

# The Dragon's Lair

January 2022

## Administrators' Message

Happy New Year to our Donwood families! A new year brings new hopes, dreams and wishes for a better year ahead for all.

In January, our Character Trait is Teamwork. Much appreciation to our Donwood community for coming together before the holidays to support our Donwood Park Food Drive.



800 pounds of food were dropped off at our local fire station to support the Daily Bread Food Bank! Our collective efforts made a difference to families in our Toronto community – thank you.

As we continue to make our way through the pandemic, it is very important that we work together to follow the health and safety protocols that are in place to keep all of our students, staff and families safe.

Please ensure that you are conducting the daily screening for your children each morning before they come to school, and please remember to sign your child's



Health Pass. If your child is sick, keep them at home and follow Toronto Public Health protocols. If you

have any questions about the TDSB screening tool you can ask your child's teacher or one of our office staff. Our staff will continue to review the safety protocols with our students to help keep everyone safe. Please remember when you are on school property for pick up and drop off times, parents/guardians must wear a mask as well. We must all do our part!

Switch requests that were submitted will be reviewed over the next two weeks. A reminder that making a request does not guarantee a switch and will depend on spots available and staffing. Each family will be contacted by the office once a decision has been made regarding their request. If your child's switch request is approved, the classroom change will take place on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, following Family Day weekend.

We will continue to share information and updates as they become available to us, so please check your email regularly. We wish everyone all the best as we head into 2022!

## February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Kindergarten students in September!



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](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

Kindergarten Registration Virtual Appointments at Donwood Park will begin the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>. Once you complete your registration forms online, please call the school to book a virtual appointment.

Our office staff will let you know what materials you will need to have available for your virtual registration appointment and are also able to provide guidance with completing the registration forms online.

Early French Immersion: Parents/Caregivers who have already accepted placement in French Immersion via the central application process for 2022-2023, and whose children are not yet registered with the TDSB, will receive a unique link via email in order to register their child at the French Immersion school at which they have accepted placement. This email will come from TDSB Registration ([noreplyregistration@powerschool.com](mailto:noreplyregistration@powerschool.com)). Please note: the deadline to apply for placement in Early French Immersion was November 26, 2021.

### School Council



Parents are welcome to attend School Council meetings as often as you can. Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February

1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The link will be sent to parents closer to the meeting date.

### 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 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, recesses and outdoor play and exploration time for students in Kindergarten.

Extreme cold can be dangerous, and we understand that 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 wind chill is below -20C.

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 outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

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

Winter weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor recess, lunch and pre-entry periods for the safety of students and staff. Refer to the following guidelines:

When temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates -28C or lower, students will remain indoors due to risk of frostnip and frostbite.

When temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates -20 to -28C, recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess to 20 minutes depending on local conditions. Students should be monitored for signs of frostnip, frostbite or difficulty breathing.

### **Tamil Heritage Month**

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board. This year our theme for Tamil Heritage Month is: Our Histories. Our Legacies. Our Homelands. (எமது வரலாறுகள். எமது மரபுகள். எமது தாயகங்கள்).

Each one of us carries a unique story and experience that we either bring into this country or is shared to us by our families. As Canadians from many facets of life these identities shape who we are and build the foundation of this great nation. Our Histories/எமது வரலாறுகள் speaks to the lived or shared history each of us carry. Our Legacies/எமது மரபுகள் addresses what we either left behind in our native country or have created for ourselves that sets us apart from others. Our Homelands/எமது தாயகங்கள் recognizes that each one of us can have more than one homeland and each lived experience makes us stronger.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self and collective identities, and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee.

To mark Tamil Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board in January, various educational opportunities have been offered to learn about the history, culture, and traditions. The offerings

included a poster contest that invited all students to participate to submit an image that reflected this year's theme. The three selected images will be posted on the TDSB website and will be shared with all schools. Secondary students were invited to participate in a Poetry/Spoken Word challenge that also reflects this year's theme. Selected pieces will be shared digitally as well and presented at a virtual Poetry Night on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm.

Please follow on Twitter at @TDSB\_Tamil

### **Severe Weather Procedure and Student Transportation**

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to



severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in our schools and sites each day, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB website, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe Weather:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>

### Adult ESL Classes

Gaining proficiency in English is a critical skill for many newcomers to our city. Every year, nearly 20,000 adults benefit from the TDSB's English as a Second Language classes. Through general language training, and a host of specialized courses, we serve learners at all levels - from those with little or no formal education to those with post-secondary degrees. Currently, all Adult ESL classes are online. Visit [www.ESLToronto.ca](http://www.ESLToronto.ca) for more information or follow on Twitter at @TDSB\_ConEd

### Continuing Education - International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

The International Languages - Elementary / African Heritage Program is offering online language classes to students (TDSB and non TDSB) Kindergarten to Grade 8. One day each week, students will have live face-to-face interactive lessons with their instructor and classmates for approximately 30 minutes. Activities are focused on building students' abilities in oral communication, reading and writing. Visit [www.ILEprograms.ca](http://www.ILEprograms.ca) for more information. Follow on Twitter @TDSB\_ConEd

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



Follow us on Twitter  
**@TDSB\_Donwood**



<b>School Starts Again</b>	<b>January 5</b>
<b>Kindergarten Assembly:</b>	
<b>Teamwork</b>	<b>January 6</b>
<b>Elementary Switch</b>	
<b>Request Form Closes</b>	<b>January 7</b>
<b>Gr. 1-8 Assembly:</b>	
<b>Teamwork</b>	<b>January 11</b>
<b>P.A. Day</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<b>Family Literacy Week</b>	<b>Jan. 24-28</b>
<b>Gr. 8 Optional Attendance Applications Due</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>Middle French Immersion Applications Due (Gr. 4 Entry)</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>P.A. Day</b>	<b>February 18</b>
<b>Interviews</b>	<b>February 17 (evening)</b> <b>February 18 (morning)</b>
<b>Family Day</b>	<b>February 21</b>
<b>March Break</b>	<b>March 14-18</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 15</b>
<b>Easter Monday</b>	<b>April 18</b>
<b>Victoria Day</b>	<b>May 23</b>
<b>P.A. Day</b>	<b>June 3</b>
<b>Last Day of School</b>	<b>June 30</b>

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<b>Principal</b>	<b>Andrea Lane</b>
<b>Vice Principal</b>	<b>Thanasi Dimakas</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Kurt McIntosh</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>David Smith</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>Peter Panourgias</b>



**DONWOOD PARK**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL**