**OCTOBER UPDATES**

As October draws to a close we would like to provide some updates regarding some important information on School Advisory Council, Hallowe’en, Opal Launch, Co-Curriculars, Re-organization update, Toronto Public Health and Early French Immersion. Please read the updates below...

**School Advisory Council:**

We thank all members of our parent community who submitted election forms and came out to the Elections meeting on October 20, 2022

**Congratulations to our Executives**:

**Chair:** Shaimaa Mansour

**Treasurer:** Nisrin Hussein

**Secretary:** Marwa Abdelghani

Our Parent Representatives (voting members) of council are:

Maysoon Elhadi Ali + Muthukumar Ayyasamy + Mohammad Hamed Barmak + Soad Dandoush + Khawaji Basir Fitri + Nedjoua Imène Hamida +

Zemmour Karim + Zheiran Kifah+ Sivapragasam Logeswaran + Ameruddin Azhar Mohammed + Khazima Qadeer + Marsha Tahedil +

Basgul Shren Zada

We look forward to a productive year ahead. All parents are welcome at the meetings. The next meeting is tentatively set for November 28, 2022 from 6:00-7:00pm.

**Hallowe’en on Monday, October 31, 2022:**

As Hallowee’en approaches we would like to provide some TDSB reminders regarding the recognition of Hallowe’en for those who celebrate.

Each year, Halloween is marked in a variety of ways in school communities across the TDSB. Students can choose whether or not to participate in Halloween related activities. Should your child choose to wear a costume please ensure that you are aware of the potential negative and triggering impact violent images can have on students. Toy “weapons” of any sort are not permitted and as we remind our learning community “Culture is not a costume” and that cultural appropriation, stereotypes or caricatures are inappropriate and offensive. We discourage the use of masks for safety/visibility reasons as well. Due to the many life-threatening allergies of students and staff, treats from home to be shared with classmates will not be permitted. We appreciate the collective commitment to ensuring Cedar Drive remains a safe and welcoming environment for all, every day.

**OPAL Launch**

This October we welcomed back Ms. MacEwen, retired Phys Ed teacher to conduct classroom workshops on our OPAL play (Outdoor Play and Learning). Our outdoor play is all weather, so please ensure your child is dressed for the weather. The outdoor play focuses on loose parts and student inquiry and imagination! Our tenets for play are “Is it safe? Is it kind?” This ensures appropriate risk taking as well as ensuring inclusivity and responsibility for each other and our environment and the land upon which Cedar Drive is situated. We are looking forward to a year of productive play and FUN!

**Co-curriculars:**

This year marks the return of many clubs and sports. This past month we were pleased to have over 50 students participate in our annual Cross-Country practices and run at Thomson Park. Cedar then had 7 students qualify for the East Championships and 2 students qualify at our City of Toronto championships! Way to go Cedar! Our Waxwings not only performed their personal best but were exemplary ambassadors for our school! Thank you to all staff who supported practices and to Coaches King and Trokova for organizing and supervising our team!

Flag Football is currently underway as our Waxwings look forward to competing at our first tournament on November 1, 2022! We have a full team, thanks to student interest and Coaches Freckelton and Billinger. Go Waxwings!!

This year our Lunch Bin Monitors and Kindergarten Helpers are playing an integral role in our daily school routines, organization and leadership! We have had over 80 junior students sign up to participate in these opportunities. Through these experiences our students gain valuable leadership and contribute to our sense of belonging and community.

Choir practices have also begun and does Cedar ever have talent! We can’t wait to hear our students perform under the professional leadership of Madame Adderley, as well as Ms. Palen and Ms. Thomas.

**Reorganization Update:**

As you are aware, Cedar Drive went through a major growth spurt this fall! We are currently back to our pre-pandemic size of about 640 students.  This is excellent news, however as a result we did need to reorganize at the end of September. Our staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for ALL our students. We thank our Cedar students, parent’s and staff as we worked through this process.

**Toronto Public Health (TPH)**

We have been notified that TPH will send letters to parents/guardians of Grade 1 and 2 students who are not up-to-date with their vaccines according to TPH's records. Letters will be sent directly to parents/guardians. TPH has asked the schools to please encourage parents who have received a letter to:

• Make an appointment with a health care provider to get vaccinated for free.

