



# HILLTOP M. S. NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Message



Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am very pleased and proud to be able to send home the November Newsletter. As you will be able to gain, it is full of events and happenings at Hilltop. Please encourage your child to find a club or team that interests them. Middle School is a great time to explore new interests, make new friends and develop new skills. Whether your child enjoys Chess, Robotics, Art, Sports, Eco-Club, etc., I am sure that they will find something that will appeal to them. Encourage your child to be involved!



## Character Education Assemblies

We held our first monthly assembly of the year and recognized students in Grades 6 - 8 that demonstrated excellence in the Character Trait of Respect. Please join me in congratulating the following group of winners:

Grade 6: Oluwabunmi A., Stephan H., La Vont T., Narura H., Hope J., Habon A., Bardia E., Trevonte P., Selena H.

Grade 7: Naisha S., Jaden G., Daniel T., Abigail V., Kalli A., Alexander R.

Grade 8: Paolo B., Rachel M., Ceonna Y., Nikita V., Khadijah O., Simone D., Rhea M.

Our next assembly will be held on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. At that assembly, we will recognize excellence in Responsibility.



## Hilltop Supports Terry

On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the students and staff at Hilltop participated in our annual Terry Fox walk/run. The morning began with an inspiring assembly highlighting the sacrifice and determination displayed by this truly amazing Canadian. After running 143 days and 5 375km, Terry Fox was forced to end his Marathon of Hope when his cancer returned. Before he died, he said, "Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me." Hilltop continued his Marathon of Hope on this day. Students contributed a 'Toonie for Terry' and raised funds that have been forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation. Thanks for caring Hilltop!



## Turkey Trot

Hilltop students once again ran in their annual Turkey Trot, on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. This fun, Fall, much anticipated event kicked off the Thanksgiving weekend with a 1.5 km run by all students. Participants in each grade level competed for a spot on the podium, with awards given to the top ten runners. Our spirited falcon mascot was enthusiastically flapping around encouraging all runners to the finish line. Congratulations to all participants on a fun-filled run, and special mention goes to the medal winners of each grade. Grade 6 boys: Adam M, Trevonte P, Jordan F; Grade 6 girls: Kayla S, Jordaina S, Annika S.; Grade 7 boys: Avery L, Alex C, Jaden W; Grade 7 girls: Jenaya S, Ella O, Lauren R; Grade 8 boys: Naveen S, David N, Nigel P; Grade 8 girls: Olivia G, Ela K, Sadie F. GOBBLE, GOBBLE!!

## Cross-Country



The Hilltop cross-country team had a very strong start to their season. The team began with forty committed runners who participated in their first meet on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Centennial Park. The athletes had outstanding results and brought home many ribbons including four first place finishes by Kayla S, Jenaya S, Olivia G. and Naveen S. A week later, runners competed in the "Best of the West," at the Conference finals. The competition was fast and fierce and our runners rose to the challenge. In first place, Naveen S. ran a solid race to win the grade 8 boys division. Our grade 7 girls' team consisting of Jenaya S, Ella O, Chelsea M and Emma B, captured first place overall and were awarded the Conference banner. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, fifteen of our runners competed in the City Championships at Centennial Park. Two of our runners, finished in the top ten, Kayla S. in 4<sup>th</sup> and Jenaya S. in 8<sup>th</sup>. All of our runners should feel very proud to have competed against the best in the city. Congratulations on a great season!



## Softball

Mr. Kanga and Ms. McDonald would like to thank the Hilltop Boys' Softball team for their hard work and best efforts at their tournament on Friday, October 16, at Rockcliffe M.S.. Despite their 2 strong wins early on in the tournament, the team was unable to win the semi-final game and will not be moving onto the conference finals. Thank you very much Aiden W., Marrec B., Adam M.k, Alex R., Joshua D., Noah M., Justin H., Ryan P., Nicholas H.y, David N., Naveen S., Matthew M., and Nigel P. We look forward to another exciting season next year!



