



BIRCH CLIFF PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal: Ted Vine | Superintendent: Peter Chang | Trustee: Parthi Kandavel



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From the Principal's Desk

As we move into March, we look forward to creating many opportunities for students to express their learning in new and creative ways and to hopefully see spring soon!

The snow has resulted in some traffic and parking lot issues. As a friendly reminder, the parking lot is **closed for student drop-off and pick-up**. It is also important to note that parking in front of any driveway (including Birch Cliff's driveway) is an infringement of a City of Toronto Bylaw.



At the community meeting on January 29th, there were a number of concerned citizens - many parents of B.C. students. One thing that became very clear is that by calling Councillor Crawford's office, or 311, or even the traffic department of 41 division, the needs of Birch Cliff will be better recognized and more supports can be put in place. I will also be working with the School Council to implement some ideas to encourage walking and greater safety near the school. We hope to host a Walk to School day each month to reinforce the positives of walking to school. Please be part of the solution and help keep all kids safe in and around the school.

~ T. Vine



Dates to Remember

~ Mar. 5: Math Olympics
(Gr. 7 & 8 students only)
~ Mar. 6: Skate Day
~ Mar 11 - 15 March Break
~ Mar. 27: SAC Meeting @
6:30pm



Visit the TDSB public website at www.tdsb.on.ca
to view the school year calendar or the
[Birch Cliff calendar](#) for specific events.

[2018-2019 TDSB Dates of Significance
can be found here.](#)

From the Office

If there are any changes in your home or business phone numbers, please inform us as soon as possible!

Lates and Absences

The *Safe Arrival* line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If your child will be late or absent from school, call the *Safe Arrival* number to let us know!



Safe Arrival:

416-396-6060

Parent Visitors

Please check in at the main office! Unannounced visitors often create concern for our students who might think a stranger has entered the building. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe school environment.



Kindergarten Registration

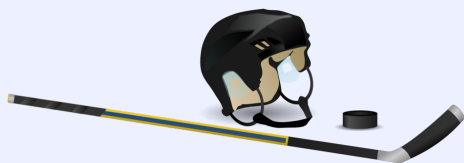


Kindergarten Registration in the TDSB began in February. To register your child or for any other information, please visit:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>.

~ Birch Cliff Office

Jr & Sr. Hockey



The Jr. and Sr. Hockey teams had two great tournaments in February. The Jr. Team worked hard, had fun, and finished with three wins and a loss in the semi-finals. Congrats to: Eddie, Liam, Trevor, Adam, Lucas, Oran, Matthew, Sean, Alex, Jake, Hudson, Hayley and Ashely!

The Sr. Teams also had a great tournament. They also worked hard and truly played as a team in the finals as they won 4-3 against Jack Minor. They will move on to the City Finals in early March. Congrats to: Jordfs, Ryan, Sam, Garrett, Sarah, Ciara, Kleigh, Georgia, Tyrus, Eric, Travis, Colby, Noah, Carson, Leo, Owen and Nate!

~ Coaches Secher and Brown

Volleyball



The Jr. Girls' Volleyball team played in a tournament at Blantyre earlier this month and used the skills that they worked on at our many practices to win all of their matches.

They advanced to the next round and played Timberbank in an extremely close match which went to three games. Timberbank prevailed in the end which unfortunately ended our successful season.

The coaches are very proud of the players. Well done team!

~ Coaches Adams & Calce

Concussions & Playing it Safe



At the TDSB, we want you or your child to learn in a safe environment whether you are inside the school or outside on the field. We follow the [Ontario Health & Physical Education Safety Guidelines](#) – provincially recognized safety guidelines that set out the standards that must be met by teachers and coaches around safety components of curricular, intramural, and interschool programs.

We are currently reviewing our concussion protocol for students. We are developing a process for students to reacclimatize themselves to the classroom through Return to Play and Return to Learn working groups. We are working with Dr. Charles Tator (PhD, MD, Neurologist at Toronto's Western Hospital) and the [ThinkFirst Foundation of Canada](#) to deliver mandatory training sessions for high-risk sports to teachers, coaches, and parents.

Some information from the [Ontario Physical and Health Education Association](#):

[Physical Activity and Sport Related Concussions](#)

[Sample request to resume participation -- concussion related](#)

Information from Think First:

[Concussion Guidelines for the Athlete](#)

[Concussion Guidelines for the Parents/Caregivers](#)

~ TDSB Website

School Advisory Council

Thank you for your continued support on our Pizza and Popcorn Fridays. The winter session will end at the end of March and you will be able to put your orders in for the spring session as of March 29th.

We will be starting our Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser to raise money for all kids to participate in *Scientists in School*. Our goal is to fundraise \$4,500 to pay for this activity. We will be sending home Purdy's information packages, so please watch for your child's class' specific login information to order online, or alternatively you can order manually by using the order form in the catalogue sent home with each student and by sending cash or cheque in with your child in a sealed envelope clearly marked.



The School Council will be partnering with the Birch Cliff WE Team again this year to sell PINK Birch Cliff t-shirts and WE Rafiki bracelets in preparation to support The International Day of PINK recognised by TDSB this year on April 10th. This is a day where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobia, transphobia, transmisogyny, and all forms of bullying. You will be able to pre-order the Rafikis as well as the BC pink T-shirt through the MunchaLunch website starting March 4th through to the 22nd and we will deliver to your child by April 9th. If you prefer to order manually, please contact Kerry.Cotton@sympatico.ca.

Lastly, we are in the midst of organizing our annual Fun Fair which will be held on Saturday, June 1st from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. this year. This is a large event and in order for it to run smoothly, we will need to enlist the help and support of our parent and guardian community. We are currently looking for corporate sponsorship, silent auction items, volunteers for the day-of, and ideas and suggestions. Thank you to those parents who have already reached out to me. If you have not yet done so and can assist, please email Kerry.Cotton@sympatico.ca.

Have a fun-filled and safe March Break!

~ SAC

Monthly Character Trait for March: Honesty

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Caregiver:

Every month the TDSB staff and students focus their attention on a specific character trait. Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus for March is **HONESTY**.

What does honesty mean to you?

Your child can show honesty by:

- sharing his or her feelings and being truthful
- telling the truth, even though he or she may know that there will be consequences
- being reliable and responsible in completing a job

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be honest? Discuss different ways to be honest with yourself, with your peers, and with others.
- What should you do if you need to tell the truth, but you know there will be consequences?
- How do you feel when someone else has been dishonest with you? What would you do?
- Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have you ever lost someone's trust? Has someone lost your trust?
- What's the difference between being honest with your own family and being honest with someone you've just met?

Projects to do together:

- Watch TV shows or movies. Talk about the ways in which the characters were honest or dishonest with each other.
- Read the story entitled *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, and discuss the importance of being honest.

Encouraging honesty in your child:

- Give your child opportunities to tell the truth.
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry.
- Encourage and praise your child when he or she is honest.
- Model honesty by returning lost items.
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Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.

BUILD CHARACTER
BUILD SUCCESS