

#### **DUKE OF CONNAUGHT**



JANUARY 2018

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/ Guardians. Happy New Year! I hope that everyone rested and enjoyed the break from school. Term 1 is quickly wrapping up with the end of January. Report cards will be going home February 15th. Teachers will be inviting parents in for interviews, but parents can also request an interview. Updated IEPs will also come home with the report cards for those students who require IEPs. We have scheduled Thursday, February 15th in the evening for interviews and the morning of Friday, January 16th. Please work with your child's teacher to arrange interview times. The Ski Day was a great success. Thank you to Ms. Oliveira for her fantastic organization and thank you to all the staff and parents who supported this trip. We are looking forward to celebrating Family Literacy

Day in our Primary classes, Gr. 1-3, later this month. There will be a flyer coming home with more information. The Winter is a busy time behind the scenes. Parents of grade 8 students are very busy attending High School open houses and choosing courses. Our guidance counsellor Arlene Dixon is supporting students with the course selection program, My Blue Print. Special Education reviews are also taking place at this time of year. This is an important part of the IPRC, Identification, Placement, and Review Committee, process. The Duke of Connaught is a great place to learn. It is thrilling to see the high level of student engagement and the increase in student outcomes. Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's learning. Sincerely, Beverly O'Brien - Principal



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## Focus On: Special Education

The TDSB has received many questions and concerns related to Special Education recently. To respond to the most common questions, we have drafted a short Q&A. Should you continue to have questions about Special Education supports for your child, please connect directly with your Principal or the Special Education team.

#### Will Special Education programs continue?

Yes, Special Education programs will continue to be offered. The <u>Enhancing Equity</u> <u>Task Force</u>, specifically, recommends:

Review Special Education Learning programs with an emphasis on:

- Placement and inclusion of students with special education learning needs;
- Retaining congregated sites while exploring options to include Special Education at a home school;
- Professional development for staff;
- Providing a process and clear information for collaborative decision-making about student needs, as well as a process to appeal and revise decisions;
- Identifying physical and attitudinal barriers;
- Ensuring that all families, including those new to Canada and those whose first language is not English, can successfully navigate the Special Education system with confidence.

The report does not recommend phasing out or closing congregated Special Education sites or Special Education programs, which includes Gifted and Learning Disabilities (LD). Director Malloy confirmed that dismantling of congregated sites would not be included in staff recommendations, which will come forward on January 31, 2018. It is, however, important to review Special Education programs and services to assess the impact of these supports on students' achievement and well-being.

#### Will Gifted programs continue?

Yes, Gifted special education classes (sometimes called congregated classes) will continue in TDSB schools.

# Are there changes to the criteria for an offer of placement to a Gifted Special Education Class?

There are no changes to the criteria. An excerpt from the current Special Education Plan states:

Typically, students who are eligible for Special Education Class placement with intensive program support for Giftedness:

- Demonstrate an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability
- Demonstrate a significant need for enrichment programming, requiring differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the student's level of educational potential Demonstrate evidence of significant challenges in interpersonal, social, emotional, and/or self-regulation development in the school setting
- Have a Gifted Rating Scale School Age Record Form (GRS-S) T score of 60 or higher in one of the 6 scales

How does a parent/guardian transfer their child from a gifted program in another school board into a TDSB gifted special education class?

Parents/Guardians register the student in the home school by address and, at that time, may share information about the special education needs of their child. Depending on the nature of those needs and, in consultation with special education staff and the school support team, the opportunity for a <a href="Special Education Program Recommendation Committee">Special Education Program Recommendation Committee</a> (SEPRC) meeting may be offered to parents/guardians. This process can happen once the student is registered but before they attend a TDSB school.

A child has an exceptionality of giftedness and is currently placed in regular class in TDSB. Can a parent/guardian request a gifted special education class?

Yes, a parent may request an <u>Identification Placement and Review</u>
<u>Committee</u> meeting to talk about the student's progress and needs.

What happens when a student goes to an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) for consideration of Giftedness?

In the <u>IPRC</u> meeting, parents/guardians, the student's teacher, school administrator and, if appropriate, the student, will be at the meeting. The IPRC will review all information and make a decision regarding exceptionality and placement. As with all IPRCs, the committee will first consider how the needs of the student can be met in a regular class. The parent/guardian will be asked their preference regarding placement regular class or special education class. Choice will continue.

