



January 2017

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we look back at the final month of 2016, we want to congratulate the many students that were recognized for demonstrating *Kindness and Caring* at our **Character Assembly** on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. For some of our Kindergarten students, this was a first experience at performing in front of a large audience and we were so proud to see them shine. We were extremely pleased to see so many parents in attendance and thank you for your ongoing support. Our Character Trait focus for the month of January will be on *Teamwork* which will be highlighted through numerous lessons and activities.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> **Family Reading** session took place on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> with Ms. Shergill as our guest reader. Thank you to the many parents and families that were in attendance! We look forward to our next session on January 18<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Lloyd as our guest reader!

Crescent Town demonstrated **Kindness and Caring** in a variety of ways in December and we are proud of the ongoing work of staff and students. Ms. Soane's class was busy collecting non-perishable items for a **Food Drive** while Ms. Khandaker's class visited a local **Seniors Centre** and presented **Holiday Cards** and songs of peace and friendship. The students were delighted in return to receive a warm lunch prepared by parent volunteers as well as holiday gifts courtesy of **Harmony Hall**. Our final Cookie Sale was in support of a local **Community Shelter** on **Danforth Avenue** and Ms. Shergill was able to present many new **blankets** on behalf of our school. All such acts exemplify the sense of compassion and care that the school community holds and we were truly moved by these efforts.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Crescent Town held **I Can Day** to honour **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** in support of creating an equitable and inclusive environment for all. We were honoured to have Para-Olympian Tracy Schmitt as well as staff from the Rick Hansen Foundation and Variety Village on hand to support many activities throughout the school (e.g. Wheelchair Basketball, Sign Language Games, and Abilities Mural). Our ongoing work in this area will continue to broaden our understanding of persons with disabilities and ensuring that the school is proactive in providing an inclusive and barrier free environment.

As part of our ongoing focus on **Aboriginal Education**, Anishinabe storyteller and presenter **Deanne Hupfield** paid a visit to Crescent Town. Working with our Grade 2-4 classes, Deanne shared some important facts regarding past discriminatory laws and practices impacting First Nations communities across Canada. She shared how this directly resulted in her not learning her Native language.

As 2017 is upon us, we look forward to the completion of the **Kindergarten Playground** and thank our school community for your patience with this project. The new playground will include a walkway for parents and children to enter the school and drop off/pick up students to the appropriate areas. We are excited to see the project nearing its completion very shortly!

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

Harpreet Ghuman



## Tamil Heritage Month

### 1 Gantan-sai New Year Shinto

1 New Year's Day International Public Holiday

### 5 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sikhism

5 Twelfth Night Christianity

6 Feast of the Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes

Orthodox & Western Christianity

### 7 Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) Orthodox (Julian Calendar) Christianity

7 Ethiopian Christmas Rastafari

8 Baptism of Jesus Orthodox Egyptian

8 Pausa Putrada Ekadashi Hinduism

8 - 15 Theravada Days of Mindfulness Buddhism

12-15 Mahayana New Year\*\* Buddhism

13 Punjabi Lohri Hinduism (Punjabi)

13 Maghi Sikhism

14 Makara Sankranti Hinduism

14 New Year Eastern Orthodox

15 World Religion Day Baha'i

16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day U.S.A. Fed. Holiday

16-20 No Name Calling Week Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

21 Feast of the Wedding of Cana at Galilee

Orthodox Ethiopian

TBA Birthday of Lord Zoroaster (Khordad Sal) Zoroastrianism in Pakistan

27 International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust UN

27 St. Sava Devine Service Orthodox Serbian

28 Mehergan (1st Full Moon) Zoroastrianism

### 28 Lunar New Year (Spring Festival)

Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist

29 Jashan-e-Sadeh Zoroastrian

## Crescent Town Elementary School

*Proud to be a Gold Eco-School*

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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>

**Abilities in Motion/I Can Day!** – I CAN DAY @CT was inspired by Ms. Sirizzotti who taught her class about Residential Schools and what they can do to make a difference by being inclusive. Crescent Town was ignited by the strong conviction of *Unstoppable Tracy* who shared her struggles and experiences with our students. Through the Rick Hansen Foundation, Crescent Town learned how a 4-way amputee can teach all over the world, sail and ski!! Who would have thought that Tracy would be the person to spark the inner spirit of K-4 students to be more aware and tolerant of differences. Tracy showed us all the things that she can do and how they might just look different.

Our kids asked her about “Trevor,” how she eats, plays games, and even walks. The day was set for deeper understanding of physical disabilities and how able-bodied people have to be more inclusive and supportive. From Tracy’s inspiring presentation in the morning to ongoing activities throughout the school (Mural/Wheelchair Basketball/Seated Volleyball/Communication Games) and your continued work in classes, we have raised a tremendous amount of awareness on how we can make our school and community more **accessible** and **inclusive**.

Thank you to our committee members for their work and Ms. Minos for pulling together such valuable individuals and resources from The Rick Hansen Foundation and Variety Village. Our learning will continue well beyond this inspirational day.



