

Givins/Shaw
Junior Public School
Toronto District School Board



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As a Principal, throughout the arc of the school year, there are certain times when you pause to examine all that has occurred to that point and determine if things seem to be heading in a direction that will set our students on a path for the greatest chance to succeed.

Each administrator has their own preferred times for their initial reflection on their school's improvement. My personal selection is the week prior to the Thanksgiving weekend. By that point in the season, we are a full month into the school year, routines are well-established, and a long enough amount of time has transpired for you to legitimately study trends and patterns. It is a logical time to ask, as it pertains to meeting the needs of our students, "What are we doing well?" and "How can we get better?"

Creating informed responses to those questions, and then implementing appropriate plans to address those answers, is a process that requires input from our school's students, staff, parents and neighbours.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Givins/Shaw community for helping to make this first month so successful and for helping to put our school on such a positive path for the 2016/17 year. We have made great strides in improving our lines of communication between the school and the community through the use of our website, twitter account and ongoing dialogue with the school council executive. We listened to community concerns with regards to health and safety issues and ensured that all our students and staff received training on anaphylaxis safety, and they were also trained with regards to needs around students with diabetes and asthma. We are excited about the technology plan we are creating in concert with the School Council in order to provide Givins/Shaw students with the best chance to fully enhance their digital fluency. You add to all of that the outstanding programming happening in our classrooms, the unbelievable turnout for our Curriculum Night, the tremendous response to our new school clothing offer, and the strength of our sports teams and it truly has been an excellent start to the year.

As mentioned, our school's website, www.givinsshaw.com, is the best source of information for all Bulldogs and their families.

On behalf of the staff, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and appetizing Thanksgiving Weekend. I hope your holiday is enriched by friends, laughter, great food, and more walk-off Blue Jay home runs.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor

Principal

Proud Bulldog!

