

# WOLVERINES

WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

**STRIVING TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL**



WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL– MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

November is a busy time here at William Dunbar P.S. As well as expected subject assignments, we are thrilled with the STEM and inquiry activities now well underway. It is exciting to see the quality of thinking, problem solving and discourse going on as students tap into their curiosity to pose thoughtful questions and search for possible solutions. We are extremely proud of the hard work all our students are doing inside the classroom or during their free time as they experiment with and begin to master skills and strategies needed to face this new decade.

Progress Reports will go home this Wednesday, November 13. Parent–teacher interviews follow on Thursday, November 14 from 4 to 8:00 p.m. (dinner break from 5- 6) and Friday, November 16 from 8:45 – 11:45 a.m. You should have received an email within the last week detailing how to book an interview online. Interviews with Intermediate teachers are not scheduled on Thursday evening between 6 and 8 p.m. Our Grade 7 and 8 teachers are available in the gym on a drop-in basis. We do hope you will meet with us. Study after study indicates that students perform much better when their families are involved in the learning process.

Our Walk to School Wednesdays are continuing this month. Wednesday mornings are tons of fun in our schoolyard! It's an active social occasion for sure. We notice a marked decrease in the traffic congestion on those mornings, especially in our Kiss and Ride. Most importantly, our students arrive in class in a positive state of mind, ready to tackle the day from an optimistic stance. We appreciate your continuing support of this combined SCC – school initiative. A huge thank you to Kathy Theberge, our 2018/19 Volunteer of Distinction, for spearheading this weekly event!

Speaking of the SCC, the students report they had a blast at the Dance-a-thon on October 31. Many thanks to our SCC for organizing this fun-filled fund-raising event. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 21. Please join us at 6:30 in the library. We'd love to see you there!

Finally, Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week begins on November 18. Throughout the week, we will integrate related topics into age-appropriate lessons and highlight them during our morning announcements. Be sure to ask your child(ren) about their activities and what they have learnt. Simply put, a critical element in our students' success is establishing and maintaining a safe environment at school.

We look forward to seeing you this week!

~ Jill Foster & Tanya Hawthorne



Congratulations to our 2018/19  
Volunteer of Distinction Kathy  
Theberge!

J. Markovski

M. Bowman

Trustees:

Superintendent

Administrative Officer

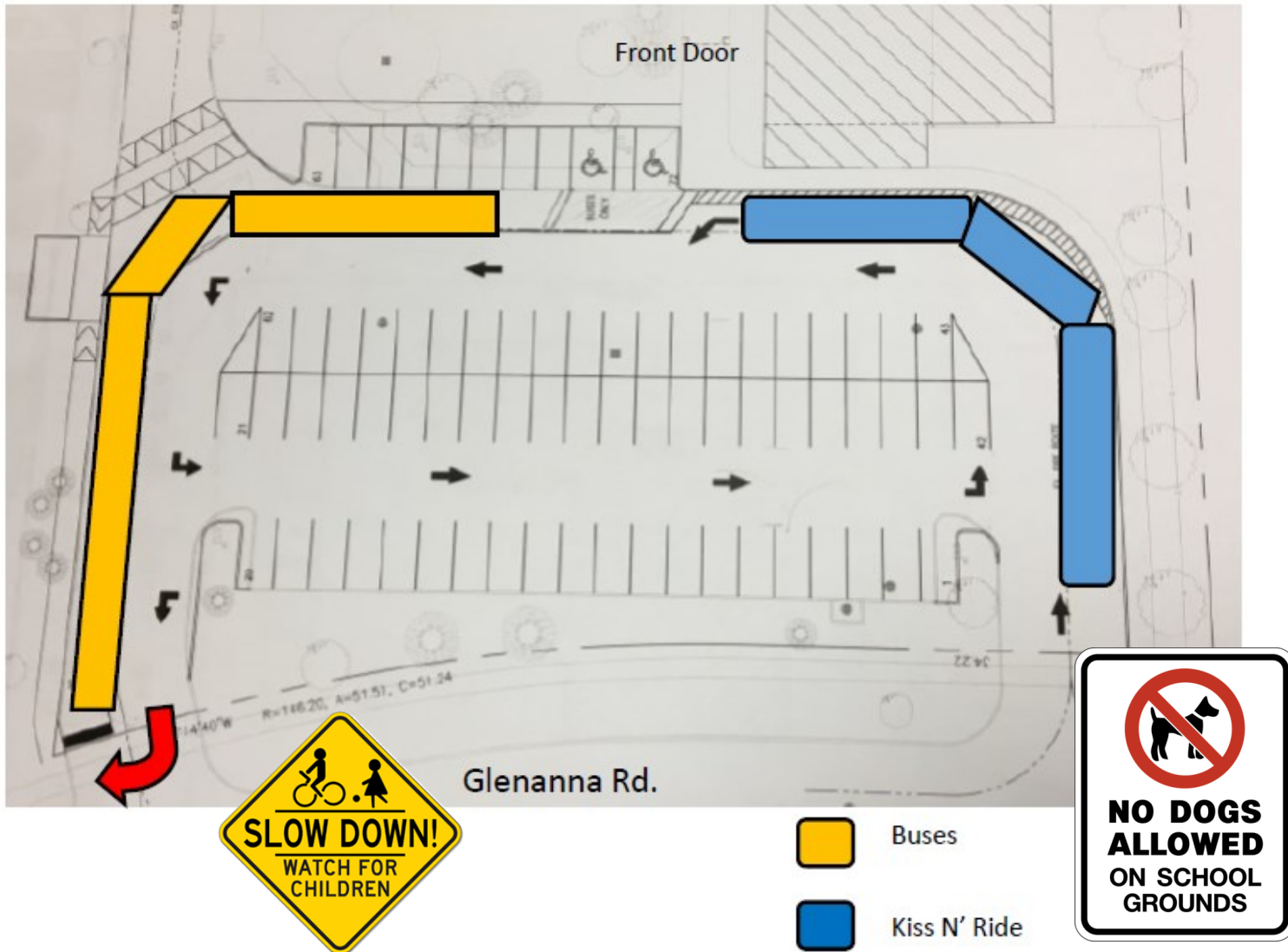
Chris Braney 905-509-2426 [chris.braney@ddsb.ca](mailto:chris.braney@ddsb.ca)

