

Cedar Drive Junior Public School

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Tel: 416 397 6120



Principal: Renu Bose

Trustee: Zakir Patel (Ward 19)

Superintendent of Education: Courtney Lewis

Vice Principals: Laurel Eisenberg, Leigh Salter

School Council Chair: Urooj Fatima

Office Administrator : Sohair Sadik

School Council Treasurer: Peter Lo

Office Staff : Jenany Jeyakumaran

Dear Families,

I would like to welcome all of you to the 2024-2025 school year! I am truly excited to be back and am looking forward to working with you and your child(ren)! I hope that all of you had a restful and enjoyable summer. The start of a new school year provides opportunities to begin reconnecting with peers, teachers and staff within the walls of our school. It is a great time for setting goals and getting energized to reach them!

As always, after a summer of hard work, the school is spotless. We are so thankful to Mr. McLelland, Mr. Faburada and Mr. Jose who spent the summer disinfecting surfaces, cleaning chairs and desks, polishing floors, cleaning windows, moving furniture, unpacking boxes, moving more furniture, cleaning carpets and an endless list of other tasks! We are very grateful. We know that you will show your appreciation of their hard work by encouraging your children to do their part to help keep our school and grounds clean.

We would also like to acknowledge all the extra time and commitment our teachers and staff have put into getting their classrooms and our school ready for September. Throughout the summer many staff members participated in various professional development opportunities to complement their already excellent teaching skills and learn about new strategies and resources. To each of these dedicated professionals, I offer my sincerest gratitude. It is your hard work, commitment, and dedication that make Cedar Drive such a wonderful place to work and learn.

At this time, I would also like to express gratitude to Ms. Wills, Ms. Dynes, Ms. Amodeo and Ms. Bradey as they leave Cedar Drive. Their deep commitment and dedication to Cedar is immense and will be cherished. We wish you the very best.

We're pleased to welcome Ms. Chandra, Ms. Hickey, Ms. Aisaaq, Ms. Vo and Ms. Prakash who come to Cedar with their excellent pedagogical skills and a great commitment to students. We look forward to achieving great things together.

Finally, I hope you will consider joining the school Parent Council, it is an excellent way to get involved in school life and make your voice heard. Everyone is welcome! Information regarding Parent Council will be shared soon. Welcome back to Cedar Drive and I look forward to connecting with all of you as we embrace the return of our students and the start of another exciting, busy and fantastic school year!

In Partnership,

Ms. Renu Bose

Important Dates

Sept. 3	Back to School
Sept. 26	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 27	PA Day
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day. National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
TBD	First Parent Council Meeting
Oct. 3	Curriculum Night- Meet the Teacher
Sept. 30- Oct. 4	Scholastics Fair
Oct. 24	Photo Day



September 30th is Orange Shirt Day, also known as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It's a day of observance for all Canadians to reflect on the ongoing effects of residential schools and to honour the experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

It's a day to honour children that survived residential school, and to remember the lives that were lost. Wearing orange is a symbol of respect and mourning.

School Start time: 8:40am

Lunch – 11:30 – 12:25pm

School Ends: 3:15pm

**PUNCTUALITY IS
THE FIRST STEP
TOWARDS
SUCCESS.**

Quote by Nishtunishaa

KEY DATES

CURRICULUM / MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Thursday October 3, 2024. More information will be shared. Stay tuned!

SCHOLASTICS FAIR

The Scholastics Fair is back at Cedar Drive! It will run in the Library from September 30th-October 4th.

TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK

Our school walk is on Friday September 27. More information to follow.

PHOTOGRAPH DAY IS COMING

Please mark your calendars. Photographs for individual students has been tentatively booked for Thursday., October 24, 2023. Further details and information will be available soon.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY / NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

It's a day to honour children that survived residential school, and to remember the lives that were lost. Wearing orange is a symbol of respect and mourning.

SAFETY CAUTION: Most of our students walk to school and there is high traffic in the school circular drive from 8:30-8:40 am. The parking lot is also extremely busy with students at the start of school and the end of the day, prior to dismissal.

Please be patient and exercise extreme caution as you drive through the school.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping the Cedar children safe.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Please keep in mind that there are many factors that are considered when creating class assignments. Many factors such as Ministry cap sizes, achievement levels, learning styles, gender, etc. are taken into account.

Balancing many of these factors is no small feat and staff have worked tirelessly at the end of last year to carefully place your child. As a school, class lists are created with consideration of the needs of ALL students and how the class and school will function as a whole. These class lists are tentative, and changes may be necessary as we remain compliant with Ministry parameters. Principals must comply with the school organization that has been approved by the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed.

