

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Bessborough E & MS Newsletter



Bessborough Elementary & Middle School

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LN5 Superintendent:
Andrew Howard

Ward 11 Trustee:
Rachel Chernos Lin

Principal:
Janet Bambrick
Vice Principal:
Lynette Bacon

Office Administrator:
Renee Cronier
Secretary:
Vesna Bozic (Acting)

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 14-First Term Report Cards sent home
- Feb. 15-G.7/8 Boys' Basketball at Don Mills MS
- Feb. 16-Grades 4-8 Ski Trip to Lakeridge & Mt. St.Louis
- Feb. 16-Puppet show presentation for K-3
- Feb. 17-PA Day-NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 20-Family Day-NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 21-G.7/8 Girls' Volleyball at Don Mills MS



March 2nd-Creating Resiliency in Children

Mark Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30 pm on your calendar for a combined Bessborough Parent Council Meeting and a presentation by TDSB and Bessborough school social worker, Janine Lawford. Janine will speak to what parents need to know about emotional regulation and creating resilient children as well as offer strategies for managing behaviours. Mental health and wellness is critically important and resources are available on the TDSB website [HERE](#).

Bessborough Wellness Club

From Mr. Chang and Ms. Buksner

We had over 50 grade 7 and 8 students step up to volunteer in a leadership role within Bessborough! Students have been mind-mapping different clubs and activities for our primary and junior students. We will be starting with three clubs which will run at lunch times on **February 22, March 1, and March 8**. Here are the clubs:

- Bracelet Making -Grade 2/3 students**
- Volleyball Clinic - Grade 4/5 students**
- Perler Beads-Grade 1 students**

Intermediate students will be going to homeroom classes this week to see which students would like to participate in these clubs. Teachers will be supporting the middle school students to run these clubs.

Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Our hearts go out to the people of Türkiye and Syria after the devastating Earthquake and to members of the Bessborough community who have family in the region. The TDSB has launched a board-wide campaign to raise funds for earthquake relief. Thanks to the Government of Canada, all donations to the Canadian Red Cross will be matched until February 22, 2023. To learn more and/or to donate, please visit the [Canadian Red Cross website](#).

Feb. 16th Ski Trip-Weather Forecast!

The weather forecast is looking less than ideal for our planned ski trips to Mt. St. Louis and Lakeridge. We will decide on Wednesday this week and inform families if it is necessary to postpone the trips due to poor weather. Stay tuned!

Student Engagement Committee: Valentine's Day Candy Gram Fundraiser

The students at Bessborough Drive Elementary and Middle School are helping transform lives, one wish at a time! We are pleased to announce that this Valentine's Day, we will be doing the **Valentine's Day Candy Gram fundraiser** in support of **Make-A-Wish® Canada**, and we need your help to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves. *Your support will help children whose health is seriously threatened, to have their dearest wish granted.* All donations are important, every gesture counts. A wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who have a wish granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight their illness.

The Student Engagement Committee is organizing a **Valentine's Day Candy Gram fundraiser on February 13th**. Our School has a **FUNDRAISING PAGE**, where we also accept electronic donations:

<https://makeawishca.donordrive.com/campaign/Bessborough-Valentine-s-Day-Candy-Grams-Sale->

Or scan this QR code:



Our students in the primary division (Kindergarten to Grade 3) can pre-order their Candy Grams using the Google Form that will be shared by their homeroom teacher. Candy Grams will be delivered to the students' homerooms on February 14th. The deadline for completing this form is Friday, February 10. Thank you for helping us transform lives, one wish at a time!

100th Anniversary-Looking for Committee Members

Did you know that Bessborough is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year? Bessborough was the first school to be opened in Leaside and originally opened in December 1923. The original school building consisted of 4 classrooms and, also, housed municipal offices in the basement. We are looking for members of our school community who would like to join the 100th Anniversary Committee to help commemorate this special anniversary. Please contact Bessborough Parent Council to be part of this committee.

February is African Heritage Month

During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004. At Bessborough, students are engaged in learning about Black leaders in Canadian society. As well, daily announcements will feature stories about African Canadians and African proverbs.

