



Gledhill News

March 2020

Principal Cathy McAleese
Vice-Principal Janet Bambrick
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From the office...

Welcome to March, with longer days and more sunlight we are hoping that we will soon be saying hello to Spring. We are reminding families to make sure their children are coming to school with snow/splash pants, boots, hats and mitts, as March can still be a weather roller-coaster. It is also helpful to send your child to school with a change of clothes as our field is wet and muddy.

February was African and Chinese heritage month, and each day our students heard announcements about important members of the African and Chinese Canadian diaspora. Curriculum connections in the classroom, bulletin board displays, songs and musical activities in music class, and stories in library have also been part of the learning about African and Chinese heritage. For March, we will look forward to celebrating Greek Heritage month.

We have had a very successful online Kindergarten Registration this year. It was great to meet so many new families as they came in to complete the registration process. Thank you so much to our fantastic office staff, Mrs. Heasman and Mr. Poursanidis, for all their hard work during registration.

We wish to remind all families of the email that was sent earlier this week about keeping your children home when they are ill. TDSB caretaking staff is wiping down all frequently touched surfaces to prevent the spread of germs. Keeping your child home when they are ill will allow them to rest and get better and help to stop the spread of illnesses in our school.

Finally, a reminder that the school will be closed for the March Break from Monday, March 16th to Friday, March 20th. Classes will resume on Monday, March 23rd. We wish everyone a Happy March Break!

Warmest regards,

Cathy McAleese & Janet Bambrick

HONESTY/TRUTH is the character trait for March. Being honest with ourselves and others is an important part of developing integrity. To support and teach honesty in children we can:

- Model honesty.
- Tell and read positive stories about honesty.
- “Catch” children being honest by noticing this trait and acknowledging their honesty.
- Set clear rules for being honest related to respect and accountability for actions.
- Give children space and time to tell you the truth.
- Talk openly about mistakes and when rules have been broken encourage children to know they will be listened to and that they will be supported to find a solution and make amends.

More ideas can be found at:

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/12-tips-raising-truthful-kids/>

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

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students witnessed a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was that an entire school took a stand and began working together to prevent homophobic bullying.

The message was clear: anyone can bully, anyone can be victimized by bullying, but together we can stop it!

Gledhill students are taking a stand!

On **Wednesday April 8th** they are calling all students and families to wear pink to raise awareness about this important issue.

The Grade 4 and 5 students are hosting a bake sale to raise funds to donate to the Day of Pink Foundation!

MARCH IS GREEK HERITAGE MONTH

The Toronto District School Board has proclaimed the month of March as GREEK HERITAGE MONTH. Every day we will be making announcements highlighting famous quotes from legendary Greek philosophers, like this quote from Aristotle: *"The energy of the mind is the essence of life."*

GLEDHILL PARENT COUNCIL

It was so great seeing so many of you at our recent Leap Year Party! Thanks to everyone who came out, helped out, danced it out, and bought us out. The silent auction was incredible. Huge thank you to all of our sponsors and generous community for the amazing support. We are excited for the fabulous enrichment opportunities we are able to provide our students as a result of these great events and the support of our wonderful school community.

Upcoming events update: We know this has been a challenging time. Please note that the TDSB has advised that all after school and evening events be suspended until there is a resolution to contract negotiations (this impacts events such as movie nights), however for now School Council meetings (unless scheduled on a closure/strike day) and school-day initiatives such as our pizza lunches can go ahead as planned. We will be sure to keep you informed as these guidelines may change at any time.

Next School Council meeting: Thursday, March 26th from 6-7:30pm. Pizza and childcare are provided. Hope to see you there!

Next Pizza Lunch: Friday, March 27th. (If you are available to help out during Pizza Lunch, we'd love to see you! Signing up is easy at <https://signup.com/go/OjuudoY>)

MARCH SPIRIT DAY: The Gledhill Spirit Squad is encouraging everyone to participate in the following Spirit Day: **Friday, March 13th**

Theme: March Madness-Wear your favourite basketball or team jersey/team colours!!



TDSB PARENTS AS PARTNERS CONFERENCE:

BREAKFAST CLUB –Gledhill Makes Mornings Easier

The Breakfast Club is open to ALL students in Grades 1 to 5.

Did you know that Gledhill students are able to have breakfast at school every day? We are the **Breakfast Club** - a before-school program that serves breakfast daily in the Lunchroom from 8:00am to 8:40am. **Any student in Grades 1-5 may attend.** It is not based on any kind of need. **It's for everyone.** That means you can drop your kids off at school earlier, and know they will have a nutritious breakfast to fuel their day. Plus, your kids can attend as often as you like – whether it's daily or even just once a month. It's a great solution for those early morning work meetings that pop up.

The program is run by a team of dedicated Parent and Community Volunteers, who are passionate about healthy eating and understand the importance of a good breakfast to start the day. We always offer smoothies, whole grain cereals, fruit platters and a daily feature item like scrambled eggs and toast, quesadillas or granola fruit parfaits. Students can catch up with friends or play quiet activities until the morning bell rings.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP

To register, just email Gledhill.breakfastclub@gmail.com or pick up a registration form in the school office. We do ask for a small donation to our program. