

Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter December 2023



Hugh Reynolds, Principal
Kurt McIntosh, Superintendent
Alexandra Lulka, Trustee

School Council Co-Chairs:

Ria Clarke
Norgie Williams
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Principal's News

Dear Africentric Alternative School Community,

As we approach the end of another enriching year, I extend warm greetings to each member of our vibrant and close-knit community. December is a month of reflection, celebration, and gratitude, and I am thrilled to share some exciting updates with you all.

Kwanzaa Celebration on December 21, 2023: We are delighted to announce that our annual Kwanzaa celebration will take place on December 21, 2023. Kwanzaa is a special time for us to come together and celebrate our rich cultural heritage. The event promises to be a joyous occasion filled with meaningful activities, performances, and shared traditions. We encourage all families to join us in commemorating the values of unity, self-determination, collective work, and responsibility that Kwanzaa embodies.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the parents, students, and staff who actively supported our Poppy Drive in November. Your generosity and commitment to honoring the sacrifices of our veterans are commendable. Together, we raised awareness and funds that contribute to the well-being of those who have served our country. Thank

you for demonstrating the spirit of compassion and remembrance. A special note of appreciation goes out to the incredible parents who generously volunteer their time on a regular basis. Your involvement is invaluable, and it enhances the educational experience for all our students. Whether it's assisting in classrooms, participating in school events, or contributing in various capacities, your dedication does not go unnoticed. Thank you for being an essential part of our school community.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the members of our School Council for their unwavering support and dedication to our school's success. Your efforts in fundraising, event planning, and community engagement have significantly contributed to the positive atmosphere and resources available to our students. We are fortunate to have such a committed group working alongside us.

As we enter the festive season, let us cherish the bonds we've formed, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the exciting opportunities that the new year will bring. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with love, warmth, and moments of reflection. Warm regards,

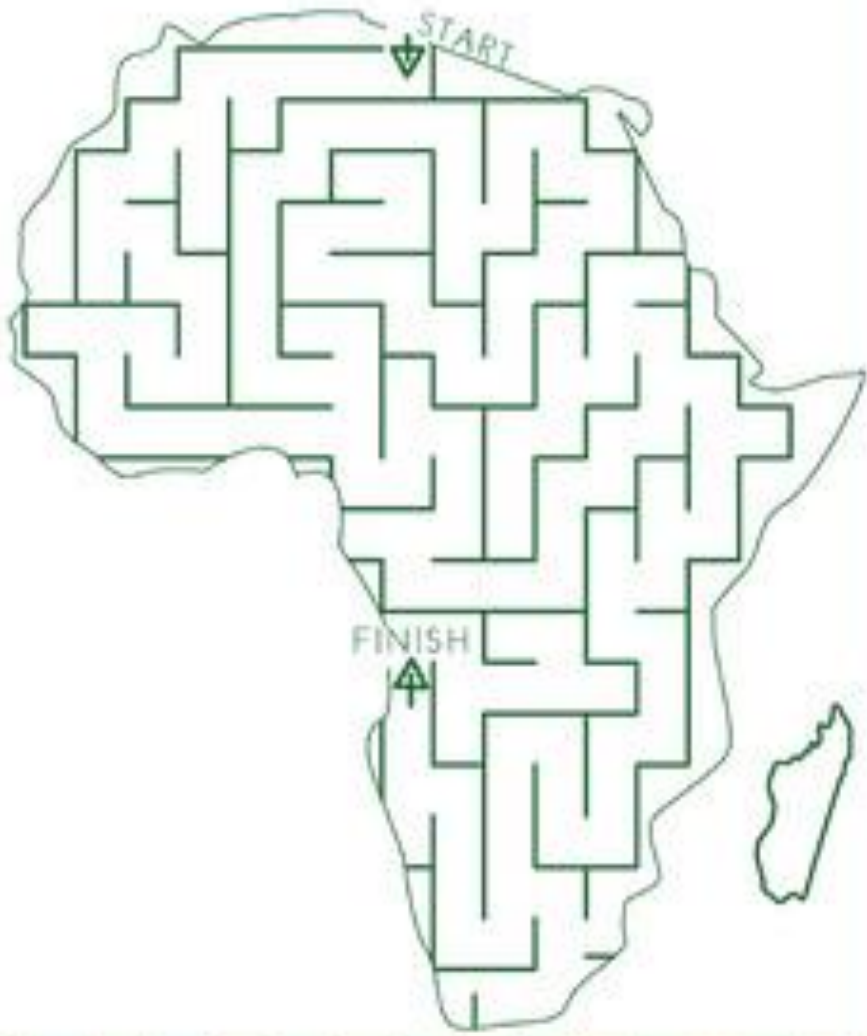
Yours in partnership,
Hugh Reynolds,
Principal AAS.

