

MVMS Newsletter

April, 2021

April's CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

Co-operation

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

Principal's Message:

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the Acting Principal of Milne Valley MS. It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to serve such a wonderful community.

I would also like to personally thank Ms. Moore for all her hard work and deep commitment to the Milne Valley community, as she will be missed greatly.

With over 17 years as an educator, I have served and experienced a number of schools within the Toronto District School Board - most recently as Vice-Principal for 4 years at Bliss Carman Middle School. I am looking forward to working with our students, staff, and parents/guardians to further contribute to our school's achievements and success. Together we will strive to continue to provide exemplary programs for our students and ensure they have a variety of learning opportunities to experience.

I thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping us make our school a welcoming and safe learning environment for all.

I am excited and look forward to meeting each and everyone of you as the year progresses.

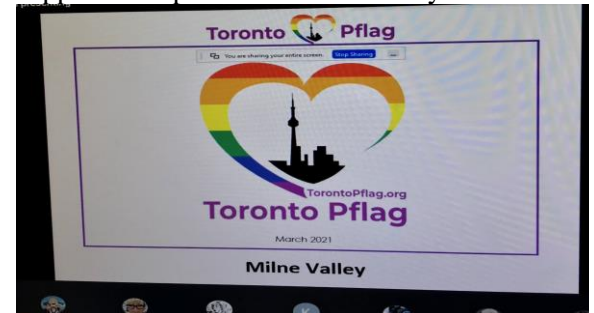
Thank you.

Jim Stamatopoulos

Acting Principal

Our staff continued to provide engaging learning opportunities for our students this month.

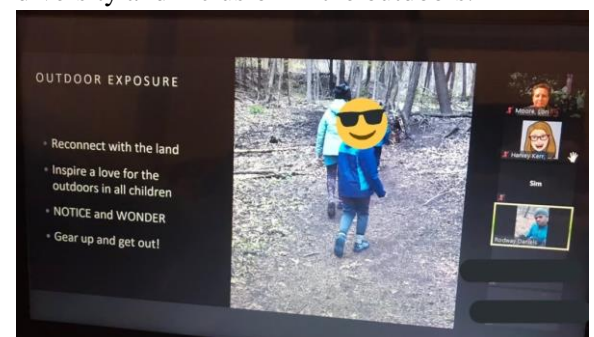
Students in grades 6 and 7 had a virtual presentation from Toronto Pflag focusing on allyship and how their words and actions can support their peers and their identity.



Our outdoor physical education classes provided ongoing opportunities for students to build skills, remain active and learn about different physical activities and sports.



Our families also had the opportunity to participate in the MVMS Speaker Series hosted by the Milne Valley School Council. In March, Rodway Daniels, an outdoor educator and Milne Valley parent, shared his experiences about diversity and inclusion in the outdoors.



Upcoming Events

April 2021

- 2 Good Friday – No School
- 5 Easter Monday – No School
- 12 – 16 – April Break
- 22- Earth Day
- 27 School Council Meeting

May 2021

- 24 Victoria Day – No School
- 29 School Council Meeting

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call: 416-395-3951.

Kindly leave a message with your child's full name, homeroom number and reason for absence.

You may also contact SchoolMessenger (automated call-out system) directly at 1-833-250-2290 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the current day or a future date.



CO-OPERATION

Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on CO-OPERATION.

What does co-operation mean to you?

Your child can show co-operation by:

- playing and working peacefully with others in the family
- listening to adults and being respectful of their requests
- working with others to complete a task and/or achieve a goal
- helping to find a compromise when there are family disagreements

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What is co-operation, and what does it mean to be co-operative in a family?
- What are some things you do at home or at school that require co-operation?

Projects to do together:

- Make a list of things that your family does that require co-operation.
- Watch for situations on television that demonstrate co-operative behaviour and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted co-operatively with each other.
- Work together on chores at a time when all members of the family can work together to finish them.
- Complete a fun project that involves all family members (e.g., putting together a jigsaw puzzle, making a homemade pizza).

Encouraging co-operation in your child:

- Praise your child when he or she is co-operative.

Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.



MVMS Speaker Series

Milne Valley School Council will be hosting another special guest speaker as part of a presentation series, and you are invited to join us! Our next speaker is a Harvard graduate and expert on Leadership. Please mark this on your calendar and [register today](#) to reserve your spot and receive reminders.



Examining Unconscious Bias

Fundamentals of anti-oppressive practice

April 29, 2021: 6:45PM (EST) / School Council Meeting immediately following speaker

Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB

During the month of April, the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. Did you know that "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second-, and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin? As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario. This month, we honour

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their legacy by recognizing the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."



TDSB Honours International Day of Pink 2021

Wednesday, April 14th is the International Day of Pink. The TDSB supports this important day by encouraging staff and students to wear pink to raise awareness to stop discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia, and transphobia. It's also a way for the TDSB to show its support and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance.

