



The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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

October 5, 2014 Issue 1

Principal's Message:

It's hard to believe that a month has passed since our first day- Time flies...

It has been an exciting month filled with fun, activities, co-operation, innovation, and above all, learning. Our students have settled into school and classroom routines and they are poised to achieve the goals they set for themselves before the first day.

It has been wonderful to see our home-school partnership in action at our New Parent Welcome, Welcome Back BBQ and Curriculum Night. Our students and staff are so fortunate to have the support of so many volunteers as Class Parents and/ or Pizza Lunch/ class trip volunteers. Together, we can help our students accomplish great things.

I look forward to discussing our School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being at our upcoming FSA Meeting on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30pm.

Please note that when your child is absent, please phone the "Safe Arrival" line at 416-397-2959 option 1. You can leave a message 24/7. Also, in the interest of safety, we ask that all visitors report to the office. Once signed in, visitors will receive a pretty pink badge. All guests to Armour Heights must have their visitors' badge visible at all times.

I look forward to our continued partnership between home, school and community. Let's work together to make 2014-2015 the best school year yet!



From Our FSA:

2014-2015 FSA Direct Donation Campaign

The Armour Heights Family School Association (AHFSA) fundraising campaign for the 2014-2015 academic year will be under way shortly. Packages will be going home with your child this week. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 which would mean an average donation of \$85.00 per student. While this is our goal, any amount contributed by families will be greatly appreciated and will remain confidential. Please stay tuned for our Online Thermometer on the website where we will track our success to reaching our goal. Please remember that the AHFSA will issue tax receipts for donations of \$25.00 or more and all donations will go directly to support student programs. Your support is very much appreciated!! Please join us at the first FSA meeting on Tuesday October 21st, at 7:30pm in the school staff room.

Please see the website for more information, and if you have any questions feel free to contact us!

AHFSA Co-Presidents, Jennifer Stuart (j.stuart2@me.com) and Martha Johnson (johnson_martha@yahoo.ca)

Street-Wise Behaviours

The Toronto Police encourages you to teach your child the following :

- His/her name, address, and phone number
- To dial 9-1-1 in an emergency
- To communicate with you when they feel unsafe or afraid
- To keep you informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times
- Never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone
- Never to invite strangers into the house or answer the door when alone
- Never to approach or enter a stranger's car
- Never to travel or play alone – always be with friends
- To trust their feelings and say "NO" to an adult if that adult wants them to do something that is wrong
- Not to accept gifts from strangers
- To tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- That no one has the right to touch any part of his/her body that a bathing suit would cover
- That if he/she is being followed, or approached too closely, to run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help
- To report to your school authorities or a police officer anyone who acts suspiciously towards him/her
- Never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
- Never to enter anyone's home without your permission
- To avoid taking shortcuts through parks and field
- Never to show his/her money and if attacked to give up the money rather than risk injury
- That a police officer is a friend who can be relied upon when he/she is lost or needs assistance

At the school, the safety of your child is our most important priority. As a staff we have implemented these safe school procedures:

- Teachers discuss street-proofing issues with the students
- Students are sent in pairs to the washroom and our staff checks washrooms and entrances regularly
- Doors are locked after students have entered the school
- Signs are posted directing visitors to come to the office and sign in
- Staff approach individuals they do not know and ask them to identify themselves
- Visitors and volunteers wear badges identifying themselves as guests in the school
- Supervision is provided at the beginning of the day

Together we can keep our school and community safe for our children.

Halloween

Under the Province Safe School legislation, students may not bring toy replicas or other items resembling guns, knives or any other weapons, as accessories to their Halloween costumes. Such items may cause unnecessary fear, anxiety and misunderstanding and must be kept away from the school. In addition, staff will remind students that they cannot bring to school any toy costume accessories, including fake blood, as part of their Halloween costume.

This applies to all students at all levels, including Kindergarten. Please note that while the celebration of Halloween is not part of Ontario Curriculum, some classes may choose to weave Halloween celebrations and/or traditions as part of the daily work and curriculum expectations for specific grades. Individual teachers may send notes home to inform you of expectations and/ or options for wearing a costume. Regular instruction and programming will continue as we take extra care to be inclusive in our practice at school and to ensure that everyone feels safe as per Board policy and protocol. If you have any concerns/ questions, please don't hesitate to let your child's teacher know.

In addition, following Halloween, please refrain from having your children bring candies to school. Aside from the candies not being a healthy snack choice, they also may contain nuts, peanuts or other allergens. As always, if you have questions, please contact your child's teacher or Mr. Birnbaum.