#### How are Gifted students in the regular classroom supported?

Gifted students in the regular classroom would have an <u>Individual Education Plan</u> (IEP) that would outline their unique learning needs and detail the enrichment program that would best support them.

#### My child took the Universal Screening Process in the fall. Now what?

Last year, the TDSB introduced a <u>universal screening process</u> for all Grade 3 students. The test has three objectives:

- To provide information to the classroom teacher about the strengths and learning needs of each student to better support teachers' programming for students;
- To help teachers know when to bring a student forward to In-School Team (IST) or School Support Team (SST) for programming suggestions; and
- To improve equity of access for all students to differentiated programming including the potential identification of students with a gifted exceptionality.

Once students take the test, in early fall of Grade 3, students who meet the criteria for a possible exceptionality, including giftedness, will be considered through In-School Team for the next step in the process. As of December 21, 2017, all schools have received individual student results and they will be sent out to parents/guardians between now and February 18, 2018. Schools have already reviewed the summary results and are following the IST process noted above.

#### Read more Qs and As about the Universal Screening Process.

#### Is any assessment testing on hold?

There is no postponement of any assessment process. Assessments are continuing as normal.

Is it true that parents of students identified as gifted but who didn't enroll in a gifted ISP are now unable to enroll in middle or high school?

There has been no change in the placement process which follows an Identification, Placement and Review Committee. The IPRC will review all information and make a decision regarding exceptionality and placement. If the child meets the criteria for an exceptionality, as with all IPRCs, the committee will first consider how the needs of the student can be met in a regular class. The parent/guardian will be asked their preference regarding placement - regular class or congregated special education class. Choice will continue.

# Grade 5/6 Ski Trip











#### **Forest Fridays**

Forest of Reading is in full swing at Duke of Connaught and our Polling Stations where students can vote for their favourite book in a category are open! Many students are enjoying the 80 Canadian titles that were carefully selected by the Ontario Library Association. Forest of Reading will continue until April 23 - please encourage your child to pick up their passport from Mrs. Zwolinski in the library. Please note that books can be borrowed from both our school library and the Toronto Public Library.

One of Mrs. Zwolinski's favourite Silverbirch Non-Fiction books was Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees by Mary Beth Leatherdale. This book tells the true story of five children who lived through harrowing experiences of setting sail in search of asylum from 1939 to today. The book combines vivid contemporary collage-based design with dramatic storytelling to produce a book that makes for riveting reading as well as a source of timely information

AND there is another Forest of Reading Treat! Virtual and interactive author visits! The schedule and sign up for the author visits are posted outside the library. Parents are also welcome to attend.

There is also a very special treat for Friday February 16. You are invited to join Mrs. Zwolinski in the library at 11:00 am for a special reading of The Branch/Ma Branch Preferee by Mireille Messier and then join a virtual and interactive author visit from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm. Ella Minnow Book Store will also have copies of Mereille Messier's books available for purchase. Please RSVP to Mrs. Zwolinski at tara.zwolinski@tdsb.on.ca - Looking forward to seeing you there!

You can also now get Forest of Reading ebooks! You can either: Download the epic app on your table or visit <a href="www.getepic.com/sign-in">www.getepic.com/sign-in</a> and use Mrs. Zwolinski's classroom code: SAG-5626. In the guest mailbox you can find the Forest of Reading book collection. Epic! Is a leading digital library for kids 12 & under and has thousands of e-book and audio titles.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday February 13 to Monday February 20 as we are having our second online book fair with Ella Minnow! Please consider supporting the Duke library by purchasing something from Ella Minnow. Our in-person book fair will be in May. Finally, the Gerrard/Ashdale Toronto Public Library branch would like to invite all families to Library Bingo on Saturday January 27 from 10:30 to 11:30am. There are many prizes to be won!