Upcoming Events

- Djembé Drum and Dance Lessons grades ¾ December
- Dec 8 - PA Day no school
- Nov 28 - Vision Clinic - Grades 5 & 7 & selected others
- Dec 7 - 15 Hanukkah
- Dec 21 - Kwanzaa Celebration 1-3 p.m.
- Dec 22 - last day of school before holidays
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec 26-01 Jan - KWANZAA Celebrations
- Jan 8 - back to school
- Happy New Year 😊

Name: _____

Africa Maze



START

FINISH



KWANZAA

Word Search

Y T I N U A A K E K N C O R P K F W L N
 D Y D Q D D I I I C B G E E C M L L S O
 T P P E D K X P L P O S U A V I E G H E
 C M V I O Q A Y E U P N L Z Z W S Z V P
 Q H C M S T F I G O G B O A O K K I V L
 D N B A K P E I N U O A W M S N T A S A
 R E J Z V N P S R O C R H R I C J T E C
 N O I T A N I M R E T E D C E C G S L E
 H P T C O B T D B V H D C L I W S A D M
 T X O I I S R W R I Q I L U I J R E N A
 C O G L U E Z P M T A O H L A A U F A T
 D U I K A R E N G A C A A Z N A W K C A
 R T L M R M F F C R E A T I V I T Y H F
 Y E B T A O A A U E I P K G Z P L E A R
 M V S Z U N W A M P Z A W A D I R I A I
 K C A O A R I M O O Y P B G S I T I C C
 E O U L P X E I J O J A X M T H N I A A

Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backwards.

AFRICAN BENDERA BLACK CANDLES COLLECTIVE
 COOPERATIVE CREATIVITY CULTURE CUP
 DETERMINATION ECONOMICS FAITH FEAST FRUIT
 GIFTS GREEN HERITAGE IMANI KARENGA KIKOMBE
 KINAR KUJICHAGULIA KUUMBA KWANZAA MAULANA
 MAZAO MKEKA NGUZO NIA PLACEMAT PURPOSE RED
 RESPONSIBILITY SABA SELF UJIMAA UMOJA UNITY
 WORK ZAWADI

Grade 5 & 6 Student Work pages 4-8

After studying the Middle East conflict through a lens that incorporates diverse perspectives, students have generated messages and visual representations to advocate for global peace and unity. They have crafted messages in various languages with a central focus on the themes of unity and peace. Mr. Tawiah - grade 5 and 6 teacher.

