



November 2016

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we look back to the month of October we want to congratulate again our many students that were recognized for demonstrating Responsibility at our **Character Assembly on October 31st**. 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 November will be on Empathy which will be highlighted through numerous lessons and activities.

We are pleased to announce that our Librarian Ms. Thompson has organized **Family Reading** sessions which take place each month throughout the school year. Our first session was held on October 19th with Ms. Audoin as our guest reader. She engaged students and parents through picture books and storytelling and we were delighted at the wonderful turn out from community. We welcome parents and students to join us again on **November 23rd at 3:30pm** for our next Family Reading event which will feature Ms. Perry as our guest reader.

As part of our continued partnership with **Earth Day** Canada, parents and community members will have an opportunity to learn more about Outdoor Play opportunities for students. A meeting for parents will be take place on Thursday November 24th at 5:00pm in the school library. Crescent Town is proud to be one of 6 Pilot **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** schools in the TDSB and this meeting will enable all stakeholders to discuss how play experiences can benefit students during recess and lunch periods. Please review the OPAL flyer accompanying this newsletter for more details.

A critical issue that I'd like to draw your attention to again is how we support and protect children with **Severe Nut Allergies**. To ensure students with such allergies are not at risk in any way, **all TDSB schools must ensure a Nut Free environment**. Having said that, I am quite concerned with the number of nut products that continue to be sent to school with children for either snacks or lunch. From chocolate bars to rice with nuts or Nutella sandwiches, there are various products which can end up in a child's lunch bag. **We are requesting your support in this regard to ensure that no nut products are sent to the school.** We hope you appreciate the serious nature of this and thank you in advance for your support towards a safe learning environment for all children at Crescent Town.

Finally, we wanted to thank you parents for your continued patience as the **Kindergarten Play area** continues to be worked on. The work to the site should be complete in the coming days enabling classes to access the play area daily for health and physical education and outdoor learning. Staff and students are also looking forward to the opening of the new play area and all the rich experiences it will provide.

As we head into the month of **November**, we will be further broaden our learning on **Aboriginal Education** which as an important mandate of TDSB. From newly purchased books on First Nations communities to storytellers, artists and performers, we will learn collectively as we move ahead with Truth and Reconciliation. We encourage you to access www.tdsb.on.ca for further information on Aboriginal Education and various system initiatives.

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

Sincerely,

Harpreet Ghuman



Calendar of Events

- **Aboriginal Education Month**
- 1 All Saints Day Eastern Orthodox & Roman Catholic
- 1 **Samhain* Wicca/Pagan**
- 2 Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I Rastafari
- 4 Gyana Panchami Jain
- 10 Photo Retake Day!
- 11 Remembrance Day Canada
- 12 Birth of Baha'hu'llah* Baha'i
- 14 Birthday of Guru Nanak Sikhism
- 14 Lokashaha Jayanti Jain
- 14 Prakash Sikhism
- 14 World Diabetes Day WHO
- 15 Progress Reports go home
- 15 Pizza Lunch
- 16 Louis Riel Day (Toronto) First Nations, Métis
- 18 P A Day – No school
- 20 Universal Children's Day UN
- 20 International Transgender Day of Gwendolyn Ann Remembrance Smith, US Trans Advocate
- 20-26 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Government of Ontario
- 21 Presentation of the Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Church
- 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikhism
- 24 OPAL Parent Information Night
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence UN Against Women
- 26 Day of the Covenant* Baha'i
- 26 National Holodomor Memorial Day Ukrainian Canadian Association
- Nov 27- Dec 24 Advent Christianity
- 30 Parent Council Meeting 6-7pm

Crescent Town Elementary School

Proud to be a Gold Eco-School

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Harpreet Ghuman, Principal
Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Vice-Principal
Rumana Islam, Settlement Worker
Lucy Giannotta, Superintendent
Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee
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>

From the Art Room

Barbara Reid came to visit our school last month. She gave a talk to the grade 2 and 3 students. Adam, from Ms. Soane's class is having his book signed by Barbara.

The Grade 3 students are putting their final touches on their Barbara Reid Self Portraits. The final products will be on permanent display in the library.

Next, the grade 2's will be working on plastiscine art. The Grade 3's will begin a study of Growth Mindset in the artroom, along with learning about the work of glass artist, Chihuly.



Family Math @ C.T.

Thank-you to ALL the students who participated in October's Family Math @C.T. by working on and submitting a question. Congratulations to Marzia in Ms. Lunan's Grade 3 class who won the draw for a great response. Family Math continues this month. The question is:

The Answer Is...

Pick a number between 1 and 100 (K-2) or 1 and 1000 (Grade 3-4).

Write down your number.

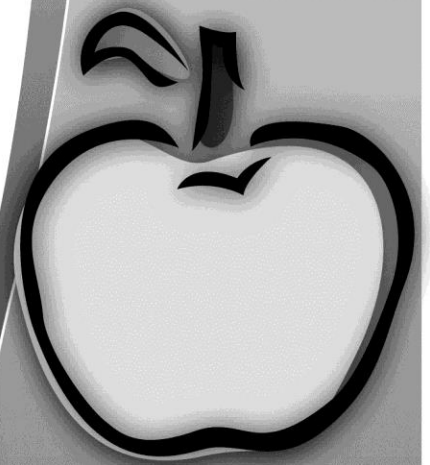
Think of a question or word problem for your number. Solve it using pictures, numbers and words.

Please pick-up a question and your paper from the bulletin board outside the office.

School Trip

I wake up in the morning. I brush my teeth and eat my breakfast. After that I went to the school. We are waiting for the bus. Then we finally got the bus. Now time to go for the apple picking. We wait for 40 minutes in the bus. Then we went to the apple farm. We pick and eat apples. We saw a vine and a pumpkin. I saw a red apple, green apple, crab apple, yellow apple, golden apple. Also, I saw sheep, pig, cow, horse, deer. We play on the big slide. That trip was so FUN!

Iftikhar Islam Grade 1, Mrs. Koromilos Room 209



Empathy is the Character Trait for November.

Empathy is...

seeing with the **eyes** of another,
listening with the **ears** of another,
and feeling with the **heart** of another.



Community News



Remembrance Day

On Wednesday, November 11, students and staff at our school and across the city will mark Remembrance Day with classroom activities and school assemblies. During Remembrance Day, our teachers make connections between global events and students' lives by promoting peace within our school community. On this solemn occasion, our staff, students, parents, and the wider community all join together in a call for peace.

This year's Remembrance Day marks the date and time when fighting stopped on November 11th at 11am in 1918 (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month) which makes this the 98th anniversary for the end of the First World War. It is also the 71st anniversary of the end of World War II.

John McCrae

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

School Lockdowns and Hold and Secures

From time to time, police activity and/or incidents in and around schools and their communities may result in a school being put into a "Hold & Secure" or "Lockdown." These are procedures that are designed to keep students and staff safe. Below is a brief explanation of each.

Hold & Secure

Hold & Secure is a response to a threat and/or incident in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. School life continues as normal inside the school; however, as a precautionary measure, outer doors are locked and no one enters or leaves the building. Note: As a result of Secure Access Systems that are installed at TDSB Elementary schools, outer doors are typically locked during the learning day.

Lockdown

Lockdown is used in a serious emergency situation where the threat is inside a school, on or very near to school property. A Lockdown minimizes access and visibility in an effort to shelter students, staff and visitors in secure locations. Similar to a Hold & Secure, all outer doors are locked; however a Lockdown requires that all students be kept in classrooms or other designated locations and that inner doors also be locked where possible. Entry to, and exit from, the building is restricted to emergency services personnel only.

During a Lockdown, lights are turned off in the classroom/office, curtains/blinds are closed where possible, cell phone use is restricted and all people inside the building should remain quiet. During a Lockdown, school phones will not be answered as the administration is tending to the ongoing situation. As cell phone use is restricted, students are asked not to use phones until cleared to do so.

It's important to note that our school, like every school across the Toronto District School Board, is required to practice two Lockdown drills per year to ensure students and staff know what to do in case of an emergency.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Regular parent-teacher communication is an important part of student learning. Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled throughout the year after report cards are sent home. [Insert school specific interview information].

These interviews are your opportunity to ask questions about your child's progress and to discuss any issues. In addition to regular scheduled parent-teacher interviews, you can request a meeting at any time during the school year by contacting the school or your child's teacher directly.

Continuing Education - Adult High School

Quadmester 2 begins November 14 and 15. Find a career path and to meet your academic goals. Tuition is free. Earn credits faster and gain Canadian work experience. Explore programs in business & technology, social science, mathematics and specialty programs such as accounting, office administration, personal support worker, and more.

Visit www.adultschooltoronto.ca for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education - Community Programs

Register for Winter Learn4Life beginning November 16. Take up a new hobby, learn a language, and meet people in your community. Put your hands to work and decorate and glaze your own pottery or sculpture. Take up a sport and stay active this winter.

Register at www.learn4life.ca
[Facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life](https://www.facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life)
@TDSB_ConEd
Classes begin Saturday, January 14, 2017.

Crescent Town embraces nature through various excursions

Trips to Chudleigh's and Brickworks! – Grade 1 students enjoyed a beautiful day of weather and apple picking at Chudleigh's Farm on Tuesday. Students also engaged in outdoor play and were able to meet and socialize with students from different schools. Our grade 1s were able to take a wagon ride and bring home some freshly grown apples. We were delighted to see so many parent volunteers on hand in support of staff and students. A few days earlier, Ms. Cooke's class enjoyed a trip to Brickworks and attached are some photos highlighting their exploration and learning of Habitats.



Grade 2 Trip to The Aga Khan Museum- A week prior our grade two classes learned to appreciate Islamic art and design including floral, geometric shapes, animals and people depictions as well as Arabic and Persian calligraphy. They sketched the designs and as part of the "Pattern Play in Art and Math" workshop, the students made clay tiles based on the motifs they saw. This was a most engaging experience with curricular links to visual arts, language, math and social studies.

Learning About Diwali – Sirvat, Qasim, Farill and Munthaka from Ms. Khandaker's shared an engaging presentation on Diwali with students and staff throughout the day. Through a PowerPoint and display of artifacts (e.g., Diyas) they discussed the significance of this holiday for those that observe. To continue the learning, classes throughout the week decorated Diyas, read books and watched videos. We are very proud of our student leaders for their hard work on the presentation and sharing their knowledge with students and staff. Thank you Ms. Kahandaker for working with the students throughout the week in preparation for today.



Noisy Reading in Room 201! – Our young learners from Room 201 held embarked on their first Noisy Reading session! The classroom had the privilege of having their wonderful parents/community members come and read with their child. Parents were very happy to be able to share this experience with their son/daughter, and were pleased to see the school being used as the community hub. Thank you Ms. Shergill for engaging parents as partners in the learning process.