

Cummer Valley Middle School Community News

416-395-2260 cummervalley@tdsb.on.ca

CVMS Community News September 11, 2023

Dear CVMS Parents/Guardians/ Caregivers:

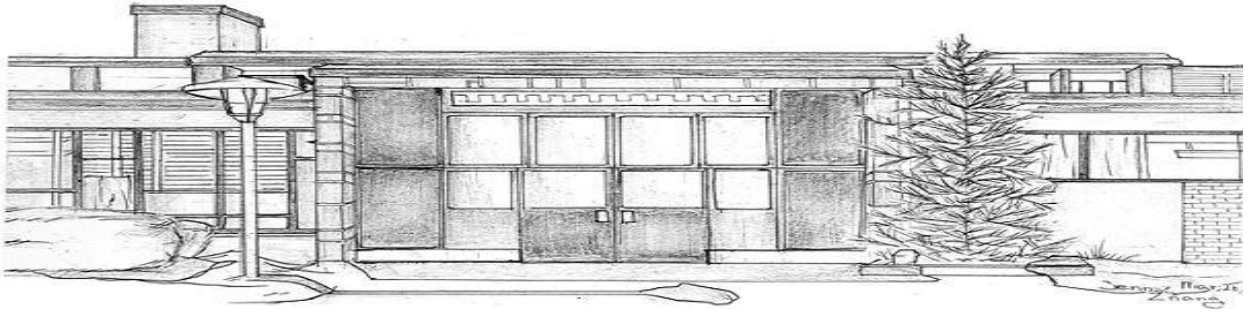
Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing summer holiday. We had a smooth re-entry to school this past week. This fall, as we step into a new school year, we look forward to re-engaging our students in a safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environment. Your children's success will be a result of a true partnership between home, the school and the community. We are here to support all our students to be successful and reach their full potential, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.

It is with great pleasure that we begin this new year with several new and returning staff: Mr. Hasan (Gr.6); Ms. Yin (ESL); Ms Antoniou (French); Mr. Huang (Gr.7/8). We have had the chance to meet some of our parents and guardians and have been busy working with our staff on setting routines for the year. Most of all, we are truly enjoying getting to know our wonderful students at this amazing school. Community partnership is important for the growth of a vibrant school. We are excited to be leading a group of caring and talented staff at Cummer Valley. The school is full of positive energy with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. I have already witnessed innovation and a collaborative team spirit in many activities that engage our students.

The demands of the 21st century require an innovative approach to education to fully prepare students for post-secondary school, career paths, and global citizenship. We strive to not only focus on academic excellence but also promote the long-term development, success, and the well-being of children. This includes a strong focus on inquiry-learning in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), Literacy and Physical/ Outdoor Education. We believe that student leadership and global citizenship is crucial and developed through striving for mutual respect and engaging in experiences that challenge our status quo. We look forward to supporting the hard work of our staff to build capacity in our students.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child adjust to the new environment and new social connections. This will indeed take time, and our staff have been working hard to assist our students to build resilience, independence and confidence in their academic and social skills.

During the Spring of 2023, a staffing model was approved by the TDSB, in consultation with our staffing committee and school council. At the beginning of every school year, our projected enrollment determines the organisation of the teachers and classes. As such, our numbers have generated 4xGr.6 classes, and 8xGr.7/8 combined classes. Our teachers have planned a co-teaching model and collaborative inquiry projects. Much care was taken by teams of staff to create these balanced classes after consideration of many factors,



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including academic, social dynamics. We encourage all students to keep an open mind and embrace new academic and social experiences. In middle school, we strive to support our students in the development of new friendships, independence, responsibility, and citizenship for high school. Depending on final numbers and registrations in the early fall, it may be necessary for our school, like many other TDSB schools, to reorganise classes to maintain this balance. Parents and caregivers will be notified if this process needs to happen for this year.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we prepare many structures for the school year.

