

Givins/Shaw
Junior Public School
Toronto District School Board



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Toronto, Ontario
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www.givinsshaw.com

August, 27, 2018

Dear Givins/Shaw Community:

It is hard to believe that the summer has gone by so quickly and we now find ourselves at the beginning of another exciting school year here at Givins/Shaw. I trust that you all have enjoyed the time with your family in July and August and everyone is feeling refreshed and energized for the 2018/19 year. Over the course of the past few weeks, I have been contacted by various members of the staff who have been coming into the school to start their preparations for the year and it was evident just how enthused they are about the year to come; especially the staff members who will be new to our school this year.

For the families who were with us last year, you may recall that in June we were able to inform you of the three new teachers we hired to the Givins/Shaw team. Starting in September, Ms. Annie Eskandar will be teaching Kindergarten students in Room 1, Ms. Caryn Baker will be teaching Grade 1 students in Room 15 and Ms. Alison Robb will be teaching Grade 5 students in Room 16.

Over the summer we had an additional change to our staff roster. In July, Ms. Mary-Jane Miller, an experienced and greatly appreciated Givins/Shaw teacher, was successful in her application to the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School, which is affiliated with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As the news regarding Ms. Miller was not finalized until weeks after the school year had concluded, we were unable to provide this information to the community earlier, or give Ms. Miller an acknowledgement worthy of all the dedication and care she provided at Givins/Shaw. I know from speaking with Mary-Jane that the connection she feels to Givins/Shaw made this a very difficult decision but she is excited about the challenge that lies ahead. Ms. Miller will be starting at the Jackman Institute in September and we wish her all the best in this part of her career and we hope that our paths cross again.

In August, The change in Ms. Miller's status at Givins/Shaw allowed us to interview for her Grade 4 teaching position. We had some very strong candidates for the role and we are pleased to inform you that we have hired Ms. Maja Nikolic to the Givins/Shaw staff. Ms. Nikolic has a wealth of experience in what we refer to as "Long-term Occasional" positions in various schools in the Toronto District School Board and we are confident that she will be a great fit with the students, families, and staff at our school. Ms. Nikolic is thrilled to be joining Givins/Shaw and I am sure that she will quickly feel welcome in our community. The teaching change also led to a classroom assignment change, as Ms. Nikolic will be teaching in Room 5 and Ms. Brennan will be teaching in Room 4. Prior to the school year, I will be contacting the affected families directly to speak about this but basically what it means is that if your June report mentioned that your child would be in Room 5, they are now in Room 4, and if it said Room 4, they are now in Room 5.

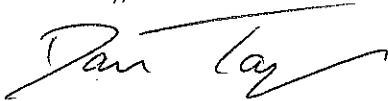
Although most of the school staff were able to come and go as they pleased over the summer, our caretaking staff, led by our head caretaker Robert Usai, has been working at an incredible pace every day to prepare the building and facilities so that everything is ready for the opening day of school. The new roof installation that began in the middle of July, is on pace to be completed any day now. As you can imagine, this project alone demanded a lot of

work and coordination from our caretaking crew and it is a huge credit to them that the job was completed ahead of schedule. With the new roof installed, we can now start the process of redesigning our school's library, which has been unavailable to the students since it was damaged by flooding last spring. We have already been in touch with the TDSB design team about the library and we hope to move quickly on this project once the year begins.

For those of you who are about to enjoy your first year with us at Givins/Shaw we welcome you and want you to know that you are about to become part of an engaging, inclusive, and innovative school. This will be my third year as the Principal at Givins/Shaw and each year I have been increasingly proud of everything we have been able to accomplish on behalf of our students. One of our main foci during the past few years has been to increase the effective use of technology in our programming and we are very excited that this year we may be able to complete our plan of fully outfitting each of our homeroom classes with the materials outlined in our technology plan. Of course, in order to advance all our plans for the students, we work in concert with our superb School Council who works tirelessly on behalf of the school. The Council is always looking for more people to help out and I would encourage you to come and attend a council meeting and find out more information. You can also access the school's website for all the most updated information at www.givinsshaw.com We do our best to minimize hard-copies of school communications so please look to our website for upcoming events and pertinent information.

We are looking forward to another great year at Givins/Shaw and seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,



Dan Taylor

Principal

Upcoming Events for September, 2018

Sept. 4 – First day of School

School Council sponsored coffee meet and greet with Principal Taylor at 8:15 a.m. on:

Sept. 18 (Kindergarten)

Sept. 20 (Gr. 1 – 3)

Sept. 21 (Gr. 4 – 6)

Sept. 20 – First School Council meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 26 – Community BBQ and Curriculum Night – more details to follow