



November 2014

# PAW PRINTS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m.

- Remembrance Day assembly

Wed. Nov. 12

- Report cards go home

Thurs. Nov. 13 to 8:00 p.m.

- Parent/teacher conferences

Fri. Nov. 14

- PA Day – no school
- Parent/teacher conferences

Thurs. Nov. 20

- School Council Meeting, 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Thurs. Nov. 27

- Movie Night

Fri. Nov. 28

- Pizza lunch
- Colour house T-shirt day

Fri. Dec. 5

- PA Day – no school

Tues. Dec. 9

- Prologue: Maderaz Latin Music Feliz Navidad, 9:15 a.m.

Fri. Dec. 12

- Pizza lunch
- Polar bear presentation, 1:00 p.m.

Mon. Dec. 22-Fri. Jan 2

- Holidays – no school

Mon. Jan. 5

- Back to school

## Churchill Public School

188 Churchill Avenue

Toronto, ON M2N 1Z5

Telephone: 416-395-2200 Safe Arrival Program: 416-395-2200 Fax 416-395-2209

Principal: Laura Slater Superintendent: Linda Curtis Trustee: Mari Rutka

<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/churchill/>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Congratulations, Churchill! Our grand re-opening celebration took place on October 24, 2014, signifying that we are now fully operational in our much larger, updated building. A few construction pieces remain, but most of our facility has now moved to maintenance mode. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at our celebration, and a big thank you to the teachers and students who worked quickly to bring us all together for a wonderful event.

As we now move into our colder months, families are reminded to ensure students come to school prepared to spend time outside, with warm jackets, hats, mittens, etc. Indoor shoes are also recommended.

We have made a change to our rainy/extreme cold morning procedures. All students in grades 1-5 are to head into the school as of 8:45 and remain in the hallways closest to their classrooms, with teacher supervision. Kindergarten students are to enter the foyer where parent volunteers will mind them until our entry bell at 8:55, when students will be led to their classrooms. Parents and caregivers are not to remain in the school during this time of the morning, as the crowded hallways pose a safety concern for the children. Thank you for your cooperation, and thank you to those parents who are volunteering their time.

Thank you as well to all the volunteers who helped make our Halloween festivities that much more fun-tastic, and to all those who have made our pizza lunches go smoothly.

You will be receiving your child(ren)'s report card(s) on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Teachers have already begun to send home information about scheduling parent/teacher conferences. All parents are invited to meet with teachers at this reporting time. The evening of Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, as well as the morning of Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> are our scheduled conference days; however, teachers may have additional times available beyond these school-wide days. If you would like to meet with me (Principal Laura Slater) or have me join a meeting with a teacher, please contact me at the phone number above or through your child's teacher.

### Lunchroom Supervisors Needed

If you have experience working with children and an ability to communicate in English sensitively with our students, parents, and others, please consider joining our team. Your main role will be to ensure the safety and security of our students during the daily lunch period for 1 hour and 15 minutes, *on those occasions when one of our lunchroom supervisors is not able to come in for the day*. Necessary skills include patience, understanding, and the ability to encourage positive relations among students. **If interested, please provide a resume to the school, attention Laura Slater, by Friday, November 21, 2014.** If successful, you would also be able to work occasionally in other TDSB schools. Rate of pay: \$11.35/hr (non-permanent).

### Intramurals

Intramurals started up in October and will continue in November. Our grade two and three students will continue to participate in the Churchill Indoor Soccer Cup with the championship match to be held this month. There has been outstanding participation by all houses so far!

Our grade four and five students will continue to enjoy participating in the Churchill Sitting Catch and Pass Cup this month, with the championship match to be held later on in the month. The level of play and sportsmanship has been outstanding so far and we look forward for it to continue through the month.

Students who come out to participate in intramural activities earn valuable house points for their colour house!

### Interschool Athletics

The Churchill cross country team sent 84 runners to the TDESAA North Conference Regional Meet in October, the most Churchill has ever sent! All runners did well, running their best and proudly representing Churchill. Mr. Richmond, Mrs. Ricalis, Mrs. Masotti, and Mr. Lee would like to thank all the runners for their hard work and dedication this season!

October saw Churchill's softball team in action in their TDESAA North Region Softball Tournament at Norman Ingram PS. The team demonstrated improvements each and every game while exhibiting great teamwork and sportsmanship. Mr. Richmond and Mr. Lee would like to thank all team members for their hard work and dedication this season!

### Caring and Safe Schools

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. At our school we regularly promote a positive school climate, supporting harmony and respect in our schools. Our Character Education program, for example, is infused throughout our learning environment and celebrated during bi-monthly assemblies. As well, we had a recognized presenter, Anthony McLean from iengage, speak with our students last month about bullying prevention. A caring, safe, inclusive and accepting school climate is essential for student achievement and well-being. For students to reach their full potential, students must feel safe, included and engaged in schools. All of us have a part to play in making and keeping schools safe. By working together, we can provide learning environments that are caring, safe, accepting, respectful and inclusive, where students can acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of their communities.

To learn more about the bullying prevention programs offered in the TDSB, and the TDSB Caring and Safe Schools Policy and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Procedure, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/safeschools>.

From time to time, police activity and/or incidents in and around schools and their communities may result in a school being put into a "Hold & Secure" or "Lockdown." These are procedures that are designed to keep students and staff safe. Below is a brief explanation of each.

#### Hold & Secure

Hold & Secure is a response to a threat and/or incident in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. School life continues as normal inside the school; however, as a precautionary measure, outer doors are locked and no one enters or leaves the building. Note: As a result of Secure Access Systems that are installed at TDSB Elementary schools, outer doors are typically locked during the learning day.

#### Lockdown

Lockdown is used in a serious emergency situation where the threat is inside a school, on or very near to school property. A Lockdown minimizes access and visibility in an effort to shelter students, staff and visitors in secure locations. Similar to a Hold & Secure, all outer doors are locked; however a Lockdown requires that all students be kept in classrooms or other designated locations and that inner doors also be locked where possible. Entry to, and exit from, the building is restricted to emergency services personnel only.

During a Lockdown, lights are turned off in the classroom/office, curtains/blinds are closed where possible, cell phone use is restricted and all people inside the building should remain quiet. During a Lockdown, school phones will not be answered as the administration is tending to the ongoing situation. As cell phone use is restricted, students are asked not to use phones until cleared to do so.

It's important to note that our school, like every school across the Toronto District School Board, is required to practice two Lockdown drills per year to ensure students and staff know what to do in case of an emergency.

### IEP and IPRC Information Sessions

The TDSB is hosting an information session on Tuesday, November 18th, 2014 about the IEP and IPRC processes. The sessions will provide an overview and help parents/guardians understand how an IEP is developed and implemented. In addition, it will provide an overview of the IPRC process and the parent's/guardian's roles. If interested, please contact Principal Laura Slater for more details.