



April 2017

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We'd like to begin this month's newsletter by congratulating the many students who were recognized for demonstrating Honesty, our school board character Trait for March. These students serve as positive role models for their fellow peers and are an inspiration to the entire school. We continue to challenge all of our students to be leaders, in particular as we try to eliminate waste and recyclable materials which are often found on the school yard.

To support our students' growth in this endeavor, Ref Aoude' from the City of Toronto's Waste Management Services visited the school and modeled the appropriate reusing, reduction and disposal of waste. Ref also shared a wealth of information with students and we hope this furthers our work both inside and outside the building. Ms. Dietz' Grade 4 students also played an import role as environmental leaders this past month in discussing the significant impact of Earth Hour on local and global communities.

For this month's Family Reading session, Ms. Armbrust had a group of children, including some visitors from the Daycare, join her in the Library. She shared with parents how they could access BookFLIX, which offers online books for children to listen and read along to through the school's Virtual Library. We look forward to the next session with Ms. Fowke as our Guest Reader on April 19th!

Our community was certainly treated to very special concert performance this past month thanks to the great work of our Grade 3-4 staff and students. This was of course the culmination of many weeks of practice, practice and more practice. During this time, classes worked with local Bengali Artist Niladri Koloton to learn and perfect a traditional Bengali Dance to welcome the new season. From the recorder group, to vocal compositions to the dance finale, the concert also honoured Indigenous and Caribbean narratives. Thank you to all of our staff involved in coordinating this special event and to Ms. Khandaker for connecting us to Ms. Koloton.

Yet another memorable highlight from this month came to us courtesy of the students from West Humber C.I. In recognition of Greek Heritage Month, students from W.H.C.I. showcased a variety of Traditional Greek Dances including Zorba which all in attendance greatly enjoyed. More importantly, this continues our critical conversation in learning of one another, embracing one another and respecting each other's voice, culture and heritage.

We want to thank the many parents who attended EQAO Parent Information Night as we continue to collaborate together in support of students. Nutrition, rest, overall wellness in addition to strong academic and study habits will all go a long way to ensure student success. And as educators and parents we will continue to support and reassure our young learners as they continue on this path.

Finally we want to strongly encourage parents to complete the **TDSB Census** which will be sent home with your child. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to your participation and valuable insights.

It's truly an honor to serve the students, staff and community at Crescent Town.

Sincerely,

*Harpreet Ghuman*



### Hispanic Heritage Month Latin-America History Month Genocide Awareness Month Sikh Heritage Month

- 1 Laudation of the Mother of God Orthodox Russian
- 5 Shri Rama Navami Hinduism
- 7 Annunciation Orthodox & Western Christianity
- 7 World Health Day WHO
- 9 Mahavir Jayanti\*\* Jain
- 10-18 Pesach/Passover\* Judaism
- 11 Memorial to Christ's Death Jehovah's Witness
- 12 International Day of Pink -Nova Scotia, Canada, High School (unnamed)
- 13 Solar New Year (Mesha Sankranta) Hinduism
- 13 Vaisakhi Sikhism
- 14 Vaisakhi (Tamil New Year) Taoist
- 14 Good Friday Christianity, Public Holiday
- 14 Holy Friday Orthodox Eastern
- 16 Easter Christianity
- 16 Easter (Pascha) Eastern Orthodox Churches
- 17 Easter Monday Christianity
- 18 International Day of Silence International
- 20 First Day of Ridvan Baha'i
- 21 Groundation Day Rastafari
- 22 Earth Day UN
- 23-24 Yom HaShoah\* Judaism
- 24 Isra'a and Miraj Islam
- 25 The Recognition of the True Puh Muslim
- Apr 27- May 26 Nisfu Shaban Islam
- 28 Akshaya Tritya Hindu
- 28 National Day of Mourning Canada
- 29 Ninth Day of Ridvan\* Baha'i

### April's Character Trait is Co-operation

## Crescent Town Elementary School

*Proud to be a Gold Eco-School*

4 Massey Square, Toronto, Ontario M4C 5M9  
T:416.396.2340 F:416.396.2903

Harpreet Ghuman, Principal  
Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Vice-Principal  
Rumana Islam, Settlement Worker  
Lucy Giannotta, Superintendent  
Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee  
Sandip Dhakecha, Parent Council Chair  
Email: [CrescentTown@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:CrescentTown@tdsb.on.ca)

School website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/crescenttown/>

School Green Team Blog: <http://kidblog.org/CrescentTownGreenTeam/>

Parent website: <http://www.crescenttownschool.com/>

Toronto District School Board Website: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca>

## **Sikh Heritage comes to life at TDSB Head Offices**

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Sikh Heritage Month was celebrated with Our Principal, Harpreet Ghuman as one of the hosts, a keynote speaker, associate Director of the TDSB, Christopher Usih, prayers, dance performances, and poem recitals to mention a few. Excellence through equity is a powerful force that takes place daily through the voices of Sikh students throughout the TDSB. It was wonderful to hear those voices loud and clear about acknowledgement, empowerment and inclusion.



On March 22, 2016, Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month, making TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so, and matching recognition by the Province of Ontario in 2013. As stated in the Sikh Heritage Month Act, 2013, c. 12, s. 1.:

"Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the middle of the twentieth century. They represent a growing and dynamic population. April is an important month for the Sikh community. In this month, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith."