Forest Friday Virtual and Interactive Author Visits Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Author	Passport
Feb 2	11:25- 12:25	The Secret Path Screening from CBC	Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire	Red Maple
Feb 9	1:00-1:45	Heartwood Hotel	Kallie George	Silverbirch Express
Feb 16	11:00- 12:15	*Special Reading of The Branch All families welcome!	Mireille Messier	Blue Spruce and Prix Peuplier
Feb 23	11:00- 11:45	The Winnowing	Vickki VanSickle	Red Maple
March 2	11:30- 12:15	French Toast	Kari-Lynn Winters	Blue Spruce
March 2	1:00-1:45	Summer's End	Joel A Sutherland	Red Maple
March 9	11:00- 11:45	Eat Up!	Antonia Banyard	Silver Birch Non-Fiction
March 9	12:30- 1:15	The Owl and The Lemming	Roselyn Akulukjuk	Blue Spruce
March 23	12:30- 1:15	The Way Back Home	Allan Stratton	Red Maple
April 6	12:15- 1:00	I Am Not a Number	Jenny Kay Dupuis	Silver Birch Express
April 13	11:00- 11:45	The Doll's Eye	Marina Cohen	Silver Birch
April 20	11:00- 11:45	Milo and Georgie	Bree Galbraith	Blue Spruce
April 20	12:30- 1:15	The Secret Path	Jeff Lemire	Red Maple
April 27	12:30- 1:15	Shark Lady	Jess Keating	Blue Spruce
May 4	11:30- 12:15	Even Superheroes Have Bad Days	Shelly Becker	Blue Spruce
May 4	1:00-1:45	The Stone Heart	Faith Erin Hicks	Silver Birch
May 4	12:30- 1:15	Meatless?	Sarah Elton	Silver Birch NonFiction

# **Blue and White Day**







#### **Duke Rules the Court!**

Congratulations to our boys Grade 7 Volleyball team – they are City Champions! And to our Grade 8 Boys – Conference Champs!





#### Grade 5/6 Hockey Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 25 vs Kew Beach at Ted Reeve Tues., Jan. 30 vs Williamson at Ted Reeve Mon., Feb. 12 vs Kew Beach at Scarborough Gardens Thurs., Feb. 15 vs Williamson at Scarborough Gardens Game times are 12 to 1pm.

#### Grade 7/8 Hockey Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 18 vs Westwood at East York Wed., Jan. 24 vs Fern at Bill Bolton Fri., Jan 26 vs Cedarvale at Ted Reeve Fri., Feb. 2 vs Winona at Ted Reeve Mon., Feb 5 vs Hodgson at Ted Reeve Tues., Feb 13 vs Brock at Bill Bolton Game times are 8 to 9 am

#### Gr. 5/6 Girls Volleyball - Mr. Abbey

Practices: Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 3:30pm Woodfield Gym

#### Gr. 7/8 Girls Volleyball - Ms. Oliveira

Practices: Mondays/Wednesdays @ 7:45am (Woodfield Gym)

#### Gr. 7/8 Boys Basketball - Ms. Mak-Tubbs

Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 7:45am (Woodfield Gym)

#### Gr. 5/6 Boys Basketball - Ms. Hodgins

Practices: Mondays and Wednesdays @ 11:25am

#### Swim Team - Ms. Gothreau and Mr. Aishford

Mondays: Grades 4 Swim Team 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Tuesdays: Grades 5 Swim Team 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Wednesdays: Grades 6 Swim Team 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Thursdays: Grades 7/8 Swim Team 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

#### Gr. 5-8 Badminton – Mr. Macdonald

Tryout Schedule (Woodfield Gym)

Grade 5/6: Tuesdays and Fridays after school

Tues Jan 16th, 3:15-4:30

Tues Jan 23rd, 3:15-4:30

Fri Jan 26th, 3:15-4:30

Grade 7/8: Mondays after school, Friday mornings

Mon Jan 22nd, 3:15-4:30

Fri Jan 26th, 7:30-8:30am

### SAC

#### Happy New Year from your School Advisory Council (SAC) executive!

Hope you all had a lovely holiday and we look forward to an exciting 2018 at Duke! The end of 2017 was full of fun events at Duke and fundraising efforts have been very successful this school year. Thank you to everyone who made generous donations and supported our events.

Our monthly coffee mornings are being suspended until the warmer weather returns - we are hopeful for their return on the **first Friday of March**.

All parents are members of council and we hope to see and hear from more of you at our next **SAC** *meeting* on Tuesday, **January 23th at 6:30pm**, in the cafeteria. Childcare will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first **Movie Night** of the year, this Thursday, January 18th at 5:30pm.