Please remind your child to be ready and lined up for entry by 8:55am.

Our School Instructional Day begins at 9:00 am sharp!

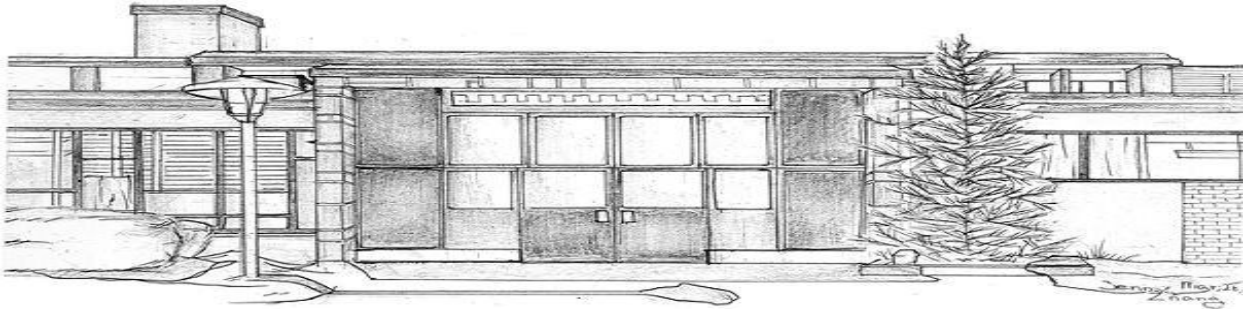
If your child is to be absent from school, please email cummervalley@tdsb.on.ca or call the school at **(416) 395-2260** and **press the #1 key** for the **Absence Reporting**. You will then be able to leave information about your child's absence – please provide dates and a reason. A note should accompany the student upon return to school and be given to the Core teacher. If you are picking up your child or dropping them off after regular entry time, please sign them in or out in the office. This is an important process to ensure your child's safety.

1. We welcome our NEWCOMERS to CANADA

The **Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)** is funded by three levels of government and the United Way to provide a wide range of settlement programs and services in Toronto and York Region. Our Mission is to empower newcomers in settling and integrating as contributing members of Canadian society through diverse, professional and innovative services. Our staff speaks over 13 languages collectively and we serve newcomers of all age groups. The dedication, compassion and hard work of volunteers and staff places CICS at the forefront of serving newcomers. CICS is a partner in The Settlement and Education Partnerships in Toronto (SEPT) in partnership with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

Settlement workers from CICS have been placed in Cummer Valley Middle School to provide the following services:

- Proactively contact newcomer parents (and youth in secondary schools) to assist them with their settlement needs;
- Refer the families to more specialized community resources;
- Provide group information sessions for newcomer youth and parents;
- Provide orientation about the settlement needs of newcomers for school staff.



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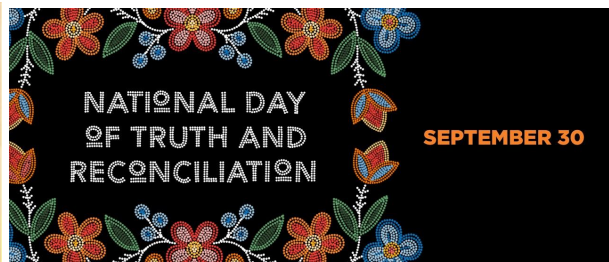
<p>Mondays Iris Yang (Chinese) 647-999-6397 iris.yang@cicscanada.com</p>	<p>Tuesdays Tetiana Tymoshenko 647-215-3326 (Russian and Ukrainian) tetiana.tymoshenko@cicscanada.com</p>
<p>Wednesdays Sue Kim (Korean) 416-455-8531 sue.kim@cicscanada.com</p>	<p>Alaa Alrewhshdi (Arabic) 647- 678 – 2758 alaa.alrewhshdi@cicscanada.com</p>
<p>Thursdays Tayebeh Ahmadi (Farsi and Dari) 647-999-8623 tayebeh.ahmadi@cicscanada.com</p>	

2. **SCHOOL PHOTOS - Friday, September 22** 😊
 Edge Imaging will be on site on Friday, September 22, 2023 - to take individual student photos. Bring on your smiles!