• Report their child's vaccination online at:  [Immunization Connect – City of Toronto](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/xa0gjpp0cWPJVch6-d4UvQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0SvaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudG9yb250by5jYS9jb21tdW5pdHktcGVvcGxlL2hlYWx0aC13ZWxsbmVzcy1jYXJlL2hlYWx0aC1wcm9ncmFtcy1hZHZpY2UvaW1tdW5pemF0aW9uL2dldC1pbW11bml6ZWQtY2hpbGRyZW4teW91dGgvcmVwb3J0LXN0dWRlbnQtaW1tdW5pemF0aW9uL2ltbXVuaXphdGlvbi1jb25uZWN0L1cHc2Nob29sbUIKY05vOFxj3pBeq1IZTG9ycmlhbm4uQm95a29AdGRzYi5vbi5jYVgEAAAAAg~~)

• Contact Toronto Public Health if they have any questions via **email at** **immunization@toronto.ca** **or by phone at 416-338-7600.**

• Find more information about reporting vaccinations and the ISPA here: [Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1 (ontario.ca)](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_rqc4N4wx9kxXRPcVy6zNw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0QpaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cub250YXJpby5jYS9sYXdzL3N0YXR1dGUvOTBpMDFXB3NjaG9vbG1CCmNObzhcY96QXqtSGUxvcnJpYW5uLkJveWtvQHRkc2Iub24uY2FYBAAAAAI~)

Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires that students be vaccinated against nine designated diseases or have a valid exemption.

* Measles
* Mumps
* Rubella
* Diphtheria
* Tetanus
* Polio
* Meningococcal
* Pertussis (whooping cough)
* Varicella (chickenpox) -only applies to students born on or after 2010

Toronto Public Health (TPH) reviews immunization records of students attending school in Toronto in accordance with the ISPA. TPH plans to assess and update student vaccine records for the 2022/2023 school year. TPH is currently focusing on informing families about potentially missing doses and records so that they can catch up on these vaccines. Presently, TPH is not focused on issuing suspension orders for noncompliance with the ISPA. This may change so it is important for students to get vaccinated and report their immunizations to TPH as soon as possible.

**Early French Immersion for September 2023 is Junior Kindergarten (children born in 2019).**[Flyer](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/PEaX5C5Spv0oDeRUDJrQqQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0R0aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNhL20vP3M9VElNbFFDWWE0Nm8mbWFsPTkxYzE4NjZlZjNkMTliMzQ0NGFjNGVkYTcxOTM1YTQ1ZmNkYzI2NWUyNmRjYzg3YzgzZmE4ZjA3NGI2ZjcwZDBXB3NjaG9vbG1CCmNObzhcY96QXqtSGUxvcnJpYW5uLkJveWtvQHRkc2Iub24uY2FYBAAAAAI~)

The application to the Early French Immersion program will remain an online and applications must be completed online between **October 31 and November 25, 2022**. An offer of placement in the program (**not** a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student, born in 2019.

Visit the TDSB website for more information about [Early French Immersion](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/v0eK7U6spS2HUzk6ouwfeA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0RyaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGRzYi5vbi5jYS9FbGVtZW50YXJ5LVNjaG9vbC9TY2hvb2wtQ2hvaWNlcy9GcmVuY2gtUHJvZ3JhbXMvQXBwbGljYXRpb24tUHJvY2Vzcy9FYXJseS1GcmVuY2gtSW1tZXJzaW9uVwdzY2hvb2xtQgpjTm84XGPekF6rUhlMb3JyaWFubi5Cb3lrb0B0ZHNiLm9uLmNhWAQAAAAC), [Virtual & In-Person Information Sessions](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/-SBjumR8vY86rT9ltfzEXA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0RbaHR0cDovL3d3dy50ZHNiLm9uLmNhL0VsZW1lbnRhcnktU2Nob29sL1NjaG9vbC1DaG9pY2VzL0ZyZW5jaC1Qcm9ncmFtcy9JbmZvcm1hdGlvbi1TZXNzaW9uc1cHc2Nob29sbUIKY05vOFxj3pBeq1IZTG9ycmlhbm4uQm95a29AdGRzYi5vbi5jYVgEAAAAAg~~) or the [Application Process](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/sN0Uky-ND-5ndgUf0Xue-A~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRlPWvvP0RbaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGRzYi5vbi5jYS9FbGVtZW50YXJ5LVNjaG9vbC9TY2hvb2wtQ2hvaWNlcy9GcmVuY2gtUHJvZ3JhbXMvQXBwbGljYXRpb24tUHJvY2Vzc1cHc2Nob29sbUIKY05vOFxj3pBeq1IZTG9ycmlhbm4uQm95a29AdGRzYi5vbi5jYVgEAAAAAg~~).

Thank you for your continued support.

T. Mitchell, Principal