

Bulldog Bulletin April 2017

Dear Givins/Shaw Community:

The spring season is always a busy time in the life of the school year. Although we could never be accused of hibernating during the winter months, given all the focused work and activity available for our students during that time, there is still a certain additional level of energy that is present throughout our building and community when the calendar turns to April. Announcements are being made each morning about upcoming sports team try-outs, our widely successful Forest of Reading program (both in English and French) is approaching its culminating event, and more of our classrooms augment their learning through outdoor exploration and connected inquiry projects. All that and it looks like our city might have NHL hockey playoffs for the first time in the lives of most of our students. If I have just jinxed the Leafs, I apologize.

With so many events at the school in the coming weeks, we thought it would be a good idea to highlight a few of them in this newsletter but again we encourage you to go to [www.givinsshaw.com](http://www.givinsshaw.com) for the most up to date information on all things Bulldog.

***• 2017 Student and Parent Census***

**APRIL 2017 is the TDSB’s *Census* Month! This is the third administration of the TDSB’s *Student and Parent Census*.  All students (Grades 4-12) and parents (of JK-Grade 6 students) have the ability to participate in the census and your child(ren) will be bringing home information in the coming days. Parent Information Letters (including translations), are available on the Research department’s**[**website**](http://tdsbweb/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=139&menuid=43794&pageid=36765)**on the TDSBweb. Please click**[**here**](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/givinsshaw/docs/2017%20TDSB%20Census%20FAQ.pdf)**for the Frequently Asked Questions sheet prepared by the TDSB regarding the Census.**

**• EQAO dates in May**

**Our grade 3 and 6 students will be completing the Provincial Primary and Junior Assessment from the Education Quality and Accountability Office from May 24 – 26 and May 29 – 31. The time of day during which the students will be working on the EQAO assessment will be from after morning announcements until morning recess (9:00 – 10:30 a.m. approximately) on each of those six days. We kindly ask that you do your best to not book any appointments for your child(ren) during that time.**

**• Fun Fair**

**The highly anticipated Givins/Shaw Fun Fair will take place on the morning of Saturday, May 27 on the Givins/Shaw field. Please look for updates from the fantastic Givins/Shaw School Council.**

**• Graduation for Grade 5 and Grade 6 Students:**

**As we know, this year both our Grade 5 and Grade 6 students will be graduating from Givins/Shaw. The Graduation Ceremony will be held in our school’s gym starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 23.**

Unquestionably, the main focus of school administration in the spring involves planning for the following school year. Just as each year brings change for our student population at Givins/Shaw, the same is also true for our staff. Some of our staff will find themselves working in new schools by next September, some may apply for other roles in the TDSB, and one has decided to retire. Mr. Martin Franklin has enjoyed a distinguished career in education and has been a key member of the Givins/Shaw community for many years. Words cannot describe the level of indebtedness we all feel towards Mr. Franklin for all he has done for the children in the school and the neighbourhood as a whole. We wish Mr. Franklin all the best in the next phase of his life and we would like to close this newsletter with Mr. Franklin’s address to the Givins/Shaw community.

Thanks Martin.

Dan Taylor

Principal

To the Givins Shaw community,

It is with many feelings, both happy and sad, that I am writing to formally announce my retirement from teaching, effective June 30 of this year. I was hired by the legacy Toronto School Board in 1992 and have been at Givins Shaw since 1995. Perhaps it is fitting that when I started at Givins Shaw, I was on the second floor of the Shaw building teaching a Grade 1/2 class and now that I am retiring, I am on the second floor of the Givins building teaching a Grade 1/2 class. *“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose’’ (the more things change, the more they stay the same)*

In actual fact, other than my present choice of teaching assignments, much has changed during my 23 years at Givins Shaw. The Shaw building is now Artscape Youngplace, the community around Givins Shaw, especially on Ossington and Queen streets has evolved, and technology, which was an incidental part of a teacher’s life in 1992 is now all encompassing. The students I taught in 1992 have graduated and many have families of their own. One thing, however, that has remained constant in my life is the strong feeling of support and belonging that I have always felt at Givins Shaw. This has been my home away from home.

I have greatly enjoyed sharing in your lives, teaching and learning from your children, feeling proud at their achievements and working together as a team to get to those celebratory moments both big and small. I will miss you all.

Regards,

Martin Franklin