International Day of Pink is celebrated every year at TDSB schools. It's more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity, it's also a commitment to creating a more inclusive and diverse world that is open-minded and respectful. Follow or join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #TDSBpink!

Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB



Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of April. This year our theme is Growing our Future: The Legacy of Sikh Farmers.

Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the turn of the twentieth century. They have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and their traditions and culture continue to be a vibrant part of every aspect of life of Canadians today. This includes many Sikh families who are engaged in farming throughout Canada. We are inviting all TDSB community, students and staff to join us in recognizing and celebrating Sikh Heritage Month and the many contributions of Sikh Canadians.

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB - April 2021

During the month of April, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Latin-America History Month. In April 2016, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Latin-America History Month. The motion was a result of advocacy on behalf of TDSB students, educators, parents/caregivers as well as community organizations within LAEN-The Latinx, Afro-Latin-America Abya Yala Education Network. Together, hundreds of community members called for the TDSB to take up the work of addressing social inequities harming TDSB school families with ancestry from the Lands that are known in Western mainstream culture as Latin-America.

Since its creation in 2016, the planning committee has grown in its breadth, depth and scope, searching every year for more intentional ways of working in solidarity with Indigenous nations of Turtle Island (Canada) and

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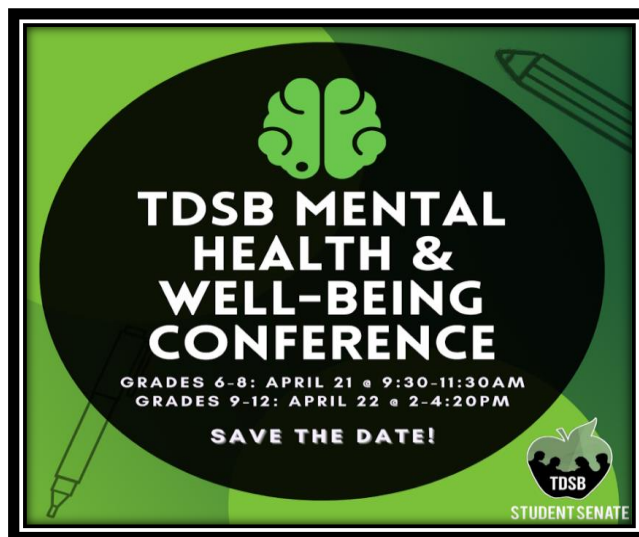
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ways to bring Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators and families together to decolonize understandings of Latin-America. The Latin-America History volunteer planning committee is comprised of TDSB students, staff, parents/caregivers, community educators and activist. Committee members are pursuing intentional partnerships with the TDSB Urban Indigenous Education Centre, Dodem Kanonhsa among other community partners to ensure that there is a collective building of initiatives to achieve healthy, transformative, restorative, equitable, caring, culturally responsive and reflective educational spaces for all.

This year's theme is entitled, "(DeColonizing) Latin-America History Month & Beyond: Learning together about our collective pasts, alongside our relatives of today, the Eagle, the Quetzal and the Condor." Through the representation of the Eagle, the Quetzal and the Condor, April marks our efforts to go deeper into the histories/herstories/their stories that have not been told through mainstream education narratives about Latin-America. The visual for our month depicts the coming together of the Eagle representing the Lands of North America, the Quetzal representing the Lands of Central America and the Condor representing the Lands of South America. During the month, we will learn about the large extent of diversity of human experiences found within Central and South America and those who claim ancestry to these Lands. Connections to Indigenous sovereignty and solidarity with other BIPOC communities within Turtle Island (Canada) will also be uplifted and highlighted as key elements of decolonizing education on Latin-America. Decolonizing Latin-America refers to a deep dive into teachings that will reveal many factual, but not wide known truths, such as why it is that Latin-America can also be referred to as Afro-Latin-America, Amerrique, Abya Yala and Pachamama, to name a few. The TDSB community at large will have the opportunity to learn about the diversity in languages as well, with over 500 languages spoken in Latin-America, including Popti, Garifuna, Quechua, Kuna, Nahuatl, Aymara Guarani, Spanish and French.

Continuing in our equity journey as a system and specifically connected to learning and unlearning narratives about Latin-America, the TDSB staff, community members and partners of the volunteer planning committee will curate and hold space for

students to engage in artistic expressions, virtual youth-to-youth forums, virtual community circles, as well as offer the co-creation of culturally responsive and reflective curriculum, staff professional development sessions, data gathering related to addressing student and family needs arising from covid-19 and more! We aim to grow stronger as a TDSB community by sharing our stories of resilience, struggle and success, in relation to intentionally honouring and co-creating with the many territories and peoples over which the Eagle, the Quetzal and the Condor fly.



SAVE THE DATE! TDSB's Student Senate Mental Health & Well-Being Conference – April 21, 2021

The TDSB's Student Senate is hosting a virtual Mental Health & Well-Being Conference for students in Grades 6 – 12. The conference will be taking place on Wednesday, April 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for students in Grades 6 – 8.

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