



December 2016

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The month of November has come to a close and we want to congratulate the many students that were recognized for demonstrating Empathy at our Character Assembly on November 30th. This involves leadership both in their class and school community through serving as positive role models for their peers. Our Character Trait focus for the month of December will be on Kindness and Caring which will be highlighted through numerous lessons and activities.

Our 2nd Family Reading session took place on Wednesday November 23rd with Ms. Perry as our guest reader. We were pleased to see so many families in attendance and our Daycare staff and students participate as well. These events help to promote the importance and love of reading and enable students to enjoy a story with their families. We look forward to our next session on December 14th with Ms. Shergill as our guest reader!

Earth Day Canada representatives were on hand on Thursday November 24th for a special OPAL Info Session for parents and community members. This event provided parents an opportunity to learn more about the OPAL Pilot Project (Outdoor Play and Learning) at Crescent Town and how this is unfolding. We were thrilled to receive from the OPAL team a variety of loose parts and tools (cardboard rolls, shovels, rakes, wooden spools) that students will be able to play with outdoors. In the coming weeks, our Kindergarten Playground will be opened enabling students to access such materials which will be incorporated into their daily outdoor play experiences.

Aboriginal Education was a focus for teaching and learning this past month and we are extremely proud of all the work that is taking place. Our student announcers begin each day now with the reading of the Treaty Acknowledgment and First Nations' music is played daily as we continue to learn together. Through Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week we were able to connect the Residential School experiences of First Nations communities across Canada. Ms. Minos coordinated a variety of activities for staff and students culminating in a beautiful Mural that is now displayed in the Main Foyer which we encourage everyone to view. While the month has come to a close, First Nations learning will continue to be an important focus at Crescent Town and throughout our school board.

Finally, I want to thank you parents for your continued role in collaborating with staff to ensure the best learning experience for students. This past month you were able to meet with your child's teacher in discussing the Progress Reports and celebrate areas of strength, and ways in which we can ensure continued growth and goal setting for students. Some of you have come into classes to be guest teachers or share a story or discuss your rich culture and background and journeys with us. We are humbled by your support and cannot thank you enough for your participation as our partners in education.

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

Sincerely,

Harpreet Ghuman



Calendar of Events

Dates to Remember:

- 1 | World AIDS Day UN
- 2 | P.A. Day – No school
- 2 | International Day of the Abolition of Slavery UN
- 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities UN
- 5 | Hour of Code
- 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Canada
- 8 | Abilities in Motion: I Can Day @ CT
- 8 | Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment) Buddhism
- 8 | St. Clements or Ohrid Patrons Day Orthodox Macedonian
- 10 | Human Rights Day UN
- 12 | Mawlid-al-Nabi Islam
- 13 | Pizza Lunch
- 13 | Birthday of Imam Agakhan Islam 14
- | Gr 2 Winter Concert 6:30-7:30 pm
- 16 | Aboriginal Presenter – Deanne Hupfield
- 18 | International Migrants Day UN
- 21 | Winter Solstice – Yule* Wicca/Pagan
- 23 | Last day of school before Winter Break
- 24 - Jan 1 | Hanukkah* Judaism
- 25 | Christmas Christianity and Public Holiday
- 26 | Ashu Zarathosht's Death Zoroastrianism
- 26 | Boxing Day Public Holiday
- 26 - Jan 01 | Kwanzaa African Canadian & American
- Jan 9 | Return to School

Crescent Town Elementary School

Proud to be a Gold Eco-School

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Email: 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



Working Together to Ensure Student Success

In order to ensure the best possible education for your child, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly. A student's academic progress depends on regular class attendance. Research also indicates that attendance patterns and attitudes are developed at an early age. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities and complete all homework assignments and tests when they are absent. All attendance is monitored by the office and kept in student records.

We would like to encourage families to plan extended vacations when school is not in session. Extended absences can result in gaps in student learning. Students in Grades 3 may have particular difficulty during the provincial assessments (EQAO) when they have been absent during the school year and have missed a large portion of the curriculum taught. Regular student attendance and punctuality is important in order for students to be successful at school.

You can help ensure your child's success by:

- being involved in your child's education;
- knowing the school's schedule;
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers (use your child's planner to send notes to the teacher);
- calling the school if your child is going to be absent;
- writing a note if your child is late due to an appointment;
- ensuring that your child gets a good night's sleep so that they have the energy they need for the next day.

If attendance patterns indicate an increase in absences, then a letter that is issued by the school will be sent home to better understand why the student has been absent. If the absences continue, then the students file is passed to the case work of a social worker to help out families.

Let's work together to ensure student success.



Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by:

- reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- informing the school if your child is ill;
- keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. 1-866-797-0000.

READ, WRITE, THINK!

Everyday Strategies for Building Confident and Capable Learners

A workshop presented by Ms. Traikoff and Ms. Kurita on Wednesday, January 18 at 2pm. Location at Crescent Town, room to be determined. We will focus on our early years learners, K-1. Parents and caregivers, teachers, support workers are all welcome!

Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. **Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.**

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the windchill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make out-door breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students – a perfect balance of fun and safety.