



September 2019

# Viola Desmond Public School Newsletter



39 Formosa Avenue East  
Ajax, Ontario L1Z 0M6  
T: (905) 619-7400  
F: (905) 619-7402

Principal: Jennifer Brusselers  
Vice Principal: Tina Thomas  
Administrative Assistants:  
Deb Gill and Mary Hindle

Superintendent:  
Mohamed Hamid (905) 666-6486

Area Officer:  
Julia Blizzard (905) 666-5500

Trustee:  
Patrice Barnes (905) 666-5500

### Bell Times:

**Start**— 8:40 a.m.

**Lunch**— 11:25—12:25 p.m.

**Dismissal**—3:10 p.m.

**September 17, 2019**

**School Community Council  
(SCC) Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*

**September 26, 2019**

**Meet the Teacher Night**

**5:30—6:30 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*

### Message From the Office

It has been an amazing first week at Viola Desmond Public School! Watching teachers and students connect through a variety of community and teambuilding activities as part of our community camp program has been heartwarming. The activities focus on student voice and active listening, establishing norms and routines and looking character education traits. The goal of Community Camp is to establish a solid foundation that will promote student achievement and well-being for the upcoming school year.



Our dynamic group of educators have been busy planning and programming for the 2019-2020 school year. Knowing our students even more this year, will allow us as a school team to deepen our learning in our Core Priorities of **Success, Innovation, Equity, Engagement, Leadership and Well-Being**. These priorities will drive our initiatives.

Parent and community involvement is important to us! We value your role as parents and guardians in supporting student learning and achievement. We encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about their school experiences and be engaged in their learning. We hope you will consider joining our School Community Council or becoming a volunteer. You can stay informed with all the great things happening at Viola Desmond by regularly checking our website and following us on twitter and Instagram. We look forward to connecting with you at Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 26th at 6:30 p.m.

This school year is promising to be an exciting year with many opportunities for students! The level of commitment and dedication of our staff and volunteers provide many enriching activities and experiences. Please encourage your child to become involved in a variety of experiences through co-curricular clubs and teams offered.

We are so proud to have the opportunity to be the administrators of Viola Desmond Public School. We feel incredibly privileged to support the learning journeys of our students in an environment that establishes high expectations, creating authentic learning tasks and developing a deep knowledge of children to better program for their success. Thank you for your continued support as partners in education.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Brusselers and Tina Thomas*

## Our School Team

### Kindergarten

Educator Team
Amanda Halcomb and Dawn McLeod
Courtney Nicota and Catherine James
Karen Fong and Lindsay Gunn
Nataisha Revoy and Anneta Tomais
Melissa Bowman and Samantha Churchill
Jennifer Antonucci and Dawn McLeod



### Primary

Grade	Teacher
1	Alyson Carty
1	Danielle Ciancio
1	Amber Ayotte (Katherine Sharp)
1	Leslie Gallo (Brittany Taillon)
2	Lindsay Anderson
2	Andrea Nunes
2/3	Callan Langdon (Cassandra Kane)
3	Lesley (Toni) Grant
3	Adrienne (AJ) Coughlin
3	Jessica Laing

### Junior

Grade	Teacher
4	Jessica King
4	Kate Head
4	Melissa Bruno
5	Karen Mullen
5	Valeka Norbi
5	Lauren Gray
6	Michel Jackson-Stewart
6	Adriana Goodacre
6	Becky Neilson

### Intermediate

Grade	Teacher
7	Monique Coore
7	Meghann Bennett
7/8	Ja Young Kim
8	Melissa Rabjohn
8	Christopher Neary
8	Sorrelle Stinson

**Teacher-Librarian** – Kristina Thomas

**French** – Jennifer Ball and Al Levac

**Music** – Meghann Bennett and Janet Giles

**Phys Ed.** – Lyndsey Phillips and Jason Stanat

**SERTs** – Catherine Switzer and Lorraine Lamont

**ESL** – Lorraine Lamont

**Coverage** – Krista Wiersma

**Educational Assistants** -Jody Bolson and Pam McFarlane

**Custodial Team** – Diane Carder, Diana Smuck, Paul Hladysch

**Administrative Assistants** – Debbie Gill and Mary Hindle

Our school has been named in honour of a Canadian Black businesswoman who challenged racial segregation at the cinema in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia in 1946. Viola Desmond refused to leave a whites-only area of the theatre and helped start the modern civil rights movement in Canada. Desmond is the first Canadian-born woman to appear on the Canadian \$10 bill. We are committed as a school community to the goals and aspirations of Viola Desmond by creating a **community of leaders, allies and innovative thinkers!**

Our character education program is founded on developing global citizens that embody the core values of Viola Desmond, which we recognize monthly at the **VIOLA Awards!** Our first VIOLA Awards will be held on September 30th and recognize the character trait of **Voice**. Voice is a wonderful trait to kick off our school year because we strongly value the role of Student Voice in our building! Our Junior-Intermediate assembly will start at 9 a.m. and Primary assembly will begin at 10:30 a.m.

September—Voice

October—Integrity

November—

Openness

December—

Leadership

January—Allyship

February—Valour

March—Innovation

April—Optimism

May—

Lifelong Learning

June—

Arts and Athletics

# Viola Desmond

PUBLIC SCHOOL

## MISSION

Doing it the "Desmond Way":  
creating a community of leaders,  
allies & innovative thinkers.



## VALUES

At Viola Desmond P.S., we value...

**V** Voice & Valour  
**I** Integrity & Innovation  
**O** Openness & Optimism  
**L** Leadership & Lifelong Learning  
**A** Allyship & Arts & Athletics

## VISION

Viola Desmond Public School will be a safe, inclusive, innovative learning environment focused on developing student voice and well-being. Staff will have high academic expectations for their students based on developing the skills they will need to be successful in the future. A future where jobs are constantly changing and people will need to be able to adapt, think critically, problem solve, communicate and collaborate in a myriad of situations. Lifelong learning will be the focus for both staff and students. Learning from and with each other, reflection and a growth mindset will set the tone to ensure this type of environment is always moving forward. STEM, STEAM, inquiry and leveraging digital will be essential to facilitating the problem-based activities that are innovative, creative and will inspire our students to be curious and demonstrate initiative in their learning. Equity and diversity will be the corner stone of all that we do so that we can reach all students and they in turn can be allies for each other. This is Viola Desmond Public School providing an environment where global citizens of the future will meet with success.

## Attendance Matters!

With the start of a new school year, it is important to establish routines to ensure students are successful. Studies have shown that regular attendance, as well as arriving on time has a direct connection to academic success. Students arriving late is quite disruptive to the start of the instructional day.

Our start time is 8:40 a.m. Students may start to arrive at 8:30 a.m. when our teacher supervision begins. Our second bell will ring at 8:45 a.m. and after that time, students will be considered late. We thank you for your support in this area! We want our students to be the best they can be!

## Traffic Loop

Safety is of the utmost importance! We now have 740 students at our school. We ask for patience as we do our best to ensure the safe arrival and departure of students. Staff will be on duty 10 minutes prior to the bell each day to assist with getting children out of cars and keeping the flow of traffic moving. We have 2 traffic loops. **The Kindergarten traffic loop is located at the front of the school on Formosa Avenue. The traffic loop for grades 1 to 8 is located at the back of the school on Turnerbury Avenue.**

Here are some guidelines about using the traffic loop:

- **Do not park in the traffic loop** as it blocks the flow of traffic and creates congestion that often blocks traffic on the main streets. We ask that you park on Formosa Avenue or Turnerbury Avenue if you would like to walk your child to the entry doors.
- **Follow the traffic queue** for drop off and pick up times. Cutting in front of cars often creates backlogs and safety issues for students and staff.
- **Please wait until a staff member has opened your car door to let your child get out of the car. Students are not allowed to exit cars near oncoming traffic** as it creates unsafe situations.
- Ensure **extra time to allow students to get out of their car seats** upon arriving in the traffic loop. If necessary please place your car seat on the same side as the curb.
- Please refrain from getting out of your car during drop off and pick up times in the traffic loop. **Staff will help your child get out of the car.**
- Please remember to **observe safe driving speeds** in the traffic loop.