We appreciate your understanding, support and cooperation with this matter.

SNACK FORMS

If you would like your child to be given a snack, we require you come to complete the **Snack Program Permission Form**. Please note that **NO** child will be given a snack unless this form has been completed and returned. A separate form should be submitted for each child in the family. This form will be sent home with your child by his/her homeroom teacher.

STUDENTS GOING HOME AT LUNCH

Students who choose to go home at lunch are asked to please complete the permission forms that will be sent home with your child. A separate form should be submitted for each child in the family. This form will be sent home with your child by his/her homeroom teacher.

Please return the signed Snack and Lunch forms to your child's teacher no later than Sept. 12th.

Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use

We would like to inform you about a new policy that has been implemented across all Toronto District School Board (TDSB) schools.

As per PPM 128, the use of cell phones is no longer permitted during school hours. This policy change aims to enhance the learning environment and ensure students remain focused on their studies.

Research shows that cell phones can be a significant distraction in the classroom, leading to decreased attention and academic performance. Additionally, limiting phone use helps to promote face-to-face interactions and reduces the potential for cyberbullying during school hours. By removing these distractions, we are committed to fostering a more engaging and supportive educational experience for all students.

Please encourage your child to leave their phone at home or keep it stored in their backpack throughout the school day.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us implement this policy effectively. Together, we can create a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



**SEPTEMBER 30TH MARKS ORANGE SHIRT DAY
&
THE NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day, it also marks National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, which was passed by legislation last summer to become a federal statutory holiday.

Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad, who was excited to wear her new orange shirt to her first day of school in 1973. However, when she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her shirt was taken and never returned. From that day forward, the colour orange, for Phyllis, reminded her of that moment, how her feelings didn't matter, how she felt like she wasn't worth anything and that no one cared for the children who were crying about it that day.

Now, on this day, we recognize the legacy and impact of the residential schools system on First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. We acknowledge the legacy of residential schools in Canada by wearing orange and we honour the survivors. We remember the thousands of children who were murdered and buried in unmarked graves.

On Monday, September 30, 2023, wear orange to participate in Orange Shirt Day.

Follow @UIEC_tdsb and @tdsb on Twitter to see how students and staff from across the Toronto District School Board recognize Orange Shirt Day.

For more information, visit the Urban Indigenous Education Centre website. To learn more about Phyllis' story and Orange Shirt Day visit <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>

PARENT VOLUNTEER PROCEDURES

Parent volunteers are a valuable resource to the school. We appreciate the many hours that parents provide in order to work with students and assist with many fundraising events at the school. If you are interested in volunteering, please drop by the office to pick up the necessary forms.

START OF YEAR ONLINE FORMS

Many of you received an email from TDSB regarding start of year forms to be completed online. When you click on the provided link, you will have access to the forms that are required to be completed. Please review and complete these so we have an understanding of your child's needs.

Also, for the safety and well-being of your child, it is critical that the school has your child's information on file, particularly **updated contact information** and **emergency contacts**. Carefully review and fill the student information forms as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PARENT COUNCIL

We hope to see some new faces eager to contribute and learn about the many ways Parent Council support our school community. Please stay tuned for more information regarding our first parent council meeting and nomination for executive positions towards the end of September. We will be offering our meetings in person and virtually for greater convenience.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Parents, we have a number of students who have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts. We ask that your child be provided with a nut-free snack and lunch when attending school. We appreciate your support.

Taking the Necessary Precautions:

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment. Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at

<http://foodallergycanada.ca>



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: A PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students, and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some **tips** for supporting **Character Development in the Home**, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live character every day

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/character.

SEPTEMBER'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

RESPECT

*Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on **RESPECT**.*

What does respect mean to you?

Your child can show respect by:

- being kind to other family members
- using polite language
- talking and spending time with relatives and/or other family members
- listening when someone else is talking

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be respectful?
- What are some different ways in which you can show respect: a) for yourself, b) for others, c) for nature and the environment?
- How can we speak to others with respect? Can you give some examples?
- How can we show respect for our belongings and the belongings of others?

Projects to do together:

- Watch a television show or movie together and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted respectfully or disrespectfully toward one another. Watch for put-downs, insults, and subtle forms of bullying.
- Interview a grandparent or other relative and take the time to get to know him or her better.
- Plan how the family can do more recycling or reduce wastefulness. Organize a family project around this.

Encouraging respect in your child:

- Praise and encourage your child when he or she is being respectful.
- Speak to your child with respect and answer his or her questions in a polite manner. Expect the same behaviour from your child.
- Share an example of how someone was respectful toward you, and how this made you feel.
- Encourage respectful manners and speaking politely to others in the community.