

WITHROW AVENUE JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
Safe Schools Plan, 2015-2016

Safe Schools Committee members:

Serge Parravano (P)
Dan Fisher (VP)
Barbara Miller (Social Worker)
Donna Palmer (Parent)
Laura Richter (Parent)
Michael Riley (Parent)
Teacher reps to be added by first meeting

Initiatives to develop a more inclusive, safe and caring environment:

Safety Assemblies (September)

- The VP delivered presentations to both the primary and junior students in order to teach students the basic rules and expectations at Withrow.

Safety presentations from Toronto Police (November)

- Our community safety liaison officer delivered community safety presentations to all classes. Topics varied by age, and included traffic safety, on-line conduct, healthy relationships, and bullying.

Roots of Empathy (Nov.-Jan.)

- One of our grade 1 classes "adopts" a young baby in order to learn about human development and to teach empathy to students via visits with the baby.

Character Education (year-round)

- All classes teach character education each month. Some classroom teachers recognise students who demonstrate character traits by presenting the students with monthly certificates. Other teachers provide character education in their own way/style. Library displays and resources supplement classroom teaching.

Safe and Caring Committee (year round)

- This committee is comprised of teachers, parents and community partners who develop, implement, and monitor the school's plan at meetings throughout the year.

Withrow Cares (December)

- Every classroom works to create care packages (food, clothing, and other items) which are donated to an outside social agency, benefitting those in need.

Yard supervision (year round)

- High student teacher-student ratio on yard at all times – teachers are visible in vests, and monitoring situations. Staff do close to the maximum (75 min) of duty per week. The VP is also on the yard, starting and modelling appropriate play and helping students to manage conflicts.

Garden & Environment Club (spring, fall)

- Students work with a garden educator to learn how to care for our Earth and how our actions can affect each other and the living planet.

Equity Book Bins (year round)

- Specific to equity issues, these resources are shared among classrooms to use as part of the literacy program.

Community Circles/Tribes (year-round)

- Non-violent communicating strategies are practiced in classrooms as a form of conflict resolution and community building.

Anti-Bullying Day of Pink (TBA)

- School-wide activities including "Pink Day", videotaping and sharing real bullying stories, classroom activities on positive words, and assemblies for the entire school are planned.

Equity Committee presentations (year round)

- A committee of parents and administrators meet regularly to plan a variety of cultural arts performances at Withrow in order to develop an appreciation of a range of viewpoints and cultural perspectives.

Me to We Club

- Students work with teacher supervision to run a variety of fundraising and awareness raising campaigns to benefit less fortunate children around the world and help children to understand how others live.

Playground PALS (year-round)

- Junior students are trained in conflict resolution and facilitation. These students run games and activities on the playground for primary students during recess and lunch hour.

Winter Student Safety Assemblies (January)

- Teachers meet with all students to review safe play on the yard and go over playground expectations.

Mindfulness in the Classroom (year-round)

- Teachers have all been provided with "Mind Up": a classroom resource for teaching self-regulation through mindfulness. Teachers have been released to explore teaching these skills to students.

Second Steps kits (year-round)

- We recently purchased the updated version of Second Steps social skills kits for teachers to use in their classrooms. This program teaches students how to be a good friend, how to manage anger, and other important social skills.

Social Work support (year-round)

- Our school social worker provides workshops and support to teachers in meeting their students' social emotional needs.

Parent Workshops (year-round)

- Admin work with our Home and School to provide workshops to parents, including presenters from the Gender Based Violence Prevention Team, Social work, Psychologists, and other special guests.

Reading Buddies (year-round)

- Many of our junior classes partner up with a primary class so that the older students can serve as mentors to the younger ones.

Withrow Athletic Association (year-round)

- Older students set up and run games for younger students each day at recess. Mr. Tarvit and the WAA members model good sportsmanship and safe play for the younger students.