**WELCOME TO DUNDAS JR. PUBLIC SCHOOL!**

Whether you’re registering your child for school for their first time, or this is your first time at Dundas, we know that this can be an emotional and overwhelming time. We at the Dundas Parent Council want to help make this transition as smooth as possible. Below you will find a number of FAQ’s to help you and your child get ready for school. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact: dundasparentcouncil@gmail.com

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| What contact details do I need? | **School*** School Office: (416) 393-9565
* EmailDundas@tdsb.on.ca
* Twitter: @Dundas\_TDSB

**Parent Council*** [Website: www.dundasparentcouncil.ca](http://www.dundasparentcouncil.ca)
* Email: dundasparentcouncil@gmail.com
* Dundas Digest e-Newsletter: Weekly updates from the parent council, please email the address above to be added to the distribution list
* Facebook: “Dundas Jr. PS Parents”
* Monthly Meetings: Parent council offers free pizza at 6 pm, meetings start at 6:30. Babysitting and translation services are provided.
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| What are the big events that take place during the year? | * Welcome Back BBQ (September)
* Winter concert (December)
* Chinese Lunar New Year’s lunch (February)
* School trips; local library, theatres and other venues
* Scholastic Book Fair (twice a year)
* Spring/Summer Concert (May)
* Spring Fun Fair (Usually May/June) – June 23 2018 this year!
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| What facilities are available? | * Gymnasium with Curtained Stage
* Library
* Computer Lab
* 2 outdoor climbers (Kindergarten Yard & Junior Yard)
* Running Track, Baseball diamond, soccer field
* Tennis courts (for older children)
* Queen Alexandra Middle School Swimming Pool (Grade 3 - 5)
* STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) lab - new for 2018!
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| When will I know whose class my child is in? |  Letters will be sent home at the end of the school year to notify you of what class your child will be allocated too, usually in June. |
| Where do I drop off and pick up my child? | * Junior Kindergarten (JK) and Senior Kindergarten (SK) children should be dropped off and collected in the playground on the Boulton side of the school.
* Grade 1-5 children should be dropped off at their designated door; some enter at the front of the school and most doors are on the west side of the school, by the running track.
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| What if I am late? Where do I go? What do I do? | * If you know your child will be substantially late, please phone the main school office and let them know. Otherwise you will receive automated calls from the School Attendance System.
* If you are running late and you miss the teacher bringing all the kids in, please bring your child to the main office to sign in. The office staff will arrange for them to get to their correct class.
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| How is my child’s day structured? | * Start Time: 8:45 am
* JK/SK Recess: 8:45 - 9:25 am
* Grade 1-5 Morning Recess: 10:20-10:35 am
* Lunch Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
* Grade 1-5 Afternoon Recess - 2:15 to 2:30 pm
* End Time: 3:15 pm
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| What if I need to pick my child up early? | * It helps if you let your child’s teacher know you will be coming back for an early pick up.
* When you arrive at the school, check in at the school office. They will call to the classroom and your child will be brought down to meet you.
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| What if I want to visit my child in school or attend class outings? | * Parents can talk to their child’s teacher to arrange for a time to visit the class. Depending on class size and different activities, the teacher can figure out a best time or if it is possible for a visit.
* Teachers almost always put out a call for parent volunteers for regular class outings - both walking trips to the local library or park or on longer bus/TTC trips.
* If you know you want to volunteer from time to time, you MUST complete a Criminal Reference Check, provided by the Toronto Police. This is a requirement of the Toronto School Board, that Dundas must comply with. Ask for the form at the main office. There is a small fee; the check is good for 5 years.
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| Is there before and after school care for my child? | * For JK and SK: Before and after-school care is provided by Native Child & Family Services of Toronto and is known as the Dundas Kinder Enrichment Program. For more information on registration and payment, please call: 416-469-8417
* For Grade 1 - 5: Dundas students can join the free Reading Club from 8:15 - 8:45 in the Dundas Library for quiet activities and reading. After school, The Toronto Kiwanis Boys' & Girls' Club provides on-site after school care 3:15 - 6:00 pm. For more information on registration ad payment go to : <http://www.believeinkids.ca/for-families/after-school-programs/dundas-junior-public-school>
