

Issue No. 20June 13, 2025

Dates At A Glance		
June	Pride Month Filipino Heritage Month Portuguese History and Heritage Month Italian Heritage Month National Indigenous History Month	
Jun 13	Locker Clean Out	
Jun 18-24	Exams	
Jun 25	Graduation	
Jun 26-27	PA Day - No School	
Jul 4	OCAS Transmission	
Jul 7	OUAC Transmission Final eDistribution	
Jul 7-10	eDistribution - Final Report Cards	
Sep 2	First Day of School-Gr.9	
Sep 3	First Day for Gr. 10–12	

DAILY SCHEDULE		STATES AND STATES
PERIOD	TIME	
Warning Bell	8:50 a.m.	Make an intention to notice each good thing.
HR	8:55 a.m 9:00 a.m.	Doesn't matter what it is, as long as it makes you
1	9:00 a.m 10:15 a.m.	smile, even for just a second. Tuck them away in your pocket like tiny treasures. Save them up for the days when you have a hard time
2	10:20 a.m 11:35 a.m.	
Lunch	11:35 a.m 12:40 p.m.	finding your gratitude. They'll light the way.
3	12:40 p.m 1:55 p.m.	
4	2:00 p.m 3:15 p.m.	a See dust table de citre alle contra
HELPFUL LINKS:		CARING & SAFE SCHOOLS:
WC Website, YRDSB Website WC Twitter, WC Instagram		Crimestoppers, Kids Help Phone Report It (YRDSB)

Exam Schedule

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to share with you the upcoming culminating activities and exams schedule.

Please see timelines below:

- Tues June 17 Last Day of Semester 2 classes
- Wed June 18 Period 1 Exams
- o Thurs June 19 Period 2 Exams
- o Fri June 20 Period 3 Exams
- o Mon June 23 Period 4 Exams
- Tues June 24 Exam Day (if required)
- Wed June 25 Exam Review Day Morning only
- o Thurs June 26 PA Day
- Fri June 27 PA Day

Please connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions.

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Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

Message from Our Trustee June 2025

As we approach the end of the 2024-2025 school year, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments, hard work and commitment of students, staff and families. As I have visited schools, attended events and heard from families, I continue to be proud of the dedication to public education and student achievement and well-being I see.

I want to wish my sincere congratulations to all of the graduates and proud families. This is an exciting time and I hope you enjoy this celebration of all of your hard work, perseverance and accomplishments. Whether you are moving on to secondary school, the workplace or post-secondary pathways, we wish you all the very best in this next exciting chapter of your journey.

We had an opportunity in April to celebrate the achievements of 20 students at our annual Celebrating Student Success/Human Rights Ambassadors Awards event. It was a wonderful reminder of how much our students are capable of. While success and achievement looked different for each student, we saw a common theme of determination and care. Students demonstrated a real commitment to lifting up those around them. I see that everywhere in our system as I visit schools. It makes me so proud to see the ways our students are already shaping the future for the better.

Each month in the Boardroom, we also had the opportunity to recognize the achievements of staff and students through the <u>Applause awards</u>. Congratulations to all of the award recipients. These awards capture a sampling of the incredible work happening around York Region District School Board and the successes we see students achieving.

These successes we have seen this school year would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of staff across the system, and I want to thank you for all that you do each and every day. I also want to recognize the contributions that have been made by school councils, volunteers and families. Your work to enhance family engagement and strengthen public education has a noticeable difference in our schools and in the achievement and well-being of students.

This is a very busy time of year and I wish all of the students the best as you work on projects and prepare for upcoming exams. I hope you also enjoy the celebrations that occur at this time of year, and as we celebrate another successful school year.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3

Access Report Cards in the Family Dashboard When Available

As we reach the end of the school year, schools will be sharing student report cards by June 30 for elementary schools and July 10 for secondary schools. Report cards will be available in the Family Dashboard until July 30. You will receive an email when your child's report card is available.

For families who do not yet have a Family Dashboard account, you can sign up for an account at any time at <u>family.yrdsb.ca</u>. You can find information on how to create an account <u>on the Board website</u> or in this <u>instructional video</u>.



