



The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Website: www.armourheightsps.ca Twitter: [@TDSB_ArmourHts](https://twitter.com/TDSB_ArmourHts)

December 7, 2014 Issue 2

Principal's Message:

Where has the time gone? It has been an exciting few months of learning and laughter. I look forward to celebrating our students' talents at our upcoming Winter Concert, featuring students in Mrs. Lenet, Mrs. Russell/ Ms. Bleiman, Mrs. Lutchmedial/ Ms. Dama, Mrs. Clodman, Mrs. Powell, Mr. Hook, Ms. Fineberg, Mr. Offor, Mr. Nitsou and Mrs. Rodriguez/ Mr. Jackson's classes. Mrs. Rosenberg has been working hard with these children and their teachers to create a memorable Winter Concert. Please be sure to bring some non-perishable food items as your admission to the show on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm.

Please note that we will be implementing an automated Safe Arrival call out system beginning on December 15, 2014. It is crucial that you call the school if your child will be absent otherwise the system will call you in the morning. It is also very important that all children are on time for school every day, so if your child arrives after the entry bell, you will also receive a call at approximately 6:00pm on the same day of the lateness to notify you that your child was late. A letter will be provided to help answer any questions you may have about this new Safe Arrival system. Please be sure to notify the office of any absences in order to avoid these calls.

With Winter around the corner, please ensure that your child comes to school with boots, a warm jacket, mittens, a neck warmer or scarf, a hat, and snow pants. A pair of indoor shoes is necessary in order to keep your child comfortable and to maintain the cleanliness and safety inside the building. All students are expected to go outside for recess. We always monitor the temperature, in accordance with board guidelines. If your child is deemed to be too sick for recess, then you are encouraged to keep your child home to prevent the spread of viruses and germs.

Student safety is our foremost priority and we continue to remind students of the 'ground rules' for outdoor play. Snow can be a lot of fun, but it needs to stay on the ground. We constantly remind students to use their words and "I messages" in order to work through problems. Staff supervisors, in safety vests, are always prepared to help!

As many of our families will be celebrating a variety of holidays in the coming weeks, we wish you all the very best for a safe and happy New Year! Let's continue to work together to keep Armour Heights great in 2015!



From Our FSA:

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Direct Donation Fundraising Campaign.

Our total raised that will go towards next year's budget is **\$18,610.**

Although we fell short of our goal of \$30,000 we are fortunate to have raised such a substantial amount of money that will go to support so many wonderful programs and initiatives for our kids.

We currently run a budget of over \$55,000 so your input will be important come June when we have our budget meeting for next year as we hope to continue to support activities and initiatives like Scientist in the School, Technology Purchases, Art Supplies, Trip Subsidies, Choir, Library Purchases, School Yard Sports Equipment, Yearbook and Family Directory, the Bike Rodeo, Lice Check and Hygiene supplies.....and so many others. We also want to remind everyone that donations are welcome throughout the year but the deadline for tax receipts has now passed. You can also support Armour at the Silent Auction Dinner/Dance, Saturday April 18th, where funds raised will also go to support this budget.

A reminder to please take a look at the Clubs and Programs section of the AHPS Website for information about Winter Lunchtime Programs.

Thank you once again for supporting Armour Heights!

Your FSA Executive Team

AHPSA Co-Presidents, Jennifer Stuart (j.stuart2@me.com) and Martha Johnson (johnson_martha@yahoo.ca)

Staffing Updates

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Dama, the newest member to our Armour Heights Team. Ms. Dama has been working with Mrs. Lutchmedial and the Full-Day Kindergarten Team as an FDK Educator in Room 110. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Dama at Armour Heights as she brings tremendous enthusiasm to our students. Ms. Dama has taken over for Ms. Young, who had accepted a position as an Instructional Leader with the TDSB Early Years Department.

