



# The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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

February 7, 2014 Issue 5

## Principal's Message:

What an exciting start to 2014! I am very proud of the achievements of our students, so far. There are exciting and innovative teaching and learning opportunities happening both inside and outside of the classrooms at Armour Heights.

On February 11th, you will be receiving your child's report card. These Elementary Provincial Report Cards are written for all students in grades 1-6. This term's report cards will continue to communicate your child's strengths, needs and next steps as it relates to achievement of the curriculum expectations for each subject area as well as their achievement of the learning skills. Junior Kindergarten students are scheduled to receive a summary report at this time. This summary is a means of communicating to parents/guardians a profile of their child's interests, strengths, development and learning. In addition, teachers may be requesting parent conferences for some students. Parent/Teacher Conferences may occur during the week of February 10th at scheduled times. Regardless of whether or not an interview has been scheduled to discuss your child's progress, parents may request a Parent/Teacher Conference.

Page 3 and 4 of the report card provides parents/guardians and the student with an opportunity to comment on student achievement, goals and home support. The response form links formal reporting to the process of assessment, reporting and communication about the student's learning that continues throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming FSA Meeting on February 18th at 7:30pm. Please mark your calendars and join us for a very important Social Media Presentation on Wednesday, February 19th at 6:30-8:00pm. Finally, we are very excited to welcome Mosaic Artist, Chantal LeBlanc, who will be working with all students from JK-Grade 6 on three very special mosaics that represent Armour Heights' core beliefs and values: Education, Family and Social Responsibility (as decided by our students).

Learning is a partnership and we look forward to continued success in term two.

## Weather Watch

### Making the Best of Winter Weather at Armour

We are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. We are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the windchill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

## DONATE NATURALLY

We are excited to announce a new partnership with [DonateNaturally.com](http://DonateNaturally.com). [DonateNaturally.com](http://DonateNaturally.com) is an online grocery store for Organic and Natural Product. For the same price as your local grocery store, 10% of your bills gets donated to the FSA and gets delivered to your front door. We are excited to use the funds raised from this partnership to help fund our new computer lab! Please take the time to give it a try! You won't be disappointed!!! It is easy to set up a profile and start shopping. For more information, select the Resources and Forms tab and click on the Donate Naturally information sheet.

Thanks for your support!!



# FSA UPDATE:

**There are two fantastic volunteer opportunities at Armour that the FSA would like to bring to your attention.**

**“THESE EVENTS CAN’T RUN WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS”!**

**1. Silent Auction:**

This is our largest Fundraising event.

*Each year Armour Heights has a special evening for the parents. The annual Silent Auction raises funds for our school. All the money raised during this evening goes directly to help enhance and improve our kids' school curriculum. The money raised at the Silent Auction will go toward a variety of FSA Programs for the 2014/15 academic year. We are also excited to announce that 20% of the funds raised this year will go directly to the Computer Lab. Our children will be able to experience more programs and use more equipment from the money raised by our parents.*

*This year the event is a "House Party" theme and it will be Fun and Games and the attire is totally casual. Come for an hour or come for the entire evening. Dinner is included in the ticket price. The event is open to everyone, so please feel free to bring a friend. There will be lots of fabulous Auction items and at various price ranges. Each class creates a unique and priceless item that will also be for sale! There will be games and some serious dancing.*

*It's a GREAT evening! Look for your invitation coming out just after March Break!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The Event Date is April 26th**

*We still need volunteers!! Please contact Carolyn at [carolynvacton@gmail.com](mailto:carolynvacton@gmail.com)*

*Donations Committee - We have a great team - come help us get donations!!*

*Decorations - Set up and clean up*

*Loot bags and Beverage sales*

*Check-in Table*

*Or let us know what you would like to do!*

**2. Fun Fair:**

This is our largest FUN-raising events. It is a day long fair held at the school and it's geared specifically to the kids. There are bouncy castles, rides, midway games, cotton candy, DJ, prizes, spa, cakes....the list goes on. It's an extremely fun day which happens to help the school raise funds for next year's programs.

We need 2 types of volunteers for this event.

1. Volunteers to commit an hour or two on the day to help take tickets, spin cotton candy, paint faces, flip burgers, etc.
2. Volunteers to help steer the event and manage an area. You never do this alone - there are dozens of people to help you.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The Event Date is May 24th.**

We Need Volunteers! Please contact me at [balldorson5@gmail.com](mailto:balldorson5@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

# Junior Journalists

## Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a holiday that can be on any day between January 21st and February 20th. This year it falls on January 31st. Usually families gather and have a feast. The foods typically eaten are fish, noodles, roast pork, steamed chicken and dumplings. For dessert they eat mandarin oranges and moon cakes. After the feast they hand out red envelopes with money inside. Before they get their red envelopes they have to say, "Kung Hei Fat Choy" (that is pronounced gong hey fat choy). Another name for Lunar New Year is Chinese New Year. Each year is represented by an animal, this year is the year of the horse. Most Asian people celebrate Lunar New Year.

