



- African Heritage Month  
- Chinese Heritage Month

1 Imbolc\* Wicca/Pagan  
2 Movie Night 6:30-8pm  
3 Setsubun-sai\*\* Shinto  
6 International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female WHO Genital Cutting/Mutilation  
7 Winter Walking to School Day  
7 TSO Trip  
9-15 Chinese Spring Festival  
10 Chinese and Lunar New Year's Day  
12-15 Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week  
-Action Canada for Week Sexual Health & Rights  
14 Cookie Valentine sales  
14 Valentine's Day  
15 African Author Visit  
15 National Flag Day!  
15 Buddha's Death – Nirvana/Day of Miracles)\*\*  
Buddhism  
16 P A Day – Interviews  
19 Family Day – No School  
20 Skate Day  
20 World Day of Social Justice UN  
21 International Mother Language Day UN  
23 Pizza Lunch  
28 Pink T-Shirt Day!  
28/29 Afro Beats – African Heritage Dance Instructor

## Fairness is our Feb Character Attribute

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:

As we look back at the month of January, we want to thank so many teachers for their contributions that keep Gledhill so dynamic and engaging. They do so much for the school and we are always grateful for their contributions that go above and beyond expectations. As you know, report cards will be issued this term and only students that require an interview will be contacted by their child's teacher. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. Thank you to staff for everything you do to make Gledhill a special school that families aspire to join, and thank you parents for your kind gestures and unwavering support. We appreciate it.

The month of January also marked **Tamil Heritage Month** which is honoured and celebrated across our school board. Classes took the opportunity to learn about the Tamil community, shared many artifacts, experiences and perspectives of Tamil Culture. The students were delighted to see and listen to morning announcements on Tamil Heritage, Language and Culture.



As we move into celebrations of **Chinese and African Heritage Months** and our inclusionary focus in all TDSB schools, the province of Ontario and beyond, Gledhill has organized different school wide activities. We have an Indigenous African Author coming to Gledhill, Dance N Culture that will be teaching us Afro Beats, a colouring contest of Martin Luther King Jr., a jelly-bean contest, Valentine Cookies, Skate Day and Pink t-shirt sales and so much more.

In terms of our School Improvement work, we are building reading resources that represent various cultural backgrounds and reflect all our students. We want to instill a love of reading in our students. Calling all readers!! It's time to harness the vast reading community that is within the Gledhill school and the community. Spread the word that we want parents, grandparents, caregivers, volunteers to put a spotlight on this. We know from research that student engagement, mental health, belonging and achievement can all improve with increased love of reading. It's contagious...spread the word! Read for the Love of it!!

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

Peppi Kondilis-Minos  
Principal

## African Drumming – Music

African music and drumming is so amazing. You can share the link below where your child(ren) can learn to drum and dance from West Africa, Ghana. You can follow the lyrics on the screen and play drums along with the video. It is so much fun. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIGMYsWs6jc>

## **English Kindergarten Registration Begins in February!**

Registration for English Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at school in September! To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31. Visit the TDSB website for more information about the [Kindergarten program and registration requirements](#).

Please complete online registration first and an appointment time will be arranged by our office for you to come in with your documentation.

## **February 19 is a Statutory Holiday**

There will be no classes on Monday, February 19 to reflect the province-wide statutory holiday called Family Day. The holiday occurs on the third Monday in February of each year for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together. More information about the [school year calendar](#).

## **African Heritage Month**

African Heritage (Black History) Month is an occasion to commemorate present and past individuals who helped shape the path of our future student leaders, while also celebrating the many achievements and contributions of numerous individuals with this heritage! This year's chosen theme is ***Our Black Is...*** Our Black Is Resilient, Community, Beautiful, Unity, Joy, Self-Determination, Excellence, Empowering, Purpose, Brilliance, Engaging, Creative, Belonging, Tenacious, Powerful, Faith, Audacious, Powerful, Me...

## **Chinese Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board - February 2024**

TDSB's Chinese Heritage Month is proudly recognized in February each year. This year we celebrate the *Year of the Dragon: Majesty, Brilliance, Confidence, Leadership*.

Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most important celebrations for Chinese communities around the world. Lunar New Year is celebrated annually, and its dates are based on the lunar calendar. For 2024, it starts Saturday February 10 and ends Saturday February 24. The festivities include family gatherings, decorations, and of course a feast!

### **TDSB Celebrations**

All TDSB students were invited to participate in the CHM's popular annual poster contest, and we are excited to share the winning posters shortly on our TDSB websites.

In addition, all TDSB students and staff were invited to submit a 1-minute video on one of four guiding questions emphasizing the importance of Chinese heritage and/or a tradition. Submissions are currently being collected and a selection of the entries will be posted shortly.??

An in-person Chinese Heritage Month celebration will be held at A Y Jackson Secondary School with performances, presentations, and speakers to mark the day. Stay tuned for the full the video to be posted soon!

Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) for daily messages throughout the month of February? [@tdsbChineseHM](#).

