

Givins/Shaw
Junior Public School
Toronto District School Board



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Bulldog Bulletin

October, 2017

The first month of the year was truly reflective of all that makes Givins/Shaw such an exceptional school. Our youngest learners have settled into the routines and expectations of our kindergarten program, students and families who are new to our school have been made to feel welcomed and included, the Grade 5 and 6 students were able to go for a two night overnight excursion to the Island School, our teams have represented the school with pride, the community support as evidenced at the Curriculum Night and BBQ remains outstanding, and our academic programming has challenged and engaged our students. Indeed the opening weeks have been full and rich and provided a great launch for 2017/2018.

With so much happening at our school, we thought it would be appropriate to send out a newsletter to highlight some of the activity. We continue to use our school website www.givinsshaw.com as our primary method of distributing information and encourage you to go to the website and connected calendar for the most current Bulldog news. So much of what we are able to provide at our school for your children, such as the implementation of our technology plan, is due to the work and actions of our School Council. Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, October 17 at 6:15 p.m. in the library and we hope to see you there.

Youth Wellness Network

We are excited that the Youth Wellness Network (YWN) has been hired, with the support of the School Council, to facilitate Youth Wellness Leadership training for a selected group of Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 students at Givins/Shaw. The program is primarily student-led, supported by the staff and administrators, and perfectly aligns with the TDSB's focus on well-being. The YWN places students at the center of their own well-being and gives them the tools and resources to support well-being among their peers. The aim is to create a sustainable shift within the school that, with the support of staff and students, will carry momentum and continue to have positive impact on well-being for years to come. The Program is structured to provide the following:

- Kick off Keynote presentations on October 17th -- for students (p.m), staff (after school) and parents (Council meeting)
- Three 2.5 hour sessions of Wellness Leader Training (WLT), plus an extra thirty minutes in the first session for a brief student orientation and ice-breaking exercise.
- Four one hour mentorship sessions that will be implemented and scheduled after the WLT sessions conclude

For more information about the program please go to <http://youthwellnessnetwork.ca/>

Givins/Shaw a WILD Spaces Educator!

One of the hallmark programs at Givins/Shaw is our outdoor kindergarten program. For those Givins/Shaw families who have been with our school for a few years, you will likely recall that the outdoor program was spearheaded by Ms. Kim MacIntyre, who retired from our staff last June, and the program continues to be supported by our students, staff, and community. Since its inception, and through the contributions of so many people, the outdoor kindergarten program grew in scope and prompted Givins/Shaw to examine how to make the best use of all our school's outdoor spaces. Refurbishing the area we refer to as our 'Butterfly Garden', in the 2015/16 year, was one example of how the work that began in the kindergarten program became a larger focus for our other outdoor learning environments.

We are proud to announce that we received notification from the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to say that Givins/Shaw's schoolyard has now officially been recognized as a Certified Wildlife-Friendly Habitat. In the email we received from the CWF it mentioned that Givins/Shaw was receiving this honour because, "You and your students transformed your school or group's outdoor space into a place that helps wildlife and encourages youth to connect with and learn from nature."

The email went on to state that, "In recognition of your initiative, dedication and hard work, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and our partner, Parks Canada, are presenting you with a certificate and window decal that you will receive in the mail this week. Keep your eyes peeled for a big envelope in the mail and have fun celebrating the accomplishment with your school."

On behalf of the school, we would like to thank Ms. MacIntyre for her stewardship in this endeavour. It is a fitting tribute to her vision and belief in the importance of experiential education.

Givins/Shaw Athletics Update

Our Fall athletics season is coming to a close and once again the Bulldogs showed great teamwork, dedication, improvement, and sportsmanship. Our boys' soccer team, coached by Mr. Lightbody, represented the school with pride in their tournament and came very close to advancing to the next round. Our girls' soccer team, coached by Ms. Gorham and Ms. Stockton, won their semi-final game in penalty kicks and will play the final match at Givins/Shaw after school on Wednesday, October 18. In early October, eighty Bulldog cross-country runners proceeded to the initial meet at Ashbridges Bay. Thirteen of those runners advanced to the next round and we are pleased to say that Charlotte Oke in Grade Three will be representing Givins/Shaw in the City Finals. We would like to say thank you to all the staff and parents who make our co-curricular athletic programming such a success.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 17 – School Council meeting – 6:15
- Oct. 19 – Photo Day (no sibling photos)
- Nov. 14 – Progress Reports go home
- Nov. 23 – Photo Retake and sibling photos