



The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Website: www.armourheightsps.ca Twitter: [@TDSB_ArmourHts](https://twitter.com/TDSB_ArmourHts)

April 4, 2014 Issue 7

Principal's Message:

The month of March provided us with many more examples of how incredible the Armour Heights "Family" truly is. Some memorable moments will include the phenomenal Jungle Book Performance and Dance-a-Thon before the break. More recently, the grade 5s had a great time on their outdoor education overnight. Our Spelling Bee participants and Me to We Club members showed tremendous dedication at the Regional Spelling Bee both during the competition and with the "Brick by Brick" Bake Sale. Our Eco-Club continues to help us reduce our ecological footprint with our new compost program and Earth Hour on March 28th.

I continue to see enhancements to teaching and learning as teachers and students redefine tasks using technology. Students are engaged in innovative assignments that require high order thinking as they communicate and reason in a variety of ways. I am looking forward to our upcoming FSA meeting on April 22nd where we will share some of the innovations happening at Armour.

Furthermore, I look forward to sharing our School Organization for 2014-2015 (not staffing assignments) with you at that time. Please also join us before the FSA meeting at 6:30pm for our Caring and Safe Schools Meeting.

Safety continues to be a priority. When driving through our parking lot, please do so with caution and refrain from idling your vehicle. We also appreciate all the visitors who have been checking into the office. This really helps us account for every person inside the building. Please refrain from letting others into the school if they have not buzzed in.

Finally, please note the Parent Input Form on the last pages of this newsletter. If you would like to share information in advance of class placement meetings for 2014-2015, please complete and return the form to the office by April 25th.

Armour Heights Athletic Wear is Here!

Armour Heights Athletic wear is now available for anyone who is interested in purchasing a school hooded sweatshirt or a school team jersey. Please simply use this [order form](#). The hoodies and t-shirts come in Kelly Green with white writing, perfect spring wear! Students can purchase their own lightweight t-shirt exactly like the ones our athletes will be wearing this spring at Track and Field and for other school sports. The shirts are great for gym class or on a field trip and the hoodies will keep you warm and cozy on those cool summer nights! Prices are \$25.00 for a sweatshirt and \$15.00 for a school athletic shirt. Students have the option to personalize their own shirts with a name and number on the back for an additional charge.

If you are interested in purchasing any Armour Heights Athletic wear please fill in an [order form](#) and **send in a cheque made payable to Armour Heights Public School**. Orders will be placed weekly and delivery takes approximately two weeks. Sample sizes are available, please see Mr. Barta or email him at mark.barta@tdsb.on.ca

Also, please note that sample sizes will be on display at the upcoming FSA Meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd at 7:30pm.

Junior Journalists



Me to We

On March 26, 2014, the Me to We Club did a fundraiser during the Spelling Bee. It took place in our school, outside of the gym. The students in the club worked very hard at baking or selling. We sold homemade baked goods, pizza, lemonade and coffee. We sold a lot to raise 15 bricks to build a school in a poor country.

I thought it was fun and I was helping another country that was in need of our help.

By: Devon H.



House League Floor Hockey

Mr. Barta reffed the floor hockey house league teams. The grade 5/6 girls and boys played at 8:00 in the morning. The playoffs start April 1st with Leafs/ Bruins/ Penguins. One game is 5 minutes. I'm glad I joined because it is so much fun not worrying about what team wins!

By: Marlowe B.



Blue Spruce

First, what is Blue Spruce? Blue Spruce is a competition. Every year 10 picture books get nominated and all elementary schools in Ontario have the opportunity to compete in the Blue Spruce program. This year the 10 books that were nominated are A Good Trade, I Dare You Not To Yawn, If You Hold A Seed, In The Tree House, Mr. Zinger's Hat, Oddrey, Sky Colour, This Is Not My Hat, Uncle Wally's Old Brown Shoe and Willow Finds A Way.

In our school we do the Blue Spruce program with our reading buddies. Mrs. Pearl organizes the day where all of the kids listen to all 10 of the books read aloud by all of the teachers in the school. After we hear each book we complete short activities in a memory book with our reading buddies. We also get to rate each book we hear from 1 to 4 with a happy face.

After we have heard all 10 books we get to vote on our personal favourite. We both love the book Willow Finds a Way because Willow stands up to Kristabelle, the girl who controls the class with her birthday guest list. Even though Willow wants to go to the birthday party she knew what Kristabelle was doing was bossy so she crossed her name off the birthday list before Kristabelle could do it. Everyone else in the class did it too.

We will find out in May which book has won the 2014 Blue Spruce Award. Blue Spruce is a great way to introduce and inspire reading to little kids.

By: Marcus G. and Ryan B. (Reading Buddies)

Armour Heights students in grade 3 will be writing EQAO during the week of May 26th and the grade 6 students will be writing during the week of June 2nd. Please try to avoid planning appointments and/ or trips during this time.