Azaria

Spread Love, Not Hate

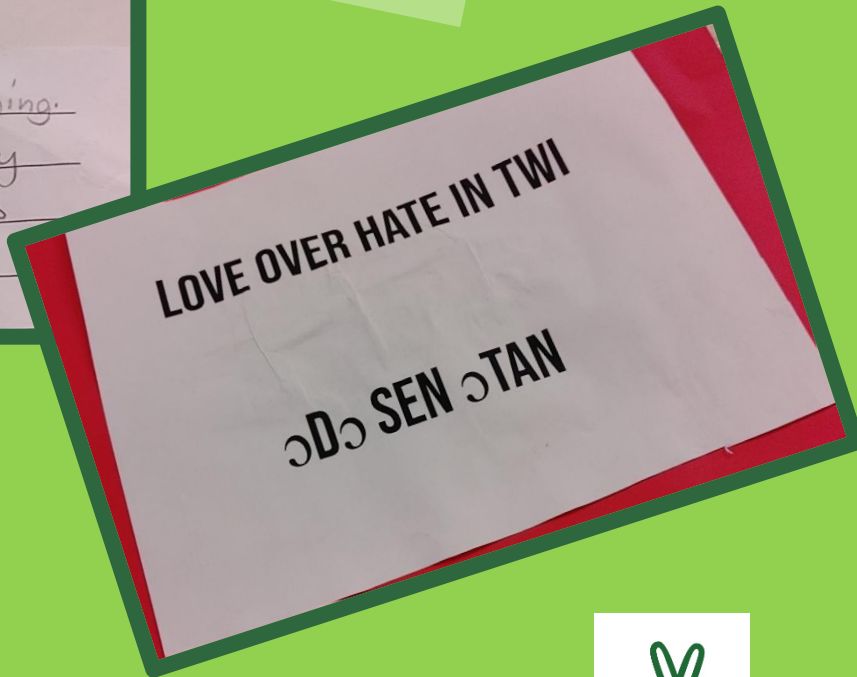
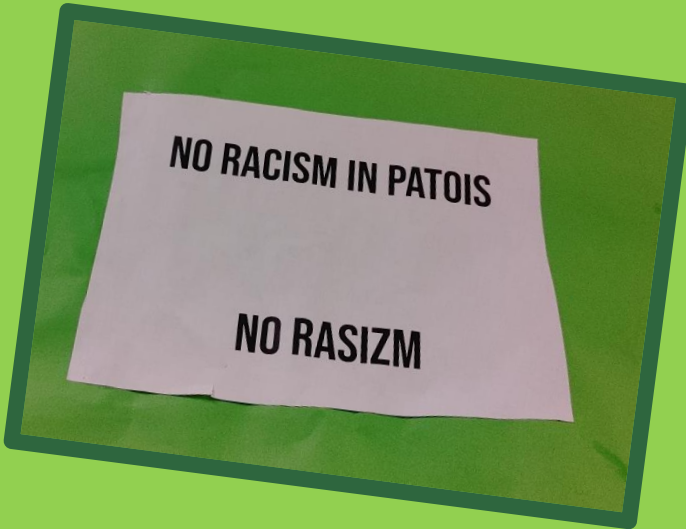
Question: Think about a time when someone showed you love and kindness. How did it make you feel? Write your response in the half-box below and decorate it with an illustration or design that represents love.