The Facts of Lice

On Tuesday, September 16th, we had a school-wide lice check. Perhaps you have received a letter from school, or a telephone call to notify you of a "lice alert". You may feel angry, fearful, frustrated or itchy. However, head lice are not a health issue in that they do not carry disease. Don't panic! Be sensitive to your child's feelings and check your child's head right away. Checking for lice takes patience, diligence and plenty of time. For centuries, people have been dealing with head lice. A co-operative community effort will help to keep head lice in check. This means that all families must take responsibility for regular head checks and treating their children if head lice are found. Students will be sent home if nits or lice are found. Please notify the school if you find evidence of lice in your child's hair. There are differing opinions by researchers, pharmaceutical companies and parents who have experience with head lice. This fact sheet will provide an overview of the identification, prevention and treatment of head lice:

http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20of%20Toronto/Toronto%20Public%20Health/Healthy%20Communities/Healthy%20Schools/Files/pdf/H/head_lice_english%20FINAL-s.pdf

Restorative Approaches/ Progressive Discipline

At Armour Heights, we use a restorative approach to discipline. When a behavioural concern is reported, the following five restorative questions are asked:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who has been affected and in what way?
5. What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Appropriate behaviour is a responsibility shared by all. By using this process, it is our hope that students will begin to repair the damage done to any relationships. Depending on the circumstances of each situation, a variety of other consequences may be applied as well.

When we speak about **progressive discipline**, this refers to the range of consequences that may be applied after considering the nature of the offence and the age, past history and developmental abilities of the student. Consequences may include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion with Teacher, Principal or Vice-Principal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Removal of privileges |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent contact/involvement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exclusion from optional activities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restorative Reflection Sheet Assignment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detentions before/during/after school |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Repairing damaged relationships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal from class |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mediated Conversations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community service |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behaviour contracts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suspension |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written Action Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment for damages |

Physical Expectations

At Armour Heights, we believe in a HANDS-OFF policy. Students are expected to keep their hands and feet to themselves and avoid activities that involve aggressive play and/or touching. Activities that are not acceptable include "play-fighting", wrestling, piggy-backing, tripping, pushing, shoving, body-checking, poking, punching, and other forms of rough play in classrooms, stairwells, hallways, and on the playground. During recess, students may play organized games such as basketball, soccer, frisbee, co-operative games and foot hockey as well as activities such as skipping and tag. TACKLING is not allowed at any time. Thank you for your help reinforcing these expectations.

A Safe and Caring School



Everyone needs to work together in order to keep our school community safe. Please do not stop in the middle of the parking lot to pick up and/ or drop off students. This is

dangerous and inconsiderate to those who are trying to drive through our lot.

Anaphylaxis

In our school, there are children who are anaphylactic. These children are otherwise healthy youngsters but have a life-threatening allergic

condition. Therefore, snacks that contain or may contain peanuts in any form (peanut butter, peanut oil, peanut by-product, nuts, coconut, any nut belonging to the nut family- legumes) are not permitted. Please note that many granola bars and puddings contain nuts.

We are also conscious of sesame, egg, fish and dairy allergies as well. You may speak to your child's teacher or class parent to find out if such allergies exist in your child's classroom, so that we can work together to keep our students safe.

Due to allergy risks and sanitary reasons, children are not permitted to share snacks and lunches with each other.

Birthdays

If you would like to provide something to celebrate your child's birthday, you may send stickers or pencils. You may also participate in the Birthday Book Club to commemorate your child's special day. We ask that you do not send in food because of the high number of allergies. We appreciate your co-operation.



As many of you have noticed, the theatre has been relocated into the main building of the school, taking up a new name of Studio 105! We have an outstanding space - complete with a beautiful wood dance floor. The students are all eager to get their tail-feathers going and learn some new dance moves. First though we have been enjoying all the activities of getting to know our fellow students and exploring movement through cooperative and dramatic activities. We have moved onto knowing more about ourselves and are beginning to work in character role - by using the example of "Who Is Melvin Bubble." The students will be starting to practice working in "Role" next week as they take on the challenge of speaking as if they were someone else. Look for their work posted outside the Studio that illustrates their experiences. I am very impressed with some of the characterization that the students are attempting to explore! Stay tuned to all the excitement from the Studio - Mrs. Rosenberg



The Assemblers

A new group has begun at Armour called, "The Assemblers." It's an exciting group of grade six students that come out to the Studio to help give a student voice to this years' Character and School Assemblies. The group currently has a growing number of students that kicked off our first assembly, honouring Terry Fox with a bang! Through their research and knowledge they provided the school with a child friendly understanding of who Terry Fox was, the purpose of the Terry Fox Run and some basics of how Cancer still effects us today in caring and creative way. We are eager to share with the school at the next assembly how we exceeded our goals in raising funds for the Terry Fox Run. The group is currently working on the upcoming Character assemblies for Respect and Responsibility, which will be on Wednesday, October 29th, as well as the Remembrance Day assembly on Tuesday, November 11th. If you have a grade six student that would like to lend their voice and talents to the group, they are still welcome to join. We meet in Studio 105 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, during morning recess. - See you in the Studio, Mrs. Rosenberg!