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

The Family Dashboard gives parents/guardians secure one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. It is designed to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education.

Please note, you can still request a printed copy of your child's report card if you prefer by contacting your child's school.

As we wrap up the school year, we also want to remind families that it's important that the school has updated contact information for students and parents/guardians, including home address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contacts. This will ensure that the school can contact families in case of emergency, and also that you continue to receive important communications and updates from the school. Please contact the school directly with any changes.

Attendance at WC

ATTENDANCE ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents/ guardians please email attendance absences to <u>woodbridgecollege.attendance@yrdsb.ca</u> Please note, EDSBY is **not** monitored for student absenteeism.

YRDSB Resources and Opportunities

Vape Detectors in Secondary Schools

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 <u>stress</u>.

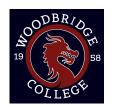
Whether you are a parent, guardian or teacher, <u>starting a discussion with your kids</u> about vaping may not be easy but having the conversation early about drugs and <u>experimenting</u> is important so that youth can get the real facts.

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 <u>teenage brain development</u> and can cause changes in the brain affecting learning, memory and concentration, making youth more susceptible to other <u>substance misuse</u> and risk-taking behaviours.

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

- 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



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

- 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 <u>Talking with your teen about vaping: a tip sheet for parents</u> and visit <u>Tobacco. Vaping And Youth</u>.

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 or email tobaccofreeliving@york.ca.

Resources for Families

- School Mental Health Ontario: Resources for Students & Families
- Partnership for Drug-Free Kids on How to Talk To Your Kids About Vaping
- Health Canada on Talking With Your Teen About Vaping
- ACT Newfoundland- Truth About Vaping

Understanding and Navigating the Education System - Families of YRDSB Black Students June Information Session

Understanding and Navigating the Education System - Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session on Monday, June 16, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Families, parents, caregivers, please join us for our monthly virtual meeting, where families with Black children come together to learn about resources and upcoming programs for Black students in both elementary and secondary schools. Please see our flyer for more information and to register.



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

The Canadian Black Nurses Alliance - York University Nursing Summer High-School Workshop

The Canadian Black Nurses Alliance - York University is hosting a Nursing High-School Summer

Workshop. The deadline to register is June 23, 2025.

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 **Time:** 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies Building (HNES), York University Keele Campus.

Please see flyer for more details.

Open Mic Night with York Regional Police

York Regional Police Community Services invite youth aged 12-17 to participate in an Open Mic Night this summer at the Community Safety Village. Please see our <u>flver</u> for more information.

York Region Public Health Free Dental Clinics

York Region Public Health is offering free dental clinics for children 17 and under across the region through the provincial Healthy Smile Ontario program. Please see our <u>flyer</u> for locations. Visit <u>YRPH Dental</u> <u>Programs</u> or call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74388 for more information.

School Year Calendar - 2025-2026

The YRDSB 2025-2026 school year calendars have been approved by the Ministry. These calendars may be accessed on the YRDSB website at: https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-calendar.

Centre for Black Excellence Mailing List

We would like to encourage families to subscribe to the mailing list to stay up to date with information about school board and community events and programs that would benefit Black students and families with Black children and updates on Board efforts to dismantle anti-Black racism.

Please see our flyer for more information on how to subscribe to the mailing list.

360°Kids Information Flyer

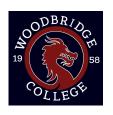
360°kids is dedicated to helping at-risk and unhoused youth by providing essential support services in housing, employment, health, and education. Please see our <u>flyer</u> for more information.

Sankofa Mentoring Program

The Sankofa Mentoring Program is for students in grades seven to twelve, online on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and two Saturday's per month in person 10 am to 1pm at Bur Oak Secondary School, Markham Ontario. The environment creates a safe space for students, and mentors to come together in unity and learn more about their heritage. Through collective work/responsibility, we have created an environment where creativity and cooperative economics work together to engender self-determination. The program was developed in the follow structure:

• Rooted in an Afrocentric Framework

- Three tier model (life skills, community engagement and civic responsibility)
- Highlights the principles of the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles) Unity, Self-Determination Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, Faith, and Self-Respect



Register Here

Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

CO-OP & Pathway Opportunities



On behalf of Woodbridge College's Cooperative Education Program, we extend our deepest appreciation to our community partners for their outstanding support, guidance, and mentorship throughout this semester. Their dedication to fostering student growth has

been instrumental in shaping the personal and professional journeys of our co-op students.