Peace

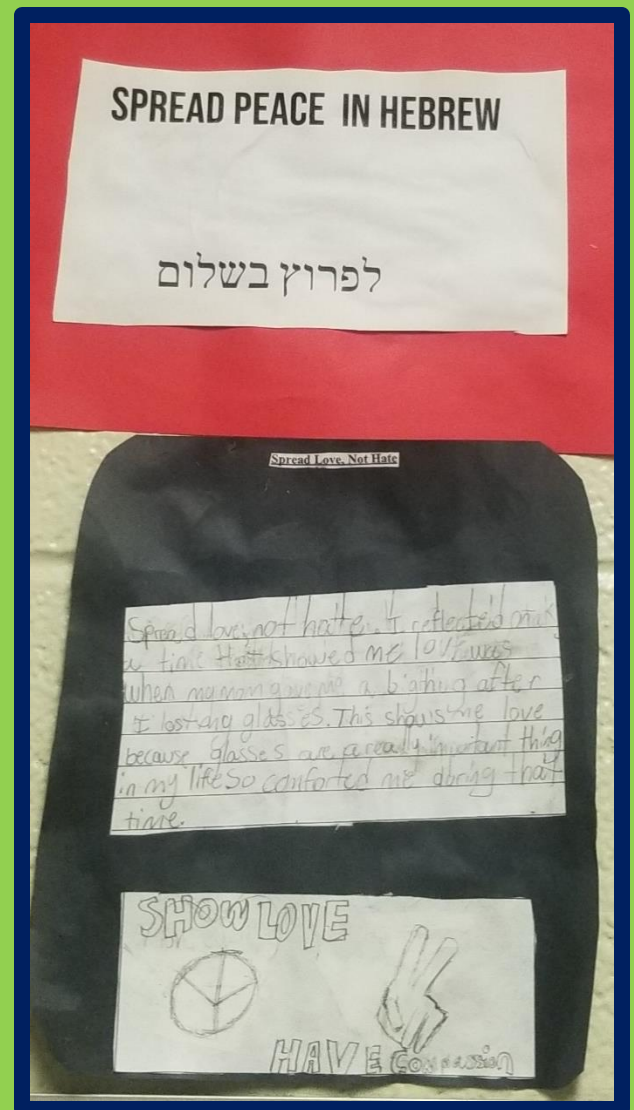
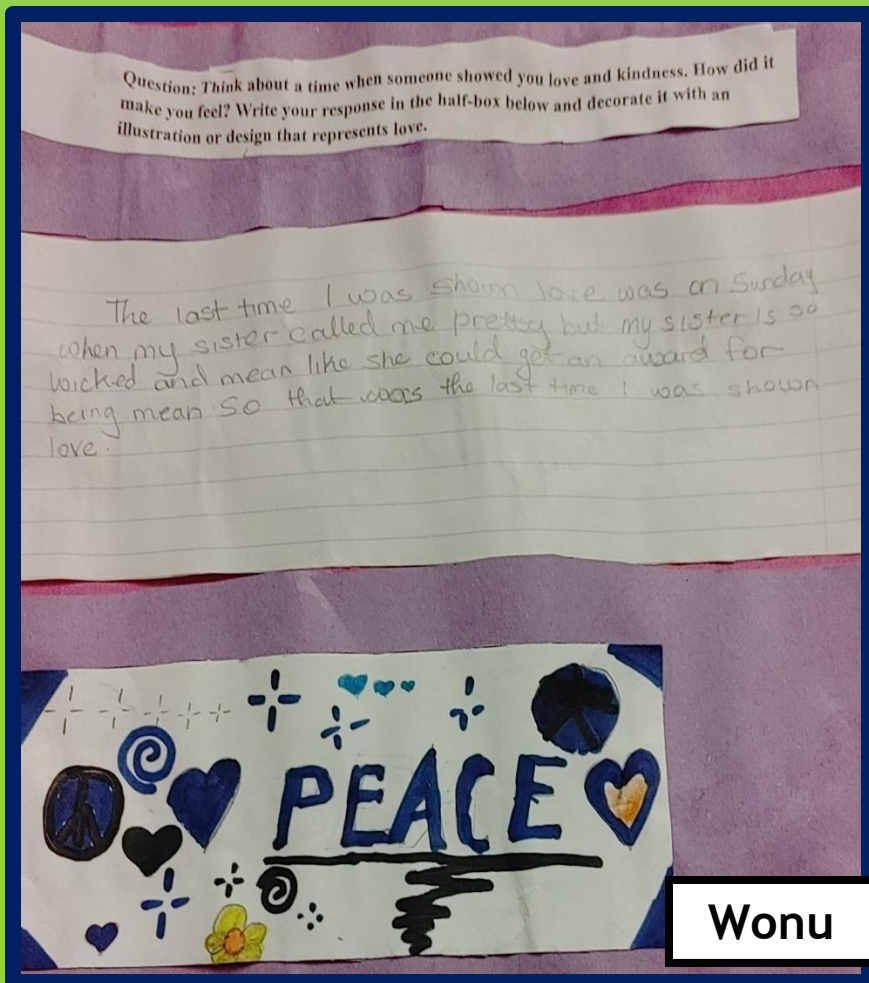
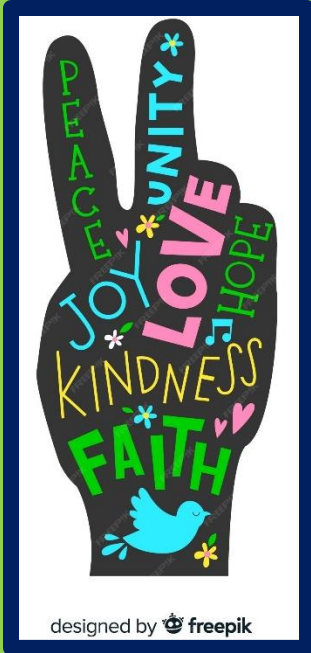


Love

I helped my mom with cleaning.
The house and she was so happy
When I saw her smile I was
happy.



