual food delivery services are not currently accepted". Please refrain from ordering lunch from Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes etc. and have it delivered to the school. Office staff are not available to accept deliveries at the main doors and monitor lunches left at the lunch table in the main entry area.

I don't have my lunch! I'm still hungry!

We do our best to support your child as needed and we offer extra snacks for students. A suggestion would be to add extra snacks to your child's lunch so that they have the option to access these items in the event they are missing their lunch or are still hungry after recesses and lunch time. Invite your child to prepare their own snacks and lunches as a daily routine! This can avoid phone calls home throughout the day and requests to have you drop off food items to the school.

Early vacations in June

The last day of school is Friday June 30th. As we are approaching the end of the school year, families may be planning early summer vacations. Parents may report a *planned absence* in Edsby once they have confirmed their child's last day. Don't forget to also advise the homeroom teacher.

French Immersion Registration

If there is a younger sibling in the family planning to attend Windham Ridge for grade 1 in the fall, and you have not registered already, please notify the office right away as we are preparing for September.

Talking to Youth About Vaping

York Region Public Health



RE: Talking to Youth About Vaping for Families from York Region Public Health

There are many reasons why youth may start to use vapes. Friends may pressure others to start using vape products. Youth may see family members vape or smoke and imitate that behaviour. Additionally, the last few years may have been extraordinarily difficult for many youth and they may think that vapes and nicotine products will help them cope with [stress](#).

Whether you are a parent, guardian or teacher, [starting a discussion with your kids](#) about vaping may not be easy but having the conversation early about drugs and [experimenting](#) is important so that youth can get the real facts.

Parents and Caregivers play an important role

The adolescent period is a time of critical growth and development making youth more susceptible to the effects of nicotine, the addictive substance found in many vapes. Nicotine can interfere with [teenage brain development](#) and can cause changes in the brain affecting learning, memory and concentration, making youth more susceptible to other [substance misuse](#) and risk-taking behaviours.

Some tips for starting a conversation about vapes and youth vaping includes:

- Get the facts about the health risks and laws around vaping before your talk – information and products change quickly so conversations should reflect the child's growing maturity and the pressures they may face
- Keep your talk informal and look for natural opportunities for discussion (e.g., a new vape store opens near you)
- Ask questions and try to be empathetic about what they know and how they feel about vaping
- Share some vaping facts with them
- If their friends use vapes/e-cigarettes, disapprove of the use of these products rather than disapproving of the friends themselves

Remember: listening is just as important as talking.

For more information and tips about how to talk with youth, read [Talking with your teen about vaping: a tip sheet for parents](#) and visit [Tobacco, Vaping And Youth](#).

When talking with youth about tobacco products and vaping, it is important to:

- Understand tobacco and vaping from a youth's point of view – youth understand the issue differently based on their developmental stage
- Talk about the tactics used by the tobacco industry to make tobacco and vaping appealing to youth. Explain how the industry tempts youth to buy tobacco products and/or engage in behaviours that might be harmful to their health
- Role play, practice and provide options about how to refuse tobacco products to help youth prepare for situations involving tobacco and vaping with their peers
- Equip youth with the information, skills and motivation they need to make informed and healthy choices
- Discuss vape-free laws so youth understand that it is illegal to sell or supply vapes to anyone under 19 years of age; and that it is illegal to vape anywhere you can't smoke cigarettes, including on or around school and community centre properties, among other places

Quitting vaping/tobacco Quitting vaping and/or tobacco is one of the best things you can do to improve your health. If you or someone you know needs help, call York Region Access York at 1-877-464-9675 TTY (for those with hearing disabilities) 1-866-512-6228.