

Hello, Woodland families.

Please see the following reminders and updates. Have a great weekend.

Nereo Bonomo

## **Save the date: Fun Fair on Thursday, June 12**

Save the date for our annual fun fair: Thursday June 12 from 6 to 8:30pm, rain or shine!

## **Fun Fair Volunteers Wanted**

Woodland School Council is looking for parents to help out at the fun fair. Please sign up at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5AlknqYWHdAo2mvKgoUsydUIDAh4lIGjo6Ve5VFj2dl8kQw/viewform?usp=header>

## **Thursday Pizza Volunteers Wanted**

Parent volunteers are wanted for helping with our Thursday pizza lunch. Volunteers will receive cheese pizza slices. Please sign up for the weeks you are available at:

<https://volunteersignup.org/BKPBK>

## **Summer Learning for Senior Kindergarten to grade 8**

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? Summer Institute offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum. The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at 9 school sites around York Region.

For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the [Summer Institute webpage](#). Registration opens March 26, 2025 at 4:00pm. Families can register online. Other [summer learning opportunities](#) include YRDSB's and the [Elementary Summer School](#).

## **Summer Credit Bearing Program-Y2 LEGACY-A Black-Centred Approach to Leadership, Innovation, and Excellence**

York Region District School Board, in partnership with York University, presents:

### **Y2 LEGACY – A Black-Centred Approach to Leadership, Innovation, and Excellence**

This is a transformative credit-bearing summer learning program that empowers students through a Black-centred lens, celebrating leadership, innovation, and academic excellence. [Learn more and registration link](#). The admissions deadline to be considered for entry into the program is

Friday, May 2, 2025. Students will be notified of their acceptance status by Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Please see the attached flyer for more details. For any questions, please contact the Centre for Black Student Excellence (CBSE) at [blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca](mailto:blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca).



This is a friendly reminder that the **LGBTQ Support Group for Parents program**, will meet on the following dates:

1. May 21 at 7 pm - please register for this session with the link below
2. June 18 at 7 pm- please register for this session with the link below

\*\*\*The registration is now set up by each individual session. Please register for each of the session here [SRC | LGBTQ+ Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#)

Location: Schwartz/Reisman Centre in Vaughan- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, SRC Interview Meeting Room, room # 2403 – The room is straight up when you come out from the elevator.

The group will continue to be led by Giselle, our wonderful parent peer facilitator who has expertise in LGBTQ+ issues, as well as lived experience as a parent to two LGBTQ+ kids — one who is gay and one who is transgender. This is a shared space where will strive to co-create a safe, respectful, and affirming space for all. Our goal is to provide support and education, while reducing isolation and stress for parents navigating this journey. We are also a means for parents to share information, including strategies for coping with our kid's disclosures, in a safe and affirming environment. Every journey is different, and we welcome that diversity in our group and discussion. We don't want anyone to feel excluded based on their own – or their child's – personal experience. As a matter of fact, our goal is just the opposite: for everyone to feel included, whatever their child's path may be.

So... welcome to the Jewish Rainbow Alliance Families share concerns, resources and recommendations This program is supported by a grant and is available at no charge, but RSVP is required.

## **Cyber Champion Challenge Digital Awareness Student Media Contest**

The Cyber Champion Challenge Digital Awareness Student Media Contest invites Ontario K-12 students to get creative to help promote the importance of making safe, smart choices online. For the third year in a row, ECNO and Fair Chance Learning are encouraging cyber awareness and safety amongst students across Ontario. Any creative approach is encouraged! Students can submit a poster, video, animation, play, game, song, a sculpture, a podcast, fibre art, new dance trend... we want to see it all! Staying safe online is serious business, but learning about it can be seriously fun! For more information and to register visit <https://cyberchampion.ca/>.

## **Jewish Heritage Month Community Event**

The Network of Educators Supporting Jewish Learners (NESJL) and ISCS are hosting a Jewish Heritage Month celebration to honour the history, resilience, and contributions of diverse Jewish communities. Together, we will celebrate Jewish heritage by rolling up our sleeves and learning to braid traditional challah, a beautiful and symbolic Jewish bread. This event, focusing on fostering equity, inclusion, and community engagement, is open to all YRDSB students, families, and staff. Please join us on **Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Langstaff S.S.**, 106 Garden Avenue, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 6M1. [Registration link](#). Registration due date is Friday, May 16, 2025. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## Wesak

