



Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **October 14th, 2022**

Two Weeks



at a

Glance

Monday, October 17 (Day 2)

Take Me Outside Week Begins!

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

Monday, October 24 (Day 1)

Diwali- Diamond Day



Tuesday, October 18 (Day 3)

Bill Crothers HS open house

Tuesday, October 25 (Day 2)

Wednesday, October 19 (Day 4)

Take Me Outside Day - see below

Wednesday, October 26 (Day 3)

Thursday, October 20 (Day 5)

Wear **PURPLE** Spirit Day

Thursday, October 27 (Day 4)

Friday, October 21

PA Day- no school

Friday, October 28 (Day 5)

Picture Day

October is Islamic Heritage Month



Multifaith Observances

“Quiet Moment“ by Tamara Kwapich

“This work is about resilience in knowing that even though the seasons change and time moves on, there is beauty in the present moment and hope that the future is bright.”

<http://tkwapich.com/>

Judaism 17 Shmini Atzeret

Judaism 17 Eve of Simḥat Torah

Judaism 18 Simḥat Torah

Sikhism 20 Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

Hinduism 24 Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh celebration)

Hinduism 25 Vikram New Year (2079)

Astronomical Event 25 Partial Solar Eclipse

New Moon 25 New Moon

Jainism 26 Jain New Year & Day of Enlightenment

Bahá'í Faith 26 Birth of The Báb

Bahá'í Faith 27 Birth of Bahá'u'lláh

Jainism 29 Jnana Panchmi

See the Moon partially obscure the Sun in one of the astronomical events of the year.



[Click here for more information about solar eclipses and the partial solar eclipse taking place October 25, 2022.](#)

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17 October



<https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-for-eradicating-poverty>

“Dignity for all in practice is the umbrella theme of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty for 2022-2023. The dignity of the human being is not only a fundamental right in itself but constitutes the basis of all other fundamental rights. Therefore, “Dignity” is not an abstract concept: it belongs to each and every one. Today, many people living in persistent poverty experience their dignity being denied and disrespected.

The Research

Stories of scrambling, coming together and unprecedented hardship have been front and centre during the COVID-19 pandemic. York Region Food Network captured stories from the emergency food sector during the first two waves of the pandemic.

Who

46
organizations providing food services

What

Asked about their experiences during the pandemic

When

July 2020–January 2021

How

Phone interviews

Where

Across York Region's nine municipalities

Why

- Capture who was impacted by the pandemic and gaps in services
- Document resiliency in the food sector
- Understand how initiatives worked together
- Understand opportunities for future coordination

This research came from community, was conducted and driven by community.

Strengths of community led research:

- Gives a platform for local voices, experiences and priorities
- Highlights community-specific concerns and issues
- Documents innovation and resiliency
- Helps address community issues in appropriate ways

Check out other research done by organizations in our community!

- Georgina Community Food Pantry Research
- Food Bank of York Region's Hunger Report
- Social Planning Council Research
- LevelUp research

With the commitment to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people everywhere enjoy peace and prosperity, the 2030 Agenda again gestured toward the same promise established under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet, the current reality shows that 1.3 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty with almost half of them children and youth.” International Day for the Eradication of Poverty | United Nations

<https://yrfn.ca/narratives-from-the-frontline/>

How do we connect our WRPS community to understanding local and global poverty?

We look forward to continued learning and actions, in partnership with all members of our WRPS community, to support local and international efforts to eradicate poverty.

System Issues

Food insecurity occurs when households cannot access food due to financial constraints. **This means income security is essential to conversations around reducing food insecurity.**

Affordable Housing

According to the 2016 census, 12 per cent of York Region's residents were living on low incomes.^[1] Affordable housing is considered below 30 per cent of a household's income before tax.^[2]

In 2016, 52 per cent of people who rented in York Region spent over 30 per cent of their incomes on rent. 27 per cent spent more than 50 per cent of their income on rent.^[3]

Employment & Wages

- During the pandemic, already precarious employment was made more precarious for many workers due to lockdowns, lost hours and lack of paid sick days.
- Nearly 2/3 of people who are food insecure earn their primary source of income through employment.^[4]

Minimum wage is not a livable wage in York Region.

- For a family of four, food and rent consume 68 per cent of a single full-time minimum wage.^[5]
- Studies show that a livable wage in Ontario is much more than minimum wage.

A livable wage is:^[6]

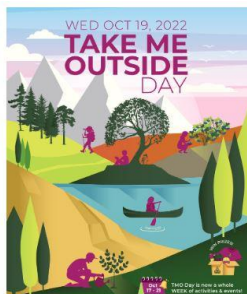
\$19.80/hour
in Peel

\$17.80/hour
in Durham

\$22.08/hour
in Toronto

Wednesday October
19, 2022

Take Me Outside Day
at Windham Ridge PS!



WRPS is excited to be taking part in the 12th year of
#TakeMeOutsideDay!

