



1 | World AIDS Day UN
 2 | International Day of the Abolition of Slavery UN
 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities UN
 4-7 | Scholastic Book Fair
 4 | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 6 | Holiday concert 5:30-6:30
 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Canada
 7-15 | Hanukkah
 8 | P.A. Day – No school
 8 | St. Clements or Ohrid Patrons Day Orthodox Macedonian
 10 | Human Rights Day UN
 13 | Birthday of Imam Aga Khan Islam
 18 | International Migrants Day UN
 21 | Winter Solstice – Yule* Wicca/Pagan
 22 | Sharing Assembly - Carol Singing in Gym
 22 | Last day of school before Winter Break
 25 | Christmas Christianity and Public Holiday
 26 | Boxing Day Public Holiday
 26 - Jan 01 | Kwanzaa African Canadian & American
 Jan 8 | Return to School

Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Principal
 Nadira Persaud, Superintendent
 Michelle Aarts, Trustee
 Email: Gledhillpsjr@tdsb.on.ca
 School website:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill>



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The month of November has come to a close and we want to congratulate the many students that were recognized for demonstrating Empathy. Ms. Homonko's and Mr. Fowler's class presented their learning at our **Character Assembly!** As we move forward, the Character Trait focus for the month of December will be on Kindness and Caring which will be highlighted through numerous lessons and activities. All the children have been trying to get **Caught You Caring** at school!

Although Indigenous Education month comes to a close, we will continue to make a commitment to furthering our own personal learning and your child's about Indigenous history, culture and perspectives throughout the school year. We have focused on teaching and learning this past month and we are extremely proud of all the work that is taking place. We had a beautiful Indigenous Author Visit by Nancy Cooper. The kids loved hearing her read, "Biindigen!" It was a beautiful event that left us blessed to have an Indigenous voice but a local Gledhill resident and past parent join us.

Through **Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week** we were able to connect through announcements, X-movement and discussions about relationships. We will be teaching students how to use **S.M.A.R.T;** **S**eek Assistance, **M**ake a Plan, **A**ssert Yourself, **R**eport it, **T**alk About It, as an optional strategy to be able to resolve their differences on their own. Most social conflicts are great ways for students to learn to resolve and use problem-solving skills required as one of the 21st century competencies needed by students. Adults don't intervene right away to allow students to amicably resolve differences amongst themselves. Adults will step in when necessary and with the age-appropriate language. We talk about the experiences and then engage students to go through the process all over again in the next conflict, hence building skills and resilience. This is training ground for learning how to socialize and build on relationships with others. All the Caught You Caring Cards will be displayed in the Main Foyer which we encourage everyone to view. Understanding, acceptance, inclusion and reconciliation will continue be our work for 2023-2024.

We can't forget to mention the beautiful **Remembrance Day** assembly that we had. Thank you to Ms. Chitayat, Ms. Khalili and staff for the great collective efforts. The students were delighted to hear the strong messages of hope and resilience. All such acts of kindness exemplify the sense of compassion and care that the school community holds and we were truly moved by these efforts. This is a wonderful way to build community and tradition at the school.

In addition, our school **Food Drive** has been so successful. So many non-perishable food items have come in. Thank you to the families and students advocating in efforts to prevent food scarcity. A big thank you goes to all parents for your generosity. This past month you were able to meet with your child's teacher in discussing the Progress Reports and celebrate areas of strength, and ways in which we can ensure continued growth and goal setting for students. We will continue to focus on the teaching/learning in our classrooms to ensure that distractions or interruptions to the teaching and learning environment are minimized. Protecting student engagement in class yields greater student achievement, and well-being. This is a safe schools protocol. In addition, we have noticed that our late arrivals in the morning have been increasing. We realize that with increasing inclement weather and colder conditions, there are more steps required to get going, however, lates and absences are recorded on report cards accumulatively and we would like to ensure that everyone is arriving on time for the first lesson of the morning which is typically a literacy or numeracy block. This is critical learning time and it should not be compromised. Please leave a message on the safe arrival line if you are absent/late/ or attending an appointment. It is available to you 24 hours/day. Thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to get to bed earlier and thus rested for the morning.

It is an honour to serve the students, staff and parents of the Gledhill Jr Public School.

Sincerely,
 Peppi Kondilis-Minos
 Principal

Winter Weather at our School

Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in 582 schools, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly.

When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB web site, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe Weather: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6

On December 6, TDSB students and staff mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day coincides with the anniversary of the death of 14 young women who were tragically killed on 6 December, 1989, at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal because of their gender.

On this national day of remembrance, we honour the memory of these women and reflect on the ways that gender violence continues to affect us. For more information, visit Status of Women Canada and participate in their #ActionsMatter Campaign.



Happy Holidays from the Gledhill Staff!

Working Together to Ensure Student Success

In order to ensure the best possible education for your child, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly. A student's academic progress depends on regular class attendance. Research also indicates that attendance patterns and attitudes are developed at an early age. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities and complete all homework assignments and tests when they are absent. All attendance is monitored by the office and kept in student records.

We would like to encourage families to plan extended vacations when school is not in session. Extended absences can result in gaps in student learning. Students in Grades 3 may have particular difficulty during the provincial assessments (EQAO) when they have been absent during the school year and have missed a large portion of the curriculum taught. Regular student attendance and punctuality is important in order for students to be successful at school.

You can help ensure your child's success by:

- being involved in your child's education;
- knowing the school's schedule;
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers (use your child's planner to send notes to the teacher);
- calling the school if your child is going to be absent;
- writing a note if your child is late due to an appointment;
- ensuring that your child gets a good night's sleep so that they have the energy they need for the next day.

If attendance patterns indicate an increase in absences, then a letter that is issued by the school will be sent home to better understand why the student has been absent. If the absences continue, then the students file is passed to the case work of a social worker to help out families.

Let's work together to ensure student success.



Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by:

- Reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- Reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- Watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- Informing the school if your child is ill;
- Keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. 1-866-797-0000.