Planning is underway for our **Adult Social**. More details to come in an upcoming Need to Read. SAC's **Need To Read (NTR)** newsletter contains updates, school info, and important dates. If you are not receiving the NTR, visit the SAC website to sign up:www.dukesac.ca

There are many ways for you to **get involved at the school**. We are always recruiting volunteers to help with upcoming events, and currently looking for parents interested in helping to plan our **spring fair**. If you wish to get more involved, please email us at <a href="mailto:info@dukesac.ca">info@dukesac.ca</a>. It is only with volunteers that these community building and fundraising events happen. Let's continue to work together to keep Duke's school community strong!



# Duke of Connaught Junior & Senior Public School

**Bugs**: Explore the amazing world of creatures that fly: creatures that creep and creatures that crawl! Get bug-eyed at home with an Insect-A-Vision kit.

**Detective Science**: Help crack a case. Inspect fingerprints, mystery powders, ink samples, and teeth impressions. Use the Personal Profile to build an identity kit.

**Earthworks**: Dig into Earth Science! Layer by layer expose how and why rocks are formed. Create a volcanic eruption and an earthquake. Put together your own Sedimentary Stackers.

**Kitchen Chemistry**: Blow up a balloon with yeast. Go on a nutrient hunt. Act out digestion from start to finish. Make your own Crazy Dough from common household ingredients.

**Mad Machines**: Launch with levers, secure with screws, and work with wedges. Use pulleys to move heavy objects with ease. Wind-up the Drag Racer for some zooming action.

**Movie Effects**: Create cool sound effects. Toy with 3-D technology. Make motion pictures come alive. Sketch a short feature in the Cartoon Creator flipbook.

**Walloping Weather**: Get weather-wise. Create three-day weather forecasts. Stage a statically-charged indoor storm. Spot the sun's invisible UV rays with the Sun Beads kit.

**Science of Toys**: Test, play and ponder the inner workings of your favourite toys while discovering the science behind them. Make your own Ball Catch Game to bring home.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY! register.madscience.org/toronto

For assistance please contact: toronto@madscience.on.ca 416-630-5282

25 Bain Avenue ● Toronto ● Ontario ● M4K 1E5 ● 393-9430 http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/guest

#### **QUEST INFORMATION NIGHT**

When: Tuesday, January 30th, 2018

Where: Quest Alternative Senior

3rd floor of Withrow Public School

25 Bain Avenue

Time: 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. Students lead tours of 10

minutes each in the Quest Area. (Recommended) 7:30-8:30 p.m. Meeting in the Gym (Mandatory) Applications will be given out at the end of the

evening - no exceptions.

Please adjust your schedules.

Please note: - This will be the <u>only</u> opportunity for parents to pick up an application package for September 2018

- Both parent and child must attend.
- Child Care will be provided.
- Consult the TDSB web-site for map and directions.



43 MILLWOOD ROAD, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4S 1J6 HTTP://SCHOOLS.TDSB.ON.CA/SPECTRUM

(416)393-9311 Fax (416)393-0569 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @SPECTRUMAS

#### SPECTRUM ALTERNATIVE SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 2018 INVITATION TO GRADE 6 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Spectrum is inviting prospective new students and families to our Open House Spectrum is a TDSB Alternative Senior school for grades 7 and 8.

Spectrum's goal is to nurture independent, creative problem-solvers who take active interest in all aspects of school. Spectrum is a school that utilizes a dual thrust approach to integrate the arts with academics. Students here are expected to be capable of handling a rigorous academic programme alongside the challenges and time commitments of intensive art projects, STEAM projects and group work.

When:

Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 There will be 3 sessions: 6:00 pm, 6:45 pm and 7:30 pm Times: Where: Davisville Public School / Spectrum Alternative School



Please note: Spectrum Alternative School will be moving to a new location at the former Vaughan Road Academy, 529 Vaughan Road for the 2018/19 and 2019/2020 school years.



Students who attend Spectrum should:

- enjoy being challenged intellectually
- be dedicated to completing projects and assignments on time and with care
- · be receptive to constructive feedback
- be responsible for consistently arriving at school on time, and being prepared for class
- be committed to working fairly in a collaborative learning environment
- be respectful to the feelings and needs of others, helping to create a positive school space

Applications will be available online in January, after the Open House Visit our school website for more information: http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/spectrum





Boozhoo Sge:No Tikilluarit Tansii Aaniin



**First Nations** School of Toronto

16 Phin Avenue



Working towards a

#### Achieving Excellence through the **Urban Indigenous Education Centre**

Urban Indigenous Education Centre (AEC), FNST is housed within 16 Phin Avenue. Each is committed to providing supports, programs and advaccay to close the opportunity app for Indigenous students across the district. The AEC works to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canadás Calls to Action and provides support to students, famillies and schools across the district to implement Indigenous Education policies, initiatives and professional learning. FNST serves as an Indigenous-focussed school grounded in language, culture, and Indigenous ways of Knowing and being to provide students with a meaningful learning experience.