Thanks to their invaluable contributions, our students have gained crucial industry-specific knowledge, a deeper understanding of essential terminology and tools, and the hands-on experience necessary to build confidence and refine their skill sets. Their commitment to creating an environment where students can bridge classroom learning with real-world applications has truly empowered them to strive for excellence.

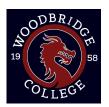


The time, expertise, and resources our community partners have invested in mentoring students have not only strengthened their

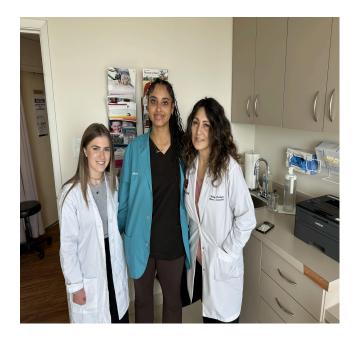


technical capabilities but have also provided them with a clearer sense of purpose and direction in their future careers. Their involvement underscores the vital connection between education and industry, leaving a lasting and meaningful impact on the next generation.

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such dedicated and supportive community partners. Thank you for inspiring and preparing today's youth for a bright and successful future. Wishing you all a wonderful summer, and we look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead in September 2025.



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025





Summer Dual Credit Courses

<u>Flyer</u> - learn about courses grade 11 and 12 students can take at college and earn a high school credit at the same time.

Health Care Plans for Students

If your child has a serious life-threatening allergy or medical condition, please inform the office to complete the appropriate medical forms. There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. To help create an allergen-safe environment, do not bring nuts or nut products to school.

It is critical that parents and guardians share information with us about students' serious or life-threatening medical conditions or other health-related matters so that we can create fulsome Health Care Plans that help keep students safe. We encourage students, who are able, to contribute to the creation of these plans too.

Please access forms below as needed. Completed forms and medication can be placed in a sealable bag, with the student's name marked on the bag and left in the Main Office As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns.

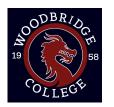
Health Care Plan Form

Diabetes Health Care Plan

Asthma Health Care Plan

Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan

Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

Guidance Corner

Students and/or parents are able to make a Guidance appointment with Ms. Kolianou or Ms. Neally through teachassist. Please wait for a response to see if your chosen date and time are available.

Haven't received an Ontario university offer? The Admission Information Service is now open!

Starting June 4, 2025, Ontario high school students can use the Admission Information Service (AIS) to find possible openings at Ontario universities. The AIS allows Ontario high school students to determine which universities have places remaining in specific programs. <a href="Program: Program: Pr

Visit the AIS to search for open programs. To find out more:

View the <u>AIS flyer</u>

Email: undergradsup@ouac.on.ca

Call AIS at: 519-823-1063



Please note that you must have accepted an offer to a postsecondary institution to begin your OSAP application.

Since college tuition fees are typically due in mid-June, all students intending to attend college next year should be applying for OSAP in early May. This ensures that you will only need to pay the tuition deposit by the June deadline and not the full amount.

Students intending to attend a university next year should complete their OSAP application no later than the first week of June as applications can take up to 10 weeks to process.

Before you can apply online for OSAP assistance and/or the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant, you must register as a new user to the OSAP website. When you register, you will be asked to provide basic personal information for your personal profile on your OSAP account. This information includes your name, date of birth, gender, contact information, Social Insurance Number (SIN) and other identification numbers (e.g., your Ontario Education Number (OEN), if you have them.

Once you provide the necessary information, your OSAP Access Number (OAN) will be generated. Your OAN will be your user identification for the OSAP website. You will use your OAN, along with the password that you created, each time you access the OSAP website. This will include accessing the OSAP website for activities related to the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant.

