

What's New @ Your Library?

FEBRUARY 15TH MARKS THE 50TH

ANNIVERSARY OF CANADA'S FLAG

Did you know that the very large flag, which hangs in the library, once flew from the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa? It flew on February 15, 2008. Our flag was given to Eglinton Jr. P. S. by John and Janette McFadden. (John McFadden was a former student of Eglinton as well as our school trustee for many years. Janette McFadden was a teacher at Eglinton for 23 years.)

A letter from the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, which came with the flag, can be found framed in the library. It states: "A nation's flag is the embodiment of what a country represents. Our flag has come to be regarded with respect and admiration, both at home and abroad. For many people around the world, the red maple leaf has come to stand for hope and compassion. The flag is also a symbol of what people of diverse faiths, cultures and linguistic backgrounds can accomplish, and a reminder of the responsibilities that come with citizenship in our great country."

If you would like to learn more about our flag, there is a display of books about Canada's flag in the Library. There is also a website: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1359734222181>

SPECIAL DISPLAYS THIS MONTH

- Fairness
- African Heritage Month
- Groundhog Day (Feb. 2)
- National Sweater Day (Feb 5)
- Day 100 (Feb. 6)
- Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
- Canada Flag Day (Feb. 15)
- Lunar New Year (It's the Year of the Sheep — Feb. 19)
- Freedom to Read Week (Feb. 22—Feb. 28)



FEBRUARY 22—28 IS FREEDOM TO READ WEEK

In Canada, we are fortunate. The freedom to choose what we read is our democratic right. When citizens lose their freedom it often begins with closing down schools and libraries and limiting the choice of what people are allowed to read.

“As centuries of dictators have

known, an illiterate crowd is the easiest to rule; since the craft of reading cannot be untaught once it has been acquired, the second-best recourse is to limit its scope.” Alberto Manguel, *A History of Reading*

Additional information can be found at :

<http://www.freedomtoread.ca>

Reading can be a way to empower, inform, challenge, heal, or entertain.

EGLINTON HAS ALREADY HAD THREE “JUST READ IT” WINNERS!

As mentioned in previous newsletters, *Just Read It* is an online forum for students, staff and the entire TDSB community to engage in the joy of reading and share reading experiences with one another.



THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING FEBRUARY 20—26

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair has been scheduled for the end of the month. Beginning on the evening of Friday, February 20th and continuing until the evening of Thursday, February 26th, the book fair will be open before school, at lunch, and after school on those days. Watch for the signs in the halls and news updates from the Parent Council.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars! We will need both parent and student volunteers (grades 5 and 6). Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Library door.

Once again we will be offering the “Classroom Wish List” program. Teachers will have a chance to preview the books and then identify books they wish to add to their classrooms. Their wishes will be displayed at the Book Fair for shoppers to see. Parents can purchase a book for their child’s classroom library and a bookplate will be placed on the inside cover of the donated book. This has been a very successful program in the past. It provides children with greater access to the books they want to read and instills a lifelong love of reading.