By: Aleksandar P., Grade 4

## Armour Heights Knights Hockey

Our first game was starting off well. We scored the first goal then they scored and it was all tied up. At the end of the second period it was 4-1 for them. When the game was finished we lost 5-2.

Our second game was better. It was very close- we scored one and then they scored one. The game ended in a 6-6 tie. The game went to a shootout and both players shot at the same time and we ended up losing the shootout 2-0.

Armour's third game was also close. They scored the first two goals, but we came back to tie the game up. It was tied at the end of the game, so we went to a shootout once again. We lost in the shootout 2-0.

We have three games next week and we can't wait to represent Armour with pride!

Matthew W., Grade 6

## iPad Excitement!

Recently, Mr. Offor's class had the pleasure of being the first ones to use and try out the new iPads. We had a blast! We tried out new software called iMotion. What we did was shaped clay into a figure and took many pictures. Each picture you move the figure ever so slightly. When we finished the pictures we played them running 15 frames per second, which made it look like a real video.

Once we all finished our projects we played them on the SmartBoard. We had a great time making and watching our stop motion projects with the iPads. We hope that you will have fun with the iPads too!

By: Finn T. and Trevor A., Grade 6



## My First Hockey Game

We went on a class trip to see a hockey game. We went with Mr. Birnbaum and Mrs. Newman. We watched The Marlies vs. San Antonio in the arena. After that, we had popcorn. I was sharing with Marielle and Chahine. The final score was 5-4. The Marlies won! Then, we saw a kid on the zamboni and a man who was cleaning the ice. When we got back to the school bus, it was so bumpy. It was awesome!

By: Jelica C., Grade 3





## Intramurals During Recess

The teams in floor hockey are The Flames, The Senators, The Canucks, The Canadiens, The Oilers and The Jets. We play in the gym at morning recess or afternoon recess. Mr. Barta is there and he is the referee. First, we have a face-off. Then, we battle for the ball. Next, we try to score on the other team's net. Finally, Mr. Barta blows the whistle and the game is over. We like playing floor hockey during recess. Thank you for making this program.

By: Pierce, Ariadni and Tiah, Grade 1 and 2

## The Armour Heights Choir Performs at the ACC

On Wednesday, January 22, 2014, members of the Armour Heights Choir performed the Star Spangled Banner and O Canada at the Toronto Raptors game at the ACC. Thank you to Tanya, Mrs. Rosenberg and all the families who made this evening so special.

The students sounded spectacular and their performance even inspired a Raptors win! Thank you for representing Armour Heights so beautifully.

## Kids' Lit Quiz

On Tuesday, February 4th, the Armour heights Kids' Literature Team went to the qualifier round competition. We were ready, excited and happy to compete!

"Kids' Lit Quiz" is a sport that is all about reading. You read as much as you can and then you answer questions about them. There are 10 categories and 10 questions in each category. A category might be pigs or riddles. There were 3 different heats, then a final. We were in the second heat.

On competition day, we arrived at school at 7:00am to take public transit to the competition at Queen Victoria Public School. We took the bus to the subway and then a streetcar from the subway. It was a long way; about an hour, but it was worth it and pretty fun on its own.

At the school, we got into our costumes. We were all dressed up as Cat in the Hat. Our team was 5 people- Holly, Victoria, Nora, Natalie and Michelle. Our coaches were Mrs. Durkee and Mrs. Pearl. We went to the room where the competition was happening. There were 20 other teams there.

The 10 categories were aliases, amphibians, body parts, babies, mythology, classics, horses, pigs, cannibalism and riddles. Our best scoring category was aliases. Our end score was 51.5 We didn't win, but we did well and were very proud of ourselves.

We proudly returned back to Armour Heights having had lots of fun and doing our best. We hope we can do this again. Thank you so much Mrs. Durkee and Mrs. Pearl! It was so much fun!

By: Natalie and Michelle, Grade 6



## OUR CHARACTER FOCUS IS:



## FAIRNESS

### Jungle Book

The Grade 2s, 3s and 4s have been working on a play called, "The Jungle Book". Everyone is really excited and preparing for the play. It's on March 5th at 7:00pm and it takes place in the gym. We have been practising every Monday at lunch. All of the characters have been working very hard at memorizing their lines and songs. They have been working on songs like, "Bare Necessities" and "That's What Friends are For". We hope you watch the play.