We also welcome Mrs. Oppenheimer, who has taken over for Ms. Newman for Core French in the afternoons. We are very grateful that Mrs. Oppenheimer has stepped in to help maintain consistency for our students. Ms. Newman continues to support students in the mornings and is committed to working closely with Mrs. Oppenheimer to ensure a smooth transition. We are hopeful that Ms. Newman will resume teaching in the afternoons in the coming months. We will keep you informed of any new developments.

Restorative Approaches/ Progressive Discipline

At Armour Heights, we use a restorative approach to discipline. When a behavioural concern is reported, the following five restorative questions are asked:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who has been affected and in what way?
5. What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Appropriate behaviour is a responsibility shared by all. By using this process, it is our hope that students will begin to repair the damage done to any relationships. Depending on the circumstances of each situation, a variety of other consequences may be applied as well.

When we speak about **progressive discipline**, this refers to the range of consequences that may be applied after considering the nature of the offence and the age, past history and developmental abilities of the student.

Consequences may include:

- Discussion with Teacher, Principal or Vice-Principal
- Parent contact/involvement
- Restorative Reflection Sheet Assignment
- Repairing damaged relationships
- Mediated Conversations
- Behaviour contracts
- Written Action Plan
- Removal of privileges
- Exclusion from optional activities
- Detentions before/during/after school
- Withdrawal from class
- Community service
- Suspension
- Payment for damages

Physical Expectations

At Armour Heights, we believe in a HANDS-OFF policy. Students are expected to keep their hands and feet to themselves and avoid activities that involve aggressive play and/or touching. Activities that are not acceptable include "play-fighting", wrestling, piggy-backing, tripping, pushing, shoving, body-checking, poking, punching, and other forms of rough play in classrooms, stairwells, hallways, and on the playground. During recess, students may play organized games such as basketball, soccer, frisbee, co-operative games and foot hockey as well as activities such as skipping and tag. TACKLING is not allowed at any time. Thank you for your help reinforcing these expectations.

Reminders

Parking Lot Safety

Safety is a shared responsibility and we really need to work together to ensure that we are creating a safe, orderly lot at the beginning and end of the day. The East Lot is a One-Way Loop, so please make sure that you are following the arrows and moving through this loop. If you are planning to get out of your vehicle, then please do not leave your car in the Kiss n' Ride area. When individuals leave their vehicles unattended in the Kiss n' Ride area, they are blocking access to emergency vehicles. Similarly, DO NOT park or idle your vehicle in the Bus Loading Area; this puts everyone in danger. Remember to back into parking spots and please do not double park. Toronto Parking Enforcement will be making periodic visits during the day to ensure that authorized vehicles are parked in our lot, so please make sure that you have an Armour Heights PS sticker displayed. If we follow these agreements, the parking lot will be easier to navigate. Please enter and exit with caution and be sure to bring some patience! Thank you for your cooperation.

Weather Guidelines

Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors, however, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods be considered necessary for student and staff safety. When temperature and/or windchill factor indicates -28°C or lower children will remain indoors due to risk of frostnip and frostbite. When temperature and/or windchill factor indicates -20°C to -28°C , recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess be 20 minutes depending on local conditions. During extreme weather conditions, students may wait inside up to 15 minutes prior to the entry bells. Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to cancel transportation and close schools. This may occur before the beginning of the school day or, if conditions become severe, during the school day. To ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff during school hours, the Board's Severe Weather operational procedures will guide decisions and operations. The safety and welfare of students is a shared responsibility with parents and guardians. In the event of severe weather conditions, please keep children at home if possible. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education.

Closure of schools or cancellation of transportation services will be announced starting from 6:30a.m. on many AM and FM radio stations (including AM 640, 680 News, CFRB 1010), TV networks (including CP24, The Weather Network) and websites (including www.armourheightsps.ca and www.tdsb.on.ca). Information on closure of schools and cancellation of transportation services will be posted on the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca and on the TDSB social media channels Twitter and Facebook. Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact the school.