Student Work – Grade 5 and 6



I think that the world will be a better if people spread love instead of hate because if people give out love then there will be no wars and the earth will look better and the population probably be more than now. The world might be a safer, better place than it is right now. Then people will not be that scared of the world.



Harlym

Question: List at least three ways in which spreading love can make the world a better place. Write your answers in the space below and decorate with symbols or images that represent those ideas.

The world would be better because there would not be wars every year. Also in school if people were not spreading hate but spreading love there wouldn't be fighting alot. Also if we were spreading love people would feel better and everyone would work together.

Elliot



This was made by Alayah, Princess, & Sheriah



Alayah, Princess, Sheriah

Spread Love, Not Hate

Question: List at least three ways in which spreading love can make the world a better place. Write your answers in the space below and decorate with symbols or images that represent those ideas.



Cassadee

Love could make the world a better place by no more wars. If we spread love there would be more kindness and gifts. Another reason is love could we would achieve more things in life.

SPREAD PEACE IN HEBREW

לפרוץ בשלום

REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

Alayah



The three ways we can spread love and make the world a better place.

First we can stop spreading hate and stop judging each other.

Some people like to judge other people from what they have which I think is very rude.

Secondly we can stop pollution so then global warming won't get any worse than it is. We can stop throwing trash on the floor to help.

For Lastly one we can try to stop war. We can all share the land and not fight over it.

Sahara



SPREAD LOVE IN ARABIC

نشر المحبة



Alayah

When I was 7 years old, my friend and I went to a restaurant for her mom's birthday dinner. When we got there, me and my friend already started deciding what we were going to eat for desert. I got chicken fingers and fries, and she got a kids chesse pizza. After we were done eating we were finally ready to get desert, i got brownies and she got ice cream, they started eating but i didn't get my brownies. I was waiting for so long and i still didnt get my brownies. But my friend offered her ice cream because she got hers late, she wanted it but she gave it to me.

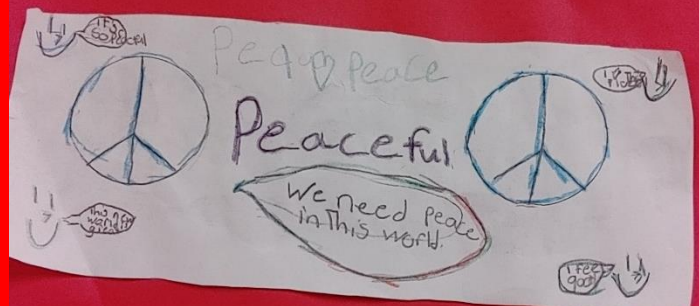
Kindness and Peace



Question: Think about a time when someone showed you love and kindness. How did it make you feel? Write your response in the half-box below and decorate it with an illustration or design that represents love.

A time that I felt loved was when people call me pretty and when my family gives me kisses and hugs and I feel loved and happy when people are nice to me. There is no point of making people feel bad about their self. Everyone should be uplifted and loved. There should be no hate in the world. and no wars and no fighting and no killing and no bullying if all of that would stop in the world it will be peaceful and nice.

Shaina



VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ - School Procedures



Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather. Thank you 😊



Label all items that come to school with the child's name and grade.
Every day the child needs the following items:

1. Lunch & snack
2. Re-usable water bottle
3. Clothing for the weather (e.g., raincoat/umbrella, sunscreen and sunhat - please ensure your child is dressed for the weather)
4. Indoor and outdoor shoes – this will ensure hallways and classrooms stay clean
5. JK/SK students please bring a change of clothes as well as the above

Lockers

As part of their preparation for high school the grade 7 and 8 students will be permitted to have lockers this year.