## Greetings from Guidance

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my role here at Hilltop Middle School. My name is Larry Lipa and I am the guidance counselor at Hilltop Middle School. I am at Hilltop 2.5 days per week as I also have three other schools which I support. My role as guidance counsellor is to advocate for all students and to assist in providing them with a variety of supports to ensure that their academics, social/emotional health, and mental health are in good standing. Students at Hilltop have access to individual assistance and short-term counselling through the teacher/student referral process. As well, my role as counsellor is to deliver a comprehensive educational career/life planning process through the "Creating Pathways to Success," curriculum. This includes opportunities for students to learn about themselves and others, what opportunities are available to them in the future, who they want to become, and setting goals and creating an Individual Pathway Plan (IPP). Another key responsibility as guidance counsellor is to provide students with support for the transition from Junior to Middle School and from Middle to High School. These are called orientation and exit programs. I also provide students with peer assistance programs like the "Peer Mediation Program" where students assist other students in resolving minor conflicts and the "Peer Tutoring Program" where students assist other students with their academics. Lastly, as guidance counsellor at Hilltop, I take pride in assisting classroom teachers and our administration in providing a quality character education program where we focus on the TDSB Character Traits. Here at Hilltop, we have monthly assemblies where we honour and recognize students who have been role models for the rest of the students in areas such as respect, responsibility, and kindness to name a few.

I look forward to another fantastic year here at Hilltop Middle School and if there is anything I can do to assist your child or family, please email me at [larry.lippa@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:larry.lippa@tdsb.on.ca) or call me at (416) 394-7730 ext. 20040.

## Hilltop Art Club



Hilltop Art Club has gotten off to a great start this fall! Our members include grade 6, 7, and 8 students who meet twice a week during lunch at Hilltop. We are almost done completing our first project as we explore the themes of Peace and Nature in Origami, the ancient Japanese paper art. We are currently putting together a display of our paper designs and look forward to having it ready by the end of October. Please come and view our creations in our display case just outside of the Art room (room 113). We look forward to your visit! *Mrs. Kapakos*



## Remembrance Day Assembly



Parents are welcome to join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.

## Calendar Reminders



Friday October 30, 2015 Character Assembly in am. Activity Day in pm.

Friday November 13, 2015 PA Day

## Toronto Public Health: Flu Clinics



Each year Toronto Public Health offers free Flu Clinics for all Ontario residents. The clinics will be held throughout the city from October 28 to November 30, 2015.

For more information about the flu vaccine or flu clinic locations, refer to the website [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health) or call the Immunization Information Centre at 416-392-1250. Information can also be found on our parent bulletin board, in the main foyer.

## Street Safety:



Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.



## Hallowe'en Safety:

If your family is planning to take part in Hallowe'en festivities, please review these safety precautions with your child:

- Remind children of road safety rules. Cross only at corners. Do not criss-cross the road.
- With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
  - Set time limits when children should return home.
- Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them..
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
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## French Immersion and Extended French Application Procedures:

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's French Immersion or Extended French programs, TDSB offers an online process for applying to:

- Early French Immersion (EFI) which begins in Senior Kindergarten;
- Junior Extended French (JEF) which begins in Grade 4
- Middle Immersion which begins in Grade 4 (available in a limited number of schools)

TDSB guarantees an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all on-time applicants. Transportation is provided as per the Board's Transportation policy.

Please note the timelines for applying for these programs for September 2016:

- Early French Immersion: November 2 and December 3, 2015.
- Junior Extended French or Middle French Immersion: January 4 and January 28, 2016.

Please note: families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Further information on French as a Second Language programs and the application process is available online at [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french).



## 9th Annual Parent Conference: Parent Involvement Makes a Difference.

Registration is now open for the **9th Annual Parent Conference: Parent Involvement Makes a Difference**. Presented by the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and the TDSB Parent and Community Engagement Office, the 2015 conference theme is *Unlocking Your Child's Potential*.

This inspirational day-long event will take place on **Saturday, 14 November 2015, 8:00 am to 3:45 pm**, at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue (near Yonge & Sheppard). Child-minding and Interpretation will be available through advance registration ONLY.

Register now at [www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference).