



**North Preparatory Public School
1100 Spadina Rd
Toronto, Ontario**

March 2016



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We've had a mild winter this year, but we're all *still* hoping that spring will arrive soon. We are all looking forward to more sunshine and milder temperatures.

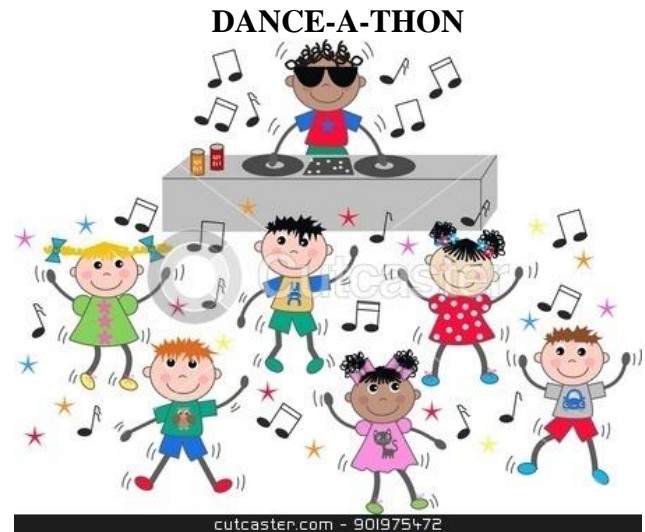
February was grey and wet, but we kept our spirits high with some wonderful events such as our annual Valentine's Dance-a-thon that took place on February 11th. Thank you to our School Council for organizing this wonderful event. Students look forward to it every year. There were many Valentine's Day parties and our Valentine's Day Mail service that ran for the whole week leading up to Valentine's day. Thank you to Ms. Hill and our ESL students for organizing this event that promotes writing for a genuine purpose.

Students participated in our third skating day of the year and had a great time. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for coming out to help tie skates and to go on the ice with the students. We have one more skating day coming up March 24th in the afternoon.

This February a number of our junior students took on the challenge of participating in our school's speech competition. The winner of the competition was Mitchell Wangui in grade 6 who spoke passionately about Equal Rights For Everyone. We would like to congratulate Mitchell for a job well done!

This past month, we also celebrated Chinese New Year by having our own Chinese New Year Parade led by our grade 6s and welcomed the year of the monkey.

On February 26th, we had a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new kindergarten playground. We are thrilled with the results.



Congratulations to all the students who successfully raised money for the school! We had lots of parent volunteers who came out to help, as we usually do with these wonderful events. Thank you to Jill Fisher and Zohar Gilula for organizing the event and to all the parents who came to help or who just dropped in to dance with the kids! Over \$3,000 was raised for the school! Thank you, students, parents, and everyone in our community for making this fun event so successful!



SPEECH COMPETITION

North Prep students in grades 4-6 had an opportunity to compete in a school Speech Competition. Congratulations to all the participants who worked on their own time with some coaching support from Ms. Novak and Ms. Firestone to participate in this event.

Congratulations to: Jenna Chen, Zoe Friedman, Jordan Odorico, Aisha Maralit, Yuval Segev Livne, Alicia Goodman, Kiarash Yassemi and Michelle Wangui. Well done!

Mitchell Wangui in grade 6 won at the school level and went on to represent the school at the Family of Schools Level.

Congratulations Michelle! Way to go! Thank you to all the teachers, Ms. Novak, Ms. Firestone, Ms. Hill and Ms. Morgan for their support with this wonderful event.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

This year, the Lunar New Year is the Year of the Monkey. As we do every year, the Grade 6s led our school in a parade. They had made a monkey head for the occasion.

Classes made noisemakers and brought their good cheer, and noisily (and happily) paraded through our hallways and in to the gym. The parade ended in the gym where the students had an opportunity to watch a Martial Arts presentation presented by the grade 5s and Mr. Quach.



KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

On Friday, February 26th we celebrated the grand opening of our new kindergarten playground! We know that outdoor play is critical for the full and healthy development of children. This playground will provide our students with opportunities to develop physically, socially, creatively and to learn naturally through play. Our kindergarten students will have a wonderful playground to play in for years to come. In order to make a project like this possible, the support and involvement of many people is needed. As a result, we'd like to thank the teachers and ECEs as well as the parents through the school council for their input into the playground. We'd also like to thank our Trustee Jennifer Arp, our Superintendent, Peter Chang as well as our facilities leaders Ron Alymar and Bill McIntyre for their support behind the scenes. We are all thrilled with the results!!





STEEL DRUM PRESENTATION

On February 3rd we kicked off African Heritage Month with a Steel Pan presentation by Joy Lapps, a Steel Pan Artist, Arts Educator and Composer. The student learned about the origins, the construction and the evolution of the steelpans and they were treated to a beautiful musical performance. Thank you to Naomi Barr, chair of the School Council Enrichment Committee for organizing this presentation for the school.



