



Newsletter September 2010

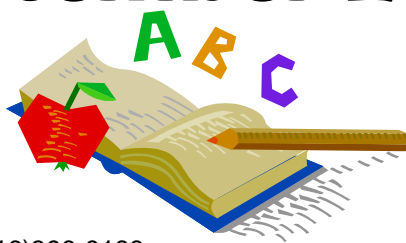


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Welcome Back Glen Ravine Jr. P.S. Families and Staff



Welcome to the 2010 - 2011 school year. Our first week together has been wonderful. The

students are happy to be back and they are enjoying spending time with their friends and getting to know their teachers. The staff has worked hard to prepare their classrooms and to get their programs up and running. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and we extend a warm “Glen Ravine” welcome to our new students and their families.



Our full day Kindergarten is going well. A big “Thank you” goes out to the Kindergarten team - teachers and ECE’s - who put in extra time last week to make sure they were ready to welcome our youngest students.

We have a few “housekeeping” reminders to ensure that all goes smoothly between home and the school. Please remember to phone the school if your child is going to be absent. There is an answering machine should you need to leave a message outside of school hours. As well, Friday is the day that all notices,



newsletters and permission forms will be sent home. Please get into the habit of checking your child’s bag on Friday for any notices, etc. Please keep the school informed of any changes, especially phone numbers. Cell phones are always a challenge as we frequently



find that the numbers have changed, the phone is no longer in service or the mailbox is full. It is imperative that the school be able to contact the parents/guardians of our students at all times.

Just a reminder that our Parenting and Family Literacy Center is open Monday to Thursday, from 8:45 am to 1:30 pm. All parents are encourage to bring their children to the centre. Registration is not required.



One major concern we have for our school is the increase in vandalism that has been occurring over the summer months, and will no doubt continue into the fall. When vandalism, such as broken windows and graffiti occur, it costs us all, as the cost of repairs is significant. If you notice any suspicious behaviour, we are asking your help by calling the Toronto District School Board’s security number **416-395-4620**.

Someone is available to take your call seven days a week, 24 hours a day. You do not have to leave your name or number, just report what you see is happening. Your help and co-operation is very much appreciated.



Our lunch program is intended for those students who do not have anyone at home between 11:30 and 12:40. If your child **needs** to stay for lunch, a Lunchroom Form and Contract will be sent home next week for you to complete. Please make sure that it is completed in full and returned to the school as soon as possible.

As you will see from the list below, our staff has remained largely the same.

Name	Grade
Mrs. Vaccaro	Principal/Office
Ms. Culford / Mrs. Jacobs	Office
Mr. Smith / Mr. Caissy	Caretaking
Mrs. Alexiou	JK/SK
Mrs. Scott	JK/SK
Ms. Glauser	JK/SK
Mrs. Taylor	Gr. 1
Mrs. Patel	Gr. 1
Mr. McHarg	Gr. 2
Ms. Meggoe	Gr. 2/3
Ms. Karanka	Gr. 3
Ms. McDonald	Gr. 4/5
Mrs. Todasco	Gr. 4/5
Mrs. Fuentes Rivera	Gr. 5 / Phys. Ed.
Mr. Crothers	Gr. 6
Mrs. Karaoulis	Library
Mrs. Kim	Computers p.m.
Ms. Downes	Read. Recovery /ESL
Ms. Doggett	M.A.R.T. /French
Mr. Oberer	HSP /M.A.R.T.
Mrs. Graham	E.A. – a.m.
Mrs. Tyson	E.A. Primary/
Lunchroom	
Mrs. Subramaniam	Lunchroom

Possible School Reorganization



In order to honour the class caps in our primary classes (Grades 1 - 3), there is a possibility that the classes may have to be reorganized. The

Ministry of Education has directed schools to place no more than 20 students in a primary class. Our numbers to date have resulted in classes that exceed the cap. More information will be sent home early next week should reorganization be required.

Pakistan Fundraising



As a result of the flooding that occurred in Pakistan in August, the Toronto District School Board is encouraging all school to engage in fundraising to address the urgent needs of the people in Pakistan. More information will be forthcoming on the fundraising Glen

Ravine will undertake in order to support this very worthy cause.

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.



Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.



Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Anaphylaxis Canada's web site at <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/> or by calling 416-785-5666.