### Deanne Hupfield educates CT!

As we continue our FNMI learning journey, we were honoured to have Anishinaabe storyteller and presenter Deanne Hupfield visit us on Fri., Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hupfield worked with our Grade 2-4 classes. Deanne shared some important facts regarding past discriminatory laws and practices impacting First Nations communities across Canada. She shared how this directly resulted in her not learning her Native language. Deanne also discussed with students important facts on Traditional PowWow Dances and the element of community healing through such actions. Deanne and various presenters that visit Crescent Town support our collective learning and knowledge on Aboriginal perspectives and traditions and we will continue on this journey in 2017.



Wheelchair Basketball



Seated Volleyball



Mr. Ghuman's Birthday!

We couldn't pass up an opportunity to celebrate Mr. Ghuman's Birthday. Crescent Town loves to celebrate. Ms. Fowke and Eliab from her class took the opportunity to present a cupcake to him and help him blow his candle. Happy Birthday!





Crescent Town students show us **Character Counts!!** Ms. Khandaker's whole class received the Kindness and Caring award.



**Crescent Town Prefects**

Prefects are always on hand to help run events and daily school operations smoothly. We enjoy their leadership and support by directing students in the hallways, to the washroom, opening doors and making sure everyone is happy at Crescent Town. Thanks Prefects!



**Crescent Town Winter Concert with Grade 2's**

Family members of our Grade 2 students were treated to a highly entertaining concert which celebrated the diversity of many cultures and traditions. Songs honouring Christmas, Diwali, Eid and Kwanza were just some of the highlights and we applaud our Grade 2 Team for their outstanding preparation of students culminating in a very successful performance! Thank you Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Pang, Ms. Sayeed, Ms. Soane, Ms. Cockburn and Ms. Grimm for coordinating such an engaging school event for our parent community.

## To My Sister

Narmin Neaz, GRADE 1  
Ms. Koromilos, Crescent Town  
PS

For the happy times  
you've given me in  
Years,  
For the love, laughter and  
kindness,  
The hard times and tears,  
For the special things that  
only you can do,  
For this,  
I Thank You!



**Helen Boudreau/ Author in Residence**

**Helene Boudreau/Author in Residence** – As Helene began her visit with our Grade 1's, she shared with students her roots to the Mi'kmaq First Nations community. Hearing a student reading of the Treaty Acknowledgment and listening to an Aboriginal Drumming composition, Helene felt a sense of pride and connection to our school. This serves as further validation to the work we are doing. Crescent Town was very fortunate to be awarded an author visit by Helene through the Teaching and Learning Department. Helene engaged the students with the reading of her book *I Dare You Not to Yawn!* and shared with the students the steps she takes to write a book.

### Organic Waste Needs to go in the Green Bin!



Food waste is something that we are always talking about. We are fortunate to have a great snack program but when our vendors deliver food that has spoiled already....we are not happy. We take the opportunity to talk to classes like Ms. Audoin's about what fruits everybody likes to eat and what we can do to ensure that waste does not appear left around. We have to respect the building and space we are in by discarding spoiled fruit in the organic green bin.



### Shahir and Debraj From the Art Room

The grade 3 students have been learning about how artists and activists persevere, even when life gets tough. We learned about the life of glass artist, Dale Chihuly. The students used water bottles to make 3D sculptures. They also learned about the lives of Malala, Martin Luther King Jr. and Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah.

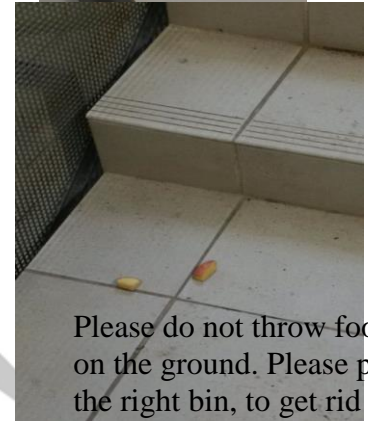
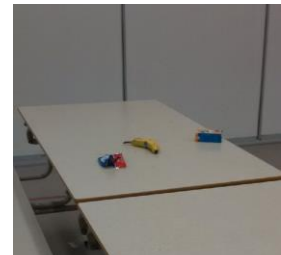
The grade 2 students are using art to show how they are all UNIQUE and special. They have been making collages using painted papers, photos and poems they have written. Look in the next newsletter for their final products.

### Family Math at C.T.

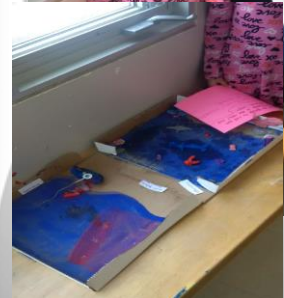
It has been great to see so many parents and children learning mathematics together. Thank-you to ALL those families that have participated in Family Math @C.T. this year. The winner for the December prize is Talha in Ms. Sayeed's class. We will continue giving a new question every month. Pick-up a paper from the bulletin board outside the office and drop your answer off in the library.

### Igniting Fitness Possibilities Program

**Variety Village** is recruiting students from our school to join for a FREE program at Variety Village. For more information go to [www.varietylvillage.ca](http://www.varietylvillage.ca)



Please do not throw food on the ground. Please put in the right bin, to get rid of it or if you don't want to eat it.



Ms. Dietz and her Grade 4's invited parents and classes to discuss their eco projects. We were so excited to hear about what happens to fish when they are caught in netting and when they are free to grow, live and multiply.