We all play a part to ensure the safety of your children. Thank you for your continued support!

### 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

### How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

### EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!

# meet the teacher night

Please join us for Meet the Teacher Night on:

**Thursday, September 26th**

**6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

Our S.C.C. will be available as well to discuss the new Healthy Hunger program, as well as some of our Community Partners.

We look forward to seeing you !

## Parents/Guardians/Visitors to Our School

The staff at Viola Desmond Public School strive to establish a school environment of mutual respect, cooperation and above all, safety and security. All visitors and parents to the school are required to begin their visit at the front office, entering through the front doors of the building. You contribute to the positive and safe environment when you:

- **Drop off and pick up your child in the school's designated area**
- **Remain outside the school building at entry and dismissal times**
- **Check in at the office every time you visit the school**
- **Call to book an appointment** if you wish to meet with your child's teacher or an administrator. Make your child's teacher your first contact when you have an educational concern.



## School Messenger Safe Arrival Guidelines

The protocol for safe arrival is to call **1-844-350-2646** or log on to the internet. If you haven't already done so, please go to your Parent Portal account to create an account allowing you to report absences quickly and conveniently. Please note you need to report your child's absence before 8:40 a.m. for the current school day.

Some further benefits of using the SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival Parent Portal website is to update your contact phone numbers and email addresses, should they change, as well as reviewing your child's attendance and any messages sent through the system.

# School Cash Online

School Cash Online allows a safe, convenient and fast opportunity for parents / guardians to pay the school for any trips, special lunches, etc. for which your child(ren) may wish to participate. No more counting change and finding envelopes to send with your child ! Please see the information below and, if you haven't already done so, register on their site <https://ddsb.schoolcashionline.com/> to get started. (You will require your child's OEN. Please contact our secretary to inquire about your child's OEN if you can't find it on the top of the front page of their last report card.) At Viola Desmond Public School, we are encouraging cashless payment system.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Parent Help Desk ([parenthelpdesk@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelpdesk@schoolcashionline.com)) or call 1-866-961-1803. Why not get started today



Safe. Fast. Convenient.

## Welcome to School Cash Online

### What is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees. The portal is customized to meet your school's needs and allows parents to add students, make payments, check current balance/account history and print or view receipts.



### Is it safe to use?

Our top priority is to keep your personal information safe. School Cash Online is PCI compliant, CSAE 3416 certified, HTTP Secure and adheres to the highest industry standards of security.

School Cash Online does not share your personal information with any third party. School Cash Online will never contact you to divulge confidential information via phone, email or mail.



For more information contact Parent Helpdesk at [parenthelpdesk@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelpdesk@schoolcashionline.com) or 1.866.961.1803

### What Payment Methods are Available?

#### myWallet

An online wallet that can be loaded to hold funds and pay for your child's fees on School Cash Online. myWallet also allows you to allocate funds to pay for school fees at a later date, as you would with a gift card. It can take up to 7 days from the date the funds are loaded for funds to become available.

#### eCheque

An electronic version of a paper cheque used to make payments online. Anyone with a checking/savings account can pay by eCheque through School Cash Online. To pay with an eCheque, simply enter your account number on the payment screen and click submit.

### How do I use myWallet?

myWallet offers you a secure alternative to traditional payment methods without the need for you to enter the payment information multiple times.

1. Go to your district's School Cash Online portal URL. (<https://ddsb.schoolcashionline.com/>)
2. Click the "Sign Into Your Account" button and enter your email and password to access your account.
3. Select the myWallet tab, click "Add Funds to myWallet" and use eCheque to load funds into your myWallet account (it may take up to 7 days for funds to become available to pay fees).
4. Once your funds have been made available, add all your items to the shopping cart, select the checkout option and select the myWallet payment method to make purchases.

## SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, Durham District School Board would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your children!

