

APRIL
2024



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PRINCIPAL NOTES

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Monday, April 1, 2024.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to another newsletter!

Important Information about the Solar Eclipse



Toronto will experience a Solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The coverage in Toronto will be approximately 98-99%. Eclipses like this are rare for any given region. The last total solar eclipse for Toronto was in 2017, and the next one will be in 2144. The TDSB has moved the April PA day to align with the eclipse.

Special Education & Inclusion Summer School 2024



The information below provides a brief outline of the programs that will be offered this summer.

Applications due: May 3, 2024

Session Date: July 2 to July 26, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Program Focus Description:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is once again offering summer school for students who are currently enrolled in Developmental Disability, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Physical Disabilities Intensive Support Programs (ISPs). These half-day programs will be held in-person at various locations throughout the TDSB. Students will be supported to develop their independence through programming in the areas of functional literacy and numeracy skills, activities of daily living, communication, and social skills through a creative curriculum that can include technology, physical fitness, art, music and drama.

Developmental Disability (DD) Programs -

Various Locations across the TDSB

[Elementary DD Application](#)

[Secondary DD Application](#)

[Deaf and Hard of Hearing Application](#)

Sunny View School - 450 Blythwood Rd,
North York, ON - M4N 1A9

[Physical Disability Application](#)

Sunny View School - 450 Blythwood Rd,
North York, ON - M4N 1A9

Please Note: Summer School acceptance letters will be sent by the summer school to the student's Home School for confirmation. Students admitted will be contingent on overall registration numbers and staffing resources. Limited spaces are available. Bus transportation for accepted students is provided and applications are completed by the sending school.

Applications must be submitted by May 3, 2024.

Please share [this flyer](#) with families.

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB: April 2024



The month of April is proudly recognized as Latin-America History Month at the Toronto District School Board. This year the focus and theme of 2024 is: "Weaving Our Legacies: Return to Our Collective Path | Enlazar Nuestros Legados: Volver a Nuestro Camino Colectivo."



Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB – April 2024

Sikh Heritage Month has been proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This year the Sikh Heritage Month's theme is Chardi Kala (The Positive and Uplifted State of Mind). According to Sikh beliefs, Chardi Kala is a state of mind that radiates positive energy, optimistic attitude, strong confidence, and virtuosity. With true belief in the supreme power of the Almighty and the oneness of humanity, this state of mind can pave a way for the well-being and happiness of all.



Ontario Autism Program - Entry to School Program

The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Entry to School (ETC), is a program for young students with ASD where they will build school readiness skills. At the end of the program, children will enter school with a portfolio prepared by the ETS Transition

Facilitators with strategies that were used to support the child in their skill building classroom or childcare. In Toronto, ETC is delivered by the Toronto Autism Network (TAN), which consists of six agencies (Geneva Centre, Surrey Place, Lumenus, Strides, SAAAC and Kerry's Place) and are located across the city. This is a six-month, group-based, skill-building program with a focus on preparing young children with ASD who have never attended school to transition into Kindergarten or Grade 1.

Program options include:

1. Childcare Consultation: Transition Facilitators consult with Childcare staff biweekly.
2. ETS Skill Building Classrooms: Children attend a small group program in a classroom environment that is modelled after an Ontario Kindergarten classroom for 3-hours/day, 5-days/week.

Across both options, the following components are provided:

1. Programs are 6-months in duration.
2. Goals are set around building school readiness skills to support children in getting ready for Kindergarten or Grade 1.
3. At the end of the program, children enter school with a portfolio prepared by the ETS Transition Facilitators. This portfolio outlines the strategies that were used to support the child in their skill building classroom or childcare.
4. The ETS Transition Facilitator is available to consult with the classroom teacher around that portfolio for the first 6-months following the child's transition to school (please see the details below).

Please note that this program is for children who are not registered students in the TDSB. They may not attend school in TDSB for the other half day.

For more information, please contact Lydia Tisma, Coordinator, Autism Services or Wendy Terro, Centrally Assigned Principal, Special Education and Inclusion.



Education Week is going Back to Basics

The theme this year for Education Week is Back to Basics in Education which takes place during the week of May 6 to 10, 2024. The Ministry of Education's goal is to raise awareness about the importance of boosting student success in classrooms with a back-to-basics approach focused on reading, writing, math, and STEM disciplines in both elementary and secondary school.

EQAO Parent and Caregiver Webinars

Parents and/or caregivers can register for upcoming EQAO Webinars. Click here for the link to the EQAO parent webinar registration page: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Upcoming Elementary Parent/Caregiver webinars are scheduled for: April 3 and April 10.

Just a reminder that Gr. 6's will be having their EQAO testing on May 21, 22 and 23.

The grade 3's will be having their EQAO testing on May 27, 28 and 29.

****NEW TDSB WEBPAGE****: Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse Resources for Parents, Caregivers, Guardians, Staff and Youth

We recognize and as staff, continue to promote awareness to staff and students about the critical importance of understanding and addressing the complexities surrounding substance use, misuse and base among youth and the impact of substances on mental health and well-being.

TDSB's website [Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse](#) has information for parents, caregivers, guardians, staff, children and youth which includes tips, identity affirming community agency contacts, and where one can seek supports for youth substance use, misuse and abuse. Please access the [Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse webpage](#) for additional information around support of substance use, misuse and abuse.

If you have any questions, please contact Shameen Sandhu, System Leader, Mental Health and Professional Support Services at mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca



****NEW**** TDSB Webpage: Resources to Address Inappropriate Social Media and A.I. Images For Staff, Parents, Caregivers, Guardians, Children and Youth
Welcome to our latest online resource, [Resources to Address Inappropriate Social Media Images and AI](#), dedicated to helping you, Parents, Caregivers, Guardians, Staff, Children and Youth on navigating the digital safety world safely.

· Explore preventative measures and intervention strategies for inappropriate social media content, sextortion, and sexting.

Find tips for parents, caregivers, guardians, staff, children, and youth on preventing and addressing inappropriate online content.

· Watch a short video from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, offering essential insights into protecting children online.

· If you or someone in your school community encounters issues related to inappropriate social media content or sextortion, please contact your respective Manager of Social Work and Attendance or Caring and Safe Schools for assistance.

As part of our commitment to combating sex trafficking, TDSB's anti-sex trafficking professional development resources and learnings, in alignment with the [TDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Policy P099](#), are below.

- [Review and the TDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Resource Webpage](#)

- AST Information Videos for Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and Staff in collaboration with Community Partners

- Video #1: [Victim Services of Toronto-Learning about AST](#)

Video #2: [Victim Services of Toronto-AST and Stigma](#)

- Anti-Sex Trafficking Information Videos for Parents, Caregivers and Guardians to Support Students with Special Education/Complex Needs Healthy Vs. Un Healthy Relationships

- [Video #1: Relationships](#)

[Video #2: Emotions & Boundaries](#)

[Video #3: Relationships & Abuse](#)

Staffing

Right now we are in the process of planning the classroom organization for next year. As soon as our plan is approved by the superintendent, we will be sharing the set-up for 2024-2025. We have been allotted 21.5 staff for next year. We will discuss staffing and classroom organization in more detail at our April 4th School Council meeting.

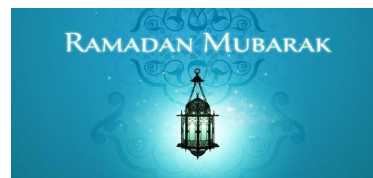


School Council

Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, April 4, at 6:00 pm, in-person, in the staff room. For those new to our school and community, our School Council Chair is

Thanuja Sankar. Mrs. Sujitha Pavananthan is our Treasurer. Mrs. Varsha Singh is our Secretary. We will be planning our Fun Fair, which is happening on Thursday, June 6 at 3:00 pm in the backyard of the school. We will need lots of parent volunteers to help run the events. Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Do come out and find out how you can help.

A reminder that our monthly Pizza lunch is always on the last Thursday of the month. Thank you, Mrs. Sankar, our School Council Chair, for arranging and delivering those lunches to the students.



Ramadan 2024

Monday, March 11, 2024, marks the first week of Ramadan, one of the holiest months of Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 or 30 consecutive days - as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar. During Ramadan, Muslims make every effort to recite the Qur'an, participate in extra prayers, engage in charity, and complete good deeds to reach a higher level of spirituality. Once the month is over, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast with family and friends, wearing special clothes and sharing gifts for up to three days. Ramadan ends on April 9th. Eid is celebrated on April 10th.

To all those who celebrate...

Eid Mubarak!

That's all for now... Feel free to call the office anytime if you have questions or concerns at: 416-396-6420.

Sincerely,

T. Dillinger

Principal

Lord Roberts Jr. P.S.