Visitors

As you know, Armour Heights PS is equipped with a safe entry buzzer system at our main doors. All visitors to the school must buzz in and begin their visit to Armour Heights PS at the Office. Visitors who will be entering the school to volunteer will need to sign in and obtain a pink badge. Any adult in the building without a badge may alarm students, so please follow this procedure. Although it is cold outside, parents/ caregivers are not permitted to wait inside the stairwells prior to dismissal. Please encourage guests to the school to buzz in. We need to make sure that every individual in the building is accounted for at all times. This protocol is in place to ensure the safety of everyone.

Vacations and Planned Absences

At Armour Heights PS we value our instructional time and respect the learning that is takes place every day. We understand that arrangements for trips/vacations are made ahead of time and some cannot be helped, but we would like to advise you that our students are taught right up until the end of the day on the 19th. If your children must be away from school during instructional days, please be advised it is the family's responsibility to inform the office by using the Safe Arrival Line or writing a note, and arrange for the child to catch up after s/he returns. It is an exciting time and we need to concentrate on keeping the students engaged, interested, and learning! We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Junior Journalists

The Giving Tree

The giving tree is event that has been going on for 11 years at Armour Heights. Every Christmas, students make ornaments to go on the giving tree and then nice moms go to the hospital and ask what the kids would like for Christmas who can't go home for Christmas or cannot afford a present. Then we finally put the ornaments on the tree for people to get an ornament so they can purchase the item to give to a kid for Christmas. The tree and the ornaments are already up. The giving tree closed on Thursday, December 4th, but you can still send in gift cards to help families.

Ella, Grade 5

Choir

The choir has just finished all of their auditions. This year, the juniors are doing *Peter Pan*, and the seniors are doing *Annie*. In *Annie*, they are going to have callbacks for some of the main roles such as Annie, Ms. Hannigan, Sandy, and the orphans. Tanya says it'll be a tough decision, but everyone should enjoy it. Everyone did a great job last year in the plays. It was like I was seeing a Broadway show! Tanya's hoping that the musicals will be put on in April and May.

Ella, Grade 5

Marie-Louise Gay

On November 7, 2014 author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay came to the school to talk to us about her new book *Any Questions*. The school loved her reading her book and how she pictured the book in her mind. We also got to ask her some questions. We learned a bit more about her as well as her characters and some of her other books. Marie-Louise Gay also gave some autographed books to the school for our classes to read. We hope that Marie-Louise Gay had a great time at our school.

Jada, Grade 6

What is our Robotics team like?

Over the past few weeks the Armour Heights robotics team has been working very hard to impress the FLL judges with what we have learned. This year's challenge is to create a piece of technology that teaches people how to do something. For the FLL presentation the language team and the swimming team will have gadgets that use technology to help teach people to swim and learn a new code/language. The invention for the language group has come up with a set of language learning gadget that can translate. The swimming team is creating an elevated board that uses suction cups to keep it at the bottom of a bath tub. When children sit on top of the board, they will learn how water moves when the board goes up and down. This motion develops swimming skills. The robotics team uses Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots, a hi-tech building robot kit. Students are creating many amazing robots, capable of completing the tasks on the FLL robot game table. The table has many obstacles and activities which the robot will have to complete in order to score points. The team with the most points will win and proceed to the next level.

There is lots of team work happening so far and we all hope to win the robot game. A lot of hard work is involved in accomplishing these goals! The date of the final tournament will take place on Saturday December 13, 2014 at Victoria Park Collegiate Institute. Thank you!

