



The Elkhorn Express

YOUR SCHOOLS' INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF APRIL 10, 2017

School dates for *April*

- 10** Monday – Day 3
- 11** Tuesday – Day 4
- 12** Wednesday – Day 5
International Day of **Pink**
- 13** Thursday – Day 1
- 14** Friday –
GOOD FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL
- 17** Monday
EASTER MONDAY – NO SCHOOL



From the principal

“Accept and Respect. We are all different.”
(Anonymous)

Today was a great example of how fast weather can change. From high winds and snow today to temperatures reaching the double digits by Monday according to my weather app.

We have stopped selling tickets for the Blue Jays game. The response to support this event has been amazing and we are so excited about the opportunity to sing the anthems and attend the game.

Elkhorn's Kindergarten Orientation evening for new registrations will be on April 27th starting at 6:30 pm. We continue to do new Kindergarten registrations throughout the school year.

Have a good week.

Holly Richards

To report a student absence or late call 416-395-9505
or email the school at elkhorn@tdsb.on.ca

April at TDSB is...

Hispanic Heritage Month

The TDSB is committed to preserving the rich cultures and traditions of those with Hispanic heritage

One way in which the rich artistic culture of Hispanic heritage is celebrated in the City of Toronto is through dance. A

recent documentary, *Hearts of Tango*, has been screened in many countries around the world with great reviews and success. This documentary produced and directed by a TDSB teacher, Miguel Libedinsky, is about Tango in the great city of Toronto. The film has been screened in the USA, Spain, Japan, Sri Lanka, UK, Romania, Finland, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Germany.

Learn more at www.heartsoftango.com

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Latin-America History Month

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB is recognized during the month of April. Across the TDSB, we have over 5000 students and over 21 countries from Latin-America that will be represented as we

learn and celebrate the diverse ethnicities, nationalities, cultures and languages of Latin-America. Linguistically, the diversity of peoples with Latin-America ancestry sees over 500 hundred languages spoken, which encompasses Indigenous and African languages such as Kuna and Garifuna.



This year, we will elaborate on the concept of *Abya Yala*, a decolonized term from the Kuna Language, referring to geographical region of Latin-America as Indigenous Land and explored through the Indigenous Prophecy of the Eagle and Condor. This diversity is not easily accessed in mainstream sources of knowledge nor are the experiences of students from Latin-America. The TDSB is leading the equity work in transforming schools to equitable spaces where images, words and actions alike uplift students and their families of Latin-America!

This year, we celebrate with an art submission, [inspirational quotes of Latin-America/Abya Yala](#), and our second annual Latin-America History Month Conference: **Hear Our Voices: Our Living Experiences! Escuchen Nuestrxs Voces: Nuestrxs Experiencias!**

Sikh Heritage Month

The TDSB is celebrating its second annual Sikh Heritage Month.



Last year, Trustees voted to designate April as Sikh Heritage Month, making TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so, and matching recognition by the Province of Ontario in 2013. As stated in the Sikh Heritage Month Act, 2013, c. 12, s. 1.:

"Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the middle of the twentieth century. They represent a growing and dynamic population. April is an important month for the Sikh community. In this month, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. The Province of Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Sikh Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric."

As Canada marks its 150th birthday, it is a time to reflect on both the struggles and accomplishments of the many communities that contribute to Canada's rich cultural mosaic. From being turned away on Canada's shores during the historic Komagata Maru incident in 1914 to the many Canadians, such as Minister of National Defense Harjit Sajjan, who serve the nation today, we must continue to progress.

Join us at the Khalsa Day Parade on April 30, 2017. TDSB students, staff and community members are invited to celebrate the Sikh New Year and the establishment of the Sikh community in 1699. Join us at the CNE grounds at 1 p.m. and gather at the TDSB Sikh Heritage Booth. Please wear comfortable clothing, an orange T-shirt or other orange item and a covered head.

Khalsa Day Parade

30 April 2017

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Walk will begin at 1:00 pm starting from CNE grounds and head towards Toronto City Hall - Nathan Philips Square where the parade will end.

For more information, please contact Gurjeet Kahlon at gurjeet.kahlon@tdsb.on.ca.

Are you moving?

We have had a great response so far from everyone with returning the moving letters. If you have not returned the letter yet please do so as soon as possible.

