



From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers and Students

Withrow Bulletin

Special Dates

May 2—Music Monday @ 5 pm

May 19 -
JK/SK Concert @ 5 pm

May 23—Victoria Day

May 26—Pizza Lunch

May 28 —Fun Fair

June 2—Home and School @ 7 pm

June 9—Withrow Concert @ 7 pm

June 10—PA Day

June 13—Primary Choir sings at the Blue Jays Game

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Terry Fox Run



The Terry Fox Foundation



My dad loved to play the bagpipes. I recall hearing them through an open window one Spring day in grade four at my neighbourhood school, a couple of blocks away from the house. Randomly opening his three ring binder of sheet music last Christmas, I discovered a photocopy of an undated handwritten march called "A Salute to Terry Fox" written by the late I. M. Downie, a pipe major in Fredericton. Perhaps the Saint Andrews Pipe Band played it when Terry ran through the city in early June, 1980 on his Marathon of Hope. I checked with the Pipe Band, the papers, and the Internet to no avail. I then emailed the Fox organization, requesting someone check Terry's entry for that day. Fred Fox, Terry Fox's older brother, emailed back to say that Terry met the Mayor and that Frederictonians were nice people, but he didn't write about bagpipes. It remains a mystery.

I learned that Fred planned to visit Ontario in April and expressed an interest in dropping by the school. He was intrigued by the bagpipe music because of its uniqueness. I pounced on the idea, especially since the September run needed to be rescheduled anyway.

On Monday, April 11, Fred gave a 25 minute engaging slide presentation. Afterwards, he walked with the students around Withrow Park.

I would like to thank the parents who volunteered as course safety marshals, keeping students on the sidewalk and cheering them on. This year's run raised \$5,461.10. Since they began in 2003, the Withrow School Community has raised \$66,954.18 for cancer research.

J. MacMillan

Bringing Scooters to School

As the weather outside improves, more and more students are bringing their scooters to school. It's great that children are choosing to be active and walking or riding to school! Storing large numbers of scooters creates issues for us, however. Some students are riding their scooters in the building and on property and in other cases, scooters have been damaged.

We are therefore asking that if students want to ride their scooters to school that **scooters should be locked at the fence outside and not brought indoors or used on school property** during school times from 8:30—3:45.

Teachers will be providing reminders about this to students in the coming weeks.

Thank you for supporting our decision about scooters here at Withrow.





Pedestrian Safety - Safety Tips for Parents

**SAFETY
FIRST**

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

- Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.
- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.
- Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.
- Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.
- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.
- Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.
- Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).
- Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

Reprinted with the permission of Safe Kids Canada. Visit www.safekidscanada.ca for more safety tips on keeping children



Placements for Next Year—Parent Consultation Form

Every year we give parents an opportunity to share their preferences for next year. This is simply a consultation, we cannot guarantee anything. Last year we were able to honour about 90% of requests that were reasonable. Please keep in mind that given that we have 600 students we are unable to take 600 personal emails that detail complex stories to explain their personal issues. Too much information is not helpful.

We have created a simple form for parents to fill out. Here is the link to the consultation form.

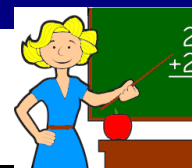
<http://goo.gl/forms/75IGxhq92F>

We are asking parents to determine **ONLY ONE priority: a straight grade, a split grade, a friend or a child to be separated from.** With 600 students it is impossible to accommodate more than one preference. One of the reasons we create split classes is to ensure we have a greater number of classes to separate children. Separating children has become the biggest request. If requesting a friend, please ensure the other family is in agreement. Frequently we get opposing messages from parents and are left looking like the bad guys when the parent was not in agreement. A friend request must be supported by the other parent. Please find this information out first. Please request only one friend. If you request more than one friend, the first name you request will be the only one we consider.

You will be receiving an email, sent to all parents with the link. You have until Friday May 6 to respond. This is exactly a week. Our placement meetings begin on Monday May 9. **Please DO NOT MAKE ANY TEACHER REQUESTS** as we cannot honour them. Also all teachers will have access to this form. **The form will close on Friday May 6 at 4 pm.**

We have a number of teachers returning back to Withrow next year and the staff will look different and teachers will have different teaching assignments. We will not be able to confirm teacher assignments until the end of the school year.

Classrooms for September 2016



English	French Immersion
Classroom	Classrooms
JK	SK
JK	SK
JK/SK	Grade 1
Grade 1-2	Grade 1
Grade 1-2	Grade 1-2
Grade 2-3	Grade 2
Grade 3-4	Grade 2-3
Grade 4	Grade 2-3
Grade 5-6	Grade 3
Grade 5-6	Grade 3-4
	Grade 4
	Grade 5-6
	Grade 5-6
	Grade 5-6



Classroom Organization for Next Year

We would like to thank all the parents who came out to our parent evening on March 24 to better understand how we create our classroom models for next year. We had over 40 parents attend this year.

For next year, since our numbers for primary English decreased, we lost 1 classroom teacher in the primary English division. The classes are so small that we can actually create 3 classes of 20.

For next year, we are mandated to have two grade 3-4 combination classes by the Board- in both the French and English divisions with a maximum of 23 in these classes. The Board must comply to Ministry regulations of ensuring 90 % of Primary classes capped at 20 students, and therefore, the Board is mandating the 3-4 combinations. Many schools are experiencing the same issue. As a result, fewer straight classes in the primary division are created and caps of 20 in the classes are maintained. This unfortunately drives the model. Since our numbers in the English division are smaller, there are very few options we can explore.

Here are some of the ministry parameters we had to work with. Primary classes in grades 1,2 and 3 could not have more than 20 students. Two classes of grade 3-4 would have a maximum of 23 - the actually split numbers are decided for us and we are unable to modify them. There are no caps for kindergarten and junior grades.

Therefore in the primary English division, we could not create any straight grades. We were able to create a few straight grades in the primary French division since our numbers are greater.

Although we were able to create large straight classes in the junior English division, we opted for combination classes with slightly smaller numbers. One of the biggest reasons for this is to distribute challenging behaviours amongst different classes instead of placing them all in one class. Ensuring we have numerous spots to place children is the key. We now have two different classes to place children for grade 4, grade 5 and grade 6

In the French division, we created three grade 5 and 6 combination classes, to ensure we have numerous places to place children and spread out challenging behaviours to make those classes more manageable. It worked really well this year in the grade 5/6 French Division and we want to continue that for next year. Most important, if we were to create some straight grades and combination classes for grades 5 and 6, the number of requests for straight classes would be overwhelming and we would face challenges in placing the students in only one combination class. This way, it is equitable.

Thanks to all the parents who came out and participated in the rich discussions and acknowledged the difficulty of creating classroom models with the parameters imposed by the ministry and the board.





Music Monday at Withrow

Withrow will be celebrating Music Monday alongside hundreds of other schools across Canada next Monday, May 2, 2016. Music Monday is the world's largest event raising awareness for Music Education organized by the Canadian Coalition for Music Education. At Withrow, we will celebrate with end-of-the year performances by our 175 + students involved in our Prep (Grade 1) Choir, Primary Choir, Orff Team and Recorder Orchestra, as well as a performance by our Junior Choir. We will perform once during the school day for our peers and again after school for our families. Withrow P.S. will be accepting donations at the concert toward the Regent Park School of Music who provide accessible extra-curricular music programs to children in our city (suggested donations \$2/ person will be collected at the door). Information has already been sent home regarding this performance via email and hard copies. Please email sarah.parker@tdsb.on.ca if you have yet to receive information about this performance ASAP.

Please Note: Due to space restrictions, only families of students performing are invited to the performance afterschool.



Let's Go Withrow... to the Blue Jays Game!

We are thrilled to announce that our Junior Choir will be performing the Canadian and American national anthems at Toronto Blue Jays' game on Monday, June 13, 2016. Our students have earned this amazing opportunity through their hard work learning, rehearsing, and preparing a recording for review by the Game Department Committee. Tickets for this event will be \$24.75 (a group rate) in the 239 and 240 sections of the Roger's Centre. Tickets will be available for purchase starting the week of May 9, 2016. Tickets sales will be open first to students and their families in the Junior Choir. We will open sales to all of Withrow starting the week of May 16. Details will be communicated through our Withrow School Distribution list.