905-666-6376

905-666-6368

Paul Crawford 905-852-0575 [paul.crawford@ddsb.ca](mailto:paul.crawford@ddsb.ca)

# Parking Lot Reminder



- ⇒ **Kiss and Ride is one lane wide. The second lane is for busses.**
- ⇒ **We do not recommend parking in our lot during Kiss and Ride times. However, if you need to, please use a designated spot. This allows buses and Kiss and Ride to flow smoothly.**
- ⇒ **When exiting onto Glenanna Rd, IT IS A RIGHT TURN ONLY during Kiss and Ride times. This improves flow of traffic and safety.**
- ⇒ **Please share this information with anyone dropping off or picking up your child(ren), for example grandparents or daycare.**

## Dates to Remember

Nov. 4—Spoken Word Poet in to work with grades 7 & 8

Nov. 5—Photo retake day

Nov. 11—Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:30am

Nov. 13—Progress Reports go home

Nov. 14-15—Parent-Teacher Interviews/Student-Led Conferences

Nov. 15—PA Day

Nov. 19—MADD presentation to gr. 7&8

Nov. 21—SCC meeting at 6:30pm

Nov. 22—Immunization Clinic, Mustache Spirit Day

Nov. 28—gr 8s to Pine Ridge, gr. 2s to Science Centre

Dec. 5—Robotics

Dec. 6—Sports/Jersey Spirit Day

Dec. 13—Pizza Lunch

Dec. 17—Holiday Concert

Dec. 18—Kindergarten Holiday Concert at 1:30 pm

Dec. 20—last day of school for 2019

# LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED

**We are in need of adult lunchroom supervisors who are available from 11:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.**

**Supervisors are assigned to monitor classes while the students are eating their lunch. They also supervise students in the yard with the assistance of other staff members. This is a paid DDSB position.**

**Please drop by the Main Office and see Ms. Hawthorne if you are interested in pursuing this important responsibility.**



## SCC NEWS:

*Hello William Dunbar Families,*

*The SCC would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of your support with the Dance-a-thon Fundraiser. The William Dunbar Community raised \$2500 and the kids and teachers had a blast dancing and singing with their friends. The money raised will go straight back into the investment in our kids and our school.*

*Here are the winners by division:*

*FDK - Cameryn D. from Ms. Davis' class*

*Primary - Amare M. from Ms. Cummings class*

*Junior - Gabby D. from Mrs. Warren's class*

*Intermediate - Dean V. from Ms. Howe's class*

*The Class Pizza Party goes to Mrs. Warren's class!*

*Thank you for all you do to make William Dunbar a wonderful place for our kids to go to school!*

*Your SCC*

Stay up to date on the latest SCC news and events. Find us at Facebook.com under groups, "William Dunbar SCC".