This will include a week's worth of activities, speakers, and events from October 17th - 21st. Wednesday October 19th officially marks Take Me Outside Day. With activities and events around three different themes of Indigenous knowledge, health and well-being, and environmental and climate change education, our WRPS students will explore some new learning while taking part in outdoor education.



October 20, 2022
Wear PURPLE!

Each year, students, educators and allies bring attention to the need for safer and more inclusive learning and working environments for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and individuals with related identities (2SLGBTQI+).

October 20 is **Spirit Day**, a day started in 2010 by Brittany McMillan, a Canadian teenager. Brittany created the event after learning about youth who lost their lives to suicide after experiencing bullying related to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and expression identities. It has become an annual event in October when millions of North Americans wear purple to show their support for 2SLGBTQI+ youth and take a stand against bullying. Students, schools, organizations, corporations, media professionals, celebrities, and parents wear purple to convey that 2SLGBTQI+ youth are to be celebrated and respected for who they are. The purple stripe on the pride flag represents spirit, giving this day its name.

Students leaving
school property during
the lunch hour



In the online start up package report, all families were required to indicate whether their child(ren) have permission to leave school property at lunch. We ask that you determine with your child acceptable locations or activities during their time signed out at lunch.

Parents need to send an email to the school email at windham.ridge.ps@yrdsb.ca before 10:00 a.m each day you are giving permission for your child to leave school at lunch. Students will not be permitted to call parents to get verbal permission.

Review the steps below with your child if you have provided permissions for signing out at lunch:

- Send an email to windham.ridge.ps@yrdsb.ca before 10:00am to indicate that your child will be signing out to lunch on that day;
- Student will sign out in the office binder at the start of lunch hour;
- sign back in before 1:10 and join their class at the back of the school to line up for entry, under teacher supervision.

Please note that students must return to school prior to the 1:10 bell to ensure that they sign in at the office and enter with classmates by 1:10 for attendance and safe arrival procedures.

Grade 8 Updates

The grade 8 year is off to a great start! I'm sure high school is on everyone's mind, so please, feel free to contact Mr. Raha surit.raha@yrdsb.ca anytime with any questions, concerns, or if you'd just like to chat. Please note the following, all grade 8's have been added to the Grade 8 Network google classroom. This is where all high school information will be posted and regularly updated. Most important news right now? Open house dates have been posted and some are happening soon. Please reach out with any questions!

Choosing a school is based on your home address (found by using the [School Locator](#)) and [school boundaries](#) (attendance areas).

Bill Crothers Secondary School [Bill Crothers SS Website](#)

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 (6:15-8:00pm)

Alexander Mackenzie (Arts program) [ARTS Mackenzie](#)

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 (7:00-8:30pm) @ Richmond Hill Performing Centre for the Arts

King City Secondary School [King City SS Website- Virtual Open House](#)

(French Immersion program, English program, check school locator)

Thursday, December 8, 2022 (6:30-8:00pm)

Richmond Green Secondary School [Richmond Green SS Website](#)

(English program, check school locator)

Monday, November 21, 2022

YRDSB's Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Membership open to community volunteers!

The York Region District School Board invites applications from community volunteers for membership on the Board's Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EIAC).

The committee advises and supports the Board in fulfilling its commitment to ensuring that YRDSB schools and workplaces are equitable and inclusive places to learn and to work. Membership requires a commitment to attend meetings six times a year.

The deadline to apply is **November 1, 2022**. More information about this volunteer opportunity, including how to apply, is available on the Board [website](#).

Additional information about the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee is contained in the Committee's Operational By-Law, included as Appendix D of the York Region District School Board [Operational By-Law](#).

[Click here to access more information.](#)

Our new 2022-2023 WRPS School Council Committee!

On Wednesday, October 13, 2022, the WRPS election committee, with support from our elections committee member Malahat Ahmad, facilitated an elections process for formation of the new 2022-2023 WRPS School Council.

Congratulations to:

Executive Committee

Co-Chair	Co-Chair	Treasurer	Secretary
Vivian Aitas	Jodi Montagnese	Apurva Talsania	Lisa Di Lena

Voting Members

Farida Babrawalla	Parvaz Kirouac	Rocco Di Lena	Sukaina Sheraly	Tara Dimopoulos	Diana Shin	Melissa Kurz	Trisha Nurse
Maryam Movasseli	Angela Lambros	Cassandre Lennox	BehnAz Houdi	Samira Zad	Kathy Zivontsis	Joanna Zhang	Mariam Kottab



Next School Council meeting:

November 15, 2022
6:30pm to 8:30pm
(Virtual link to follow)

All WRPS parents/guardians are welcome to attend!

What is a School Council?

A reminder that all parents/guardians are welcome to attend each School Council Meeting and can choose to participate in committees such as, and not limited to:

[YRDSB School Councils - An Overview](#)

- Parent Engagement
- Fundraising
- Yearbook
- Student Programs
- Volunteer Programs
- Communications
- Health and Wellness
- School Grants



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