Ticket Sales Dates

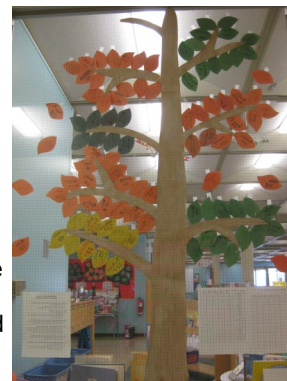
Week of May 9, 2016 - Ticket sales only for Withrow Junior Choir students and their families

Week of May 16, 2016 - Ticket sales for all Withrow students and their families

Library and Learning Commons

Forest of Reading

Congratulations to all of the students who earned one of the almost 100 leaves on our Silver Birch tree this year. Special mention goes to Maya R and Riley in Room 338, who each read more than 25 books and each have 5 leaves on the tree. Eve in Room 342 read 20 books and earned 4 leaves. Bravo!



Here are the favourite books of the students at Withrow:
Blue Spruce (K-3) - *If Kids Ruled the World* by Linda Bailey
Silver Birch Express (Gr 3-6) - *The End of the Line* by Sharon E. McKay
Silver Birch Fiction (4-6) - *The Swallow* by Charis Cotter
Silver Birch Non-Fiction (4-6) - *When the Worst Happens: Extraordinary Tales of Survival* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi
Le prix Peuplier (K-3) - *La potion magique* by Joannie Beaudet
Le prix Tamarac Express (3-6) - *Les Mutamatak: Les Superhéros* by Karine Gottot

The results of Withrow's votes have been sent to the Ontario Library Association, the organizers of the Forest of Reading program. They will tabulate the votes from across the province and announce Ontario's winners at the Festival of Trees at Harbourfront in the middle of May. Next week, the leaves on our tree will be put in a box and twenty lucky winners will be chosen to attend the festival and see who wins the awards. Good luck!

A huge thank you goes out to all of the staff who acted as experts for this year's books. For the past few months they have been having great discussions with students about the books they have read. Withrow's program would not have been possible without their contribution.

Overdue books

Many of our students have had books overdue for a long time. A reminder that students are allowed to keep their books for two weeks, after which time they must be returned. Students with outstanding books are unable to borrow new ones. Please encourage your children to be responsible for their library books. If you find some in your house this weekend, please send them back to school with your child on Monday.

Happy reading! Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian



Outdoor Play

In gathering readings for this month's topic of our Kindergarten's World, we are reminded of how dramatically our ideas of Outdoor Play have developed, and how exciting this aspect of our programs have become. Outdoor time previously (before FDK) may have been a time that was considered an 'add on', or a block that was 'supervised' and not integrated into our programs. As we grow further into FDK at Withrow we realize that one of the best things about FDK is the long blocks of time that are available to us to deeply explore OUTDOOR PLAY. Our time outdoors, be it in our playgrounds, field, gardens, the pit, at the forest at Riverdale Park or the hills of Withrow Park, is rich with student connection and engagement, environmental stewardship, natural curiosities, confidence building, problem solving, risk taking, exercise, stamina building, self regulating The list keeps on going!

Attached are two articles that go into detail about the rationale behind various kinds of outdoor play and learning that children experience through it.

Mr. Bolduc and Ms. Kingstone

[Importance of Outdoor Play](http://bit.ly/1VFG3wI) @ <http://bit.ly/1VFG3wI>

[Early years vision and values for outdoor play](http://bit.ly/1WerBLb) @ <http://bit.ly/1WerBLb>

Mark Your Calendars!

Music Monday—

Monday May 2 @ 4 pm

Kindergarten Concert

Thursday May 19, 2016

5 - 6 pm *note day change

Withrow

Spring Concert

Thursday June 9, 2016

7 - 8:30 pm

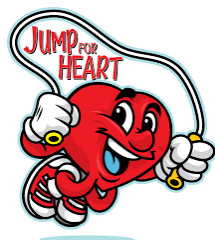


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Jump Rope for Heart

Withrow students had a blast during our 2nd annual Jump Rope for Heart day. On Friday, April 29th, students and staff enjoyed an afternoon outside in the sun. There was skipping using long and short ropes, hula-hooping, a relay race, an obstacle course, and plenty of dancing! Special thanks to

our Grade 6 helpers for leading stations and to teachers who supervised and joined in on the fun. Most of all, thank you to the Withrow community for your generous donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Please return your donation envelopes by Monday, May 2nd. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year!

Caitlin McAllister & Ashley Nickels