For the 2019/20 school year the SCC executives are:

Co-Chairs: Shannon Belmore & Katie Coppolino

Secretary: Lisa Appelbohm

Treasurer: TBD

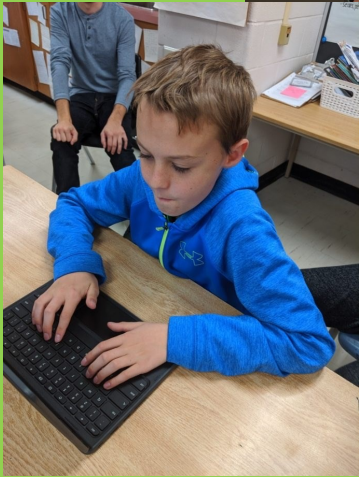
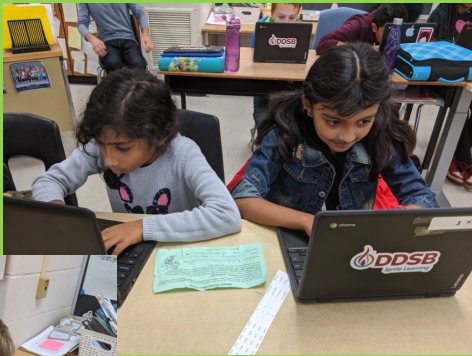
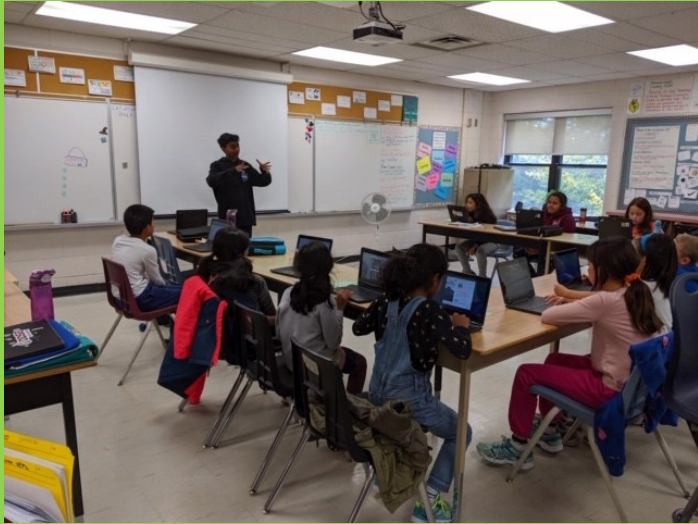
All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and daycare is provided. The dates are as follows:

- November 21, 2019
- January 9, 2020
- February 6, 2020
- March 5, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- May 7, 2020
- June 18, 2020

If you are interested in attending SCC meetings, helping at school Community events, or want to know more about the SCC, please email us @ [SCC.williamdunbarps@scc.ddsb.ca](mailto:SCC.williamdunbarps@scc.ddsb.ca)



## Typing Club



## Snow Much Fun!







## Me to We Update

William Dunbar's 2019-2020 ME to WE Club has started! ME to WE is a global organization aimed at taking action in the world and doing whatever they can to make the world a better place. The Dunbar ME to WE club wants to do just that, from right here at our school.

Grade 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to join the club and take action both within their community and in the world. We meet every day 5 to discuss and make plans, and put them into action! This year we have 6 initiatives: We Rise Above, We Read Together, We Volunteer Now, We Walk for Water, We Film for Change, and We Are One. These initiatives will take place at various periods of time throughout the year. In the past, we have had over 50 people (a third of all intermediates) join the club! This year, we are excited to work as a group of well-committed people and make each of our initiatives a success. From reading buddies with primary students to supporting families in Kenya by buying rafikis, we are helping to make the world a better place, one step at a time.