To start your registration process, read the terms and conditions set out in this OSAP New User Registration Agreement. You will be asked to indicate that you have read and agree to all of the terms and conditions.

You can start your OSAP application by registering as a new user by clicking on the link.

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Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

Summer Jobs

YRES is hiring for 8-week paid positions (Camp Counsellor, Web Developer, and more) in York Region through Canada Summer Job. Open to youth aged 15-30. Positions start April 28 or June 30. Apply today at <u>yorkeducation.org/join-us</u>.

Scholarships

Final Scholarship Report

Scholar Tree

With spring right around the corner, <u>ScholarTree.ca</u> wanted to share a list of scholarships (over 1,800 awards totalling over \$5,000,000) available to students over March/Spring Break. <u>Scholarship for March</u> If you have issues opening the links, you can either try right-clicking and copying the links into your browser.

Not all awards will apply to all students. Students should create a profile on ScholarTree to get a customized list and weekly email reminders of deadlines. Students can use the "Applications Open" filter only to see those scholarships currently accepting applications at the top left of their scholarship list.

Russell Alexander Law Scholarship

This is a friendly reminder, there is only one month left to apply for the Russell Alexander Law Scholarship.

The recipient will receive up to \$2,000 toward the tuition for their post-secondary education, in addition to a \$500 bonus to help cover the cost of school supplies of their choice, such as technology, textbooks, notebooks, etc.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a Canadian citizen planning to attend college or university in Canada during the 2025 academic year
- Students must have an average of 80% or higher
- Must have a general interest in studying and pursuing a career in the legal field.

Applicants must upload their resume, transcript, and an essay response to ONE of these questions:

The Future of Family Law: Family law is constantly evolving to reflect societal changes, including shifts in marriage trends, cohabitation, and parenting structures. What do you think is the most significant challenge facing family law today, and how should legal professionals address it?

The Role of Collaborative Law in Family Disputes: Collaborative family law focuses on resolving disputes amicably rather than through litigation. Do you believe this approach is preferable to traditional court proceedings? Why or why not? Provide examples to support your argument.

Deadline is June 30, 2025

Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) 14th Annual Scholarships Application This year, BFCN will be awarding four \$1000 scholarships to qualifying students pursuing education at an accredited Canadian University or College in September 2025. Two scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students and two scholarships will be awarded to graduate students. <u>Learn more and register</u> by <u>July 31, 2025</u>.



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) 11th Annual Aim 2 Achieve Awards Application

The Aim 2 Achieve Award will recognize Black students who are celebrating achievement after facing adversity. This year BFCN will be awarding two Aim 2 Achieve awards. The recipients of the \$1000 award will be students graduating from a Canadian secondary school or CEGEP and who will be attending an accredited Canadian University or College in September 2025 to pursue undergraduate education. Perseverance and dedication are two qualities that the Aim 2 Achieve winners must embody and believe in. Achievement exists in many different forms and we want to hear about yours! Learn more and register by July 31, 2025.

Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) Scholarship Directory 2025

The <u>BFCN Scholarship Directory</u> is a free, detailed, and up-to-date compilation of 50+ available scholarships, awards, and bursaries for youth pursuing post-secondary education primarily at the undergraduate level. This directory was created to support Black students and their families, educators, guidance counselors, and coaches search, find, and apply for funding opportunities.

Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) invites self-identifying Black students who are graduating from a high school in the York Region District School Board to apply for AEBS 2025 Scholarships. Please see the <u>flyer</u> for more information. The deadline to apply is <u>Monday May 12, 2025</u>.

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)

The Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA) will be awarding scholarships of \$1,000 to selected recipients. <u>Deadline is June 30, 2025</u>.

2025 Scholarship Application Package

Please see the flyer for more information or visit the MACCA website.

2025 Healthy Democracy Student Leadership Award

Please see Flyer and Information Sheet for more information.

The deadline for receipt of application packages is June 6, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

Mental Health Supports

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

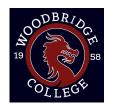
Each year, Ontarians mark the first full week of May as Children's Mental Health Week. Please see the family toolkit <u>link</u> for more information.