The Sport of Reading

"Not only for the kids who can read but for the kids who enjoy reading"

I am very excited to be bringing the "Sport of Reading" back to Armour P.S. for the 2014 - 2015 school year. It is known world wide as the Kids' Lit Quiz. All athletes must train in their chosen sport. The athletes that are a part of the Kids' Lit Quiz team will be practicing and reading and reading and practicing in preparation for our competition in early February. Student teams collaborate to answer 100 book related questions in 10 categories. The questions can be from any children's book published in the English language. Students end up reading widely, broadly and with increased depth in preparation for the quiz. Their peers' enthusiasm creates interest in new books and genres. Students come away with life long love for reading from this experience.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING @THE ARMOUR HEIGHTS LIBRARY

Everyone is welcome in the library

Come in and see what your kids are reading. Parents and students alike are continually asking for suggestions of books to read for a novel study a research project or simply the pleasure of reading for enjoyment. Our collection is always growing.

How many books may I borrow?

All students in kindergarten to grade 3 may sign out 1 book, fiction or non fiction for a one week loan period.

Junior students, grades 4 to 6 are encouraged to sign out 1 book either fiction or non fiction and up to 3 additional books for research projects or book reports for a one week loan period. Depending on the demand, a book may be renewed after one week.

What happens if I lose my book?

There are no "over due" fines. However if a library book is lost while it is in your care you will be asked to pay a replacement fee of \$10 for a paperback book and \$20 for a hardcover book.

2 ways of staying connected to the library while at home

You can follow the activities in the library on Twitter @MrsJPearl.

As well our school website has a link to the TDSB Virtual Library of carefully selected digital resources to help students and teachers in their work. Some resources require a password when used outside of the school. TDSB Virtual Library Learnmark (bookmark) with descriptions of digital resources and Login/Password information was sent home last week.

The Virtual Library is an extension of our school at home. It can be used for homework, research, to encourage a love of reading or just for fun.

New sites and links will continue to be added. CHECK IT OUT!

Birthday Book Club

When your child celebrates their birthday you have the opportunity to recognize it by making a donation and a book will be purchased for the library in honour of their birthday. Letters go home to each student at the beginning celebrating in the particular month.

Fall Book Fair

Save the dates – October 20th to October 23rd. Stay tuned for more detailed information.

If you are able to volunteer to help during the fair, please contact Mrs. Pearl directly.

Janice.pearl@tdsb.on.ca



Upcoming Dates:

Claude Watson:

The Claude Watson School for the Arts will be holding open auditions for students who attend a school within The City of Toronto. Each year the Claude Watson School for the Arts auditions students for admission to the school. There are 60 places available in the grade four year. Auditions will also be held for any vacancies in grades 5-8. The screening process is a series of studio experiences in dance, drama, visual arts and music. Auditions take place at the school, located near Yonge St. and Sheppard Ave. A team of adjudicators, both professional artists and teachers conduct the auditions. The auditions for students will be conducted during the months of February and March.

The school will be holding two information meetings at the Claude Watson School for the Arts, 130 Doris Avenue on Monday, October 20, 2014 and Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Parking at the school is limited so please allow sufficient time to find street parking. This meeting is to inform parents of the school's programs, to review the new online application process and to provide parents with an opportunity to ask questions.

Application forms will be available during the meetings, on the school webpage www.claudewatson.org, or at the school as of the second week of October.

October 6- Photo Day
October 9- Sukkot Begins (Judaism)
October 13- Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)
October 16- Shemini Atzeret (Judaism)
October 17- Simchat Torah (Judaism)
October 20-23- Book Fair
October 20- School Support Team Meetings (SST)- PM
October 20- Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
October 21- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm
October 21- Deepavali (Hinduism)
October 23- Pizza Lunch
October 23- Diwali (Hinduism, Jain, Sikhism)
October 24- New Year (Jain)
October 25- Hijra- New Year (Islam)
October 27- Elections
October 29- Character Assembly (PM)
October 31- Halloween
November 1- Samhain-Litha (Wicca/ Pagan)
November 4- Photo Retakes at 1pm
November 5- Ashura (Islam)
November 6- Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Shahib (Sikhism)
November 10 Sight and Sound Clinic
November 11- Remembrance Day
November 11- Progress Reports Go Home (SK-Grade 6)

PRINCIPAL:
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