

September 13, 2024

Good evening Sam Steele families,
Hope your children had a wonderful first week!

Please see below for our weekly updates:

News from Ms. Alwin and Ms. Yin's Kindergarten Class



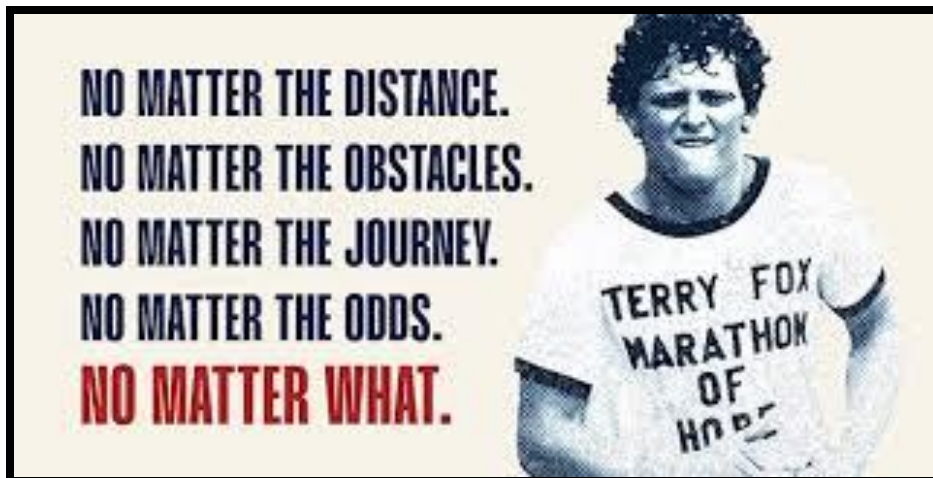
Grade 7 Learning Buddies – A Literacy Partnership

Our Grade 7 Learning Buddies have been a wonderful addition to our literacy partnership. Recently, we've been reading Indigenous books and learning about the significance of Orange Shirt Day. Together, we're creating a bulletin board to showcase our learning, which you can see in the hallway. The students love their visits with their buddies, enjoying both the learning and the company. – Ms. Alwin

Terry Fox Run

We have set the date for Sam Steele's annual **Terry Fox Run**. This is our 10th year participating. The Run will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 (Rain date: Thursday, September 26, 2024). Last

year we collectively raised \$3332.85. **This year our school goal is \$3500.00**



Here is a video message from Fred Fox (Terry's older brother) about this year's Terry Fox School Run.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URlp6wCGydc&t=128s>

Terry believed in a world without cancer. Join us for our Terry Fox Run on Wednesday, September 25th to raise funds for cancer research.

Let's all Try Like Terry.

Let's Go SAM STEELE!

Here is the link to donate online:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/38494>

By: Mrs. Tanaka

(on behalf of The Terry Fox Run Organising Committee)

Junior Girls Baseball Club

Hello Junior Girls,

We are starting our Junior Girls at Bat Baseball club next Wednesday Sept 18.

Please ensure your forms are all filled out and returned to your coaches before the start date. The program ends at 4:00 PM. We are so excited for another season of Baseball, leadership, making friendships and FUN! All participants who participate regularly will receive a free Blue Jays Hat and T-Shirt and maybe even more surprises along the year. Looking forward to seeing you all on the field!

Your coaches,

Ms. Beckford, Ms. Fu, Ms. Lo and Ms. Papadimos

Our Family Curriculum Evening

We will be having our Family Curriculum Evening on Thursday, September 26th at 6:00 pm.

We are very excited to be welcoming you all back for our new school year. The evening will include learning about the curriculum, resources and any classroom specific information from your child's classroom teacher and visiting your children's classrooms.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day – September 30th

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Together we recognize the legacy of Canada's residential school system and continue to learn the many truths of these institutions. Orange Shirt Day, established in 2013 by Phyllis Webstad, recognizes the legacy of the Residential Schools System for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families and communities. By wearing orange, we acknowledge the truths of Residential Schools in Canada, we honour Survivors, and we remember the thousands of children who died, many of them buried in unmarked graves. We will be having an assembly on September 30th at 10:30 am in the gym. Families are welcome to join.

Our First School Council Meeting

Our first School Council Meeting will be taking place on Monday, October 7th at 5:30 pm. It will be an in-person meeting. The School Council elections will take place at this first meeting. Please see the attached files for the nomination forms and By-Laws soon. We encourage our families to get involved in our school community.

Start of the Year Forms

The technology used for the start of the year forms has changed. A new system is replacing Permission Click. The platform is used by families to complete the start of the year package including the Student Device Program Agreement. This new process will bring several improvements for schools and families.