ADDITIONAL P.A. DAY THIS YEAR

An additional Professional Activity Day (P.A. Day) has been added to the calendars of all schools in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

All TDSB schools will have a newly designated P.A. Day on Friday, April 15, 2016. This additional P.A. Day has been mandated by the Ministry of Education as a result of provincial labour negotiations.

All TDSB schools will be closed to students on Friday, April 15, 2016. On this day, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Minister of Education.

Most Before-and-After School Programs will offer full-day care for children currently

registered in their program on the P.A. Day. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to speak to their local child care provider for further details.

The remainder of the 2015-2016 school year calendar remains unaffected. Details on the school year calendar can be found on the TDSB website at: www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar.



TDSB EARTH HOUR 2016

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH FROM 2:00 – 3:00

At school we'll be using as little electricity as possible during the hour in the office, in the halls, in the classrooms, in the library, in the gym. Where possible, schools will also be reducing their electricity usage over the weekend as well.

More information is available on the EcoSchools website -

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/Resource/sandGuides/EarthHour.aspx>

MARCH BREAK



This year, March Break runs from March 14th – 18th inclusive. This is the time of year when many people need and want a break. Winter has been around for what feels like ages, and everyone is craving longer days and more sunshine. While some families choose this time to travel and visit warmer climes, many people

also choose to stay at home. There are lots of places in the city that prepare for March Break, running dynamic programs for children, and family activities that have something for everyone.

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM):

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en>,

The Ontario Science Centre:

<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/>,

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO):

<http://www.ago.net/>,

Soul Pepper Theatre: <http://www.soulpepper.ca/>,

The Distillery District:

<http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/>, St.

Lawrence Market:

<http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/>, along with many other great locations within the GTA, like Riverdale Farm, Enoch Turner School House, The Toronto Zoo, The Hockey Hall of Fame and The Brickworks.

Although most of these programs require an admission fee, some are free and geared towards family and children. We hope that everyone has a great time for their week off !

HIGH WATER LEVELS BRINGS INCREASED RISKS



The Toronto and Region Conservation monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.

Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

One of the best parts of living in our community is the variety of activities we can enjoy in our parks and public spaces all year round. With spring and March Break around the corner and the days getting longer, students may be spending more time outside. This is a good time to remind everyone to take extra care in enjoying all the outdoors can offer.

As you know, we are fortunate to have a number of safety measures, programs, and policies that contribute to a safe and caring school. However, most incidents happen away from school and outside school hours. All parents, students and staff are reminded of the need to be aware and alert at all times, even in the most ordinary and everyday routines. School staff regularly speak to students about how to stay safe. I know that you too will want to help ensure our community is as safe as possible. Here are some tips that you may find helpful when discussing safety with your child:

- always walk with a buddy to and from school
- always tell your parents where you are
- never accept gifts from strangers and never approach or enter a stranger's car; adults have no acceptable reason to offer a ride or to ask children for directions or assistance
- if a car is following you, change directions and run
- when help is needed, go to the nearest store or school, the home of a friend or run towards a group of people or a parent with children
- know your name, address and phone number

- know that police officers are friends and can help you
- tell your parents or teacher whenever someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe; **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.**

Teachers also periodically review street and traffic safety with our students. We ask that you reinforce these safety messages with your children as well. Below is a list of tips that might be helpful to review:

- stop, look, and listen for traffic
- only cross at corners and crosswalks
- never run into the street
- obey crossing signals
- walk on sidewalks
- where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible facing traffic.

For those who drive, please take extra care on the roads, especially in areas where children might be present.

Parents can help further by keeping school contact information up-to-date, including cell and business numbers. It's important for our staff to have this information to know who to contact in cases of emergencies.

Working together, we can make our communities safer for our children.



EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2016

We are proud that our staff are among the most dedicated and qualified in the world. Their focus, dedication and commitment help build strong healthy relationships and allow our school communities to thrive.

We want to recognize the great work of outstanding staff across the system. Those who

go above and beyond to support our five strategic directions.

As part of our Years of Action, we are committed to inspiring and supporting our staff and recognizing, celebrating and demonstrating best practice is critical to that.

We invite you (staff, students, parents, community members) to nominate a TDSB staff member or team whose work has made a difference in your life or those around you.

Nominate someone for an Excellence Award today. Nomination deadline is Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 4 p.m.

The award ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 5050 Yonge St. Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/excellence.



PARENTS AS PARTNERS CONFERENCE 2016

Register today for the 2016 TDSB Parents as Partners Conference. This year, the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Partnership Committee and Model Schools for Inner Cities' Parent Academies have partnered to bring one inclusive conference to the Allstream Centre on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

For more information and to register, please visit www.parentsaspartners.ca. All parents/guardians of TDSB students are welcome. Register today - space is limited!