Wesak or Vesak, is the most important festival of the year for the Buddhist community and recognized on May 12, 2025. It is the observance that commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment and Final Nirvana of the Buddha. Wesak occurs annually during the full moon of the lunar month of Vesākha, usually in April, May, or June. It is thought that at this time, great expansions of consciousness become possible, and people embark on a path to promote spiritual growth. Wesak is celebrated in a number of ways around the world. There is often the ceremonial release of small creatures, such as birds or turtles, as a symbol of the Buddha's compassion for all things. A statue of the baby Buddha may be bathed in a ritual commemorating his birth. Dharma talks are given, often on the eight precepts (teachings of Buddhism), since this ceremony is intended to reflect on the life of the Buddha and the goal for all of enlightenment. Sitting and/or walking meditation may also be part of the festivities. Traditionally, vegetarian meals are served. In the evening, candlelight or lantern processions end the celebration. This occasion is observed by millions of Buddhists throughout the world.

## R;pple© School Newsletter Insert

In our continued work to foster student Well-Being and Mental Health we have added [R;pple©](#) to the YRDSB wifi network as a Google Chrome browser extension. The extension is deployed through the YRDSB GAPPS environment meaning if a student is not logged into their browser with their GAPPS account, the tool would not be initiated. R;pple© is a tool which presents a life promoting message and helpful resources (such as [kidshelpphone](#)) when a student searches for harmful keywords or phrases related to self-harm or suicide. No personal information is collected and students are not identifiable. For more information about Student Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion, please review the following resource link: [YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#)

## Network of Educators for Korean-Canadian Students' Family Engagement Night

The Network of Educators for Korean-Canadian Students (NEKS) invites **Korean families and community members** to a Family Engagement Night focused on building a deeper understanding of how parents can support their children throughout their educational journey.

**NEKS Korean Family Engagement Night**

**Thursday, May 1st, 2025**

**5:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Thornhill Secondary School**

**167 Dudley Avenue, Thornhill, ON**

This engaging session will include:

- Student panel stories sharing educational and career journeys from secondary school and post-secondary perspectives
- Interactive workshops tailored for both elementary and secondary families

Registrants will have an opportunity to attend one of the following workshops:

- **Elementary Panel:** Strategies to support **student leadership and engagement**, including how to encourage involvement in extracurricular activities that foster self-identity and a sense of belonging at school
- **Secondary Panel:** Guidance on **post-secondary pathways**, including application processes for high school students

Please [register online](#) by Monday, April 24, 2025. For more information, please contact: Jae Yeon (Jasmin) Kwak, NEKS Chair, [jaeyeon.kwak@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jaeyeon.kwak@yrdsb.ca).

## **Sikh Heritage Month Celebration at Kleinburg P.S.**

Kleinburg Public School is hosting a community event in celebration of Sikh Heritage Month on **Thursday, April 24th, from 5:30-7:30 pm**. This will be an evening where students, staff and families come together to enjoy a meal (langar) together, learn about the diversity within the Sikh identity, make connections, and share experiences with one another.

Please see details below for an overview of the evening.

**5:30 - 6:15 p.m.** Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada Display and Craft Activity

**6:15 - 7:00 p.m.** Welcome and Performances Martial Arts Demonstration by Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Gatka Akhara

**7:00 - 7:30 p.m.** Community Meal (Langar)

We kindly ask that you [register](#) if you would like to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Kleinburg Public School at 905-893-1142 or Ms. Rosen, Principal at [sharron.rosen@yrdsb.ca](mailto:sharron.rosen@yrdsb.ca) or Ms. Dhaliwal, Vice Principal at [amrit.dhaliwal@yrdsb.ca](mailto:amrit.dhaliwal@yrdsb.ca). Thank you, and we look forward to learning from and with you in celebration of Sikh Heritage Month.

## **Holocaust Memorial Day or Yom HaShoah**

Holocaust Memorial Day or Yom HaShoah will begin on the evening of April 23rd and end on the evening of April 24th. This is a day set aside to remember the horrors of the Holocaust, and in particular, the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi Regime. While Yom HaShoah was born out of a desire to honor the 6 000 000 Jewish lives lost, it has grown into a solemn commemoration of resistance and struggle for human dignity in the face of unspeakable Nazi cruelty. Intentionally, the date aligns with the historic Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which saw thousands of Jews fight back against Nazi oppressors and their collaborators.

## **Understanding and Navigating the Education System - Families of YRDSB Black Students April Information Session**

Understanding and Navigating the Education System - Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Virtual Information Session on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. 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 the attached flyer.

**Tenant Rights Workshops:** Parents/Guardians are invited to the free Virtual Tenant Rights Workshops offered in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights from January through April 2025. Please see attached flyer.