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| What are the washrooms and toilet arrangements at Dundas? | All JK-SK classrooms have small sinks and toilets within the classroom for children’s use. Please note, children must be toilet trained to start in JK. Teachers are not to assist children using the toilet. Early Childhood Educators in the JK-SK classes are also not to assist with using the toilet, although they can assist with washing hands and straightening clothes if need be. For Grades 1 - 5, there are several separate boys’ and girls’ washrooms throughout the school. Please Note: There are designated washrooms for teacher/staff and for parents’ use when visiting the school. Parents are not to use the students’ washrooms. |
| What does my child need to bring to school? | * A pair of indoor shoes. Note: In all seasons, all students are to change out of their runners/boots when they come inside. They can keep these shoes in their classrooms for the year. Running shoes are best for gym class. This helps to keep the dirt and debris out of the classrooms.
* Full set of spare clothes: underwear, socks, pants, shirt.
* Water bottle for use in class and at lunch and recess.
* In winter, students are still outside for long periods of time unless there is an extreme cold weather alert. Please ensure your students have a warm hat, scarf, mitts and boots to go along with their jacket and snowpants.
* In summer, students should have a sun hat and sunscreen. Please apply sunscreen at home in the morning.
* Lunch and/or snacks - more details below.
* Backpack large enough to hold everything.
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| Are there any food exclusions at Dundas? | * Dundas is a NUT FREE facility.
* No nuts or nut products are to be brought onto the premises.
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| Do I need to provide a lunch and snacks for my child? | * Dundas has an in-school nutrition program that is sponsored in part by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. This program provides a morning healthy snack to all students free of charge.
* Additionally, Dundas has a hot lunch program. Families are invited to register for this at the start of the school year. You have options to pay for the year in advance, by term or monthly. The cost for 2017/2018 year is $600.
* If you do not wish to participate in the hot lunch program, you must send your child to school with a packed lunch, which should be nut free and litterless (please use reusable containers, no paper or plastic wraps).
* You are asked to also send your child to school with 1 snack for the afternoon.
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| Should I put my child’s name their belongings? | * YES! Put your child’s name on EVERYTHING – shoes, jackets, sweaters, hats, backpack, lunch items, mittens, scarf, umbrella, boots, etc.
* If you order from Mabel’s Labels, you will also support the Dundas Parent Council. Find out more online : <https://mabelslabels.com/>
* Another reputable company with a good product is Oliver’s Labels. More info at : <https://www.oliverslabels.com/>
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| What communication will I get from the school or the teachers? | The school principal sends out weekly e-mails with important school information and special days coming up. Be sure to sign up for this e-mail list in the front office. Each teacher communicates slightly differently. Many have an online app that is closed to the parents in that class. Teachers will post photos and send info that way. Teachers will also put half and full page papers in students backpacks for parents to review. These could be permission slips or other important notices. Many teachers include all documents on Fridays along with art work or school work that is coming home.  |
| Can my child bring toys from home to school? | Teachers at Dundas have a general rule that NO toys or stuffed animals are allowed at school. There are many reasons for this including the risk it will be lost or damaged, it may distract from learning, or there may be fights or arguments over it among smaller students. Many teachers do have “Show & Tell” days where a toy can be brought in or they have Pajama Days where a favourite small stuffed animal can be brought in. Ensure these items are clearly labelled. If your JK-SK child is very attached to an item and wants to bring it to school on a long-term basis, speak to your teacher to find a solution. |
| How do I prepare my child for Kindergarten? | There is a lot of information available to help you and your child prepare for school. Check out the following for more information: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/><https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/children-parenting/>Reach out to the parent council who are happy to share their top tips and experiences with you! |