In addition to the focused support provided by your child's teacher, Mrs. Pearl, Mrs. Weintraub, Ms. Marshall, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Newman and Mr. Birnbaum will work closely with students in grades 3 and 6 in order to prepare them for EQAO. Our objective is to have our students embark on this experience with confidence and to utilize a variety of strategies to help them succeed.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/parents.aspx?status=logout&Lang=E>

http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/11/EQAO_ParentGuide_PrimaryJunior2011.pdf

http://www.eqao.com/pdf_E/10/WhatParentsNeedtoKnow.pdf

What EQAO results tell you about your child:

EQAO results are:

- a snapshot of your child's achievement in relation to the provincial standard.
- an objective, reliable indicator of how well your child is meeting the reading, writing and math expectations defined in The Ontario Curriculum.

Remember:

- It is important to consider a wide variety of achievement information.
- EQAO results are one objective indicator of achievement.

School Climate Survey (Grade 4-6)

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of our students and families, we invite parents of students in grades 4,5 and 6 to participate in this year's School Climate Survey. Individual surveys will remain confidential, however the information collected will provide the board and school with important data that will help us to improve in specific areas. Students in grades 4-6 will be given time over the next two weeks to complete a student survey online.

The survey period for Armour Heights is from Monday, April 7 through April 21. Parents, we kindly ask that you take some time to complete this year's School Climate Survey in order to help us further support our students. You may access the survey by using the following link:

www.schoolclimate.ca

Use code: 5-PZU-726-G

Thank you very much for your participation in our School Climate Survey! Our goal is 100% parent response.

Upcoming Dates:

International Day of Pink

On April 9 we celebrate The International Day of Pink. A day of action, born when a youth in a high school in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia and transphobia.

Our students and staff will be wearing pink in support of diversity, and will be participating in activities that will engage our community to challenge gender stereotypes.

On April 7, students from Northern Secondary School will hear first-hand from Jeremy Dias, Executive Director of Jer's Vision and Founder of the International Day of Pink. All staff, students and community members are welcome to visit www.tdsb.on.ca to listen to Jeremy's inspirational speech.

The International Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity - it's also a commitment to being open minded, to being understanding of differences and to learning to respect each other.

April 7- School Climate Survey Begins (Gr. 4-6)

April 9- International Day of Pink

April 13- Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)

April 14- Baisakhi (Sikhism, Hinduism)

April 14- School Support Team (SST)

April 15- Passover (Judaism)

April 18- Good Friday

April 20- Easter

April 21- Easter Monday

April 22- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

April 24- Welcome to Kindergarten- PM

April 26- Silent Auction

April 27- Yom Hashoah (Judaism)

April 28- Book Fair begins

April 29- Character Assembly (AM)

May 1- Open House/ Spring Concert at 6pm

May 7- Grade School Musical II (Rehearsal)

May 8- Grade School Musical II at 7pm

May 11- Mother's Day

May 12- School Support Team (SST)- AM

May 14- Visakha Puja (Buddhism)

May 19- Victoria Day

May 20- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

May 21- Innovations Fair at Dublin Heights

May 23- Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

May 24- Fun Fair!

PRINCIPAL:
Corey Birnbaum

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
Voula Szerepi

HEAD CARETAKER:
Patrick Smith

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Armour Heights Public School

Parent Input Form for 2014-2015 Class Placements

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the end of the school year approaches, we are planning for the 2014/2015 school year. The teaching staff and I will be holding placement and promotion meetings of students in the coming weeks. The process of building our classes include a consideration of balance in the following areas:

- Gender
- Students' abilities, strengths and achievement levels
- Students' needs and learning behaviours
- Students' interaction patterns that enable them to work and learn together productively

We consider all factors that will help us to have balanced classes that adhere to system average class sizes and ministry caps in primary (grades 1-3) that will work to the benefit of all students, and the school as a whole.

We would like to welcome input from parents as to the unique needs of your child. If you wish to provide input regarding your child, please do so on the form on the back of this letter and return it to the office by April 25, 2014.

This year, we will notify you of your child's placement for next year on his/her June report card. Any adjustments to placements due to re-organization will be made in September 2014. It is important to note that **we not asking for, nor can we accept, requests for placement with a specific teacher.** In addition, the ultimate responsibility of placement and promotion lies with the Principal. We also would like to ask that if you know your child will not be attending Armour Heights PS next year, and you have not yet informed the office, please send us a note, as this is very helpful in our planning.

Thank you for your partnership with the school.
Yours truly,

C. Birnbaum

Please return this form to the office by **April 25, 2014**.

Child's Name: _____

Current Room # _____

Current Grade: _____

Parent/ Guardian Input:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please Print

Date