

The Buzz at Brian



Friday, May 2, 2014



Open House

Just a reminder that our Open House will take place on Thursday, May 8th from 9am-10am. Afternoon kindergarten children will have their Open House from 1:00pm-2:00pm. All parents are encouraged to come and visit their child's classroom and view all the exciting things that are happening. We will also be having a butterfly release at 10am!! See below for more details on the butterflies.

Butterflies!!

We are all aFlutter in our classes.

Six classrooms at Brian were infested with crawlies for the last few weeks. The cycle began with the live larvae. All the students were fascinated by the tiny critters which started out less than 2 mm in length. After almost two weeks the caterpillars then started to hang around in a J shape and become chrysalides. Now, we have had a number of butterflies emerge. The science term is to eclose. Our particular species is referred to as a Painted Lady butterfly. It is orange and black and is similar to the well-known Monarch butterfly, although smaller.

All of our students are excited and very happy with the butterflies. Many have had the experience of watching an eclosure. We also can see the butterflies feed from their extremely long tongue. Our classes have had a great experience and have used this time to learn more about "critters" as well as using our language time to read about and write about our discoveries.

Please read the report by Arion F. and Gabriel V., our budding journalists, about the students' butterfly experience.

RELEASE DATE:

It will soon be time to release our Painted Ladies into their natural environment. We are planning to release all of our mature butterflies on Thurs. May 8 at 10:00 am.

We are expecting to release over 200 butterflies.

This will take place at the front of the school (weather permitting) and all the school parents are invited to attend.

We hope you can participate.

Elementary Summer School

This summer, the TDSB is opening schools across the city to help build literacy and numeracy skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca and click on Summer Programs to the right of the page and follow the link under "Elementary Summer School".

Connected Parenting

Please find attached an invitation for parents to attend an informative session about connecting with teens - with a strong focus on mental health issues.

The guest speaker is therapist Jennifer Kolari, who has been helping children, teens and families get connected for 20 years.

School Council Minutes

Please find attached the minutes to the School Council meeting that was held on March 31.

Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

We have received some comments about the IVR system that calls out with pre-recorded messages from the school. Some people are experiencing long delays before the message begins. We are now informed that the delay is due to the way the program works. The system recognizes a short burst of sound to engage; a quick and clear "hello" should trigger it. Speaking too softly will fail to engage the message. The delay is due to the system assuming the call is going to voicemail, so it waits a bit for the outgoing voicemail message, then kicks in. A new system is coming on line in about a month; it should resolve this issue and possibly provide additional features.

Trustee Harout Manougian

Attached you will find a copy of Trustee Manougian's Spring 2014 Newsletter.

Coming up this week

Monday: Education Week begins-Music Monday

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: Open House 9am-10am

Friday: **Pizza Lunch**