Cell Phones

If a student has a cell phone, please remind him/her that it must be turned off during the **entire school day** and it is his/her responsibility to take care of it (without a locker) this year. Please discuss if your child can handle this responsibility. **Our school does not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.**

TDSB Health and Safety Guidelines

It is more important than ever for families and the school to align and share responsibility for public health and safety. Thank you in advance for being strong allies and advocates for our students, the community, and our staff. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill.

Late arrivals

If your child is late for school, they have to formally be checked in with the office staff – i.e. they must obtain a late slip. We do not have supervision available once the instructional day has begun at 8:55 am. PLEASE BE ON TIME as late students disrupt the other students and the teacher in the class. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ - School Procedures

Medical Appointments and Early Pick Ups

Please try to avoid scheduling appointments (i.e. dentist, doctor) during the school day. If it is unavoidable, **please notify the office one half hour prior to your picking them.** When you arrive, **please buzz the office to come in to sign your child out.** Children will not be permitted to exit the school without a parent – the parking lot is not safe.

Dropping things off

Please send children to school with everything they need to avoid the need for drop off. Please send all lunches to school with children in the morning. We are unable to have a drop-off table for school lunches any longer and hence every dropped off item would mean a disruption to the entire class. For safety reasons, families are encouraged to not come and drop off anything during the day!

Lunch at School

We are STRONGLY encouraging parents to allow students to stay in their routine for the whole day. Students are expected to stay at school for lunch. Not only is this crucial for their social wellbeing during nutrition breaks, but it is safer for everyone when no one is leaving and returning to the building. No student can leave school property during lunch hour.

School Parking Lot

A reminder that we share the building with another school. Please Park in the designated parking lot and not in the bus route. Please support us with this again and

Kwanzaa Special Event At Africentric Alternative School

**Please mark your calendar
December 21, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
For a Showstopping Kwanzaa Celebration
with drums, dancers and singing.**

Theme of the Month - December

UJAMAA - KINDNESS & CARING

*Theme for the Month of
December is
Kindness & Caring*



Kindness is a language which the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

~African proverb

Your child's safety is very important to us.

To keep your child safe the TDSB requires that parents advise the school of a child's absence or lateness. This is done to ensure children arrive to school safely and are accounted for accurately. If you do not advise the school, you will receive an automated Safe Arrival Call and/or a call from the school.

If your child is going to be absent or late for school - please call the school at 416-395-5251.

Please call the school office - 416-395-5251, for the occasional instance that you are going to be late picking up your child at the end of the day. This allows the school to plan proper supervision for your child.

If you need to pick up your child early, please give the school office a call and give us sufficient time to call down your child.

We truly appreciate your help to ensure the safety of the students at Africentric Alternative School.

The Benefits of Being on Time - Punctuality

Punctuality is a habit of:

- Attending a task **on time**.
- Doing things at the **right time**.
- Not missing parts of the lesson and school routines
- Managing your work and personal life

Punctuality is one of the keys to a successful life.

The following are a few reasons that prove why punctuality is important for life:

1. Punctuality and time management **affects the process of learning.**
2. **A key to success...** Being punctual gives you a sense of stability, security and self-confidence.
3. **It shows your integrity and demonstrates respect for others...** being late affects those around you by interrupting other students and teachers in the class.



Entry Time	8:50 - 8:55 a.m.
Period 1	8:55 - 9:25 a.m.
Period 2	9:25 - 10:05 a.m.
Recess	10:05 - 10:20 a.m.
Period 3	10:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 - 11:40 a.m.
Lunch	11:40 - 12:30 p.m.
Entry Time	12:30 - 12:35 p.m.
Period 5	12:35 - 1:15 p.m.
Period 6	1:15 - 1:55 p.m.
Recess	1:55 - 2:05 p.m.
Period 7	2:05 - 2:45 p.m.
Period 8	2:45 - 3:15 p.m.



