

The Dragon's Lair

February 2022

Administrators' Message

In February, our Character Trait is Fairness. We often remind our students that fairness does not mean that everyone gets the same thing as we all are unique and have different needs. Fairness means that everyone gets what they need.



In January our school hosted Literacy Week. This week was filled with fun and interactive activities for our students in all grades. The week featured various virtual Masked Readers, daily literacy based games such as "Who Said It", as well as Kahoot games and a bookmark contest. The week wrapped up with a Family Literacy Kahoot game and character dress up day. We would like to thank our Literacy Committee for their creativity and for planning all of these wonderful events! We are looking forward to planning more events as the school year continues.

This month Switch Requests will be approved and students who are switching from virtual learning to in-person learning or in-person learning to virtual learning will begin in their new classes on Tuesday, February 22nd, following Family Day. As well, due to a decrease in our staffing, we have reorganized some of our Grade 1-3 classes. Parents have already been notified if their child's class is affected by this reorganization and all changes will come into effect on Tuesday, February 22nd. Thank you to our families as we worked through these changes and switch requests.

Travelling To and From School

Thank you to the many families who have been walking with their children to and from school. With the back field and our pathways finally open behind the school, this has made travelling back and forth to school so much easier and faster for our families, even in the snowy conditions. This also helps to reduce traffic congestion around our school during drop off and pick up times which can help to make drop off and pick up go more smoothly in our parking lots and surrounding streets.



Remember, please do to not park in the bus loading zone on Highbrook Drive as our school buses need to use this zone to drop off and pick up students. Parking in this zone is illegal. As well, parking is only legal on the side of street closest to the school. Parking on the other side, is illegal and also causes issues with the flow of traffic on Highbrook Drive.

We understand that traffic congestion can be frustrating, however if you choose to drive instead of walking, parents are expected to act responsibly (following safety expectations and the laws of the road) and respectfully with each other, especially when you find yourself stuck in traffic around the school or in our parking lot. You need to expect congestion during both drop off and pick up times

at the school, as these are the busiest time of the school day for traffic. Be patient, expect delays if you are driving and do not block the street or the parking lot for others. Our staff assists in guiding traffic each day and with time and patience we are able to guide everyone in and out of our pick up and drop off zones.

We continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Services and our local Traffic Enforcement Officers to assist with congestion and safety on the roadways surrounding the school.

Health and Safety Protocols

Health and safety protocols continue to be important to keep everyone safe while at school.

These include the following:

- The importance of social distancing from others as much as possible
- Wearing a mask at school and changing it if it becomes dirty or wet
- Proper hand hygiene (washing and sanitizing)

****It is of the utmost importance that parents/guardians screen each of their children every morning before they come to school and sign their Health Pass each day. If your child is sick or is displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms, you must keep them at home.**

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

February is Kindergarten Registration Month



Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs has begun! We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Kindergarten

students at our school in September! Thank you to

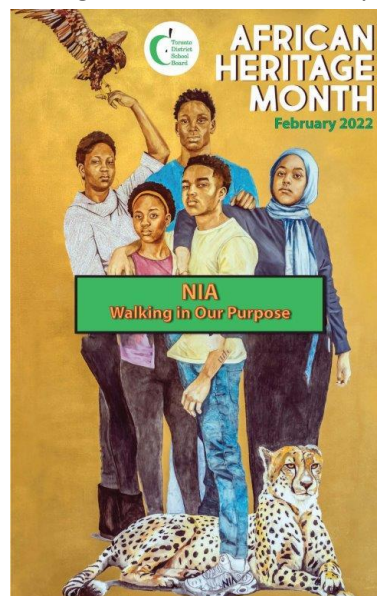
our many families who have registered their children already. Ms. Sophie is busily working at processing the online forms and will call you once she has done this to set up an appointment and follow up on the completion of forms as needed.

