

# The Dragon's Lair

April 2023

## Administrators' Message

Spring has sprung! The warmer weather is beginning to peak through and our students at Donwood Park have been enjoying the sunshine and warmer temperatures.

In April, our Character Trait is Cooperation. At Donwood Park, one of our sayings is, "Team work makes the dream work!" We know that when we all work together and support each other, we can achieve great things and make our school the best it can be!



We are excited about the variety of co-curricular opportunities that are being offered at Donwood Park – from Track and Field, to Drama Club and ultimate frisbee, the Intermediate Boys' Club and virtual and in person tutoring opportunities – there are many things going on at Donwood Park. Many of our classes also have field trips coming up in May and June which we know students are very excited about. We are also looking forward to our upcoming Regional Track and Field competition at Birchmount and our annual Donwood Park Talent Show in May! Go Dragons Go!

## International Day of Pink



important day.

The International Day of Pink took place on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our many students and staff who wore pink to support the message behind this

The International Day of Pink has one purpose which is "to create a more inclusive and diverse world by encouraging young people to challenge social norms, ask more of their educators, and stand up against bullying towards their 2SLGBTQIA+ peers." The goal is to reach more communities with every passing year.

The goals of acceptance, inclusivity and kindness to all directly align with our TDSB Character traits and our Donwood Park motto of "Kind Words, Kind Actions and Helping Hands". We all have an important part to play as a student, staff member and parent/guardian/caregiver with creating an inclusive and accepting community for all.

## School Council

Much appreciation to School Council for booking Coby the Magician's Anti-Bullying Magic Show

which will take place in May. We are looking forward to Coby coming to our school and the messages he will share with our students...and the magic.

Our next School Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** We will be meeting in person in our Library Learning Commons. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Earth Day 2023

On Saturday, April 22nd, it was Earth Day. Earth Day is a celebration of the Earth and our environment. We are all connected to the Earth and therefore, we all have a



responsibility to take care of the Earth and reduce our environmental footprint as much as we can. At school, Earth Day was recognized through a variety of classroom activities. The theme this year is “Invest in Our Planet”.

We invite our Donwood families to engage with your children in discussions about how your family can reduce your use of electricity, ways to reuse, reduce and recycle items where possible, and how you can reduce your environmental footprint.

More information is available at:  
<https://earthday.ca/>

## April is Latin-America History Month

Since its creation of the Latin America History Month Volunteer planning committee in 2016, the membership, who is comprised of educators, community organizers, parents and TDSB staff and alumni continues to ensure that we are reflective of all intersectional differences within our communities of Latin America / Abya Yala / Pachamana and its diaspora, including those right here at the TDSB.

In alignment with the theme, this year we focus on centering, honouring and uplifting our real hystories, both pre-colonial, and the realities of present-day due to colonization. We also centre, honour and uplift the multiplicities of our identities—recognizing fundamentally that our communities are not monolithic across all intersectional identity markers. We collectively push back on the “boxes” that have been imposed on our communities and take up the

transformative power there is when we honour and uplift ourselves and each other in our totality.

## April is Sikh Heritage Month @ the TDSB

Sikh Heritage Month has proudly been recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of April since 2016. The TDSB became the first school board in Canada to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed the Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013, and the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the turn of the twentieth century. They have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and their traditions and culture continues to be a vibrant part of every aspect of life of Canadians today.

This year our theme is **Kes**. Kes is one of the five Kahaars, indicators that Sikh individuals must acknowledge as part of their faith. The five Kahaars are five sacred articles of faith prescribed by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. They are also known as the ‘Five Ks’ because each one starts with letter K representing Kakka in the Punjabi language. The five K’s are:

- i. Kes;
- ii. Kirpan;
- iii. Karra;
- iv. Kangha;
- v. Kacchera.

Lastly during the month of April, Sikh Canadians recognize Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, which celebrates the Sikh New Year across Ontario. This year Khalsa Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in downtown Toronto at Exhibition Place. This celebration is the third largest parade in Canada with thousands of individuals joining in the festivities!

### **TDSB Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month**

During the month of April the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario, the province recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."

### **TDSB Student Census**

The TDSB Student Census is a confidential and voluntary survey that asks students important questions about their school experiences and identities including participation in school activities, safety, well-being, mental health, outdoor learning, etc. It is an opportunity for students to share their voice and provide valuable information to help improve our schools and system. The TDSB is asking all parents/guardians/caregivers and/or students to consider filling out a census survey online. Detailed information about the Student Census and consent process was shared directly with parents/guardians via email during the week of March 27. For more information, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/census](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/census) and read the Student Census Questions and Answers.

### **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Renewal**

The TDSB is renewing its Multi-Year Strategic Plan and we invite you to get involved and Have Your Say! Please consider completing the MYSP online survey and visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPrenewal](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPrenewal) to learn about a variety of opportunities to contribute.

### **Summer School Registration**



Summer School registration is open! Spaces are limited, so the earlier you sign up, the better.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about 2022 TDSB Summer School options and for the online registration links.

The focus of the 2023 Elementary Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Program is to continue student engagement through July. Programs, embedded in Literacy and Numeracy, are developed by the summer school principal to reflect the local school focus. Programs are offered in-person to students in K to Grade 8, from July 4 to July 28, 2023. This year, one remote program will also be available. For more information, including a list of schools and online registration forms, visit our summer school program page.



Visit our school website at:  
[www.donwoodpark.ca](http://www.donwoodpark.ca)



Follow us on Twitter  
 @TDSB\_Donwood

## Dates to Remember

Grad Retake Photos	April 4
Por Amor Workshops (Gr. 7 & 8)	April 4
Mrs. Apostolopoulos' Class Trip	April 5
Good Friday – No School	April 7
Easter Monday – No School	April 10
School Council Meeting	April 11
<b>International Day of Pink</b>	April 12
Por Amor Workshops (Gr. 7 & 8)	April 14
Spring Book Fair	April 17-21
Grade 4-8 Track & Field Day	April 24
Character Education Awards	
Assemblies: Grades 1-3 & 4-8	April 27
Grade 7 & 8 Vaccination Clinic	May 1
Integrity Assembly	May 5
School Council Meeting	May 9
EQAO Assessment Window	May 15 - June 14
Victoria Day – No School	May 22
Welcome to Kindergarten (Virtual)	May 30
Welcome to Kindergarten (In Person)	May 31
P.A. Day	June 2
School Council Meeting	June 6
Moving On Up! SK to Grade 1	
Celebration Assemblies	June 14
Grade 8 Graduation	June 22
Last Day of School	June 30

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<b>Principal</b>	<b>Andrea Lane</b>
<b>Vice Principal</b>	<b>Thanasi Dimakas</b>
<b>Vice Principal</b>	<b>Brandi Perera</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Jacqueline Spence</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Neethan Shan</b>
<b>Office Administrator</b>	<b>Sophie Guarnaschelli</b>
<b>Secretaries</b>	<b>Sinead Meechan</b>
	<b>Michelle Andersen</b>
<b>Head Caretaker</b>	<b>Arlene Devlin</b>