



Gledhill News

January 2020

Principal Cathy McAleese
Vice-Principal Janet Bambrick
416-393-1745



From the office...

Welcome to 2020! We would like to welcome everyone back from the winter break and hope that all were able to enjoy the time to relax and participate in some memorable activities with family and friends. Looking ahead, we want to ask our families to be mindful of re-establishing the necessary routines to ensure that your children are in attendance and on time each morning to get each school day off to a great start. In addition to morning routines, we also ask our families to continue to be mindful of early dismissal habits as well. Although there are times when an occasional early dismissal is necessary for an appointment or urgent family need, early dismissals should be minimal as the loss of instructional time can certainly affect a student's performance. We appreciate your support as our teachers and students strive to maximize their instructional time shared each day.

A reminder, especially for the younger students, that it is always a good idea to have an extra pair of socks, pants, mitts etc. in their backpacks. Snow is wonderful to play in at recess and during the lunch period, however, wet socks and pants are not so much fun to sit in. Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free playtime outdoors on a daily basis. However, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor or shortened recesses and lunch periods be considered for student and staff safety. Conditions warranting indoor recesses: 1) Rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds 2) Cold weather: When temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates -28C or lower, children will remain indoors. When an extreme cold weather alert is issued or when temperatures and/or wind chill factor indicates from -20 to -28, recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recesses to 20 minutes depending on local conditions. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

We want to thank all of our families for all that you do in supporting our students and teachers as we look forward to an outstanding beginning to the new year!

Cathy McAleese & Janet Bambrick

TEAMWORK is January's Character Trait. Teamwork is the ability of a group to work well together for everyone's benefit. Qualities of teamwork include:

- working together peacefully to complete a goal
- listening and encouraging others
- inviting others to contribute their ideas, talents and skills
- treating others equitably and recognizing the needs of the group
- communicating calmly

You can help your child to develop teamwork skills at home by:

- asking them to help to complete a household chore with a member of the family
- participating in sports/arts activities and working as part of a team to be successful

TDSB Character Traits are an important part of learning, supporting students to achieve success in school.

FRENCH PROGRAMS for families interested in the Toronto District School Board's French Immersion or Extended French programs, the TDSB offers an online process at this time, and guarantees an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all **on-time applicants**. The application for Early Immersion has closed.

Applications for Junior Extended French which begins in Grade 4 must be completed online between January 6, 2020 and January 31, 2020. Please note that this will be the last entry class for this program as it will be transitioning out - Grade 4 Immersion Program will continue. Offers of placement within your chosen program will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window. Please click here for more information -<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs>. And please click here for information on the French Review <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Public-Consultations/French-Review>.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. Parents/guardians will have the option of registering their child in person at school or beginning the registration process via online registration (OLR) at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten effective **February 3, 2020**. TDSB is moving toward online registration to make the process easier and faster for parents/guardians and staff, but regardless of which process caregivers select, they will be required to visit the local school to validate registration information.

WINTER WEATHER AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites or cancel transportation. 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 website, 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>

PARENT REMINDER Students enter the school in the morning at 8:40 am. If your child's line has already entered the building please come to the main entrance. Children who are late need admittance slip before going to class and in order to avoid call outs to parents. Parents, please do not walk your child to class. All adults must report to the office. Thank you.



"IN THE MUSIC ROOM" From: Mrs. Bailey A huge congratulations to all the participants in this year's winter concert! There was a wonderful variety of music, dancing, skits, and more! Great effort by all who participated! Ms. Meecham, Ms. O'Gorman and I would like to thank all of the primary students who participated in primary choir in 2019! Primary choir is done for the school year, but we will be distributing permission forms for Junior Choir (grades 3-5) in February!

Gledhill had four strong submissions into this year's CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge! The grade 4 and 5 classes involved should be proud of their efforts! Check them out on the YouTube CBC "Canadian Music Class" channel! Search under Gledhill, rooms 14, 24, 25 or 29!

A sincere thank you to those who donated items for Centre 55 at the Gledhill winter concerts. New toys and food items made their way to those in need, thanks to you! So much more to come in 2020! Happy New Year!

