



Latin-America History Month  
Genocide Awareness Month  
Sikh Heritage Month

1 Easter Monday (Gregorian Calendar)  
2 World Autism Awareness Day  
6-13 Passover  
7 World Health Day WHO  
7 Rwanda Genocide Memorial Day  
8 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
8 or 9 Eid al-Fitr  
8 P A Day / Solar Eclipse  
9 School Council Meeting 6:30-7:30pm  
10 TSO Trip for Junior classes  
10 International Day of Pink  
12 Movie Night 6-8pm  
13 Vaisakhi (Tamil & Sikh New Year) Taoist  
13 Tamil New Year  
16-22 National Volunteer Week  
18 Uke Day at Wilkinson PS  
22 Earth Day UN  
23-30 Passover  
23 Yonge Street Van Attack Remembrance Day  
24 Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day  
24 Administrative Professionals Day  
25 Feast of St. Mark  
26 Sharing Assembly  
26 Pizza Lunch  
28 National Day of Mourning in Canada

[April's Character Trait is Co-operation](#)

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We'd like to begin this month's newsletter by congratulating the many students who demonstrate their leadership and commitment to being positive role models for their fellow peers and are an inspiration to the entire school. We have had so many students participate in our 90 day reading campaign. Students have been coming into the office dropping off their completed bingo cards and, here we are, ready to launch Read-a-Palooza for the month of April. The class with the most students reading during the month of April will get a pizza lunch hosted by our parent council. We are so excited about the hum, vibe and energy associated with the bug for reading! Get reading, Gledhill!

We recently started recruiting Grade 5 students to participate in training as **Playground leaders**. Our Public Health Nurse came and has provided materials for our kids to learn about how to support other students when they are outside and playing games.

As well, we are preparing for Brushamania. Students will be coming home today with a toothbrush and toothpaste to encourage more awareness about oral hygiene. April is Oral health month and we have arranged for a dentist to come and visit with us on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Information on winning prizes for this are included in communication to families.

We are planning on having the City of Toronto Garbage Disposal Representative come to Gledhill for **eco-presentations** on how to recycle, reuse and reduce. We want all of our students to be leaders, in particular as we try to eliminate waste and recyclable materials, which are often found on the school yard or in the wrong bins. To support our students' growth in this endeavor, our Eco Club has been working very hard to become active stewards of the environment and in leading this initiative.

We were inspired this month to build equity and inclusion by recognizing Greek Heritage Month, where students learned that you don't have to be Greek to appreciate this cultural heritage. OPA! We've been celebrating and learning about each other's cultural backgrounds for years now. More importantly, this continues our critical conversations in learning about one another, embracing one another and respecting each other's voice, culture and heritage, regardless of where you are from. Gledhill, you have done an amazing job advocating and learning about so many different cultural backgrounds.

We want to thank the many parents who have supported pizza lunch, and our reading initiatives and who volunteer their time, as we continue to collaborate together in support of students. Nutrition, rest, overall wellness, in addition to strong academic and study habits, will all go a long way to ensure student success. As educators and parents, we will continue to support and reassure our young learners as they continue on this path.

It's truly an honour to serve the students, staff and community at Gledhill Jr PS.

Sincerely,

Peppi Kondilis-Minos

**Gledhill Read-a-thon Suggested Monthly Reading to Support Mental Well-being and BIPOC Equity Inclusivity and Diversity**

**April 2024**

**(Earth Day: Supporting Our Children's Mental Wellbeing in Connection with Climate Action)**

**K-Grade 2**

- *We are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YHaRmj9wLU>
- *Coco's Fire: Changing climate anxiety into climate action* by Jeremy D. Wartzel and Lena K. Champlin
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7\\_PKPiI0d8&t=102s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7_PKPiI0d8&t=102s)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu8OMGkz9Bc&t=125s> (interview with the authors)
- *J'aime la Terre* par Todd Par
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IZGoKvfbZ8&t=3s>
- *L'incroyable Histoire du Climat* par Catherine Barr
- *Iceberg* (French edition) par Claire Saxby