Noah and Gabe, Grade 5

ARMOUR HEIGHTS

Don't you want to go to the best school ever? Well if you do, it's Armour Heights. We have excellent teaching and teachers. Also, of course, we have an awesome principal, Mr. Birnbaum. The teachers are very good at teaching and students learn very fast. We have lunch time programs such as choir, echo club, kidslit, and more. We have house leagues like hockey and dodgeball, thanks to Mr. Barta. We also have school teams like hockey, football, softball, and more. The subjects we have (other than work) are gym, dance, drama, and French. For lunches we have pizza lunch and lunch lady. We have holiday concerts and other concerts too. Our school has assemblies every month focusing on a characteristic. We have entertaining assemblies like doing a skit, doing a song, and more. The teachers work very hard everyday teaching a lesson for the students. For example, teaching us not to bully, and way more.

The events we do are the Terry Fox run, the jump rope for heart, track and field, the cross country, play day, the funfair, the dance-a-thon, the Halloween celebration and more. We have at least 2 book fairs a year, thanks to Mrs. Pearl. If you want a new school and a good one, you found the right place, Armour Heights.

Joshua, Grade 5

Thank Yous

Thank you to moms that helped out with the Giving Tree. You did such a good job! And a big thank you for the moms and dads who did field trips and pizza lunch this month! And last but not least, thank you for all students and parents for being supportive and having a great attitude coming to school every day! Don't forget our golden rule: treat others as you would like to be treated.

Ella, Grade 5

Upcoming Dates:

What is our Mindset?

Praise is important, but are we accustomed to praising intelligence or do we praise effort? At Armour Heights, we are committed to consistently raising the bar for student achievement. As noted in our School Improvement Plan for 2014–2015, Mathematics is a particular area of focus. If we are going to improve academic and emotional outcomes across all areas, we need to start with a "Growth Mindset".

Dr. Carol Dweck, Professor at Stanford, conducted several studies based on how praise impacts results. At Armour Heights, we are working toward creating conditions rooted in a growth mindset, where we focus more on process, effort and hard work. We understand that it's not what you are born with that matters; it's your mindset that matters. After all, the brain is like a muscle that gets stronger and works better the more it is exercised. We are teaching our students that every time that they work hard, stretch their thinking and learn something new, their brain forms new connections and over time they are developing essential skills. So basically, a growth mindset means that intelligence is a quality that can be changed and developed (Dweck, 2008).

Related Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWv1VdDeoRY&app=desktop>

http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit

December 8- Grade 6 Ottawa Trip Information Night- 6pm

December 10- Holiday Concert- 6pm

December 13- Robotics Tournament at Victoria Park CI

December 15- School Support Team Meetings (SST)- PM

December 16-18- Sing-a-longs

December 17- 24- Hanukkah (Judaism)

December 18- Breakfast with Santa- 7:45am (Thanks, AHCCP)

December 18- Character Assembly (AM)

December 21- Solstice Yule/ Litha (Wicca/ Pagan)

December 22- January 2- Winter Break (No School)

December 25- Christmas (Christianity)

December 26- Kwanzaa (African Canadian/ African American)

January 1- New Year's Day/ Gantan-sai (Shinto)

January 5- Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)

January 5- Twelfth Night (Christianity)

January 6- Feast of the Theophany (Orthodox Christianity)

January 6- Epiphany/ Dia de los Reyes (Christianity)

January 7- Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christianity)

January 12- Grad Meeting for Volunteers at 7pm

January 13- Lice Check

January 14- Choir to perform at the Raptors Game- 7pm

January 19- School Support Meetings (SST)- PM

January 23- PA Day (No School for Students)

January 27- Character Assembly (PM)

January 28- Grad Photos

January 29- Pizza Lunch

PRINCIPAL:
Corey Birnbaum

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
Voula Szerepi

HEAD CARETAKER:
Patrick Smith

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PS
148 WILSON AVENUE
TORONTO, ONTARIO

M5M 3A5
PHONE: 416-397-2950

FAX: 416-395-4464

SAFE ARRIVAL:
416-397-2959

SUPERINTENDENT
Peter Chang

416-394-2032

TRUSTEE
Jennifer Arp

416-481-7794