

École Dunlace Public School



October 2013:

- 1st Gr. 6 Girls Borden Ball Tournament
- 3rd School Council Meeting
- 4th School Presentations – Cyber Busters (Juniors)/Rez Comes to Earth (Primary)
- 5th World Teachers' Day
- 9th Cross-Country Meet @ Earl Bales (Gr. 1-6)
- 10th Gr. 6 Classes @ Toronto Zoo
- 11th P.A. Day
- 14th Thanksgiving
- 18th Scientist in the School (Gibson/Kocan) pm
- 18th Cross-Country Conference Finals @ Earl Bales Gr. 3-6
- 22nd Forsythe Farms Trip (Valkanas/Barker/Gibson/McInnis/Kocan/El-Jammal)
- 24th School Photo Day
- 24th Cross-Country City Championships (Gr. 3-6)
- 25th Halloween Dance
- 28th Scientist in the School (Kellesis/Saliba)

Dunlace Public School

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Ms. D. N. Mantia, Principal

Mr. T. Gentile, Vice-Principal

Ms. J. Zammit, Office Administrator

Ms. K. Garner, Superintendent

Ms. G. Gershon, Trustee

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are off to a great school year! It was very nice to see so many parents at our Curriculum Night BBQ event on September 19th. We would like to thank our School Council members for organizing the event.

At Dunlace, we are very proud of our initiatives and programs which stress technology and the environment. This year, we are encouraging all parents to help us go greener by visiting www.dunlace.ca and subscribing to our mailing list. This will allow us to move to paperless communications, reducing our ecological footprint through reduced use of paper, printer toner, and electricity. It will allow parents to be informed by email when there is an important bulletin or newsletter posted. It also allows for another line of communication between home and school. All email addresses will remain confidential. We encourage you to visit and subscribe.

The first Pizza Lunch of the year will be held on October 18th. The website will also be used for online ordering. No order forms will be sent home, you have the option to print the order form if paying by cheque. The deadline for orders is Friday October 4th, 2013.

The first School Council Meeting of the school year will be held on October 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to provide your children with an exciting and enriching school year.

Ms. D.N. Mantia
Principal

Mr. T. Gentile
Vice-Principal



Raising a Good Student

Catherine Rondina City Parent

With a new school year here, families are geared up for another crack at the books. Children may be filled with anxiety over what the new school year will bring, while parents ponder the challenges their children will face. One thing is certain - not all kids start the school year with a bang. Some children struggle with academic skills, while others try to deal with developmental and emotional issues. So how can you give your child a head start on doing well in school?

Research indicates that your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is the key to his or her success in school. As a parent you are your child's number one role model and your participation in school life is essential.

The time you spend with your child away from school is very important. This time allows you both to relax and be together doing things that you both enjoy. Spend this time reading together, playing games, doing projects and just being a family. These family times help your child build self-confidence and self-esteem, in addition to building a strong relationship with you.

To keep involved in your child's school life, visit the school on a regular basis and make yourself known to the teachers and staff. Attend parent/teacher interviews and request a meeting yourself if you deem it necessary.

Make the most of your interview time with your child's teacher. Come prepared with questions you'd like answered and don't be afraid to speak up. Discuss with the teacher how you can help your child do better in the classroom and set up a plan of action that you both feel will work for him or her.

Schedule additional time to meet with your child's teacher if necessary. You may even want to arrange to talk on a steady basis over the telephone or correspond via email. It's important to let your child know that you in contact with the teacher and you're all working together to help him/her succeed.

Use your child's report card as a tool to help you both understand what's happening in the classroom. The card acts as a guide to achievements, progress, areas that need improvement and any behaviour or attendance problems. You can use it to help your child set goals for the next term.

Be open and honest with your child about progress in school. Discuss what the teacher has told you and talk about how to improve. If you have expectations for your child, make them clear. For example if you are happy with your child's effort and she continually brings home B's let her know that you won't intervene unless you see a decline in her grades.

If your child is having troubles and your discussions with her teacher don't seem to be getting the results you wish, ask to see the principal. Sometimes switching classrooms or even schools may help your child flourish.

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Student Transportation

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) busing service may be provided for elementary students (grades K-5) residing 1.6 Km or more from their designated school. TTC tickets may be provided for middle school students (grades 6-8) residing 3.2 Km or more from their designated school.

The safety and welfare of students is a shared responsibility. Parents can help to ensure that it remains safe by stressing school bus safety with their children. Below, please find useful information that will help to make your child's journey a safe one.

Boarding/Departing Bus

Parents/guardians are encouraged to review their child's walking route to the bus stop, advising about safety concerns. Students getting off a bus at a stop must have an adult there to pick them up. In order to change their normal bus and/or stop, parents must contact the school office.

Bus passengers should arrive at the bus stop no later than five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Once bus doors are closed and the bus has departed, drivers cannot stop for late arriving students.

While waiting at the bus stop, students are expected to stand a safe distance from the street and are expected to respect private property. When the bus approaches, students must observe the instructions of the driver. This is particularly important in the winter when slick road conditions exist.

If students are required to cross the road, they should follow the driver's instructions and always cross in front of the bus with the aid of the flashing stop sign lights and crossing arm. Students dropped off at school loading zones where the bus lights are not activated, should wait until the bus departs before crossing the street.