Both the AEC and ENST are committed to a vision of both the ACC and First I are committed to a vision or creating an Urban Indigenous Education Centre that will be a vibrant community hub serving First Nations Métis and Inuit students, their families and the larger

Learn more about the Aboriginal Education Centre at www.tdsb.on.ca/aboriginaleducation.



#### Why First Nations School of Toronto (FNST)?

At First Nations School of Toronto (FNST), Indige ways of being, knowing, teaching and learning are at the centre of our approach to education.

We teach the Ontario Curriculum while centering Indigenous knowledges, perspectives and diverse

Our school currently serves students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 9. In the 2018-2019 school year we will continue to expand our high school and will be offering a Grade 10 program.

While a large base of students at FNST identify as First Nations and Métis, students of all backgrounds are welcome as we strive to provide cultural and educational opportunities that reflect our diverse student population.

Some highlights of our high school program include: Native Studies pathways from Gr. 9-12 including

- Native Studies pathways from Gr. 9-12 including Expressing Aboriginal Cultures (an arts-based course)
   Native Language programming (Anishinaabemowin)
   Compulsory credits including English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Physical Education
   All Courses will be taught at an academic level

#### Kindergarten at FNST

Our program is child-centred and culturally relevant. Children learn about the teachings and ways of Indigenous peoples through play-based programs that include music, songs, games, stories and dances of various Indigenous cultures. Students learn about various cultural traditions within a circle of care that includes family, caregivers, the community and children themselves.

#### **Supporting Aboriginal Voices** Across the Curriculum

Students who attend FNST enjoy culturally

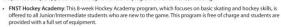
- Native Second Language programming
- access to traditional ceremo
- traditional singing and drumming · traditional dance and movement
- community feasts

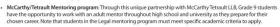
Additionally, as the AEC and FNST work in partnership, families and communities are engaged in the following ways:

- · Annual Round Dance
- Annual Pow Wow
- Seasonal feasts and socials
- · Solstice celebration and feast

#### **Program Enhancements**

We provide unique opportunities through a number of program enhancements, including:





Connected North: Working in a partnership with CISCO and TakingTIGlobal, Connected North uses two-way video
communication and collaboration technology to connect students at FNST with students in Northern communities
across the country—from Iqaluit to Black Lake. The goal is to engage students and increase feelings of empowerment
in school and in life.





APPLEGROVE COMMUNITY COMPLEX PRESENTS:

# MAGIC AND MARVEL! Our 4th Annual Family Dance!

Saturday, February 10th 2018 | 11 A.M.- 1 P.M. 60 Woodfield Road Duke of Connaught School Gymnasium



Calling all pint sized fairies, wizards and magical creatures. Come break the spell of the winter blahs at our annual Family Dance.

> Treats | Magic | Music | Games | Face Painting | **Bouncy castle and more!**

Admission: Pay what feels good!! (suggested \$4 per person) Costumes encouraged

**Bouncy Castle** Sponsored by:



www.MattandBen.ca





Applicious Mural-Sept. 20 www.annestanley.com

## **Babysitting Course**

Applegrove is offering a Babysitting Course on Saturday, January 20th from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. For a fee of \$100 (limited subsidy available), participants receive training from professionals, a Red Cross certificate, lunch, a four-session placement with our afterschool program and a listing in our childcare registry upon completion.

The afterschool placement would consist of four sessions, each two hours in duration with one of our afterschool groups with the guidance and supervision of afterschool staff.

Participants are asked to bring an infant-sized doll or teddy bear, as well as a pen. For more information or to register, please visit our office or call 416-461-8143.

## **Woodgreen Food Drive:**



Thanks to everyone who contributed!

## **Around the School**



**Emerson Teaching the Zones of Regulation!** 



Professional learning with Julie Liu, French learning coach!