



The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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

May 11, 2014 Issue 8

Principal's Message:

April was full of excitement at Armour Heights and it seems like Spring is finally here to stay! I was so impressed to see our students participating in our recent Track and Field Day. They competed respectfully and made the most of a fun, beautiful day.

It has been terrific seeing so many 'Parents as Partners' in recent weeks. It was great to see so many students and parents engaged in learning at our Open House and Welcome to Kindergarten visits. Our Spring Concert and Grade School Musical 2 Performance really showcased the talent, dedication and cooperation that our students continue to demonstrate. Thank you once again for supporting our students at the Book Fair and Silent Auction, Dinner and Dance. We truly appreciate the support of the FSA and our entire community.

It is the time of year where we plan for the 2014-2015 academic year and look at school organization, staffing and class placements. We will continue to keep you updated as this information becomes available. Thank you to those who submitted the Parent/ Guardian Input Form that was sent home last month. We consider a number of factors when deciding classroom placements for your child(ren) and we really appreciate your input.

Once again, student safety is our foremost concern. Please help us keep our Armour Heights family safe by checking into the office before your visit. Please continue to use caution when driving through our parking lot and kindly refrain from idling your vehicle or parking in front of the dumpster and/ or in the designated bus pick-up/ drop-off area.

Finally, a reminder that we are not able to allow students back into the building after dismissal, for safety reasons. We are not able to supervise students who need to go to the washroom or get drinks after school. We also will not allow students to return to their classrooms after they have been dismissed for the day. Please remind your child(ren) to gather all belongings at the end of the day and plan washroom breaks accordingly if they are planning to stay on school property (with parent supervision).

We appreciate the ongoing partnership between parents, guardians, staff and community in support of our students' learning! I can't wait to see you at the Fun Fair and Blue Jays Night!

Pedestrian Safety

Tips for Parents

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

- Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.

- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.

- Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

- Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.

- Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.

- Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).

- Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

Reprinted with the permission of Safe Kids Canada. Visit www.safekidsCanada.ca for more safety tips on keeping children safe.

2014-2015 School Organization

Grade Organization	Full-Time Equivalent
Full-Day Kindergarten A	1.0 + 1.0 Early Childhood Educator
Full-Day Kindergarten B	1.0 + 1.0 Early Childhood Educator
Full-Day Kindergarten C	1.0
Grade 1	1.0
Grade 1/2 A	1.0
Grade 1/2 B	1.0
Grade 2/3 A	1.0
Grade 2/3 B	1.0
Grade 3	1.0
Grade 3/4	1.0
Grade 4/5 A	1.0
Grade 4/5 B	1.0
Grade 5	1.0
Grade 6 A	1.0
Grade 6 B	1.0

Specialty Subject Organization	Full-Time Equivalent
Physical Education/ Health	1.0
Arts (Drama/ Dance/ Music)	1.0
Arts (Music)	0.5
French	0.5
Teacher-Librarian	0.5
English as a Second Language (ESL)	0.5
Primary Home School Program (HSP)	0.5
Junior Home School Program (HSP)	0.5
Resource Support	0.5

*Tentative- Subject to Change

Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Marilyn Ferley, who will be retiring in June of this year. We wish her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter of life! Patti Durkee will be on leave next year as she pursues new adventures! Michelle Reynolds, our Special Needs Assistant, will be on leave next year as she will embark on a new focus in education. We thank Ms. Ferley, Ms. Durkee and Ms. Reynolds for their commitment to our students and wish them the best of luck! Elizabeth Youdan and Karine Klement have also extended their leaves and will not return for the 2014-2015 school year.

We are excited to announce that Jody Weintraub will be at Armour Heights full-time beginning in 2014-2015. We also welcome Shareen Young, Barb Lenet, Tracey Lutchmedial and Chelsey Bleiman to our staff. We look forward to having these dedicated individuals join our Armour Heights Family!