Written by Jasmine K., ME to WE Student Administrator

## Firefighters Visit WDPS Kindergarteners!

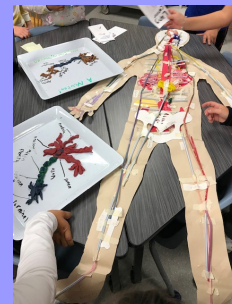


## Spoken Word Poetry

On Monday, November 4, Patrick De Belen, a spoken word artist visited the intermediate division at William Dunbar. We walked in and the energy level was ecstatic. There was music being played on speakers and he was engaging with the audience. He started off the session with a poem that was very deep and meaningful. But it didn't seem like that. It was about how the real world ties into the world of cartoons and jokes. This made the audience focused on the rest of the presentation. He then talked about his life and how it was growing up for him in a poor area of Toronto. He was speaking about how his family being less successful with money than other families, his education was worse than other kids his age. He was failing most subjects, and to pass him, his teacher told him that he had to write a poem for the talent show. This is where his career started. After he talked about himself, he got the students to create their own poems using the topics he gave to us. We could write about: a letter to our future selves; a letter to our past selves; or a poem about what we would do if we could rule the world. For the last two periods, Mr. De Belen had us all gather together in the gym and read what we wrote in our poems. He then again started off the "open mic" session with a poem that got the crowd engaged. It was fun listening to all the intermediate students thoughts and beliefs. Some of the poems were very funny, while some touched on personal things in people's lives, which really inspired me and a lot of the people in the gym. The main thing we took away from this experience is that you should never be afraid to go up on stage and do your thing. It was a very exciting day, and that is how it went.

Written by Jack B. and Hamza R.

## Know your Anatomy!





### Digital Devices—Keeping our students safe and focused on learning.

Devices can be a valuable tool to augment learning, such as enabling research or the use of educational apps. However, they can also interfere with learning. Texting, engaging in social media and the taking of personal pictures or videos during class time is detrimental to a safe learning environment. The use of devices at recesses and lunch on school property is prohibited as there cannot be direct supervision to ensure appropriate use. This includes listening to music during these times. While we anticipate student compliance, here is the progressive response in the event of repeated issues:

First Offense: student receives a warning and they must take their phone and lock it in their locker (Please ensure your child has a Dudley lock that works.)

Second Offense: student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Third Offense: A guardian is contacted. The student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

### Anaphylaxis



Thanks for remembering  
this is a



Peanut/Nut  
Free School

**NO NUTS PLEASE!** Some allergies have the potential of being life threatening. As we have a number of students with life threatening allergies, we ask that all parents assist in our students' safety by reading the labels on all lunch products to ensure that they do not contain nuts or traces of nuts. Even trace elements could cause a severe life-threatening reaction. **Thank you to all community members for putting safety first!**

**Also note that any nut alternative products, i.e., SoyaButter, WOWButter, are not permitted in the school. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school staff to control for a "peanut safe"**

**environment.** As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don't look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).



**Homemade Baked Treats:** We request that students and parents/guardians DO NOT bring in any homemade baked goods for special occasions. If you wish your child to bring in an item to celebrate a special event, we will allow any store-purchased, pre-packaged food item, with the ingredient label(s) clearly visible, indicating that it is a peanut/nut-free item and does not contain ingredients that any classmates are allergic to. As an alternative, we encourage any students wishing to bring a celebratory item to share with his/her classmates, to consider non-food items, i.e., pencils, stickers, etc.



### Scents and Latex

We also have members of our community with severe allergies to latex and scents. We ask that no latex products, such as balloons, are brought to school. William Dunbar is committed to being a scent sensitive community so please do not wear or send scented products to school. **THIS INCLUDES HAND SANITIZER PRODUCTS.** These products also violate Health and Safety guidelines for our board.

### Administration of Medication at School

**Any medications** that need to be administered at school require a special form completed and signed by your family doctor. These forms, **Administration of Oral Medication** or an **Administration of Medication by injection**, are available from the office. The completed form, and the medication in the **original** labeled container, must be provided to the school. The parent/guardian is also responsible for providing any special instructions or training to staff before we can begin administration. Please note, all forms expire at the end of the school year and must be renewed each September.



Good attendance patterns can become an important factor in a student's overall success at school.

### Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year.
- Students who are absent 15 days of school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and tend to have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

### Families can support good attendance at school by:

- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Getting clothes, lunches and backpacks ready the night before.
- Communicating regularly with your child's teacher.
- Talking with your child about their school day.
- Taking part in school events and activities to show your child that you value school and education.
- Planning vacations and appointments around the school schedule whenever possible.
- Making sure your child goes to school, unless they are truly sick.



