

## AMG Weekly Message

Nov 5, 2021

**Greetings from the Alexander Muir Gladstone School Council Executive team** – Caitlin, Debbie, Nadine and Sam.

Some of us are veterans, some of us are newbies, but we do share a common goal to try and provide as much support as we can to our children and AMG. We know we can't do this alone and today we are asking for your help. For one thing, our children are in JK, SK, Grade 1, Grade 3 and Grade 4 so we only have a fraction of the insight into the larger learning community. Second, we are real people. We have not found out how to add extra hours to our day and so are constrained by the very real realities of our day jobs and raising kids. Finally, we really like working alongside with and learning from other parents. We are looking to enlist what we're calling "parent reps" (open to any name suggestions) in each classroom, or at least each grade, that could help spread the news and the work of the school council.

[Click here to read the full letter from your School Council Executive Team](#)

### **Kindergarten – Room 8 – Ms. Henry/Ms. Bains**

As we continue to build our classroom community and explore what kindness looks like in our room, we are beginning to extend our thinking to what kindness looks like in our school. In particular what it looks like to be kind to the environment and our green spaces here at AMG. We are sharing and learning about things we each do to be kind and look after each other, and how this helps us all feel connected. The students have begun to look at what kindness truly means and how they feel when they are kind or when someone is kind to them.

[Click the link to see pictures and read on...](#)

### **Grade 1/2 – Room 13 – Ms. Fujimoto**



This week Room 13 had important conversations about equity. Our class was introduced to the book Race Cars by Jenny Devenny. Race Cars is a children's book about white privilege, and it tells the story about two best friends, a white car and a black car, that have different experiences and face different rules while entering the same race. We had some brave discussions. The students shared very insightful perspectives and thoughts about the book. I encourage you to ask them about this at home.

### **Grade 4/5 – Room 21 – Ms. Fairweather**

The grade 4/5 students have been working hard on creating a kind and caring environment, both inside and outside the classroom. Specifically, we were getting to know and appreciate each other's unique qualities through sharing activities and learning about the importance of showing kindness and respect to others' experiences.

[Click the link to see pictures and read on...](#)

### **The Grade 7s:**

The Grade 7 classes have all been engaged in novel studies for the past few weeks. The selected novels, Freak the Mighty and New Kid, both deal with inclusion, racism/ableism, and bullying. Students have been learning about ways to make schools more inclusive places, and the personal actions they can take to make sure their peers are seen and valued for who they are, and are not only seen for their ability, race, or physical appearance. An anti-racist and anti-ableist lens was applied to our work on these texts.

From students in 7A:

"I loved the book (New Kid) overall but I found what I liked above all was how it's teaching young kids in an understandable way how you can be racist in ways that most kids wouldn't think about like making assumptions about people by their skin tone or making jokes about what they eat or how they dress." - Joan

"What schools can do to make students feel more inclusive is that students should be treated equally and everyone in the school should be respectful to each other. Everyone should be able to participate in events and no one should be left out. No one should be treated differently because of something they can't change. Students and staff should be able to have complaints, and no opinion should be ignored or disrespected." - Bond

**Learning Commons – Ms. Wasserman**

Happy Diwali to all! Many students visiting the Library Learning Commons (LLC) this week enjoyed learning about Diwali from the book, "Binny's Diwali". We looked at some photos of Rangoli Art and students had an opportunity to make their own Rangoli patterns with glass beads, chalk or markers. Thank you Mr. Sampat for sharing some diyas with us to light up the LLC even more.

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### **Learning Resources from the Learning Commons**

Ms. Wasserman shares online resources that are used by teachers in the classroom. Click the links and continue the learning at home

[November Online Resources](#)

### **Nov 10th - Photo Day Purchase Deadline**

To receive free delivery of your photos, they must be purchased by Nov 10th. See the photo package for details.

### **Downtown Vocal Music Academy Open House**

November 24th, 2021 from 3pm to 3:30pm in the school yard at Ryerson Community School located at 96 Denison Avenue.

[DVMA Open House Flyer](#)

**Outdoor Flu Clinic**

*Date: November 13, 2021*

*Location: Riverside Cardiology and Diagnostic Imaging*

*Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm*

[OHT Outdoor Flu Clinic Poster](#)

**Share Your Voice: Policy Consultation on the new Specialized Schools and Programs Policy**

Students from across the TDSB are welcomed into a variety of specialized programs including arts-focused schools, specialized programs in math, science and technology, CyberArts and International Baccalaureate. These specialized programs and schools are part of our commitment to ensure students have opportunity and variety in their school experiences.

We want to ensure that more students have access to these programs and opportunities and that the process to apply is consistent and fair. To do that, we have drafted a new policy – the [Specialized Schools and Programs policy](#). This new policy, which is currently in draft, will outline clearer and more consistent admission procedures, practices and timelines, which are different from those in regular schools.

We need to hear from you to help make this policy meaningful and relevant to students. These short videos, [Overview of the Secondary Program Review](#) and [Specialized Schools and Programs Policy Information Video](#) give a great overview of the new policy and you can check out the [website](#) that also includes questions and answers, including those asked during a web chat last year when this policy first started consultation (which was put on pause as a result of the pandemic).

**Red Cross Online Stay Safe Course and Babysitting Course**

[Stay Safe Course Flyer](#)

[Babysitting Course Flyer](#)

**Stephanie Donaldson – Ward 9 Trustee Update**

[Read the November 3, 2021 Update Online | HTML](#)