Education Quality and
Accountability Office

EQAO UPDATE

Armour Heights students in grades 3 and 6 will be writing EQAO during the week of May 26th. The Grade 3s will write EQAO from May 26th-May 28th and the Grade 6s will write from May 29th- June 2nd, so please try to avoid planning appointments and/ or trips during this time. Teachers of all grade levels work collaboratively to equip our students with strategies that will help them succeed throughout their academic careers and in life. Our objective is to prepare all students with critical thinking and reasoning skills applicable to the real-world.

As we approach EQAO testing, we continue to promote a focus on process, rather than on product. For example, there is an added emphasis on how one arrives at a final answer, rather than simply providing the response. Communication is key! Students are continually asked to "justify your answer", "Explain your thinking" or "Support you answer with examples".

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

Student Support

Currently students who require additional program support are supported by our Special Education teachers and Educational Resource workers. Student programs are supported in a variety of ways to develop and/or enhance learning opportunities. Periodically, students are presented at a school team meeting for further consultation and planning. The following personnel may attend the Special Services Team (SST) meeting: Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language pathologist, Social Worker, Special Education consultant, classroom teacher(s) and Principal. At these meetings, staff summarize their observations, concerns and interventions and seek input regarding next steps. Possible outcomes could include: new strategies to try in the classroom; additional services that might be offered; referral for further assessment or intervention by one of the school Special Services team; referral to an outside agency for further consultation or assessment. One recommendation might also be the development of an IEP (Individual Education Plan). This plan will list the various specific teaching strategies that need to be implemented that will help your child succeed. They are over and above what we consider "good teaching practice" and are individual to your child's needs. The benefit of these meetings is to ensure that the best program is in place to meet the individual needs of each student. Staff will contact parents prior to these meetings and will report any recommendations to parents pending the outcome of the meeting. Please be sure to ask questions and or meet with either the teacher or administration if you have any questions regarding these processes. Educating your child is a shared responsibility where you are a partner in your child's education.

Upcoming Dates:

May is Asian Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month

In April 2012 the Ontario Parliament unanimously passed legislation naming May as Jewish Heritage Month. This month is an opportunity to build understanding and awareness of notable Ontarians of Jewish heritage and identify how they have contributed to our City, Province and Country. Across the board, schools will participate in activities, research, and discussions about the Jewish culture, identity, history and heritage.

The month of May is also Asian Heritage Month, a month that acknowledges the rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada. Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the beauty and wisdom of various Asian cultures. This year's theme at the TDSB is Empower. Engage. Enjoy. Across the board, schools will participate in activities and hold special events to celebrate.

At Armour Heights we aim to empower our students and allow their voices to be heard. In addition to daily announcements led by our Student Announcers and classroom-based activities celebrating multiculturalism, we welcome students to speak about personal customs or traditions that will celebrate and engage others in the diversity of our Armour Heights Family.

May 12- School Support Team (SST)- AM

May 12-Boys Soccer Tournament

May 14- Visakha Puja (Buddhism)

May 14- Girls Soccer Tournament

May 15- Track and Field Meet (Esther Shiner)

May 19- Victoria Day

May 20- Grade 6 Visit to St. Andrew's JHS

May 20- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

May 21- Innovations Fair at Dublin Heights (PM)

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

May 24- Fun Fair!

May 26-28- Grade 3 EQAO

May 29-June 2- Grade 6 EQAO

May 29- Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

May 29- Pizza Lunch

May 30- AHPS Blue Jays Game!

June 3- Parent/ Staff Learning with Apple 3:30-6pm

June 4- Shavuot (Judaism)

June 6- PA Day (No School for Students)

June 9- Math Olympics!

June 10- Bike Rodeo

June 11- Volunteer Appreciation

June 12- Showcase at 1:30pm

June 16- School Support Team (SST)- AM

June 17- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm

PRINCIPAL:
Corey Birnbaum

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