2023-2024 Parent Council



Norgie Williams -- Co-Chair

Ria Clarke -- Co-Chair

Cristal Palmer -- Past Co-Chair

Lotoya Jackson -- Secretary

Robert Griffiths --Treasurer

KWANZAA
RAFFLE BASKETS

AFRICENTRIC SCHOOL COUNCIL
IS ASKING PARENTS TO DONATE CULTURAL
NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS THAT WILL BE
RAFFLED OFF TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AT
OUR SCHOOLS ANNUAL KWANZA CELEBRATION

EXAMPLE-PLANTAIN CHIPS. SPICES, COCONUT
WATER, FRUIT CAKE, HOT COCO, SHIRLY
BISCUITS, CHUBBY, SORREL , HANDMADE
JEWELLERY, ETC.

PLEASE DROP OFF DONATIONS TO THE MAIN
OFFICE BY MON DEC 11TH

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS



NO SMOKING

TDSB Policy PR502 prohibits smoking on school property. Please help us keep a healthy learning environment that is free from smoking.



Access to Building

Reducing the number of people in the building is crucial to our success during this critical time. Only students and staff may enter the building. Essential visitors (i.e., maintenance) will be allowed into the building during the school day; however, parents and visitors will be permitted in the school on a limited basis. Please call the school if you would like to schedule an appointment with administration or staff.

Student Pick up and Drop off

We are reminding you that the bus loop at the front of our school should not be used for student drop off or pick up. To ensure the safety of all students, please park in the designated parents' or visitors' parking area at the side or back of the building. Thank you for helping us to keep our students safe.

Making sure your child is safe!

When picking up your child from school please make sure to check in with either the office or the outdoor supervisor. Children are not safe in the parking lot without an adult.

Picking up your child early:

If you wish to pick up your child prior to the end of the school day, Please make sure that the office staff are given sufficient time to collect your child from the class. We recommend a minimum of one-half hour. To limit the interruptions to instruction time, we ask that this only be done in rare instances i.e., doctors' appointments. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.



Thank you to our School's Nutrition/Snack Program Supporters.

We would like to acknowledge and thank President's Choice for the President's Choice Children's Charity School Nutrition Grant (PCC). Our Nutrition Program is also supported by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), City of Toronto – Public Health, Ministry of Children & Youth Services and Parents and Community.



We are grateful for the support of the following:

Afro Crush -

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Augustine Asa Nte-Frempong -

Donated Kente Strips/Sashes to the 2021/2022 graduating class

Angus Systems -

a very substantial donation to assist classroom technology needs

Barilla Canada -

donated cooking demonstration, pasta, and a very substantial financial contribution for Chromebooks and music program supplies

Downsview Community Services Organization

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

House of Jua

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Jays Care Foundation

Donated winter wear

MLSE - Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment -

Substantial donation towards school improvements in classroom and gym

Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation and TFSS - (Toronto Foundation for Student Success)

Morning Meal/Snack Program Freezer donation

Shutterstock -

Donated books and puzzles created by black authors and illustrators

Starbucks Coffee Canada -

Employees donated hats, mitts, scarves, socks and a large quantity of school supplies

Start2Finish -

Donated backpacks and school supplies

Taste of Life Restaurant

Donation towards Grade 8 graduation

Turner Consulting Group Inc. -

Tana Turner, Principal Consultant generously donated books and resources for our library

Nguzo Saba

The Seven Principles



Umoja



Kujichagulia



Ujima



Ujamaa



Nia



Kuumba



Imani

Umoja ▲ Unity

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia ▲ Purpose

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba ▲ Creativity

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani ▲ Faith

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Creator of Kwanzaa
©1967

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Africentric Alternative School School Pledge

Today I pledge to be the best possible me.
 No matter how good I am, I know that I can become better.
 Today I pledge to build on the work of yesterday which will lead me into the rewards of tomorrow.
 Today I pledge to feed my mind knowledge, my body strength, and my spirit faith.
 Today I pledge to take my education seriously and I will always do my best, at school, at home, and in my community.
 Today I pledge to be focused, self-disciplined and ready to learn
 Today I pledge to believe in me.