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31, 2022. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31, 2022. The registration process will be completed online and a virtual meeting will be booked with the school to complete the registration process.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten. Our office staff is available to provide guidance with completing the registration forms online, so please call the office if you have any questions about the registration process.

February is African Heritage Month

During the month of February, the Toronto District



School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for 2021-2022 is NIA: Walking in Our Purpose.

The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine,

introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004.

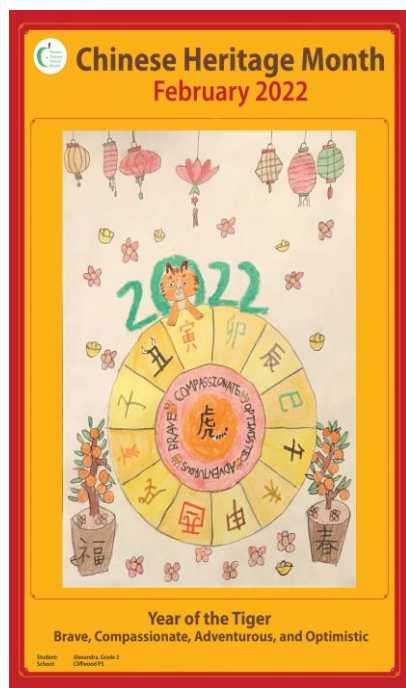
February is Chinese Heritage Month

This year Chinese Heritage Month coincides with one of the most important Chinese celebrations, the Lunar New Year which began on Tuesday, February 1st. Lunar New Year is also known as the spring festival and begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later.

This year's theme is **YEAR OF THE TIGER— Brave, Compassionate, Adventurous, and Optimistic.**

During the month of February, several activities will be shared to mark CHM. All students and

staff were invited to share their stories through the Chinese Canadian Memory Minute initiative (video link to be posted shortly). To learn about Chinese Heritage a [power point](#) was created highlighting the symbolism for various foods that are shared at



festivals celebrated by Chinese Canadians. Further a Kahoot Trivia challenge was developed by CHM members for students to explore their Chinese heritage knowledge and this was shared with our classroom teachers.

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement – Programming and Resources

Our February Newsletter is now live! Throughout February, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with various community educators are offering learning experiences focused on honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean and Black students' identities and embedding African-centred practices in instructional programming. A lineup of community educators are broadcasting programs that focus on enhancing joy, building positive racial identity development, and affirming students' experiences and identities.

For additional information from the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/cebsa or follow @tdsb_cebsa on Instagram and Twitter.

Parent Workshops: The Parent Academy

The Parent Academy has been hosting a variety of parent workshops this school year. We will continue to share this information with our families via email.

School Council

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend School Council meetings as often as you can. Please look for dates and times on

the school Google calendar, the links to our virtual meetings will be sent to parents via email. Our next School Council meeting is Wednesday, April 5th at 5:30 p.m.

Our School Council is looking forward to sharing information on how you can purchase Donwood Merch (e.g., t-shirt, hoodie, water bottle) for your child! More information will be sent home to families soon.



School Council Mtg	February 1
Grade 1-8 Assembly	February 2
Kindergarten Assembly	February 3
Kindergarten Registration Begins	February 7
Interview Confirmation Forms Sent Home	February 7
Report Cards Sent Home	February 16
Interviews	February 17 (evening) February 18 (morning)
P.A. Day	February 18
Family Day	February 21
Pink Shirt Day	February 23
Grad Photos	March 1
March Break	March 14-18
Grad Retake Photos	April 5
School Council Meeting	April 5
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Monday	April 18
Victoria Day	May 23
P.A. Day	June 3
Last Day of School	June 30

Principal	Andrea Lane
Vice Principal	Thanasi Dimakas
Superintendent	Kurt McIntosh
Trustee	David Smith
Office Administrator	Sophie Guarnaschelli
Secretaries	Sinead Meechan Michelle Andersen
Head Caretaker	Peter Panourgias