Mr. Kahn's Grade 4s

## Student Safety

Please ensure that your child does not enter the school before the entry bell at 8:45am. The school yard is supervised from 8:30-8:45am, but we do not have supervision scheduled in the hallways or classrooms before 8:45am. Primary students (Grades 1-3) are to use their designated doors (1 and 5) and Junior students (Grades 4-6) are to enter through door 4. Kindergarten students are to enter through the doors closest to their classrooms in order to ensure a safe transition at entry (8:45am/ 12:35pm). In cases of extreme cold, we will have staff supervisors greeting students at the entry doors allowing them to enter supervised areas. We kindly ask that parents/guardians encourage independence, but if you do need to enter the school, please start your visit in the office to sign in.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep our students safe and minimizing the amount of traffic inside the building.

## Parking Lots

Please note that our parking lot is for Armour Heights' families and/ or authorized guests of the school or childcare. We ask that you display your Armour Heights sticker in your vehicle. If you do not have a sticker you may request one from Mrs. Szerepi in the office or simply let her know that you have parked your car in the lot when you sign in. Vehicles that are not authorized may be subject to a ticket and/ or towing. TDSB Security and Toronto Parking Authority have been notified and they will be monitoring our lots. Please also note that the West lot is for staff parking and the East lot is for Kiss n' Ride and guest parking. We hope that by enforcing these rules, excessive traffic and delays during drop off and pick up might be alleviated.

As always, please be patient, take your time and watch out for students/ pedestrians in our parking lots.

Let's work together to keep our community safe.

## Spread the word...

Full-Day JK Registration is on Tuesday, February 11th from 9:00am-2:00pm at Armour Heights.

Do you have questions about Full-Day Kindergarten? Join the TDSB Web Chat on February 11th at 8-9pm at:

[tdsb.on.ca/tdsbtalks](https://tdsb.on.ca/tdsbtalks)



## Upcoming Dates:

# African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month is an opportunity for staff and students to reflect on the history, achievements and experiences of people of African descent in Canada and throughout the world. The experiences of African Canadians are evolving, complex and contemporary. They go beyond heroes, heroines and particular historical dates.

Canada is made up of people from many different backgrounds and they have all contributed to the formation of this country; however, these experiences have not been fully acknowledged in our history books. Studying African heritage is important because it gives students a fuller picture of the experiences and contributions of all Canadians.

Throughout the month of February, schools across the TDSB will engage in local initiatives and participate in community events to celebrate African Heritage Month; however, the importance of studying African heritage is not limited to the month of February. We celebrate the achievements of people of African descent in Canada and around the world this month and embed issues of equity throughout the year in our teaching and learning at Armour Heights.

Feb 10- School Support Team

Feb 11- JK Registration

Feb 11- Term 1 Report Cards go home

Feb 15- Nirvana Day (Buddhism)

Feb 17- Family Day- School Closed

Feb 18- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

Feb 19- Social Media Presentation at 6:30pm

Feb 18-25- Artist in the School (All Grades)

Feb 26- Character Assembly at 9:00am

Feb 27- Pizza Lunch

March 4- Jungle Book Dress Rehearsal

March 5- Jungle Book at 7:00pm

March 6- Jungle Book Encore at 10:00am

March 6- Dance-a-Thon (PM)

March 7- Ministry Designated Day (No School)

March 10-14- March Break (School Closed)

March 16- Magha Puja Day (Buddhism)

March 16- Purim (Judaism)

March 17- St. Patrick's Day

March 17- Holi (Hinduism)

March 17-19- Grade 5 Overnight to EOEC

March 18- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

**PRINCIPAL:**  
Corey Birnbaum

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Voula Szerepi

**HEAD CARETAKER:**  
Patrick Smith

**ARMOUR HEIGHTS PS**

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Jeff Hainbuch

416-394-2032

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Howard Goodman

416-481-7794

**Attention all Parents:**



**Armour Heights Family and  
School Association  
Presents:**

**Special Guest:  
Steve Chapelle**

## **Social Media, Children and You**



**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

**6:30-8:00pm**

**Armour Heights Public School (Gym)**

**Please RSVP: [ahfsa@rogers.com](mailto:ahfsa@rogers.com)**

*This presentation is intended for adults only*

[www.armourheightsps.ca](http://www.armourheightsps.ca)

Twitter: @TDSB\_ArmourHts

[www.stevechapelle.ca](http://www.stevechapelle.ca)

People of all ages, especially the young, continue to get themselves and others into trouble because they fail to understand that social media are not private places.

This message can be understood with a thorough examination of three themes:

1. Careless social media usage can enable an adult to mislead and endanger a child
2. All messages and posts can be traced to their source
3. Everything you send and post now resides on the computers of strangers... forever