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<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgepeck>



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## NEWSLETTER

Hello George Peck Families!

It has been a very exciting month of September with our return to school. It was wonderful to see so many families returning to school. We are also wishing our “virtual” families well as they embark on this adventure.

We thank families for their patience as we re-organized our school this September. Our school count dates were September 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our school was allocated an additional 0.5 teacher in order to reduce class sizes from Grades 4-8, our primary classes were all balanced and we were allocated a return of Ms. Chamseddine (DECE) in our Kindergarten class 1A.

We had our first “Student of the Month” assembly of this school year and the students were very excited! Students will also be acknowledged on our PA system and will receive a certificate and prize honouring students in their classrooms who exemplify the Character Development Theme (Grandfather teaching) for that month (see the end of this newsletter for the names of the recipients for “Respect”).

We had our first School Parent Council meeting of the school year on Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> and we welcomed some new families who will be joining our Parent Council. It was also election night for the various School Council positions. We are fortunate to elect/re-elect Council Chair, Elaine Suessmuth, Co-Treasurers, Barbara Yiannacouras and Kathy Polyzotis (new co-treasurer), as well as, Secretary Ewelina Popkiewicz. We want to thank Veronica Servellon for all the years of service as our School council Treasurer and are glad that she will remain as a parent council member. If you would like more information, all parent council meeting notes are available to parents in our school office and school website <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgepeck>. You are always welcome to attend our School Council meetings in person. The next meeting is Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Parent council could really use volunteers to help with fundraising initiatives like “Pizza Lunch”. If you are available to give us some of your time, please contact the council at [SC.GeorgePeckPS@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SC.GeorgePeckPS@tdsb.on.ca). You will need a police check. See the office for more information regarding volunteering at the school.

Once again, we are participating in our “**Fresh from the Farm**” fundraiser. Please see attached flyer for more details. You can purchase fresh **vegetable bundle for \$22 (made up of potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots and onions), as well as an apple bundle for \$24 (Ambrosia apples)**. You can order your vegetable or apples through our School CASH Online. More information will be coming home next week. Encourage your family and friends to buy too! All profits from this fundraiser come back to the school.

Our school is also having a “Book Fair”. Come visit the book Fair from October 17<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup> in the Library. Profits from the sale of the books will be returned to the school to support the school’s Library.

Curriculum Night for our school has been scheduled for **Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**. It is an opportunity for you to meet the staff, see your child’s class and visit our Book Fair! Hope to see you there! We will begin our evening in the gym.

I hope you and your family enjoy all the beauty October has to offer.  
Linda De Medeiros – Principal

## **TDSB Recognizes Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2022**

In 1973, 6 year-old Phyllis Webstad was excited to wear her new orange shirt to her first day of school. Phyllis says of the shirt, "it was so bright and exciting—just like it felt to be going to school!" When she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her shirt was taken and never given back. For Phyllis, "the color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day recognizes the legacy of the Residential Schools System for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. By wearing orange, we acknowledge the history of Residential Schools in Canada and we honour Survivors.

For more information, visit the Urban Indigenous Education Centre website: [Indigenous Days of Significance \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.indigenousdays.ca/) To learn more about Phyllis' story and Orange Shirt Day visit <https://www.orangeshirtday.org>.

## **Dismissal of Junior/Intermediate Students (Grades 4 - 8)**

*Toronto Public Health - Healthy Schools Toronto* stresses children under the age of 9 should NOT cross streets and walk home without an adult or older child, we also strongly encourage students in the Junior/Intermediate grades (9-14) NOT to walk home alone either. Walking in pairs or in groups greatly reduces the safety risk for your child. Students in Grades 7-8 may sign out with a note from a parent/guardian, without a parent/guardian present. All other grades will need an adult present to sign out a student. \*Note supervision in the school yard before and after school are 8:40-8:50 and 3:20-3:30, children should not be in the school yard outside of these supervision times.



## **Safe Arrival Program**

Student well-being and safety are top priorities at our school. One important measure we take is our Safe Arrival Program, which helps to ensure students have arrived at school safely and when expected.

If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system. If your child is late or absent, without informing the school ahead of time, the call-out system will attempt to contact you.

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness. With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.

We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your child safe and accounted for.

For more information please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Safe-Arrival-Program>.

## **KEY CASHLESS SCHOOLS**



The Toronto District School Board has launched School Cash Online, an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents/guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, Pizza Lunches and class trips and make donations. School fees applicable to your child will be posted on School Cash Online. Once you register, you can choose to purchase the items or activities using a debit or credit card. You will be able to see when the school has a new item posted online for purchase and you will also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school event requiring payment.

To register for School Cash Online, please visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com> select "Get Started Today" and complete the three registration steps. Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available online.

If you have questions about the registration process or using School Cash Online, please select the "Get Help" option on the top of School Cash Online web page. You can also contact the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 [parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com). The Parent Help Desk is available to assist parents/guardians with the registration process, password recovery, accessing your account or payment issues.



### **No Peanuts/Tree Nuts, Please!**

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts/tree nuts (such as Nutella, peanut butter). **For Birthdays we ask that parents NOT send in food as a treat. The school cannot guarantee that the product is safe for consumption. At school, we celebrate your child's Birthday by acknowledging them over the school announcements.**

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment. Thank you for helping keep our students safe.