**Attendance  
MATTERS**



**Act early!** Let the school know right away if there is a problem or concern. There are lots of ways we can work together to get attendance back on track or prevent an attendance problem from starting.

# November is Hindu Heritage Month

By proclaiming the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political & cultural fabric. Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario.

Support all dimensions  
of diversity.





# Happy DIWALI

For people who identify as Hindu, Diwali is the most popular festival of the year and means "garland of lights." Diwali lasts five days and the most important celebration takes place on the night before the new moon appears. During Diwali, Hindus light oil lamps (diyas) or candles in honour of Lakshmi, Vishnu's wife, the goddess of good fortune, wealth and happiness. People exchange Diwali greetings and gifts like dried fruit and sweets.





# November is Albanian Heritage Month



Ontario is home to more than 28,000 Albanian Canadians. Since the early 20th century, the Albanian-Canadian community has made and continues to make significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

During the month of November, people of Albanian origin celebrate the Albanian Declaration of Independence, and also commemorate Liberation Day, which is the day that Albania was liberated from Nazi Germany forces on November 29th, 1944.

By proclaiming the month of November as Albanian Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario recognizes the meaningful contributions immigrants have made in building Ontario's communities and the social, economic, political and cultural achievements of Albanian-Canadians throughout the province. Albanian Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Ontario's rich history.

## SUPPORTING ALL DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY





*Thank You*

**November 11**







# Transgender Day of Remembrance

*November 20*

*"Because our lives matter."*



Голодомор  
**HOLODOMOR**  
MEMORIAL DAY

## Holodomor:

### THE UKRAINIAN GENOCIDE

The Durham District School Board recognizes the fourth Friday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day. The literal meaning, from the Ukrainian word Holodomor, is death by hunger.

Holodomor was a human-engineered famine that led to the deaths of up to 10 million Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933. News reports and records of the genocide were denied by the Stalin regime and were subsequently suppressed by Soviet authorities for more than 70 years.

The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario recognize Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November.

## **November is Albanian Heritage Month**

Ontario is home to more than 28 000 Albanian Canadians. During the month of November, people of Albanian origin celebrate the Albanian Declaration of Independence which declared them an independent and sovereign nation. Albania also commemorates Liberation Day in this month which is the day that it was liberated from Nazi Germany forces after the Albanian Resistance. On this day, the Province recognizes the meaningful contributions that Albanians have made to Ontario. It is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Ontario's rich history.



Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16a29>

## **November is Hindu Heritage Month**

Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity and innovation throughout Ontario.

Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario

Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s16035>

## **Treaties Recognition Week November 5-11**

Ontario has designated the first week of November as **Treaties Recognition Week** to promote education. Treaties Recognition Week was introduced to honour the importance of Treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about Treaty rights and Treaty relationships. Treaties Recognition Week provides an opportunity for educators to continue planning curriculum-linked learning activities about Treaties and will help build awareness and a greater understanding of why we acknowledge the land/territory we are on.

## **Inuit Day November 7<sup>th</sup>**

On International Inuit Day, we celebrate the cultural, history, and impact Inuit people have on Canada and around the world.

Click here for a Storytelling Project: <https://www.itk.ca/taimannganit/>



## **Indigenous Veterans Day November 8<sup>th</sup>**

National Aboriginal Veterans Day began in Winnipeg in 1994 when Indigenous veterans were not recognized in Remembrance Day activities.

Over 12,000 Indigenous people are estimated to have volunteered in all three wars, including 7,000 First Nations members, and approximately 300 died during these conflicts.



First Nations, Inuit and Metis people were not eligible for conscription because they were not citizens of Canada (they were also unable to vote), but many volunteered despite the challenges they faced, including traveling long distances from remote communities to enlist, learning a new language (English), and coping with racism against them. Indigenous people were not allowed to join the Canadian Air Force until 1942 and the Canadian Navy until 1943. Both men and women enlisted, serving as soldiers, nurses and in other roles. Many served with distinction, winning medals for bravery in action.

After the war, enlisted Indigenous people returned home to continued discrimination, including in some cases denial of benefits, loss of Indian Status, and expropriation of their land by the government for non-Indigenous veterans. It was only in 1995 that Indigenous veterans were allowed to lay wreaths commemorating their fallen comrades at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

The first monument commemorating the role of Indigenous people during these three wars was dedicated in 2001 in Ottawa. It took until 2003 for the Government of Canada to provide veterans' benefits to First Nations soldiers who had been denied them in the past, and Metis veterans have never received them.

