



The Armour Heights Gazette

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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

March 7, 2014 Issue 6

Principal's Message:

It's hard to believe that Spring is right around the corner! There have been so many exciting things happening at Armour Heights. JK registration was a huge success and we are really looking forward to phasing in Full-Day Kindergarten in 2014-2015. The Jungle Book Performance on Wednesday, March 5th was truly magical. This opportunity really brought out the best in so many students. Finally, we are really looking forward to sharing the three completed mosaics with our students and community. They are absolutely beautiful and definitely capture the essence of what Armour Heights is about! So, stay tuned...

We also appreciate the ongoing positive partnerships between home and school, made evident by ongoing Parent-Teacher Conferences, our Social Media Presentation and ongoing FSA and volunteer support. It takes a village to raise a child and it is wonderful to continue to build such positive links with so many families for the sake of our children.

In our continued efforts to keep Armour Heights safe, we ask that parents refrain from entering the school unless they check-in with the office. We want to account for all adults in the building at all times, so please help us keep the students safe. Please help us foster independence by dropping your child at the designated door or in the school yard during supervised time (after 8:30am). Also, please obey traffic rules when driving through the parking lot. Our lot is a One Way loop, so we kindly ask that you keep moving. Finally, please do not idle or double park your vehicle in the parking lot. Use the parking spaces or wait for your child along the curb in the Kiss n' Ride. As the weather starts to warm up, please consider walking or riding in order to minimize traffic and stay active.

We continue to make every effort to clear snow from paths and driveways. The safety of our students is our foremost priority and we will continue to monitor the conditions in order to make decisions for outdoor play in the interest of student and community safety.

Once again we look forward to continuing to support each other to achieve excellence for your child!

Parking Update

The parking situation has been less than ideal over the past few months and your patience is appreciated. With the snowbanks, illegally parked vehicles and snow covered lines, we have certainly made the best of a challenging set of circumstances. Despite these factors, thank you for working together to ensure the safety of students and families.

As you may know, we have a terrific relationship with The Cricket Club across the road. They have informed employees and members that they may only park in our lots in the evenings after 5:00pm. Please be sure to have your Armour Heights Public School sticker visible in your vehicle so that it is not mistaken for one that is parked illegally.

Please be advised that the West Lot at The Cricket Club will be closed to members and staff across the road, so we will be working with the club, TDSB Security and Toronto Parking Authority to help enforce our lots.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

DONATE NATURALLY

We are excited to announce a new partnership with DonateNaturally.com. DonateNaturally.com is an online grocery store for Organic and Natural Product. For the same price as your local grocery store, 10% of your bills gets donated to the FSA and gets delivered to your front door. We are excited to use the funds raised from this partnership to help fund our new computer lab! Please take the time to give it a try! You won't be disappointed!!! It is easy to set up a profile and start shopping. For more information, select the Resources and Forms tab and click on the Donate Naturally information sheet.

EQAO's Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division, is taken by students in Grade 3 and tests the literacy and math skills The Ontario Curriculum expects them to have gained up to the end of Grade 3. The Junior-division assessment tests the reading, writing and math skills that students are expected to have gained up to the end of Grade 6.

All partners in the education system in Ontario utilize the information from EQAO tests in order to improve student learning and achievement.

- Students in grade 3 will be writing EQAO during the week of May 26th
- Students in grade 6 will be writing EQAO during the week of June 2nd

Please try to avoid planning appointments and/ or trips during this time.

Our objective is to have Armour Heights students embark on this experience with confidence and to utilize a variety of strategies to help them succeed.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/parents.aspx?status=logout&Lang=E>

http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/11/EQAO_ParentGuide_PrimaryJunior2011.pdf

http://www.eqao.com/pdf_E/10/WhatParentsNeedtoKnow.pdf

http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/10/FrenchImmersionGlossary36ef_2010.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why does Ontario conduct province-wide tests of reading, writing and mathematics?
2. Are other Canadian provinces doing this kind of testing?
3. Are EQAO tests based on the material taught in the classroom?
4. How is the EQAO test different from the tests my child already does in class?
5. Does my child have to take the EQAO test?
6. What do Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 mean?
7. When and how does the testing occur?
8. What happens if my child is absent on the day the test is given?

For the answers to these questions, please visit:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/FAQ.aspx?Lang=E&gr=036>

Community Safety

One of the best parts of living in our community is the variety of activities we can enjoy in our parks and public spaces all year round. With spring around the corner and the days getting longer, students may be spending more time outside. This is a good time to remind everyone to take extra care in enjoying all the outdoors can offer.

As you know, we are fortunate to have a number of safety measures, programs, and policies that contribute to a safe and caring school. However, most incidents happen away from school and outside school hours. All parents, students and staff are reminded of the need to be aware and alert at all times, even in the most ordinary and everyday routines. Our staff regularly speak to students about how to stay safe. I know that you too will want to help ensure our community is as safe as possible. Here are some tips that you may find helpful when discussing safety with your child:

- travel with at least one other person whenever possible
- avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields and walk in well-lit, well-travelled areas
- keep valuables such as cell phones, expensive jewelry, money, laptops and personal music devices (ipod, MP3 Players) out of sight as much as possible when in public places
- be aware of suspicious behaviour; if approached, try to remember what the person or car looked like so it can be reported to a teacher, Principal, parents or the police if necessary (plate numbers can be written in the dirt or snow if nothing else is available).

Parents can also help by keeping school contact information up-to-date, including cell and business numbers. It's important for our staff to have this information to know who to contact in cases of emergencies.

Working together, we can make our community safer for our children.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 10-14- March Break (School Closed)
- March 16- Magha Puja Day (Buddhism)
- March 16- Purim (Judaism)
- March 17- St. Patrick's Day
- March 17- Holi (Hinduism)
- March 17-19- Grade 5 Overnight to EOEC
- March 20- Ostara (Wicca)
- March 21- Nourouz (Baha'i Zoroastrian)
- March 24- School Support Team (SST)- AM
- March 25- Blue Spruce (PM)
- March 26- Blue Spruce (AM)
- March 26- Spelling Bee Regionals at 5pm
- March 27- Pizza Lunch/ Character Assembly-PM
- March 29- Earth Hour
- April 7- School Climate Survey Begins (Gr. 4-6)
- April 13- Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
- April 14- Baisakhi (Sikhism, Hinduism)
- April 14- School Support Team (SST)
- April 15- Passover (Judaism)
- April 18- Good Friday
- April 20- Easter
- April 21- Easter Monday
- April 22- FSA Meeting at 7:30pm
- April 24- Welcome to Kindergarten- PM
- April 26- Silent Auction

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