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the SUPPORT option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

### Step 1: Register

- a) If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://ddsb.schoolcashionline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- b) Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



### Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



### Step 3: Find Student

Note: OEN Student Number is Required

This step will connect your children to your account.

- a) Enter the School Board Name
- b) Select the School Name
- c) Enter Your Child's OEN Number and Last Name
- d) Select: Continue
- e) On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select: Continue
- f) Your child has been added to your account.

#### Add Student

1. Type in the School Board Name and select one from the list  
Durham District School Board  
77 (The number next to it)

2. Select a school  
West Apsley

3. Enter student information  
Student Number  
Last Name

Confirm

### Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select

"View Items for Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

## Important Information Items

**Student Sign In / Sign Out** Whenever a student arrives late for school, he or she must come to the office and sign in. All students who are leaving early for any reason are required to come to the office to have a parent sign them out. This process will ensure that students are leaving with the appropriate person at the appropriate time.

**Meeting Locations** Thank you in advance for setting up a meeting place outside the school. Having a meeting place outside teaches children to be independent as they use the appropriate door to enter and exit the school. It also allows for clear and safe hallways. Should there be a situation where you are going to be late picking up your child, please instruct him or her to report to the office where he/she can await your arrival.

**Lunch Facilities Research** has clearly shown that it is healthier for students to go home for lunch, if at all possible. As this is not always possible, classrooms will be provided as lunch eating areas for students who must stay for lunch. Students who stay at school for lunch are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful manner towards staff, lunchroom supervisors, student lunch monitors and one another. Eating lunch at school is a privilege. Students who stay at school for lunch are not permitted to leave school property unless they have written permission from parents/guardians. At Viola Desmond, Boomerang lunches are in effect. All garbage and compostable materials go home.

**Allergy Awareness: Please Help Keep Our Students Safe** We have several students and staff members at Viola Desmond with life threatening food allergies to peanuts, nuts or their by-products. The resultant anaphylactic reaction can be so severe it can cause death. As a school, we will make every effort to NOT have peanuts, nuts or foods with nut byproducts in our school at all. WOW butter is also not permitted as it can easily be mistaken as a nut product. Did you know that there are students and staff at Viola Desmond who are as severely allergic to foods such as egg, milk, sesame seeds, lentils and peas? One way that we can help protect all children and adults with food allergies at Viola Demond is to teach safe eating practices. Encourage students to:

- Not share snacks or lunches at school
- Wash their hands with soap and warm water before and after eating
- Use only appointed utensils to open food packages (i.e. don't use classroom scissors that are also used for crafts/school work) Bring only non-food items to celebrate special occasions at school

We thank you for your cooperation in making sure that your child does not bring snacks or lunch items that could put another child's life at risk. Thank you for your continued efforts to help us safeguard the students and staff at Viola Desmond.

**Administration of Medication by Injection (epi-pen)** If your child carries an epi-pen for use in case of an anaphylaxis emergency, or if the school office keeps one on hand for your child, please fill out a "**Request for Administration of Medication by Injection**" Durham District School Board policy form that was sent home with your child. This form is also available in the office, and it needs to be signed by a doctor. A new form must to be completed at the beginning of each school year.

**Administering Medications at School** If it is necessary to administer oral medication to your child during the school day, please ensure that your physician completes a "**Request for Administration of Oral Medication**" form. This form requires a doctor's signature. If the school is aware of your child's medical needs, forms will be sent home. Forms may also be requested by parents/guardians in the school office.



**No Animals on School Property, Thank You!** During the school day, dogs are not allowed on school property, even when leashed. Many students are fearful of dogs. If you walk your dog through our yard outside of the school day, we are most appreciative of you cleaning up after your pet. Please help us to maintain a safe environment by refraining from bringing your dog onto the school property. **Service dogs** are, of course, welcome to be on the property.

**Student Accident Insurance** Providing safe learning environments is a strong and constant focus at the Durham District School Board. Families should however recognize that there is always a potential risk of injury with field trips, sports and other student activities both on and off school grounds. Accidents can happen, despite precautions to prevent them. Accidental injuries may involve medical, dental or other expenses not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. Please be aware that the Durham District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries. For your convenience, we do make available a Student Accident Insurance program through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable prices. All rates are one-time annual premiums. The insurance agreement is between you and Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. For complete details please refer to the insuremykids Protection Plan information/ application form or visit their website at: [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com). Any questions should be directed to Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada toll free at 1-800-463-5437.

**Fire Drill and Lockdown Practices** Each year schools are required to have six fire drills, generally, three in the fall and three in the spring. These drills ensure all staff and students know the routines to support a quick and effective evacuation in the event of a real emergency. As well, schools are required to practice a minimum of one lockdown and one hold and secure drill each year. A lockdown is used in the unlikely event that there is an emergency situation within the school posing a potential risk. A hold and secure is used if there is an emergency event in the community such as police activity, and it is deemed necessary to keep students within the building. The purpose of these drills is explained to students in an age appropriate manner, and drills are handled in the same calm and routine manner as fire drills. At Viola Desmond, we believe that taking a proactive approach to safety will ensure a welcoming, happy and safe learning environment for everyone!



**Student Electronic Devices Technology** is a wonderful tool when it is used well, but we also know that, when used incorrectly, the privacy and safety of others can be endangered. This year, we will continue to develop digital citizenship skills in all our students so that they are prepared to use technology safely and respectfully both in and out of the school environment. We recognize that many students have personal cellphones/smartphones. **As of September 2019, the Ministry of Education implemented the following expectations: When cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not being used for educational purposes, they are to be stored in student lockers or another secure location during the entire school day; this includes recesses and lunch hour. Personal electronic devices are never to be used in the washrooms or change rooms.** In addition, personal electronic devices are not to be used on the yard, in classrooms/gym, or in the hallways unless under direct teacher supervision. There may be opportunities for students to access their electronics for school work under teacher supervision. This is an appropriate use of technology. Please be aware that the school is not able to assume responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged cell phones and electronics. **If a student needs to call or text a parent, the student must first ask permission of a teacher or administrator. If you need to contact your child during the day, please call the office and not your child's cell phone.** We thank you for your partnership in teaching our students digital etiquette and respecting the learning environment.





DURHAM REGION  
HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

# Child Car Seats

When used correctly, car seats can reduce the risk of injury to toddlers by as much as 54% (Stats Canada).



Here are some questions to ask yourself when installing your car seat:



## General questions:

- Do I know the car seat's expiry date? (check the back of the seat or contact Transport Canada).
- Does my car seat say that it "conforms to Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 213.1" or have this sticker on it: 
- Have I made sure that my car seat has **NOT** been in a collision?
- Have I read my car seat owner's manual?
- Have I read my vehicle owner's manual to find out where I should place my car seat? – **NEVER** in front of an active airbag



It is best to keep your child rear-facing until they reach the manufacturer's height or weight limits for your car seat. (Some seats go up to 20 kg. (45 lb.) rear-facing).



## Installation questions:

I'M USING THE <b>UNIVERSAL ANCHORAGE SYSTEM (UAS)</b> : 	<b>OR</b> I'M USING THE <b>SEATBELT</b> :
<input type="checkbox"/> Did I use the correct UAS bars for where I've installed the car seat?	<input type="checkbox"/> Have I checked to see if my seatbelt requires a locking clip? (see car seat and vehicle manual)
<input type="checkbox"/> Have I placed all my weight onto the base of the car seat and pulled the UAS belt as tight as I can?	<input type="checkbox"/> Have I placed all my weight onto the base of the car seat and pulled the seatbelt as tight as I can?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the car seat tightly installed? (i.e. does not move more than one inch side to side)	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the car seat tightly installed? (i.e. does not move more than one inch side to side)
<input type="checkbox"/> Have I made sure that the front seats of the vehicle do not touch the car seat?	<input type="checkbox"/> Have I made sure that the front seats of the vehicle do not touch the car seat?