Raising a Good Student

Catherine Rondina - City Parent

With a new school year here, families are geared up for another crack at the books. Children may be filled with anxiety over what the new school year will bring, while parents ponder the challenges their children will face. One thing is certain - not all kids start the school year with a bang. Some children struggle with academic skills, while others try to deal with developmental and emotional issues. So how can you give your child a head start on doing well in school?

Research indicates that your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is the key to his or her success in school. As a parent you are your child's number one role model and your participation in school life is essential.

The time you spend with your child away from school is very important. This time allows you both to relax and be together doing things that you both enjoy. Spend this time reading together, playing games, doing projects and just being a family. These family times help your child build self-confidence and self-esteem, in addition to building a strong relationship with you.



To keep involved in your child's school life, visit the school on a regular basis and make yourself known to the teachers and staff. Attend parent/teacher interviews and request a meeting yourself if you deem it necessary.



Make the most of your interview time with your child's teacher. Come prepared with questions you'd like answered and don't be afraid to speak up. Discuss with the teacher how you can help your child do better in the classroom and set up a plan of action that you both feel will work for him or her.

Schedule additional time to meet with your child's teacher if necessary. You may even want to arrange to talk on a steady basis over the telephone or correspond via email. It's important to let your child know that you're in contact with the teacher and you're all working together to help him/her succeed.

Use your child's report card as a tool to help you both understand what's happening in the classroom. The card acts as a guide to achievements, progress, areas that need improvement and any behaviour or attendance problems. You can use it to help your child set goals for the next term.

Be open and honest with your child about progress in school. Discuss what the teacher has told you and talk about how to improve. If you have expectations for your child, make them clear. For example if you are happy with your child's effort and she continually brings home B's let her know that you won't intervene unless you see a decline in her grades.



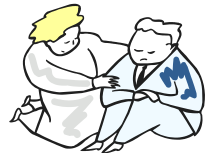
If your child is having troubles and your discussions with her teacher don't seem to be getting the results you wish, ask to see the principal. Sometimes switching classrooms or even schools may help your child flourish.

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Safe and Caring Schools Week

September 13-24 is Safe and Caring Schools Weeks in the Toronto District School Board.

Over the next two weeks, the TDSB will be spreading the word about the importance of learning environments where all staff and students feel safe and secure. The TDSB works very hard throughout the year to raise awareness among students, staff and parents about the factors that make a school community safe.



The Board's Threats to School Safety Procedure was updated last year by the Safe and Caring Schools Team to help schools effectively manage emergencies and to reflect a significant change in the terminology associated with lockdown procedures.

The change in lockdown terminology was done to provide some clarity on the meaning of common terms associated with the procedure and reduce the panic that parents/guardians often feel when they hear their child's school is in lockdown.

The revised terminology has been implemented at the TDSB and will be used by all schools in conjunction with the Toronto Police Service. The revised terms are as follows:

- Hold and Secure - The term Partial Lockdown has been replaced with the term Hold and Secure. Hold and secure means that all movement in and out of the school is restricted, however movement within the school is not restricted and the external danger near the school poses no immediate threat to the students or staff unless they leave the building.

- Lockdown - A lockdown is the most serious response to a threat to school safety and should be used only when the danger is inside the school or on school property and poses an immediate and serious threat to staff and students.

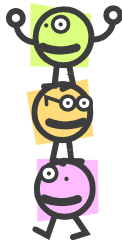
The Threats to School Safety Procedure (PR.695) is available on the Safe and Caring Schools webpage on the Board's website at www.tdsb.on.ca.

The TDSB is committed to making each and every one of our schools caring places that are safe for learning and a part of that commitment is keeping our parents/guardians informed.

Character Development: A Partnership with Families

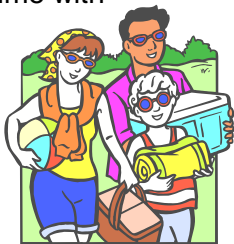
With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.



Some tips for supporting Character Development in the Home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live character every day



For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/character

Upcoming Dates:

- September 23 ~ Open House and Scholastic Book Fair
- October 6 ~ School Advisory Council Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- October 13 ~ Primary Literacy/Numeracy Night
- November 2 ~ School Picture Day

Enclosures

1. Glen Ravine Jr. P.S. School Calendar
2. Message from Scott Harrison

W e l c o m e B a c k