

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is hard to believe that there are only 2 months left in the school year. On behalf of our staff, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our school throughout this year. Ms. Evans, the staff and I would like to thank all of you for attending our Gr. 2 – 5 Spring Concerts last week. The concerts were very well-attended and our students were incredible performers. A special thank you goes out to our entire staff for helping with the performances. Of course, we also want to acknowledge and thank Mr. Grammacione for the enormous amount of work that went into preparing our children for the performances. We are looking forward to our Grade 1 concert coming up on May 11th at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Lianos, the Grade 1 Teachers and the children have been working really hard!

In this Newsletter, please refer to the dates for a number of upcoming events for the months of May and June. We know how busy life gets but I respectfully ask that you spend some time reading this newsletter with your child(ren). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

With warm regards,

V. Baglione and L. Evans

Coming Soon

May:	
08	SAC Meeting – 9:15 a.m.
10	Track + Field (Centennial Park) Returning to H.J. letter due from parents
11	Boys Soccer at Portage Trail Gr. 5 Opera at H.J. Grade One Concert – Rms 204, 205, 210, 208
15	Greetings from West Africa Performance – whole school
18	Welcome to JK Parent evening – 6:30
19	Workshop for parents – 9:15 – 11:30 Topic – Self-Regulation (see invitation going home with the Newsletter)
22	Victoria Day – No School
23	Inner City Rugby this week at H.J. Cricket tournament @ Centennial Park
24	Gr. 4's @ Toronto Zoo
25	Girls Soccer – Pelmo Park
26	School Spirit Day – Sports Jersey Day
29	EQAO this week Ultimate Frisbee @ Swansea P.S.

June:	
05	Dental Screening until June 19 th
06	Track and Field West Finals
09	PD Day – No School for students

May 2017

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The theme for May is
Integrity

Looking ahead

**Grade 5 Graduation will be held
on June 27th at 1:00 pm
in our school GYM**



**H.J. Alexander Community
School**



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Thunderbolt Newsletter

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hjalexander>

SPORTS AT H.J.A.:

Over the past month we have had several sports teams do a fantastic job! Our Co-Ed Volleyball team placed third in the West Region; our Co-Ed Floor Hockey team placed third in their tournament where they were competing against grade sixes; our Co-Ed Badminton team hosted a fantastic tournament where they also finished third and finally we had our Jump Rope For Heart event! Congratulations to everybody on a very successful month.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Track and Field – May 10th @ Centennial Park
Boys Soccer – May 11th @ Portage Trail
Rugby at H.J. – the week of May 23rd
Cricket – May 23rd @ Centennial Park
Girls Soccer – May 25th @ Pelmo Park
Ultimate Frisbee – May 29th @ Swansea
Track and Field West Finals – June 6th @ Centennial Park
Track and Field City Finals – June 3th @ Birchmount

School Advisory News:

The next SAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8th at 9:00 am, in the Library.

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE & TWITTER:

Please visit our new school website at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hjalexander> for up to date information and news! You can also follow us on Twitter!

@HJA_TDSB

April's Character Education and Future Aces "Cooperation"

Assembly:

Congratulations to the following JK – Gr. 5 students who were recognized for exemplifying the April theme of "Cooperation."

Maliyah Pisani, Sean Muhanguzi, Serena Cross, Princess Fraser, Mahi Abdulle, Rheineil Balanon, Nadia Omar-Ramnarin, Jana Ibsa, Saiyuri Farquharson, Zahwah Khatibu, Kendal Quezada-Smith, Sumaya Abdulle, Korina Olah, Pepi Horvath, Rachel Horvath, Alex Danyi, Anisa Aden, Tenae Onfroy, Viktoria Horvath, Enajai Jack, Tristan Fernandes, Mary Anane, Nimo Mohamed, Hope Jhagroo, Efua Ashun, Krisztofer Kolompar, Mirabel Onyeaghalala, Pavsha Parameswaran, Nevaeh Bradshaw, Adna Mohmud, Jaslene Smith, Vanda Horvath, Sha'nai Reis, Abishna Aran, Intisar Mohamed, Xzavion Bradshaw, Julianna Crafer, Shawna-Kay Thompson, Malachi Rose, Javante Dominique-Adams, Sophie McCutcheon, Ester Onyekachi, Jahnyah Allen-James, Hysie Diah, Kevian Leslie, Kamsana Parameswaran, Lia Santiago, Sakiya Hussein, Ruth Smith, Amira Duale, Tia-Marie Royal, Jozsef Horvath, Aiysha, Kayla, Ashley Spencer, Keneyce Dacon

Continuing Education Summer Music Camps

Add to your child's summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, Downtown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now. Please visit www.tdsbsummercamps.ca for more information.

School Calendar

The 2017-2018 school year at the TDSB begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 following the Labour Day long weekend. For more information about important dates and holidays for the upcoming school year, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar/SchoolYearCalendar20172018.aspx>

Our New Field is Coming!

We are looking forward to the construction of our new field - complete with artificial turf and a fantastic track surrounding the field! Construction begins in late June.

H. J. Alexander Tentative Staffing Model for 2017:

Here is the Staffing Model for next year that was presented at last month's School Advisory Council Meeting.

JK/SK (YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2) – We will be offering 6 Full-Day Kindergarten classes.

For Grades 1 to 5:

- 3 Classes of Grade 1
- 1 Class of Grade 1/2
- 3 Classes of Grade 2
- 1 Class of Grade 2/3
- 4 Classes of Grade 3
- 1 Class of Grade 3/4
- 2 Classes of Grade 4
- 1 Class of Grade 4/5
- 2 Classes of Grade 5

The following Special Education

Programs will continue to be offered:

- Primary HSP and 2.5 Special Education Resource Teachers

We are happy to also have:

- A full-time Teacher-Librarian
- 1.5 Music/Dance Teachers
- A full-time French Teacher
- 1.5 Phys. Ed. Teachers
- 1.5 ESL Teachers
- 0.5 Reading Recovery Teacher

As you may have noticed, some of our classes from JK to Grade 5 are "Combined Grade" classrooms. This is by necessity, as it is the only model that could meet the Ministry and Board criteria for the placement of our students. If you would like additional information on combined grades, please visit www.edu.gov.on.ca and enter the key words "An introduction to combined grades".

Over the next month, we will be planning the classes for the next school year. Our staff will be dedicating a lot of time and effort into creating classes that will be "balanced" and will take into account the individual needs of students as well as the needs of our whole school. Among other things, we will be looking at the grade levels and gender, as well as the social, behavioural, academic and special education needs of all children.

(Continued in next column)

Clothing and footwear:

We are hopeful that the warmer weather is right around the corner! In anticipation of these warmer days, we remind our students about appropriate "spring time" and summer clothing and footwear. Shorts and tops should be of appropriate lengths.

We would also like to remind parents that flip-flops are not the best option for footwear. When children are running, either outside or in the gym, running shoes continue to be the safest option.



H.J. Alexander Community School

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Mr. V. Baglione, Principal
Ms. L. Evans, Vice-Principal
Ms. L. Waite, Office Administrator

Mr. Chris Tonks, School Trustee
Ms. Angela Nardi-Addesa, School Superintendent

(Placement continued...)

Parents will receive information about the teacher and classroom placement for September, when the final Report Card is sent home on June 28th.

We respectfully ask that you consider the following important items, when it comes to the placement of children in classrooms:

- Due to the magnitude of this exercise and the number of students (over 600) to consider, it is a difficult process and we respectfully ask for your support.
- The placement of all students is subject to change in September, when our final enrollment is calculated and reported to the Toronto District School Board.

GREEN CORNER NEWS:

Each year, April 22nd marks the anniversary of Earth Day which began in 1970. This year, the Green Team organized a "Power Off Challenge" to celebrate Earth Day. We encouraged students to spend 6 hours on Saturday, April 22, doing fun things that did NOT require any power. At first, students were wondering how on EARTH they would be able to do this but then we discovered that so many students had so much fun. We had 121 students participate and return their signed ballots and we gave away ten great prizes at the student of the month assembly on Monday, April 24th. It was very exciting. We want to continue to encourage students to power off and spend time doing activities that do not require electricity. Now that the weather is getting warmer, this will be easy to do if you get outside and enjoy outdoor activities. This would be perfect because May is GET OUTSIDE month and the Green Team will be busy planning and enjoying many outdoor activities. We want to ask everyone to help us keep our school grounds clean and put litter in its place in the waste bins. Thank you and have a GreenTastic Day!

The Green Team

LIBRARY NEWS:

All school library books will be due on June 8th. Please remember to return all borrowed items by the due date.

Parent Survey: Before and After School Care for Kindergarten and Grade 6:

The Learning Enrichment Foundation received responses from our current and future JK parents and we did not have enough interest to host a Before and After School program for our Full-Day Kindergarten classes. If you have any questions, please contact the Office. In terms of the Grade 5 to 6 survey that went home, only a handful of parents were interested in Before and After Care for Grade 6. We submitted our responses to the TDSB.

The Arts @ H.J. Alexander!

We are happy to announce that during the month of May and June, we will have 3 professional artists at our school! First of all, the Grade 4 students will be working with a dancer over a five day period. Secondly, the Grade 5s will receive 6 sessions with an Opera singer from the Canadian Opera Company. Finally, we will also have a visual artist working with our Art Club and 30 other students! Of course, we can't forget that many of our Grade 4 and 5 students continue to receive free violin lessons on a weekly basis☺.