### Tethering questions for the forward facing position:

- Do I have a tether anchor in my vehicle? (refer to vehicle owner's manual for location)  
\*\* If not, have one installed by a licensed automobile dealership \*\*
- Have I secured the tether strap to the anchor and tightened the tether as much as possible?



### Harnessing questions:

- Do the straps lie flat?
- Are the harness straps adjusted:
  - Rear-facing at or **below** my child's shoulder when done up?
  - Forward facing at or **above** my child's shoulder when done up?
- Does the chest clip sit at the level of my child's armpit when done up?
- Did I tighten the harness enough? (**CANNOT** fit more than one finger between the harness and my child's collar bone)



### Travelling questions:

- Has my car seat been recalled? (contact the car seat manufacturer or Transport Canada)
- Do I know how long to keep my child in a car seat (in a 5-point harness) before moving to a booster seat?

As long as your child still fits within the manufacturer's weight and height limits, he or she is safer in a car seat. (Some car seats go up to 30 kg (65 lb) forward-facing).



### Resources:

Installation videos, FAQs and local links visit [durham.ca/carseatsafety](http://durham.ca/carseatsafety)

**Transport Canada** 1-800-333-0371 [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

**Ministry of Transportation** 1-800-268-4686 [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

**Parachute Canada** 1-888-537-7777 [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org)

**ALWAYS FOLLOW THE CAR SEAT MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEIGHT AND WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.**



**Durham Health Connection Line**  
905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729  
[durham.ca/carseatsafety](http://durham.ca/carseatsafety)



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729

## Dates of Significance – September 2019



The Dates of Significance are meant to highlight some important observances in our community and as such, may not be an exhaustive list. We continue to seek input from our community about diverse celebrations, religious dates and observances that are significant to our community.

**2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages**

**2015-2024 is the International Decade for People of African Descent**

**September 9 Ashura (Islam)**

**September 29 Navratri (Hinduism)**

**September 29 Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)**

### **September 7- Ukrainian Heritage Day**

The first official Ukrainian immigrants, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, arrived in Canada on September 7, 1891. Soon afterwards, Ukrainian immigrants began arriving in Ontario in larger numbers and today Ontario is home to more than 336,000 Ukrainian Canadians. There are over 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent across the country.

Many Ukrainians fled their homeland to find freedom from oppression and a better life in Canada. Both Ontario and Canada, by way of the *Holodomor Memorial Day Act, 2009* and the *Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ("Holodomor") Memorial Day Act (Canada)*, have recognized the genocide by famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 under the Soviet Communist regime of Joseph Stalin. On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian parliament declared Ukraine as an independent democratic state from the Soviet Union. Canada was the first nation in the Western world to recognize Ukraine's independence.

Ontarians of Ukrainian descent have left and continue to leave a historic mark on our province. Their contributions span communities across Ontario and are reflected in our economic, political, social and cultural life. Ukrainian Canadians have played an important role in the development of Ontario into one of the most desirable places in the world to live and have contributed to making Canada the great country that it is today. It is important to recognize and celebrate these contributions.

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-39/session-2/bill-155>

### **September 8 - International Literacy Day (UN)**

2019 Theme: Literacy and Multilingualism

International Literacy Day 2019 will focus on 'Literacy and Multilingualism.' Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, distributed unevenly across countries and populations. Embracing linguistic diversity in education and literacy development is central to addressing these literacy challenges and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day 2019, the main characteristics of multilingualism in today's globalized and digitalized world will be discussed, together with their implications for literacy in policies and practice in order to achieve greater inclusion in multilingual contexts.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/events/literacyday/>

## **September 21 - International Day of Peace (UN)**

2019 Theme: "Climate Action for Peace"

The theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.

Climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere. The salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the impact on public health is escalating. The growing tensions over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country on every continent.

On 23 September, the United Nations is convening a Climate Action Summit with concrete and realistic plans to accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement. The Summit will focus on the heart of the problem – the sectors that create the most emissions and the areas where building resilience could make the biggest difference – as well as provide leaders and partners the opportunity to demonstrate real climate action and showcase their ambition.