3. **Canada will mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2023**
 We believe in working together with our parents and the community to forge a strong foundation and understanding of Residential Schools and Truth & Reconciliation for our Indigenous Peoples. We remembered the stories of survivors and the lasting impact of Canada’s Residential School system.

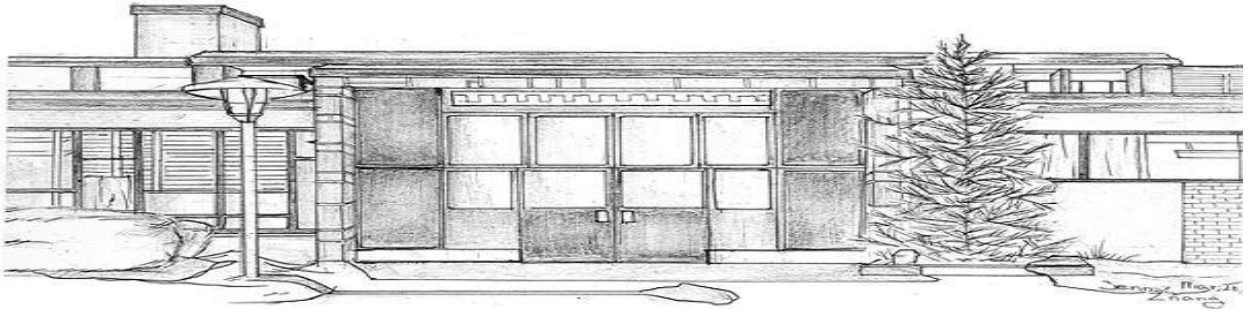
Please take some time to watch the following video with your children in a discussion about searching for the truth.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/b78rf6J7x4c>



For more information, visit the Urban Indigenous Education Centre website or check out the UIEC's K-12 Orange Shirt Day activities and resources.





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4. International Languages @ Cummer Valley

Every year, Cummer Valley partners with Continuing Education to offer several international languages courses on Saturdays. This year, we will be offering the following language courses and the possibility of opening an African Heritage Class. A minimum of 23 students are required to confirm this new course. We hope you will register and show your interest.

<p>Cummer Valley will be hosting language programs on Saturdays from 9:30am-12:00pm</p> <p>Arabic (2 classes) Cantonese (3 classes) Farsi (2 classes) Korean (5 classes) Mandarin (2 classes)</p> <p>African Heritage (requires 23 students)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families can register on-line at www.ileprograms.ca Ideally students will start on the first day of scheduled classes, but they can enrol at any time. In-person registration Saturday, September 16, 2023 <p>First day of classes: Saturday, September 23, 2023</p>
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AFRICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM

The African Heritage Program connects students to the contributions, histories, legacies, cultures and traditions of people of African descent through inquiry and experiential learning.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn and explore experiences inspired by the principles of Nguzo Saba, a Swahili word also known as the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa that honours the people of African Ancestry, their rich heritage and past, celebrations, thanksgiving, empowerment, and daily affirmations.

Student inquiry and classroom learning are delivered through four main content areas focusing on: Early Civilizations of Africa, Celebrations and Traditions, Achievements and Contributions, and Rights and Equality. Nguzo Saba, a Swahili word also known as the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa are embedded throughout all of the inquiry in the curriculum to provide guidance in the learning.

Program Information
 The African Heritage program can be offered in TDSB schools around the city in which an International Languages Elementary program is currently running.