Policy update from the Ministry of Education

Dear Families,

The Ontario Ministry of Education released <u>Policy/Program Memorandum 128</u> in the fall of 2024, which included a directive to school boards to set out enforcement mechanisms to address the possession, use and provision of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, nicotine products, recreational cannabis, alcohol and illegal drugs. In support of a comprehensive approach, we are pleased to announce that in the coming months, vape-detecting devices will be installed at all YRDSB secondary schools.

Our schools continue to provide education and support regarding the harmful impact of these products. Please see resources listed below.



Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

Resources for Families QUASH

- A Logical Plan for Quitting
 - free smoking and vaping cessation app (co-designed by youth for youth)

School Mental Health Ontario

- Vaping: What you need to know
 - general information about vaping; outlines important facts, associated risks, and additional resources to support educators/families in having informed conversations with students

York Region Public Health (YRPH)

- Vape Facts: What You Need to Know
 - o a website containing YRPH anti-vaping campaign videos and vaping facts
- Vaping and E-Cigarettes
 - o a website continuing YRPH information on vaping and health risks

Canadian Lung Association

- How to Talk to Your Child About Vaping
 - o a pdf guide for parents about talking with your child about vaping and the risks

Student Mental Health and Addictions Letter

June 2025 - Summer Wellness Guide

May 2025 - Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

April 2025 - Getting Ready for Mental Health Awareness Week

Inclusive School and Community Services

Inclusive School and Community Services support schools in developing a learning and school environment that is respectful, supportive and welcoming to all. This includes building and maintaining strong partnerships with parents, community, community organizations and social service agencies to ensure the Board is able to meet the diverse needs of our school communities. See YRDSB website for details.

Services to Support Mental Health

- Family Services of York Region 905-883-6572
- Trans Lifeline: https://translifeline.org
- YRDSB Trans Student Support Group Bi-weekly meetings 3:30 4:30 contact Max at max.denlev@vrdsb.ca Also offered in: Ukrainian, Russian, Dari, Mandarin and Arabic

Academic Supports

YRDSB Student Tools and Supports

Supporting Mental Health:

Crisis Mental Health Supports for Students:

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) avail.24/7
- <u>KidsHelpPhone:</u> 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 available 24/7, <u>https://kidshelpphone.ca</u>
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 available 24/7

Culturally Relevant Mental Health Supports:

We recognize the importance of supporting our students, families, and staff during these challenging times. While many remember and reflect on current events, in response, the following culturally responsive supports are available to our families:

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The Woodbridge Wyvern

Issue No. 20 June 13, 2025

1) TAIBU Community Health Centre

- Clinic: 416-644-3536 http://taibuchc.ca/en/
- Taibu provides intersectional, equity-based and culturally affirming practices for YRDSB students who self-identify as Black:
- Individual Therapeutic Counselling for individuals and parents/families/caregivers.
- Referrals for individual counselling can be made via your school's Social Worker or Psychology Services Professional.
- Group workshops for students (after school). Inquiries regarding potential workshops can be addressed to: Brittany Creighton, BSW, MSW, RSW Diabetes Education Program Social Worker / Health Promoter - Mental Health and Wrap Around Services TAIBU. <u>BCreighton@taibuchc.ca</u>

2) Black Youth Helpline

- Call 416-285-9944 Toll Free 1-833-294-8650
- https://blackyouth.ca/contact-us/
- Black Youth Helpline

3) Harriet's Youth Support Line

- 24-hour emergency / crisis response line: 1-877-695-2673
- Text messaging available for young people who do not feel like speaking to someone, but are still in need of help
- Contact info@tubmancommunity.org or jdunn@peacebuilders.ca for additional inquiries.

4) NACCA - Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA)

• Call 905-781-6222 - https://www.naccacommunity.ca/nacca-youth.html

5) Tropicana

• (416) 439-9009 - https://tropicanacommunity.org/defy-your-label/

6) Sikh Family Helpline: Sikh Family Helpline (1-800-551-9128)

7) Naseeha Helpline: Naseeha Mental Health

8) 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: LGBT Youthline

9) PFLAG Canada York Region: 1-866-YR-PFLAG (977-3524) https://plfagyork.ca