In the lead up to the International Day of Peace on 21 September, the United Nations calls upon all to take action to tackle climate change. Every human is part of the solution - from turning off the lights to taking public transport, to organizing an awareness raising campaign in your community. Share your ideas and activities with us through #PeaceDay and #ClimateAction.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

## **September 25 - Franco-Ontarian Day (Ontario)**

Effective April 26, 2010, the Franco-Ontarian Day Act adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario proclaims September 25 of each year as Franco-Ontarian Day. This Day will, every year, officially recognize the contribution of Ontario's Francophone community to the cultural, historical, social, economic and political life of the province. September 25 will commemorate the anniversary of the first raising of the Franco-Ontarian Flag in 1975.

## **September 23-27 - Ally Week**

**Ally Week** is a national [youth-led](#) effort encouraging students to be allies with the LGBT ([lesbian](#), [gay](#), [bisexual](#) and [transgender](#)) members of their community in standing against [bullying](#), [harassment](#) and name-calling. It takes place in [K-12 schools](#) and colleges. It was created by Joe Montana and other youth members of the Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network [GLSEN](#) National JumpStart Student Leadership Team. It is done in the same spirit as [Day of Silence](#) to educate on anti-LGBT+ harassment issues.

The goal of Ally Week is to diminish stereotypes and exclusion while highlighting that peer support for LGBT+ students is stronger than the students themselves may have thought existed. In a survey of 240 undergraduates regarding what peer support they felt LGBT+ students had, research found that their personal attitudes were significantly more positive than they thought their friends and fellow students held. Allies are identified as supporters but not necessarily members of a marginalized group.

During Ally Week people are encouraged to sign an ally pledge "taking a stand for a safe and harassment-free school for all students", and that they will not use anti-LGBT+ language and slurs, they will intervene if possible to stop bullying and harassment and support safer schools efforts.

The word Ally is a verb as well as a noun. Action is a very important part of being an Ally, and the way in which support is shown for various members of the LGBT community can differ. It is important to seek information and have conversations to support your work.

## **September 23 also marks Bi-visibility Day.**

Source: <https://www.glsen.org/allyweek>

## September 30 – Orange Shirt Day (First Nations Canada)

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Ghislain Picard is encouraging people across the country to mark Orange Shirt Day each year on September 30, as a day to recognize the experience of former students of Indian Residential Schools and affirm a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. Orange Shirt Day is an outcome of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC in May 2013. It stems from a story told by former residential school student, Phyllis Webstad, who had her new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, taken from her as a six-year old girl. She spoke powerfully of how it seemed to her that nobody cared and, in this personal way, it speaks to the many harms experienced by children in the residential schools. The AFN asks all Canadians to join First Nations in wearing an orange shirt on September 30<sup>th</sup> in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.

Source: <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

### S.C.C. News

On **Tuesday, September 17th**, we will be holding our first S.C.C. meeting at **6:30 p.m.!** We welcome new members to join our monthly meetings! This year, we will be using the **Healthy Hunger** website for our pizza day orders. Additional information will be sent home soon. We will be available on September 26th to show parents the website and assist with registration! We look forward to meeting you soon!



### In the Loop: Dates to Remember

#### September

- 12 Gifted Parent Info Session 4 p.m.
- 17 SCC Meeting at 6:30 p.m. All Welcome!
- 23-27 DDSB Safety Week and DDSB Ally Week
- 26 Terry Fox Run; Meet the Teacher Night @ 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Terry Fox Run (Rain date)
- 30 Orange Shirt Day; VIOLA Assembly

#### October

- 10 Picture Day
- 11 PA Day—No School For Students
- 14 Holiday—Thanksgiving
- 24 Volunteer of Distinction Ceremony at Sinclair S.S.
- 25 Kindergarten Family Friday
- 31 Halloween

Learn about all the wonderful things happening at Viola Desmond! Stay Connected:



[violadesmond.ddsb.ca](http://violadesmond.ddsb.ca)



[violadesmondps](https://www.instagram.com/violadesmondps)



[@violadesmondps](https://twitter.com/violadesmondps)