Information and Registration Visit www.ileahprograms.ca
 Phone: 416-338-4100 | Email: ile_ah@tdsb.on.ca



tdsb | Continuing Education

2023-2024 International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

Cummer Valley MS

70 Maxome Ave., North York, ON., M2M 3K1

This fall we will be offering the following languages at our school:

Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin Simplified & African Heritage (new, only in-person registration)

Classes run every Saturday from 9:30am - 12:00pm

Minimum of 23 registered students are required to open a language (new or existing) class.

Registration Information: 2 Ways to Register

- Now to September 14, 2023:
 Online - Avoid the lineups and reserve your spot!
 Link: www.ileprograms.ca
- Starting from September 16, 2023 and on:
 Manual Registration (in person):
 Every Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
 Location: Cafeteria

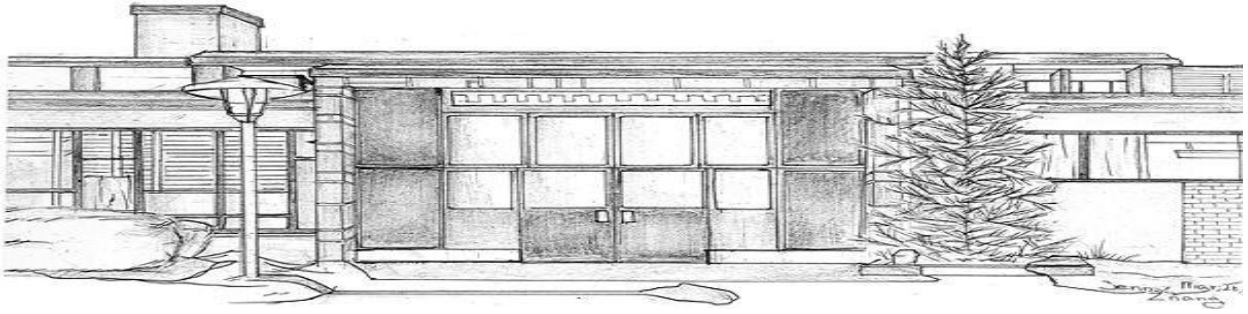
Please bring:

- Child's OEN number (on student's report card)
- Health card number
- Emergency contact name and phone number.
- The \$20 materials fee may be paid by cheque (payable to "TDSB-Int'l Languages") or Credit Card (VISA or MasterCard only)

First day of class: September 23, 2023
 Contact number: 416-948-5567

For other available locations/language, please visit: www.ileprograms.ca or write to ile_ab@tdsb.on.ca





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5. **TDSB Online Code-of-Conduct**

In this digital age, much of our students' communication and school work will involve online and cyber platforms. We want to be intentional about working closely with our parents to teach our students cyber safety and the risks of cyberbullying. Many of our students have their own devices, whether it is cell phones, laptops or other digital devices. Understanding the benefits and dangerous risks of Social Media is important for our students' growth, mental health and well-being. We ask that our parents monitor and have open conversations with their children about the use of social media. Many popular social media platforms require members to have a minimum age of 13 to sign up (eg. Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram). Parents and their children can access some additional information on the Government Canada website [Get Cybersafe Campaign](#).

GETCYBERSAFE.CA

All Students must review with their teachers and parents the Online Code of Conduct and [Sign the CVMS Technology Contract](#) and return it to their Core Teacher

6. **School Day Timetable and TDSB Calendar**

-please note that the revised and corrected schedule has the instructional time beginning at 9:00am and dismissal at 3:00pm

- **CVMS runs on a 5-day Cycle** - please see the attached [TDSB Calendar Schedule](#) to confirm each Day of the timetable schedule

Upcoming Dates:

September

16 International Languages On-Site registration at Cummer Valley
22 Photo Day
23 International Languages First Day of Classes
29 Orange Shirt Day at Cummer Valley
30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

October

4 Walk to School Day
5 Curriculum Night
6 PA Day
13 Immunization Clinic (Meningococcal; HPV; Hep B Vaccination)

Yours in partnership,

Esther Leung Tou

Principal

Abbass Champsi

Vice-Principal