**Source:** <https://www.righttoplay.ca/en-ca/national-offices/national-office-canada/whats-new/honouring-indigenous-veterans-this-national-aboriginal-veterans-day/>

## **November 11, Remembrance Day**

On Remembrance Day we honour all who served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. Every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, people who live in Canada as well as many other Commonwealth countries will stop what they are doing to observe a moment of silence to pay tribute to the sacrifices that were made and are still being made on our behalf. Over 6000 First Nations soldiers fought alongside the Canadian Forces throughout the First and Second World Wars. However, those who returned from the war quickly realized that the freedom that they fought for did not equally apply to them. This then, may also be a time to look both into the past and forward toward a better future for Canada's Indigenous People.

## **November 16, International Day of Tolerance**

The United Nations has defined tolerance as respect, acceptance and appreciation of the endless richness of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human (Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, 1995). The International Day of Tolerance encourages people to learn about, respect and recognize the rights and beliefs of others. It is also a time to reflect on the impact of intolerance and how various forms of injustice, oppression, racism and other forms of discrimination have a negative impact on society.



## **November 16, Louis Riel Day**

Louis Riel was a Métis man who is also called the 'Father of Manitoba'. He was a heroic and influential teacher and leader who took on the challenge of ensuring that the Métis people could preserve their heritage and identity. To do this, Riel headed a Provisional Government which negotiated the Manitoba Act and provided some protection for the French language. He was a man of strength and courage, but he was not seen as a hero by everyone. Riel was labelled as a traitor for taking a stand and defending Métis rights and was consequently executed by the Canadian government.

Louis Riel Day is held every year across the homeland on November 16, the anniversary of Riel's execution in 1885. While Louis Riel Day marks one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, its recognition demonstrates their continuing resilience and determination to regain their rights and preserve their way-of-life in Ontario and across the Homeland. To commemorate Louis Riel Day, *MNO citizens and communities hold events across the province to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, to celebrate Métis culture and to highlight the struggles that Métis continue to face.*

The great niece of Louis Riel, Augustine Abraham called for unity among Métis people.

Listen to the voice of Alexandre, 7ans qui est Métis.

<https://unis.ca/videos?v=0j77zxwvot6ub>

## **November 19-23 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**

Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance (Ontario Ministry of Education).

Looking at your School Climate Data and planning next steps is a part of how schools can work proactively in response to how students are feeling.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/climate.html>

## **November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance**

Transgender Day of Remembrance is held in November to honour Rita Hester who was killed for being who she was. This day urges us all to raise awareness of the threat of violence faced by people who identify as transgender and the persistence of the prejudice felt by the transgender community.



DDSB Support Documents

Scroll to Recommended Reading

[https://sites.google.com/s/1Fr78mY-T4608ykL8uSYMkEnyiNLHsOtG/p/1hs9LE3SjgY0Xo\\_hw7pV6SJNikZpsFEWr/edit](https://sites.google.com/s/1Fr78mY-T4608ykL8uSYMkEnyiNLHsOtG/p/1hs9LE3SjgY0Xo_hw7pV6SJNikZpsFEWr/edit)

## **November 23, Holodomor Memorial Day**

The Holodomor is the name given to the genocide by famine that occurred in Ukraine from 1932-1933 under Joseph Stalin's regime. As many as 10 million people perished. In Ukrainian, "Holod" means starvation/famine and "moryty" means to inflict death. This Memorial Day was introduced in 2009 in Ontario. For more information and resources, please see:

<http://www.holodomoreducation.org/index.php/id/181>

## **November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

Violence against women is still a devastating human rights violation present in today's world. For far too long, impunity silence and stigma have allowed violence against women to escalate to pandemic proportions—one in three women worldwide experience gender-based violence.

While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable - for instance, young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrants and refugees, indigenous women and ethnic minorities, or women and girls living with HIV and disabilities, and those living through humanitarian crises. Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights. All in all, the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - to leave no one behind - cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls.

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



An inverted triangle with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, resembling a rainbow flag.

# Positive Space

**This is a SAFE SPACE where human rights are respected and where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, teachers, friends, families, and allies are welcome and supported.**

CUPE Local 218  
Durham District School Board  
ETFO Durham Teachers' Local  
OSSTF District 13