**Grades 3-5**

- *Ganesha Goes Green* by Lakshmi Thamizhmani
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImXAeJ0K7h4> (interview with the authors)
- *Bindi* by Kirli Saunders
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-tYYpHgfeM>
- *How to Bee* by Bren MacDibble
- *The Giant and the Sea* by Trent Jamison
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kitT1zpQFTw>
- *Drawn to Change the World* Graphic Novel Collection by Emma Reynolds
- *Les Changements Climatiques* by Maryam Sharif-Draper



**Gledhill Read-a-thon**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the March Bingo challenge and Gledhill's ongoing 90-day Read-A-Thon. For the month of April, we are now kicking off our Read-A-Palooza. **Participation sheets with instructions will go home this week or you can print a copy.** Students can log time for reading anything and everything. Parent-Teacher Council, in partnership with our principal Ms. Kondilis-Minos and librarian Ms. Jarolim, would again like to share a curated reading list that supports our school improvement goals. In honour of Earth Day, we invite you to support our students' mental wellbeing in connection with climate activism. You can find book titles and free accessible links (where available) for Grades JK-2 and 3-5 to books that we hope will help our children feel empowered with knowledge, hope and motivation to take action in support of our environment and all living species on our planet. We also hope to foster awareness of how the climate crisis impacts those most marginalized, both in Canada and the Global South. We understand matters of racial inequity and ongoing colonial practices to be entwined with environmental harm and the urgent need to act toward a sustainable future for children across the globe and the generations to come.

On behalf of the Gledhill Parent-Teacher Council,  
**We look forward to reading with you at Gledhill!!**

**World Autism Day**

On Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> we increase awareness about Autism in Ontario and schools across the TDSB in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day. Raising the Flag helps school communities recognize this day and bring to light people who live with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). To learn more, please visit [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com). We continue to advocate for raising funds for Autism Ontario. If you are able to donate, please see the link above.

**TDSB Celebrates Latin-America History Month**

Latin-America History Month is celebrated at the TDSB during the month of April.

During the month of April, the Latin-America History Planning Committee has organized many educational opportunities for our students, staff and the TDSB community to attend and learn about their history, culture and customs. This year's theme is The Universal Language of Art / Arte: El Idioma Universa.

As outlined in the TDSB Days of Significance Resource Guide:

"Latin-America immigrants began arriving in large numbers in Toronto in the late 1970's. Latin America is generally defined as the countries south of the United States where people speak Romance languages (such as Spanish, Portuguese, and French). Today, some of the people from these countries might identify as Latino, Latina, Latinx, or Hispanic.

"Before 1970, there were only around 3,000 people who identified as Latin American in Canada. In the early part of that decade, around 68,000 Latin Americans started arriving, some on tourist visas. Canada then had a policy that allowed people to arrive as visitors and then apply for landed immigrant status.

### **TDSB Celebrates Sikh Heritage Month**

Sikh Heritage Month is celebrated at the TDSB during the month of April. On March 22, 2016, Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month, making TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so, and matching recognition by the Province of Ontario in 2013.

Sikh Heritage Month is to provide an opportunity for staff, students and community members to learn more about Sikh traditions and history, and celebrate the many contributions of Sikh Canadians. The theme for the year is A Century of Pioneer Families. We acknowledge that in 1919, Prime Minister of Canada Robert Borden, at the Imperial War Conference was pressured after the great Valour of Sikh soldiers to ease restrictions of wives and children to join their husband and fathers in Canada.

A poster to reflect our theme has been created in collaboration with the Sikh Museum of Canada. Look for these posters in schools -- it is our hope that this poster goes beyond the hallways and into the classrooms and workplaces and is used as an opportunity to continue system dialogue on equity and inclusive curriculum throughout the year.

The Sikh community is just one of the many ways that makes our school board so rich in its diversity and we're proud to celebrate this heritage with everyone.

### **TDSB Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month**

During the month of April, the TDSB recognized Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario, the province recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."

### **International Day of Pink**

On April 10 we will be celebrating The International Day of Pink. This day of action was born when a youth in a high school in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia and transphobia.

Our students and staff will be wearing pink in support of diversity, and will be participating in events and activities that will engage our community to challenge gender stereotypes.

The International Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity - it's also a commitment to being open minded, to being understanding of differences and to learning to respect each other.



### **High Water Levels Brings Increased Risks**

The Toronto and Region Conservation monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.

Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.