### **Why is my Child Bringing Home Garbage?**

As an eco-school, we are committed to not only reducing our carbon footprint, but also to raising awareness of waste in society. This year, we are continuing with our 'boomerang' lunch. Any waste products which are produced by your child's lunch are to go home with your child in your lunch bag. The reason? Firstly, we want to create a very concrete awareness in our community of how much waste a child's can produce. We are hoping to see a greater reliance on Tupperware and thermoses, and fewer single serving food items, from which the wraps and plastic end up in landfills. We have found that when children are responsible for bringing home this waste, they become more thoughtful about how to prepare their lunches. We also ask that you label your child's Tupperware and lunch boxes as many of the lunch bags and containers look the same. It helps to return lost items to your child and home. Thank you for supporting our boomerang lunch and for your commitment to waste-free lunches for your child!



### **October 5 is TDSB "Walk to School" DAY!**

Fall is here! During the month of October, join schools across the country in celebrating International Walk to School Day (iWalk/iWheel).

As autumn arrives, the days begin to get shorter and increasing our visibility as pedestrians and cyclists becomes especially important. Whether heading to school by foot or on two wheels, the following are some safety tips from [Toronto Public Health](http://toronto.ca/publichealth) to keep in mind before heading outside:



- Carry identification, a cell phone and a whistle
- Bring water
- Wear comfortable walking shoes and bright, reflective clothing
- Dress for the weather
- Cross streets at traffic lights, stop signs or crosswalks-always walk facing traffic
- Avoid using headphones and cell phones while walking
- Tell someone where you are going



### **Parking Safety Program**

If you are taking your children to school in a car, please note that we ask that you respect our parking safety program and either use our 'kiss and ride' or park on side streets around the school in order to drop off your children.

Please note you are not legally permitted to leave your vehicle in the "No Standing" section on the side of the road, nor are you legally permitted to stop on the other side of the road within school hours, please read the signs – we wouldn't want you to get a ticket! Also, do not stop or park in any of the bus loading zones at our end or at the other end of the school. A reminder that the school parking lot is for staff only, please **do not** park there unless you have a wheelchair accessible parking sticker. Thank you

### **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.



## Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB - October 2022

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Somali Heritage Month during the month of October. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since June 2016, and we continue to expand on the selected theme **Educate. Elevate. Excel.**

In October 2020, the Government of Ontario proclaimed [Somali Heritage Week Act, 2020](#) which will take place on June 25 through July 1.

*"By proclaiming the week of June 25 through July 1 as Somali Heritage Week, the Province of Ontario recognizes the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society. Like many refugees and immigrants who have made Ontario their home, Somali Canadians are proud to be part of diverse communities across the province."*



# Islamic Heritage Month at the TDSB - October 2022

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month during the month of October since our Board of Trustees passed their motion on June 22, 2016. Our main theme for the month continues to be: Reflect. Celebrate. Learn.

Canadian Islamic Heritage Month is also recognized across our nation since October 2007. Subsequently, since November 2016, the province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment." (Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16i20> )

During the month of October several Islamic Heritage Month events are being organized for students, staff and TDSB community members throughout the month of October. Please see [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) for more information.

The following students have been recognized by their teachers for demonstrating September's Character Development Theme of "**Respect**"

Ms. O'Neill	Vasili M., Adira O-K., Taso L.
Ms. Tuchner/Ms. Edghill	Salman A., Zaid N., Andreas S.
Ms. Grigoriadis	Paul K., Victoria R.
Mr. Moss	Evangelia M., Chris C.
Ms. Ali	Rose K., Andoni S.
Mr. Koch	Kleign C., Penelope M.
Mr. Makki	Kiara T., Sandali F.
Mr. Stevens	Stuti M., Konstantinos D.
Ms. Huang	Julia S., Andreas M.
Ms. Trivedi	Laibah K., Alexander K., Anisha B.
Ms. Bunting	Joshua N., Linda C.
Mr. Des Rosiers	Gr. 4 Angeliki D., Gr. 7 Julia S., Gr. 8 Zaki S.
Ms. Lockwood- PE/STEM	JK/SK Mira K., Vlassi V.

In the month of October, we will be recognizing students who demonstrate the character attribute of "**Responsibility**".



## DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE - OCTOBER 2022

01	International Day of Older Persons	United Nations
01 - 05	Durga Puja	Hinduism
05	TDSB Walk to School Day (1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Oct.)	Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
05	World Teachers' Day	United Nations
05	Yom Kippur *	Judaism
08	Mawlid-al-Nabi* (Prophet's Birthday)	Islam
10	Thanksgiving Day	Canadian Government
10	World Mental Health Day	World Health Organization
10 - 16	Anti-Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week (3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Oct.)	Ontario Government
10 - 16	Body Confidence Awareness Week (3 <sup>rd</sup> Week Oct.)	Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

10 - 16	Sukkot*	Judaism
11	International Day of the Girl Child	United Nations
12 - 13	Karva Chauth*	Hinduism
16	World Food Day	United Nations
17	International Day of the Eradication of Poverty	United Nations
17 – 18	Shemini Atzeret*	Judaism
17 - 23	Week Without Violence (3 <sup>rd</sup> week of October)	YMCA
18	Simchat Torah*	Judaism
20	Gurgadi of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji <u>as Guru</u>	Sikhism
24	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism
24	Diwali	Hinduism/Jainism/Sikhism
26	Birth of the Bá'b*	Bahá'i
27	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh*	Bahá'i
29	Gyan Panchami	Jainism
<b>To Be Announced</b>	Kathina Festival/Paváraná Day	Buddhism
<b>To Be Announced</b>	Megregan	Zoroastrian
<b>To Be Announced</b>	Sisters in Spirit	Status of Women Canada