The Start of Year Forms and Student Device Agreement was sent to all elementary student families by IT Services on September 4. IT Services will send reminders to families who have not completed the forms and any new student registrations will automatically receive the email with the form links. Please complete these forms as soon as possible so that we have all the important information needed to keep your children safe.

What this means for Families:

- Families will need to create an account to complete the forms. If they have used the enrollment tool previously to register their child in a TDSB school or program that same account can be used.
- A more robust and reliable experience eliminating delays with accessing and submitting forms
- One set of forms per child
- The ability to update contact & medical information (i.e. parent/guardian name, phone number, address) digitally on the form

Forms included in this year's package:

- Permission to Participate in Offsite Walk Excursions
- Student Media Release Consent (for School/TDSB Events)
- Student Media Release Consent (Media Organizations)
- Permission to Leave School in Severe Weather Conditions (Grades 6-12)
- Medical Information Form (511E)

Schools Cash Online Program

If you have not registered with our Schools Cash Online program, please use the information below to register as soon as possible. It is an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents and guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, yearbooks and class trips.

How do I register?

You can register by visiting the TDSB's [School Cash Online website](#), selecting "Get Started Today" and completing the three registration steps. Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available for purchase online.

What do I do if I have more questions?

- Read the School Cash Online [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Visit the [Support section](#) of the School Cash Online website
- Contact the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at **1-866-961-1803** or parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com

International Languages Classes

The international languages program will be beginning in-person classes at our school soon. Our online registration is available until Sept.12. The manual registration day is **Saturday, September 14** at your school. Manual registration is on-going every week during our program time only. First day of class will be **Saturday, September 21**.

Please see the attached flyer and the application form for more information regarding registration.

Somali Heritage Month: Poetry Contest

The month of October is recognized by the Toronto District School Board as Somali Heritage Month. This year our theme is Aqoon la'aani, waa iftiinla'aan - The absence of knowledge is the absence of light. This proverb underscores the importance of learning and intellectual growth, aligning with our educational mission of fostering a knowledgeable and enlightened student body.

Please see the [attached](#) document that outlines a Poetry submission opportunity for all our TDSB students.

Deadline: September 17, 2024, by 4:00 pm

Latin-America History Month: Call-out for Poster Contest

The month of October is recognized as Latin-America History Month at the TDSB. This year our theme continues to be Weaving Our Legacies: Returning to Our Collective Path / Enlazar Nuestros Legados: Volver A Nuestro Camino Colectivo. We invite all participants (TDSB students: Kindergarten - Grade 12) to express what they've learned through art in our Poster Showcase. Students are encouraged to share their thoughts in class and visually represent them in the Poster Showcase. Create a poster that embodies our theme.

Deadline: Monday, September 23, 2024 by 4:00 pm.

Please see the [attached](#) for all details.

Hindu Heritage Month - Poster Contest Invitation for all TDSB Students

Hindu Heritage Month is recognized and celebrated at the TDSB during the month of November. Hindu dharma is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teaching and values that are integral to Hindu dharma and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, peace, and inclusion.

As part of the celebration to mark Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November, all TDSB students are invited to be creative and submit an image to the Hindu Heritage Month Poster Design Challenge. The theme for Hindu Heritage Month 2024 is Antah Shanti for Vishwa Shanti. This Sanskrit phrase conveys that to foster World (Vishwa) Peace (Shanti) we need to have Inner (Antah) Peace (Shanti).

All details are [attached](#). Please share at your school and with your students.

Deadline: Thursday, October 3, 2024 by 3:00 pm.

Director of Education Search Survey

As the TDSB searches for its next Director of Education, they want to hear from you! A survey is being conducted to learn more about insights on the appointment of the TDSB's next leader. Students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers and members of the broader community are encouraged to take the time to share their thoughts on opportunities that lie ahead for the new Director of Education in the coming years. The results of this survey will be used to develop criteria to select the next Director of Education who will shape the TDSB's future strategy, key performance indicators, and will build upon the TDSB's commitments to its diverse community of students, staff, and stakeholders. Survey responses will be confidential and reported anonymously as group data. Please submit your survey no later than September 22, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Access the survey at bit.ly/TDSBDirector.

Pick-up and Drop-off Loop

We have a number of school buses providing services for our students with special needs and other students in French and Gifted programs. The traffic in the pick-up and drop-off loop needs to be moving smoothly in a single file to ensure safety for all our students and families. Please do not park the cars in the loop as it should only be used for quick drop off in the morning. If you are escorting your child to the school yard, please park your car on the street. Please make sure to use the sidewalk instead of walking through the parking lot and the loop as it creates dangerous situations. We encourage our families to walk to school if possible, to reduce the traffic and congestion on our streets and to ensure safety for everyone.

Have an amazing weekend 😊

Thank you,
Krisha Kumar