



# Windham Ridge P.S. Community Newsletter



Week ending: **September 9, 2022**

## Two Weeks at a Glance

Monday, September 12 (Day 4)	Monday, September 12 (Day 4)
Tuesday, September 13 (Day 5)	Tuesday, September 13 (Day 5)
Wednesday, September 14 (Day 1)	Wednesday, September 14 (Day 1)
Thursday, September 15 (Day 2)	Thursday, September 15 (Day 2)
Friday, September 16 (Day 3) Caring and Safe Schools divisional assemblies	Friday, September 16 (Day 3) Caring and Safe Schools divisional assemblies

## Multifaith Observances



Buddhism *Sept. 7* Birth date of H.H. Sakya Trizin  
 Bahá'í Faith *Sept. 8* 'Izzat  
 Jainism *Sept. 9* Ananta-chaturdasi (Festival of Ten Virtues)  
 Jainism *Sept. 10* Ksamavani  
 Jainism *Sept 10* Dashalakshani-parva ends  
*Sept. 10* Full Moon  
 Hinduism *Sept. 11* Pitru Paksha  
 Zathushti (Zoroastrianism) *Sept. 12* Ghambar Paitishem begins  
 Buddhism *Sept. 12* Anniversary of the Tatsunokuchi Persecution  
 Zathushti (Zoroastrianism) *Sept. 16* Ghambar Paitishem ends

### Did you know?



### September 10, 2022- Full Moon

(23:54) This full moon was known by early First Nations peoples / Native American tribes as the Full Corn Moon because the corn is harvested around this time of year. This moon is also known as the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the September equinox each year. (Sea and Sky)

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/amp/news/article/september-2022-full-corn-harvest-moon-shines-in-the-sky>

# Caring and Safe Schools

As we start a new school year, it is important to us that we provide a caring, safe and inclusive environment in our school that supports the academic achievement and well-being of all students. We are holding an assembly on **Friday September 16, 2022** to talk about some of the important elements of a caring and safe school. You may want to have a conversation with your child about what they are learning about and what we discuss. Topics covered include:

## **Inappropriate Behaviour**

Students are learning about about racism, discrimination and bullying and this learning will continue through the school year. Instances of racism, discrimination and bullying, are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. Students also need to know about safe behaviours in schools including what not to bring to school such as peanut products, vape products, weapons including replicas.

## **Reporting Behaviour**

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (located on our school website) YRDSB's online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and/or incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information.
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868)



## **Mental Health**

We want to stress with students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. Positive mental health is closely tied to a sense of identity and safety for each individual. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

## **Student Discipline**

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

**Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment**

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping](#), [electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and/or student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This is in compliance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000) may apply. In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

**Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology**

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools.

Students are reminded that threats and comments made online are taken seriously and may have serious consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remains our top priority.

**For More Information**

For more details on each of these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for details and resources for families to continue the conversation.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community

