

**Givins/Shaw**  
Junior Public School  
Toronto District School Board



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Toronto, Ontario  
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[www.givinsshaw.com](http://www.givinsshaw.com)

June 27, 2018

Dear Givins/Shaw Community:

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of the school year. It has been another remarkable year here at Givins/Shaw and we would not have been able to offer such enriched programming and opportunities for our students without the dedication of our staff, commitment of our families as a whole, and the support of our school council in particular. We would like to thank everyone for their various contributions and we are extremely excited about all we accomplished this year and our direction for 2018/19.

This week alone will provide you with some idea of the dynamic nature of our school. We began early on Monday morning with a thank you breakfast for all our volunteers which was followed by our final school assembly of the year. At the assembly we were able to celebrate all the students who will be moving to different school locations for next year, acknowledge Ms. Gorham who will be taking a year's leave from Givins/Shaw, and the students were able to present retiring Givins/Shaw teacher Debbie Stockton with the 'Friendship Bench' which you can now see along the walkway just to the south of our school. Monday concluded with a wonderful graduation ceremony in the gym for our Grade 6 students, staff, family and friends. We needed to clean up quickly after the graduation because on Tuesday morning, our tireless school council arranged for the used book sale to open before the day began, and the teachers prepared to distribute the report cards. In the midst of all of this, there has been countless end-of-year celebrations for different classrooms. As you know, Thursday, June 28, is the final day of class for the students and Friday, June 29, is a PA Day which will be the first time that all of the Givins/Shaw staff for the 2018/19 school year has a chance to gather and meet.

Speaking of next year's staff, we are thrilled that we have been able to hire three teachers to join our Givins/Shaw team. Ms. Annie Eskandar is coming to us from Cedarbrook PS where she has been a key member of their Kindergarten team and has a wealth of experience working with students with varying learning needs. Ms. Eskandar will be teaching Kindergarten students in Room 1. Both Ms. Alison Robb and Ms. Caryn Baker come to us from Dennis Avenue PS and are experienced elementary teachers who are highly regarded at their current school. The projected enrolment numbers at Dennis Avenue were reducing (and therefore so were the number of teachers for their staff) and we are extremely fortunate to be able to hire two teachers who have worked so successfully as a team in the past. Ms. Baker will be teaching Grade 1 students in Room 15 and Ms. Robb will be teaching Grade 5 students in Room 16. All three of our new staff members also are experienced in using technology in their programming and should be a great fit at Givins/Shaw.

As much as the summer is indeed a well-deserved break for our students, it is one of the busiest times of the year for our caretaking staff and this summer will be particularly full. Our new head caretaker, Robert Usai, has been a fantastic addition to our staff and, aside from ensuring that our school's grounds and rooms are cleaned and organized for September, he will be helping to coordinate a number of projects in the coming weeks. As we have informed you, Givins/Shaw will be getting a new roof and construction is scheduled to start around the middle of July. Representatives from the Design and Construction team at the Toronto District School Board have also been to our school recently to examine the status of our library, which suffered flooding in April, and the current fencing enclosure configuration of our east playground. Both of those projects are in-process and we will keep you informed of any updates if construction on those projects begins during the summer months. Any updates will be put on our school's website at [www.givinsshaw.com](http://www.givinsshaw.com) . If you do notice any items during the summer that you feel need to be brought to Robert's attention, please email him at [Robert.usai@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Robert.usai@tdsb.on.ca) .

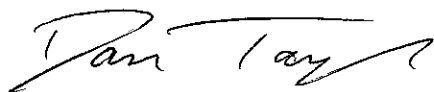
Of course I cannot talk about all that we have accomplished as a school this year, and the way in which there are so many items that require calibration and attention to detail from the office, without mentioning the person who plays such a singularly integral role in the life of Givins/Shaw. Our Office Administrator, Suzie Keko-Aranilla, is often the first person to arrive at the beginning of the day, the first connection that most of our families have with our school, the first person we go to with budgetary questions, and the first person with whom you speak when you have questions about accessing community support. I truly do not know how Givins/Shaw would function without Suzie and I cannot thank her enough for all her effort on behalf of so many.

As for me, I am so proud of everything that we have achieved in the past two years and where it is leading us in the years to come. The programming in our school is rich and continues to become more innovative, challenging, and engaging for our students. The collaborative nature of our staff is evident in so much of what I observe each day. The cohesive nature of the community helps to make this school a vibrant place and every day I am impacted by all the positive energy. I am looking forward to recharging over the summer and spending more time with my own family, but I am equally excited about the upcoming school year. It is great to be a Bulldog.

Our school's office will be closing as of Friday, June 29, 2018 and the first day of school for students is on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,



Dan Taylor

Principal