PARENT COUNCIL Happy New Year from the Gledhill Parent Council! As we reflect on 2019 we are so excited to see how many parents are coming out to Council meetings and registered to receive updates at our parent council blog which can be found at www.gledhillguardian.com. It's the best way to stay connected with school and council activities and to participate in discussions shaping our community and culture. We have lots planned for early in the new year, so watch the blog and Facebook page for upcoming events. The next council meeting will be on January 23rd - pizza and childcare are provided. Our next Pizza Lunch (for those who have pre-registered) is January 24th, and our next movie night will be February 28th, so mark your calendars! There are lots of ways (big and small) to get involved in the new year - including helping with pizza lunches and movie nights! You can find lots of opportunities at <https://gledhillguardian.com/opportunities/>.

The Breakfast Club also needs your help in 2020. If you can spare some time in the mornings - even just once a month - to help, please contact gledhill.breakfastclub@gmail.com. Wishing you a wonderful new year!

WINTER CONCERTS Thank-you to Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Chitayat for their organization of our Primary/Junior Winter Concerts. Thank-you to the teachers and students of rooms 6, 8, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 for their incredible performances. It was a joy to be in the audience and see the variety and quality of the student performances. The U-school students, Grade 5 Strings and the Ukulele kids, showed us the incredible progress that they have made in their musical learning in a very short time. The Primary Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Meecham, demonstrated teamwork (this month's character trait) and perseverance by learning three challenging songs which they sang beautifully. We are very grateful here at Gledhill to have such talented staff that work with our students and are able to support them to succeed at such a high level. Well done!



KINDERGARTEN CONCERTS Congratulations to all of our kindergarten students on their beautiful performances at the Kindie Concert on December 11th. A special thank-you to our dedicated staff of Kindergarten Teachers and ECEs who worked with students to create the performances that showcased poetry, song, and movement!!

SEVERE WEATHER In the event of severe or rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, please keep children at home, if possible. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education. Listen to the radio or television for school closures and cancellation of transportation services before the opening of school - cancellations will be announced from 6:30 a.m. onward. Should schools close during the school day; announcements will be made on radio stations by noon and posted on the TDSB website.

FROM PHYS.ED. January the PE department will start up its very popular Pickleball house league (run during lunch). Girls D3 volleyball will practice in the mornings (all grades 4 and 5 girls are welcome), and D3 co-ed ball hockey will also practice in the morning starting in the New Year.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:

HOUR OF CODE The Hour of Code was a huge success this year again. Students from JK to grade 5 participated in coding activities and they worked in small groups or as a large group to complete various coding challenges and puzzles. To try coding at home go to: <https://code.org/>



MAKERSPACE CLUB We will be starting a new session of Makerspace club for students in grades 2 and 3. Permission forms will be distributed during the week of January 6th. The club will start on Tuesday, January 21st and run until Tuesday, March 3rd.



FOREST OF READING Forest of Reading is an amazing initiative of the Ontario Library Association designed to promote the love of recreational reading. Readers of all ages can take part in this program through school and

public libraries. This initiative celebrates the work of Canadian authors, illustrators and publishers and offers books in English and in French.

We will be inviting students in grades 3 - 5 to join a Forest of Reading club which will be offered on Mondays, starting on January 13th. Spaces in the club are limited. All students who were interested in participating in the club were invited to put their names in a draw. The draw will take place on Monday, January 6th and students will be given permission forms to join the club. Forest of Reading books will be available in our library and they can also be borrowed from any public library.

For more information and to view the lists of nominated titles visit: <http://bit.ly/1mzF5DU>

ROOTS OF EMPATHY Room 3 has been participating in the Roots of Empathy program. This evidenced based program supports students' social/emotional growth and competence through regular visits by the Roots of Empathy baby (a parent and infant in our neighbourhood) who visit the classroom each week. Gledhill Early Childhood Educator, Ms Smith, is a trained Roots of Empathy Instructor. She coaches students in Room 3 to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings and intentions. In this experiential learning, the baby is the "Teacher" and a lever that Ms. Smith uses to help children to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.

COMING EVENTS

Please mark these dates in your calendar:

January 17	Elementary P.A. Day-no school
January 23	Parent Council Meeting-6:00 PM in the Library
January 24	Pizza Lunch
January 31	Deadline for Junior Extended French Online Applications
February 14	Elementary P.A. Day-no school
February 17	Family Day-no school
February 18	Parent Council Meeting-6:00 PM in the Library
February 28	Pizza Lunch
February 28	Movie Night-6:30 PM
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins-Clocks spring ahead one hour
March 16-20	March Break

CONTACT US

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 Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of Education (LN24)
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