**Review Policy #672  
Student Leadership  
and Voice  
and  
Policy #635 Student  
Dress Code**

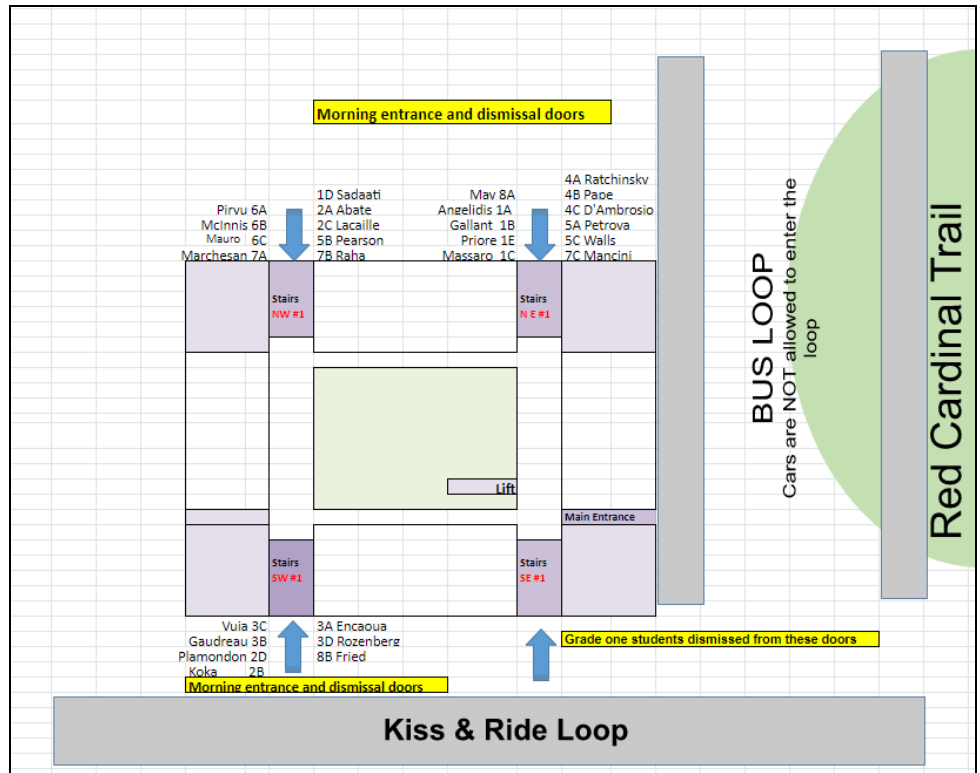


The York Region District School Board regularly engages in reviewing its policies. Currently, the Board of Trustees has identified a need to review Policy #672 Student Leadership and Voice and Policy #635 Student Dress Code. As part of the review process The YRDSB consults extensively with students, staff and community members.

We encourage you to review this [slide deck](#) to build some context around Student leadership in our Board and fill out the surveys to provide your feedback. You will find the surveys on our [Board's Policy review page](#) along with an explanation of policy review. Scroll down the page and click on to find the links to the surveys.

We thank you for your participation and your voice in ensuring our policies are reflective of our community of learners. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Your input will be considered and used to help inform revisions to the policies.

**Entry  
and  
Dismissal  
Routines  
(repeat message)**



Thank you to all our families for supporting a smooth start to our new school year!

Please note that the map above, outlining line ups and entry/exit doors, is a *new procedure for our students*. In past COVID protocol years, students entered the building at 8:25am and moved to their classes.

Supervision will be available outdoors on the west and north tarmacs from 8:25am to 8:40am.

At 8:38am, a bell will ring to signal students to line up at their assigned door as per the map above. At 8:40am, staff will guide lines into the school.

We will review this new procedure on our virtual morning announcements and classroom teachers will continue to support our younger students with this new routine.

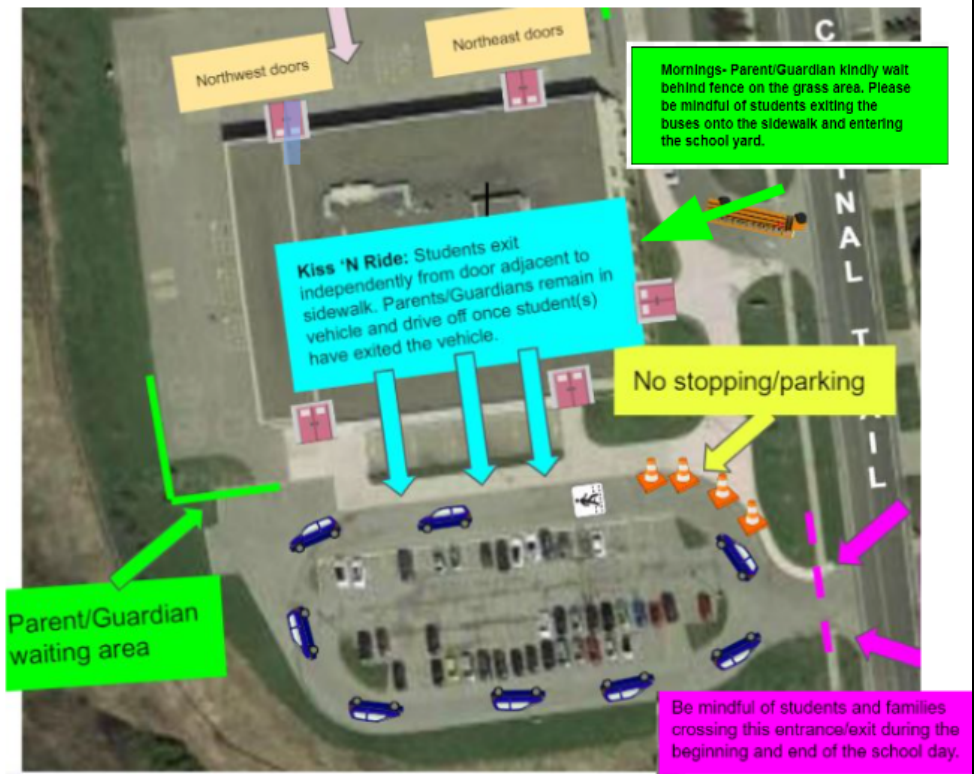
**Community  
Supports-  
available to all  
families**