Ashe

Adinkra symbol, in the Akan language, which means – None is greater than God, the Creator. The symbol is called Gye Nyame (pronounced Gee-Nah-May)



Adinkra symbol, meaning cooperation



Adinkra symbol, meaning lifelong learning





TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Africentric Alternative School
2023 - 2024

H	Statutory Holiday
B	Bd. Designated Brev
PA	PA Day

September						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	H	FD	2	3	4	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	5	1	2	3	4	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	5	1	2	3	4	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	5	1	2	3	4	

Respect

October						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	5	1	2	3	PA	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	H	4	5	1	2	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	3	4	5	1	2	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	3	4	5	1	2	
29	30	31				
	3	4				

Responsibility

November						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			5	1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	3	4	5	1	2	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	3	4	5	1	PA	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	2	3	4	5	1	
26	27	28	29	30		
	2	3	4	5		

Empathy

December						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
					1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	2	3	4	5	PA	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	1	2	3	4	5	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	1	2	3	4	5	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	B	B	B	B	B	
31						

Kindness & Caring

January						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	B	B	B	B	B	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1	2	3	4	5	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	1	2	3	4	PA	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	5	1	2	3	4	
28	29	30	31			
	5	1	2			

Teamwork

February						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
				3	4	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	5	1	2	3	4	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	5	1	2	3	PA	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	H	4	5	1	2	
25	26	27	28	29		
	3	4	5	1		

Fairness

March						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
					2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	3	4	5	1	2	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	B	B	B	B	B	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	3	4	5	1	2	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	3	4	5	1	H	
31						

Honesty

April						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	H	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1	2	3	4	5	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	1	2	3	4	P	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	5	1	2	3	4	
28	29	30				
	5	1				

Co-operation

May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	5	1	2	3	4	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	5	1	2	3	4	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	H	5	1	2	3	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	4	5	1	2	3	

Integrity

June						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	4	5	1	2	P	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	3	4	5	1	2	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	3	4	5	1	2	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	3	4	5	1	LD	
30						

Perseverance

Professional Activity Days:

1. Friday, October 6, 2023
2. Friday, November 17, 2023
3. Friday, December 8, 2023
4. Friday, January 19, 2024
5. Friday, February 16, 2024
6. Friday, April 19, 2024
7. Friday, June 7, 2024

First Day of School:

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Last day of school for Elementary students:

Friday, June 28, 2024

Dates to Remember:

Labour Day: September 4, 2023

Thanksgiving: October 9, 2023

Winter Break: December 25, 2023 - January 5, 2024 (last day of school December 22, 2023; school resumes January 8, 2024)

Provincial Family Day: February 19, 2024

Mid-Winter Break: March 11 - 15, 2024

Good Friday: March 29, 2024

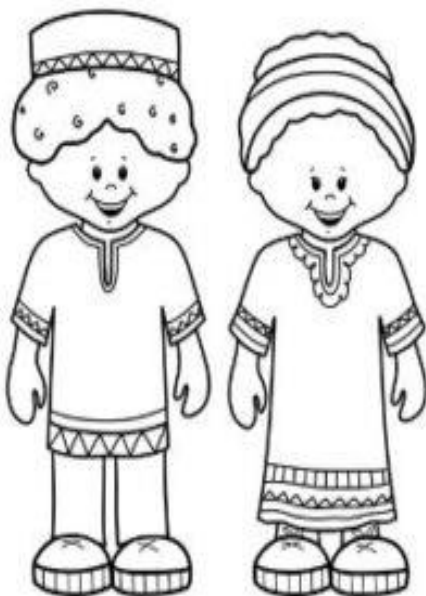
Easter Monday: April 1, 2024

Victoria Day: May 20, 2024



HAPPY KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26 through January 1. It is a holiday to commemorate African heritage, during which participants gather with family and friends to exchange gifts and to light a series of black, red, and green candles.



These candles symbolize the seven basic values of African American family life: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.