

Givins/Shaw
Junior Public School
Toronto District School Board



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Principal Update:

As we approach the completion and distribution of the Term 1 report cards, Givins/Shaw is a hub of activity. One of the pleasures of my job is to have the opportunity each day to visit different classrooms and observe the growth and development occurring at all age levels. Just this week I have seen a primary class creating exemplary, environmental-themed, dioramas. Students in one of our junior classes have been completing book reports using Google slides and presenting them to their peers via Apple TV. Our kindergarten learners continue to make real-world connections that guide their classroom investigations. The staff at Givins/Shaw is dedicated to ensuring that our students receive challenging, engaging, and differentiated programming and you see this commitment in action when you walk through the school.

Of course, as a staff we are always examining our practice and looking for ways to further improve the manner in which we teach your children. On my first day at Givins/Shaw at the end of June 2016, I asked the staff and the chairs of the school council, what they felt was the most pressing need for the school. Without question, the item that was brought forward most prominently was the need for more technology in the school combined with the appropriate planning and training so it would be used most effectively. Throughout the school year we have worked diligently as a staff in concert with the school council and we have made significant gains in this regard. We are excited about our progress thus far and we now feel that we are poised to take even greater steps forward.

On Thursday, February 2, 2017 we are hosting an information night for our parents about Digital Education at Givins/Shaw. The session will be held in the library and will run from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. On this night we will present a detailed and updated account of our technology plan. We will share with our community why we feel that increasing our students' digital fluency is a key component of their education and we will have some of our staff and students present some of the things we have already been able to accomplish. The School Council has also been able to arrange for a guest speaker to attend in order to illustrate the potentially transformational aspects of using these tools in the classroom.

I hope you are able to join us on the evening of February 2 in the library.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor

Principal Bulldog