Visit [YRDSB's public website](#) to find various supports available to Ontario residents.

Some services listed on the website include:

- **211 Ontario** : Managed and maintained by the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and funded by the United Way. It is Canada's primary source of information on government and community-based health and social services. It is a both a helpline and online database of Ontario's community and social services that is answered and updated by highly-trained specialists.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** : Programs, supports and resources are available to support students and families.

Kiss 'N Ride  
and  
Parking at  
Windham Ridge



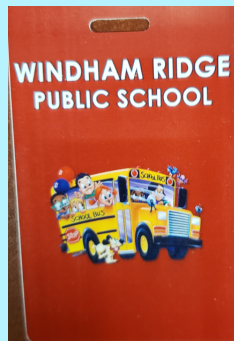
**Kiss N' Ride:**

Kindly take note of the Kiss 'N Ride area indicated above. When you enter this area, your child will need to exit independently using the passenger doors along the sidewalk. Students will move to their assigned areas, near their entry doors.

**Cars need to keep moving in this area-** please do not park in the Kiss 'N Ride areas. If your child needs assistance exiting the vehicle, we encourage you to park in the parking lot or along Red Cardinal Trail.

Thank you in advance for keeping our WRPS outdoor spaces safe for all students and families.

## WRPS Office News and Information



**Purchasing Agendas:** Families are welcome to purchase an agenda for their child(ren) at a cost of \$6.00. If this is of interest to you, you can purchase an agenda beginning on Wednesday, September 7th. At that time, please login to [School Cash Online](#) for more information and payment options.

### Online Start-Up Forms:

- The Board will be emailing families a link to a Google Form to complete the start-up forms (the week of Sept 12)
- Translations will be available
- Student GAPPs login information will be required for families to complete the forms.

Please ensure your students have their GAPPs login information at the start of the school year. If your child is *new* to the Board, the classroom teacher will provide your child with the GAPPs login information.

### Office Index Card:

The office will be sending home an *Office Index Card* with your child's personal information. Please review the information, sign, date and return the form to your child's teacher. **Please indicate on the form if there are any changes to guardian phone numbers, address, email addresses and emergency contact information.**

## Indigenous Languages and International Languages

The Indigenous  
Languages and  
International  
Languages Team  
Phone Number: (905)  
884-2046 ext. 242,  
Email:  
[ILIL@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ILIL@yrdsb.ca)



Dear Students and Families,

We welcome everyone to the 2022-2023 Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) program year and thank you for your continued support and patience.

We are also excited to welcome our students and families back to in-person instruction onsite for the 2022-2023 elementary program year. While we will be returning to the same ILIL school locations pre-pandemic, there may be some changes to the locations in which specific languages are offered.

### **\*NEW\* Elementary Online/Remote Options:**

To better serve our language learning community, we have added online /remote learning options on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Online learning does not require students and teachers to be face-to-face at a school site. Classes occur online using a synchronous and asynchronous model, with check-in opportunities with the teacher. Families will be contacted with updates as necessary.

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