We use this information to help us plan our school's organization for the upcoming school year (organizing classes, etc.).

If you fill out the form and your plans change before June please inform the office of the change and we will update our records accordingly.



Celebrations...



Passover – Festival of Freedom

Passover commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Passover begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar, which is in spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and is celebrated for seven or eight days. It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

The main ritual of Passover is the seder, which occurs on the first two night (in Israel just the first night) of the holiday — a festive meal that involves the re-telling of the Exodus through stories and song and the consumption of ritual foods, including matzah and maror (bitter herbs).

The central Passover practice is a set of intense dietary changes, mainly the absence of hametz, or foods with leaven. (Ashkenazi Jews also avoid kitniyot, a category of food that includes legumes.) In recent years, many Jews have compensated for the lack of grain by cooking with quinoa, although not all recognize it as kosher. Matzah, or unleavened bread, is the main food of Passover. The holiday has many traditional, popular foods, from haroset (a mixture of fruit, nuts, wine, and cinnamon) to matzah ball soup.

The ecstatic cycle of psalms called Hallel is recited both at night and day (during the seder and morning prayers).

The special Passover Seder plate (*ke'are*) is a special plate containing symbolic foods used during the Passover Seder. Each of the six items arranged on the plate has special significance to the retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The seventh symbolic item used during the meal—a stack of three matzot—is placed on its own plate on the Seder table.

The six items on the Seder plate are:

- *Maror* and *Chazeret*: Two types of bitter herbs, symbolizing the bitterness and harshness of the slavery which the Jews endured in Ancient Egypt. For *maror*, many people use freshly grated horseradish or whole horseradish root. *Chazeret* is typically romaine lettuce, whose roots are bitter-tasting. Either the horseradish or romaine lettuce may be eaten in fulfillment of the mitzvah of eating bitter herbs during the Seder.
- *Charoset*: A sweet, brown, pebbly paste of fruits and nuts, representing the mortar used by the Jewish slaves to build the storehouses of Egypt.
- *Karpas*: A vegetable other than bitter herbs, usually parsley but sometimes something such as celery or cooked potato, which is dipped into salt water (Ashkenazi custom), vinegar (Sephardi custom), or charoset (older custom, still common amongst Yemenite Jews) at the beginning of the Seder.
- *Zeroa*: A roasted lamb or goat bone, symbolizing the *korban Pesach* (Pesach sacrifice), which was a lamb offered in the Temple in Jerusalem and was then roasted and eaten as part of the meal on Seder night.
- *Beitzah*: A hard-boiled egg, symbolizing the *korban chagigah* (festival sacrifice) that was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem and was then eaten as part of the meal on Seder night.

Passover begins at sundown on Mon, 10 April 2017.

Easter

Easter, also called Resurrection Day and Pascha, is a holiday. Among Christians, it is a celebration of Jesus Christ returning from the dead. Christians believe that it is the holiest day in the year. Some people who are not Christians celebrate it as the beginning of Spring.

Easter is not held on the same date every year. This is called a *moveable feast*. Western churches, like the Roman Catholic Church, use the Gregorian calendar, while Eastern churches, like the Eastern Orthodox Church, use the Julian calendar. Because of this, the date of Easter celebrations is different for these two types of churches even though the way they calculate the date is similar.

The word "Easter" is derived from *Eastre*, the name of the ancient German Goddess of Spring.^[1] Her festival occurred at the vernal equinox. The French word for Easter, *Pâques*, comes from the Greek word for Passover, which is the Jewish holiday celebrated at about the same time of the year.

Customs and traditions

Easter is celebrated in several ways in northern Europe, Canada and the United States. Most of these celebrations have nothing to do with the Christian meaning of the holiday.

These celebrations are related more to the pagan festivals of ancient Germany. Children are given baskets filled with candy. Eggs are decorated and hidden for children to find that the "Easter Bunny" supposedly laid. People wear new clothes and go to church. Greeting cards are exchanged.

Small leafless trees or branches are often carried indoors and decorated with colored eggs, paper trims, and lights in celebration of Easter.



School Closed Good Friday and Easter Monday

Please remember that school will be closed on Friday, April 14th and also on Monday, April 17th.