



1 Gantan-sai New Year Shinto
 1 New Year's Day International
 Public Holiday
**5 Birthday of Guru Gobind
 Singh Sikhism**
 5 Twelfth Night Christianity
 6 Feast of the Epiphany
 Orthodox & Western
 Christianity
**7 Feast of the Nativity
 (Christmas) Orthodox
 (Julian Calendar) Christianity**
 7 Ethiopian Christmas
 Rastafari
 8 - 15 Theravada Days of
 Mindfulness Buddhism
 13 Punjabi Lohri Hinduism
 (Punjabi)
 13 Maghi Sikhism
 14 Orthodox New Year's Day
 15-18 Thai Pongal Hinduism
 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 U.S.A. Fed. Holiday
 19 PA. Day – No School
 21 World Religion Day Baha'i
 24 Mental Health Day
 26 Sharing Assembly
 26 Pizza Lunch
 27 St. Sava Devine Service
 Orthodox Serbian
 27 International Day of
 Commemoration in
 Memory of the Victims of the
 Holocaust UN
 27 Family Literacy Day

Kindergarten Registration opens
February 1st / 2024.

Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Principal
 Nadira Persaud, Superintendent
 Michelle Aarts, Trustee
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<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill>



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we look at back at the final month of 2023, we want to congratulate the many students that were recognized for demonstrating *Kindness and Caring* through our **Caught you Caring** efforts. Many students were caught caring during our campaign.

Gledhill demonstrated **Kindness and Caring** in a variety of ways in December and we are proud of the ongoing work of staff and students. The whole school was busy collecting food and toys for donation, singing carols and holiday songs. All our efforts echoed songs of peace and friendship. We had a Pyjama Day just before we left, with spirits high. 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. We need to continue accepting all students regardless of where they come from, what they believe, or what they wear. Tolerance, acceptance, inclusion and reconciliation will be our continued work for 2024.



As 2024 is upon us, students will continue to learn about Indigenous and cultural appreciation. We are motivated by the keen interest to learn and curiosity. **Please join us at the next parent council meeting which is scheduled for February 8th at 6:30pm.** In the coming month, parents will join efforts as part of action teams. Both the School Improvement Team and Caring and Safe have met.

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

Sincerely,

Peppi Kondilis-Minos
 Principal

Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs because of [severe weather](#). On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites. With approximately 236,000 students in 583 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 and TDSB social media 6 a.m. Visit the website to learn about [Snow/Cold Weather](#) and the [Procedure for Severe Weather](#).

TDSB Celebrates Tamil Heritage Month in January 2024

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is **Our Memories, Our Truths, Our Paths Forward: A Mosaic of Tamil Identity**. To mark Tamil Heritage Month, various educational opportunities will be offered to students to learn about the history, culture, and traditions.

Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess. Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess. But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe.

When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the windchill is below -20 C. The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether. Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

Recess During Cold Weather

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hour may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -20C and -28C.

If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if parents have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please contact the school office.

Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Reducing the Spread of Respiratory Illness

A reminder of the number of steps that can be taken to help keep children and others safe from an increase in respiratory viruses among children, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza and COVID-19. Please note that Toronto Public Health, together with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, strongly recommends wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public settings, including in schools and childcares.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins February 1st. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our 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. Please register online first and upon receipt of your application the main office will contact you with an appointment time to come in with pertinent documentation.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