February is Chinese Heritage Month

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February 2023. This year marks the Year of the Rabbit, which began on Sunday, January 22, 2023. At TDSB, the theme ***Year of the Rabbit: Kind, Generous, and Harmonious*** is being celebrated. This year, the Chinese Heritage Committee selected a second theme: ***Honouring a Legacy of Conviction and Fortitude*** to mark the 100th anniversary of the ***Chinese Immigration Act of 1923*** (known as the Chinese Exclusion Act). This Act restricted all people of Chinese descent from immigrating into Canada for 24 years with only 15 Chinese immigrants allowed entry into Canada from 1923 to 1946. Parliament officially repealed the act on May 14, 1947 and in 2006, the Government of Canada issued an official apology to Chinese Canadians; [Chinese Immigration Act, 1923](#). At Bessborough, students will be engaged in learning about Chinese leaders and their contributions to Canadian society in the classroom and through the daily announcements.

Kindergarten Registration-Opened February 1

Registration for English Kindergarten programs begins in February (**see below for information about the Early French Immersion program*). **We look forward to welcoming you and your child! You may choose to register using the online registration system or by booking a face-to-face meeting directly with your school.**

- Only parents or legal guardians can register a child.
- There is a separate process to apply for [out-of-area admissions](#). Please contact [alternative schools](#) or [elementary academies](#) directly for more information about requirements and the registration process.

For more information go to: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonthp>

Resources for Grade 8 to 9: Preparing for High School

February

- Grade 8 Course Selection Opens for all students via [myBlueprint](#) (February 6, 2023)
- *Round 1*
 - Deadline for parents/guardians of students to be informed of the status of the Out-of-Area Application (February 8, 2023)
 - Deadline for families to confirm acceptance of the Out-of-Area offer (February 14, 2023)
- *Round 2*
 - Deadline for parents/guardians of students to be informed of the status of the Out-of-Area Application (February 15, 2023)
 - Deadline for families to confirm acceptance of the Out-of-Area offer (February 21, 2023)
- *Final round*
 - Deadline for parents/guardians of students to be informed of the status of the Out-of-Area Application (February 22, 2023)
 - Deadline for families to confirm acceptance of the Out-of-Area offer (February 24, 2023)
- Students must finalize their destination for secondary school (designated school by address, Central Program, Alternative School, Out-of-Area Admission) by completing and submitting the corresponding course selection for the accepted school in myBlueprint (February 27, 2023)
- Course selection deadline (February 27, 2023)
- Parent/Teacher interviews
- Complete Individual Pathways Plan task(s)

Trustee Chernos Lin's Ward 11 Webpage

All families can visit Trustee Chernos Lin's Ward 11 [webpage](#) and sign up to receive her Newsletter.



MAYFAIR 2023!

The highlight of the Bessborough school year is fast approaching and we are looking for individuals to make up our 2023 Mayfair planning committee! The committee needs to be in place by February 16th so if you could reach out soon that would be great!

This event is our school's largest fundraiser and cannot be done without many of you - at this time, we are looking for the following key positions;

- **Guessing Jars Lead**
 - Collecting and labeling the guessing jar area - this is a great job for someone weeks before the fair or a new parent!

- **Volunteer Lead**
 - Get the volunteers and organize where they need to go on the day.

- **BBQ Lead**
 - Responsible for organizing all the food, drinks, equipment etc - this would be a great job for a parent to take on!

- **100th Anniversary Lead**
 - Interested in helping mark this special occasion at Bessborough, this is your role!

These jobs could be individual or you could sign up with a friend to co-lead. Our team will consist of a small group of 6-10 awesome parents! Please email bessboroughschoolcouncil@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these positions or if you have any questions!

School Council Meeting

Save the date for the next school council meeting. It will be held Thursday, March 2nd in the Bessborough Library. Stay tuned for more details.

100 Years of Bessborough!

This year marks Bessborough school's 100th year. We are looking for members to join the 100-year celebration committee. This group will oversee ways that we can highlight this milestone this year. Please email bessboroughschoolcouncil@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.

Save the Date - Grade 8 Graduation - June 2023

Grade 8 graduation is scheduled for the end of June (date TBA). Our longstanding tradition is to have the grade 7 parents pay it forward by organizing the event. More details and requests for volunteers will be coming soon via email.



Wednesday, February 22- Pizza Lunch

Thursday, March 2 - School Council Meeting



Bessborough School Council is on Insta! @bessboroughschoolcouncil