As Canada marks its 150th birthday, it is a time to reflect on both the struggles and accomplishments of the many communities that contribute to Canada's rich cultural mosaic. From being turned away on Canada's shores during the historic Komagata Maru incident in 1914 to the many Canadians, such as Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, who serve the nation today, we must continue to progress.

### **Family Math**

Congrats Crescent Town Students! Your efforts during March Family Math were amazing! We had so many wonderful responses. The winner of this month's prize is Khadeejah in Grade 1. Way to go!! Here is the question for April:

#### **K-Grade 2**

Choose a number between 5 and 99.

Say it (as a word)

Make it (as a picture)

Write it (as a number)

#### **Grade 3-4**

Choose a number between 100 and 9999.

Show it as a number, in base 10 form, in expanded form and finally in words.

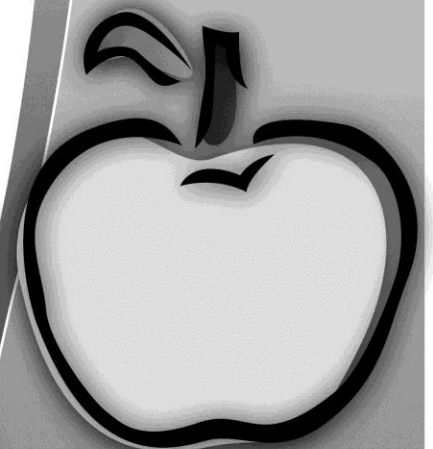
Submit your answers to the library anytime this month. Thank-you!!!

## **Arts in the Park**

Dentonia Park will be hosting part of the Four Directions Festival, a multi-park project which will feature performing artists as well as a celebratory feast in honour of Aboriginal Day and the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.

All of the Arts In the Parks events are free and family friendly and we encourage everyone in the community to come out and participate. We will reach out to you with more details in the near future and you can also visit our website, [www.artsintheparksTO.org](http://www.artsintheparksTO.org) for more information.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Jaclyn Rodrigues at [jaclyn@torontoarts.org](mailto:jaclyn@torontoarts.org) or [416-392-6800 ext 212](tel:416-392-6800).



Thank you very much,  
Alexandra Loewen  
Intern, Arts in the Parks  
Toronto Arts Foundation







### **April is Latin-America History Month at the TDSB**

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB is recognized during the month of April. Across the TDSB, we have over 5000 students and over 21 countries from Latin-America that will be represented as we learn and celebrate the diverse ethnicities, nationalities, cultures and languages of Latin-America. Linguistically, the diversity of peoples with Latin-America ancestry sees over 500 hundred languages spoken, which encompasses Indigenous and African languages such as Kuna and Garifuna.

This year, we will elaborate on the concept of Abya Yala, a decolonized term from the Kuna Language, referring to geographical region of Latin-America as Indigenous Land and explored through the Indigenous Prophecy of the Eagle and Condor. This diversity is not easily accessed in mainstream sources of knowledge nor are the experiences of students from Latin-America. The TDSB is leading the equity work in transforming schools to equitable spaces where images, words and actions alike uplift students and their families of Latin-America!

### **TDSB Storytelling Festival, Folktale Project**

On Sunday April 2, 2017 five of our students took part in the annual TDSB Storytelling Festival, Folktale Project, The aim of the project was to bring forward tales from students' cultures and native country; tales which may have been passed down from grandparents, family friends, and parents on to our students. Crescent Town Students shared tales from Nepal and Bangladesh with the festival attendees. We heard stories with morals ranging from co-operation, fairness and honesty. They spoke with confidence and took pride in sharing their stories with everyone. Well done!





### Recycling Presentations



Crescent Town learned how to sort garbage. We now know how to put garbage in the right spot. The City of Toronto came do run workshops for all our students so that everyone can so their part to recycle and dispose of garbage in a environmentally conscious way.



TDSB Earth Hour! – Crescent Town and all TDSB schools participated in a our board wide Earth Hour from 2:00 to 3:00pm on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Thank you everyone for doing your part and serving as positive role models for our students.



### Toronto's Annual School Cleanup Day

On Friday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m. students, staff, and parents from across Toronto are encouraged to help rejuvenate our city's green spaces by picking up litter in their schoolyard, neighbourhood park, or local community. Celebrate Earth Day by joining over 500 schools who are helping to keep our City clean and green! You'll be amazed at what we can accomplish in as little as 20 minutes!



### The account name is CTgreenteam!!

The Crescent Town Green Team is on Instagram! Search for us at CTgreenteam to learn about Eco initiatives in the school and community. Instagram is free to download, and is a fun way to stay connected.

### Elementary Summer School

Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. This summer, from July 5 – 28, we are opening schools across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/summer](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/summer) for a complete list of participating schools. @TDSB\_ConEd

### April is Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB

The TDSB is committed to preserving the rich cultures and traditions of those with Hispanic heritage

One way in which the rich artistic culture of Hispanic heritage is celebrated in the City of Toronto is through dance. A recent documentary, Hearts of Tango, has been screened in many countries around the world with great reviews and success. This documentary produced and directed by a TDSB teacher, Miguel Libedinsky, is about Tango in the great city of Toronto. The film has been screened in the USA, Spain, Japan, Sri Lanka, UK, Romania, Finland, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Germany.

Learn more at [www.heartsoftango.com](http://www.heartsoftango.com)