## **Armenian Heritage Month**

The month of May is Armenian Heritage Month. Armenian Heritage Month was given Royal Assent in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 2022 through Bill 105 Act to proclaim the month of May as Armenian Heritage Month.

Ontario is home to more than 100,000 people of Armenian heritage. Armenians began migrating to Canada in the 1880s. Approximately 37 Armenians came to Ontario in 1892, and 100 more settled in the province in 1895. After the Hamidian massacres of the mid-1890s, Armenian families began settling in greater numbers in Ontario. Decades later, approximately 2,000 survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide - mostly women and children - came to Canada as refugees.

May is a significant month for the Armenian community. May 28, 1918, is widely celebrated by Armenian people around the world as the day Armenians regained sovereignty over their

historical territory. The 1918 Armenian Declaration of Independence is a symbol of Armenians' aspiration for freedom, democracy and independence. May 28th is one of the most important Armenian holidays, and many parades and festivities take place during the month of May.

## **Dutch Heritage Month**

The month of May is Dutch Heritage Month. Dutch Heritage Month was given Royal Assent in the [Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 2011](#). Ontario is home to about 500,000 Dutch Canadians. Since the early 1800s, the Dutch Canadian community has made and continues to make significant contributions to the cultural, social, and political fabric. May holds historical significance for those with Dutch heritage. On May 5, 1945, the Canadian forces played an important role in the liberation of the Netherlands from World War II. The Netherlands celebrates independence and liberty, along with the heroic efforts of the Canadian forces, with a national, annual holiday known as Liberation Day on May 5.

## **Jewish Heritage Month**

[Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#) was given Royal Assent in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on April 24, 2012 and in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. As we approach the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to engage in opportunities that celebrate and affirm Jewish histories and the achievements of the Jewish community. Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world. There are close to 400,000 Jewish residents in Canada, and almost half of that number resides in Ontario. Jewish immigrants in Canada can be traced as far back as 1760. Jewish Canadians have proudly contributed to Canadian heritage in all of its facets, including the military, the arts, government, business, academia, law, medicine, culture, and sports. Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the contributions Jewish Canadians make in communities across the country.

## **Polish Heritage Month**

The month of May is Polish Heritage Month. Polish Heritage Month was given Royal Assent in the [Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 2021](#). Ontario is home to more than 523,000 people of Polish heritage. Polish Canadians have lived in Ontario since the 19th century and, over the years, have and continue to make significant contributions to Ontario's cultural, social, and political landscape. May 3rd is an important day for Polish People as it commemorates the 1791 Constitution, which is a symbol of Poland's aspiration for freedom, democracy and independence. This is one of the most important Polish holidays, and many parades and festivities take place in May.

## **Student SIN & Summer Job Bank Clinic Spring 2025**

Is your child in need of a Social Insurance Number? Is your child looking for a summer job this year? Students, parents and guardians, please join us for a free service brought to your school communities from a joint project with Service Canada and the York Region District School Board. Meet with a Service Canada representative and receive your Social Insurance Number (SIN) on the spot!

Service Canada representatives will be at the schools, located on the attached flyer, to help students and newcomers apply for their Social Insurance Numbers, learn about the Canada Job Bank and Summer Program for Youth and the Federal Dental Program!

For more information, please contact YRDSB Community & Partnership Developer Yvonne Kelly at [yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca) or Oksana Majaski [oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca).

## **Pride T-Shirt 2025**

YRDSB is excited to announce the winner of this year's Pride T-Shirt Design Contest. Congratulations to the Markham Gateway Public School GSA, whose students created the selected design for 2025!

Pride month is a universal celebration of love, inclusion and community! Let your true colours shine, boldly and brightly, as we celebrate diversity and work to inspire change. Let's make this year's Pride Month out of this world! Show your support for 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and advocacy by purchasing and proudly wearing this year's Pride T-shirt. In a world where 2SLGBTQIA+ identities have often been marginalized, visible representation is more important than ever. By wearing this shirt, you're not just expressing support - you are helping to amplify the voices of those who have historically been silenced and affirming the value of every individual, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. This year, t-shirts can be purchased by students, staff and families, so please share this information with your School's Community. Let's stand together in celebration of diversity, equality, and love in all its forms. This year, YRDSB students, staff and families can purchase a Pride t-shirt designed by YRDSB students. Orders can be placed through [School Cash Online](#). Let's make this year's Pride Month out of this world! For any questions, please contact Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) at [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca).