

OCTOBER
2023

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PUBLIC SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL NOTES

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving. Fortunately re-organization is behind us and our classes are set for the year – no more changes. Although that isn't always the case with staffing...

Staffing

We have some new staff this year. Ms Storms is in the JK/SK room B. Ms Fraser is teaching gr. 1/2. Ms. Lai is our Music teacher. We are happy to have Ms Akhter back as the ECE for Room B, in Ms Storms' class. Our latest staff member is Mr. Karan Atri, our additional ESL .5 AM Resource teacher. We have Ms. Nandalal as the new LTO teacher in former Ms Cheung's JK/SK class, Room 2. Congratulations to Ms Huang, who started off the year as the ESL Resource/Librarian teacher but recently obtained a 1-year position as an ESL itinerant teacher. She should be returning to Lord Roberts in 2024-2025. But for now, we are working on hiring a LTO ESL/Librarian for the rest of the year.

School Council

We had our School Council elections on Thursday, Oct. 5. I am happy to announce our new Council: Ms Thanuja Sankar was once again elected as our Chair (it was unanimous). Ms Sugitha Pavanathan is our Treasurer. Ms Varsha Singh is our secretary. Congratulations to the new council for 2023-2024! Meetings will take place the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm, in-person, in the staff room. We hope to see you at our meetings.



Diwali

In 2023, the festival of lights, Diwali, also known as Deepawali in many parts of the world, will be celebrated on November 12. However, Diwali is not limited to just one day, as it involves preparations well before the main day. Typically, the festival spans five days, with each day having its unique significance and associated rituals. Diwali is a Hindu festival of lights that symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the triumph of light over darkness. Happy Diwali to all of our members who celebrate Diwali.

Raise a Reader

K-Grade 8 TDSB families (including K-2 French Immersion) are invited to attend a zoom meeting on November 8th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Strategies, activities, and routines will be explored that contribute to reading growth and building interest and joy

for reading. Please see the Raise a Reader Part 2 [flyer](#). These are amazing opportunities for families to come together to support literacy at home and school.

Early French Immersion (JK Entry) Application Information and Timelines

The entry point to Early French Immersion is Junior Kindergarten. Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten Entry) Application Deadline - For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program, we offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in JK). To apply to the Early French Immersion Program for September 2024, applications must be completed online between November 6 and December 1, 2023. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. For related information, please visit: [Early French Immersion](#) or the [Application Process](#). Interested families can apply via the [Application Link](#).

At any time, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french to view a [video](#) that provides information about the TDSB French Language programs as well as the application and placement process in the Early French Immersion and the Middle French Immersion programs. More information about the Early Immersion Program is available in [22 languages](#), or visit the [Information Sessions](#) website for related links to join a live Zoom webinar about the application process.

Halloween 2023: Cultures Are Not Costumes

Each year, Halloween is marked in a variety of ways in school communities across the TDSB. Students can choose whether or not to participate in Halloween-related activities.

As TDSB schools prepare for this day, there are often questions and concerns about Halloween costumes. To support safe, welcoming, and dynamic learning spaces, educators are encouraged to engage students in critical conversations about cultural appropriation, stereotypes, and caricature. This includes reminding students and staff that certain costumes are viewed as offensive, inappropriate and/or discriminatory to many different cultures/peoples, and as a result can cause harm to members of that community and the TDSB community.

Additionally, school communities are

reminded that it is important to be aware of the potential negative and triggering impact violent images and/or scenarios can have on students and families with varying lived experiences and backgrounds.

To assist with engaging in these conversations, the TDSB's [Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#), the [Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement](#) and the [Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Department](#) have resources to guide staff. In accordance with board policies conversations are guided by the values of respect and human dignity.

Essential Skills Upgrading Open for Registration

Free classes to upgrade adults' foundational skills, such as reading, writing, numeracy and digital literacy, are still open for fall registration! Essential Skills Upgrading, operated by the Board's Community Services Unit, welcomes adults (19+) seeking to further their education, improve their job opportunities, and reach their personal goals. We offer our classes and workshops in multiple locations across the city. Please visit www.upgrademyskills.ca to learn more about the program.

Community Connected Experiential Learning Grant

An application for our CCEL (Community Connected Experiential Learning Grant) has been submitted. We are proposing to get a grant for two aeroponic growing towers, so that the students can plant veggies (leafy greens) indoors. This is a STEM project involving the Kindies and the Grade 6 students (Learning Buddy Opportunity) for now and we hope to eventually have the school-wide community involved. If we are granted the funds, we can spend the money on some technology, guest speakers, field trips and we hope to host a school-wide event. We are also trying to connect this project with the Urban Indigenous Community as we know honouring the land and their plant ancestors is an important part of our learning and now part of the curriculum.

We will know if we are approved by November 6th., so let's keep our fingers crossed!

Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB 2023

November is [Indigenous Education Month](#) at the Toronto District School Board!

Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

It is important to remember to center First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This

month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity. The TDSB is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Below is a list of significant dates throughout the month of November:

- Treaties Recognition Week is the first full week of November, November 5-11.
- November 7 is International Inuit Day.
- November 8 is National Indigenous Veterans Day.
- November 16 is Louis Riel Day in Ontario.

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre will host virtual events to support students and staff to learn from Indigenous Peoples.

Important Dates

The School Council meets on Thursday, November 2 at 6:00 pm in the staff room.

Just a reminder that report cards go home on November 13. Interviews will be during the late afternoon/early evening of November 16 and for the morning of November 17th. *November 17 is a PA Day. There is no school for the students on that Friday.*

There is a "re-take" day for photos on November 23. On that day, class photos are taken as well.

That's it for now, everyone... Happy Hallowe'en!

Sincerely,

T. Dillinger
Principal
Lord Roberts Jr. P.S.