Accidents/Breakdowns/Delays

School bus travel is extremely safe. Bus drivers are trained in defensive driving techniques and buses are carefully maintained. The size and bright yellow colour make school buses very visible. The school bus is designed to protect passengers from impact. The floor is raised, the window glass is shatterproof, and there are strengthened reinforcements along the sides of the bus. Yet, given the thousands of miles travelled annually, and the traffic conditions in our area, accidents, breakdowns and delays due to inclement weather can happen. All the buses have two-way radios and help can be just minutes away. One of the most important things to a bus driver in the event of an accident or breakdown is passenger cooperation. In case of delays of more than 10-15 minutes, parents are encouraged to contact the school.

Severe Weather

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation. This may occur before the beginning of the school day or if conditions become severe during the school day. The Board Severe Weather Procedures will guide decisions and operations. Visit the web site at www.tdsb.on.ca or listen to the local radio or TV station from 6:30 am onward for bus cancellation announcements. Parents and guardians should familiarize themselves with the procedures and communication plan to ensure the safety of their children.

Passenger Safety

The bus driver is responsible for ensuring each passenger arrives to and from school safely each day. Drivers receive special training and rigorous examinations and must maintain a good driving record. Safe, respectful conduct is expected of all passengers.

The TDSB reserves the right to suspend transportation privileges for any student who demonstrates behaviour unreasonably distracting to the driver which may contribute to unsafe operation.

Parents are requested keep the school and transportation company up-to-date on any changes to your child's medical health and contact information so that emergency contacts are accurate at all times throughout the year.

Keeping Kids Safe

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.



Lunch and Snack Times



“Please help my lily pad grow greener every day!”

An important message about our BOOMERANG lunch program!

The Green Club would love to thank everyone who has helped make last year as green a year as possible for Dunlace. We implore you to continue making good, green choices and would like to re-introduce to you our **BOOMERANG LUNCH CAMPAIGN** for this year.

What this campaign underlines is the necessity to reduce the amount of garbage collected in our school. While we were able to diminish our garbage at lunchtime substantially last year, we are finding that a lot of trash is still coming into Dunlace and we would like to end that completely. Therefore, to help resolve this issue, we will be monitoring our classroom garbage bins closely. We want to remind you **that all leftover food, wrappers and other garbage items will need to return home (thus a BOOMERANG effect!)** Only recycleable products will be allowed to be thrown out in the respective containers (This program pertains to those participating in the Lunch Lady Program as well).

We encourage you to help us make Dunlace an even cleaner and greener school environment by encouraging your child to follow the guidelines of this campaign. **Safe plastic containers, reusable juice and water bottles, thermoses and thermal lunch bags** will surely help to make this campaign a success. Maybe this could bring us one step closer to getting the GOLD medal once again.

Please Remember: We are trying to promote leadership in our students and responsibility for the changes that we can make to our planet....**every little leap serves to brighten up our lily pad and to gain strength to house us all —big and small!**

Dunlace Green Club

At times, you may find it necessary to drop off a lunch. If so, please:

- Keep lunch drop-offs to a minimum (special occasions, emergency)
- Deliver lunch to the Lunch Table outside the office by 11:25a.m.
- Write your child's name on the lunch bag
- Tell your child in advance to check the Lunch Table

Character Development: A Partnership with Families

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some tips for supporting Character Development in the Home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live character every day

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/character

Boys and Girls Softball

Dunlace did not wait long before jumping into sports taking place during the Fall season. This year, Dunlace will be competing in a Softball tournament in mid-October. The date has yet to be determined. Mme Saliba, Mr. Kellesis and Mr. Barker would like to congratulate all of the students who are on the team and would like to recognize them for all their hard work and the dedication they demonstrate by coming to practices early every other morning. We wish both the Grade 6 Boys and Girls team good luck at their tournament.

Safe Welcome Program

Under the Ministry of Education Safe Welcome Program, access to the school will be granted through the front door buzzer system. We request that all visitors and parents report to the office every time they come into the building. Adults can obtain a visitor's tag if required. Please remember to sign out and drop off your tag at the end of your visit. If you need to drop something off for your child, please do this through the office and not by going to the class. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students.

EQAO 2012-2013

We are very proud of the results of the 2012-2013 EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for the primary and junior division. Dunlace's Reading, Writing, and Mathematics scores in both primary and junior divisions were above the Board and Provincial average.

Grade 3

Reading	77% (59% 2011-12)
Writing	81% (76% 2011-12)
Math	87% (79% 2011-12)

Grade 6

Reading	93% (88% 2011-12)
Writing	93% (94% 2011-12)
Math	90% (83% 2011-12)

EQAO Data helps school teams identify areas of student strength, target areas for support and plan for improvement. Remember that this test is only one method of assessment that is used to measure student progress. Teachers assess students' knowledge and skills every day in a wide variety of ways. Daily classroom assessments continue to play a crucial and primary role in the learning process. Provincial test results should always be examined together with other achievement information such as report card grades and classroom assessment results-in order to get a complete picture of student skills, abilities and knowledge.

The overall results achieved by students in our school and Board will be used to guide our School Plan in the areas of Literacy and Mathematics for on-going improvement.

Dunlace Spirit Days 2013-2014



Here is a list of Spirit Days which will be held on the last Friday of every month this year. Please remember to encourage your child to participate in these events.

September 27th - Dress Up Like Your Teacher Day
 October 31st - Halloween
 November 29th - Fake an Injury Day
 December 19th - Pyjama Day
 January 31st - Disco/70s Day
 February 27th - Pink Day
 March 17th - Dress up in Green for St-Patrick's Day
 March 28th - At Sea/Pirate Day
 April 25th - Nationality Day
 May 30th - Sports Day
 June 25th - Beach Day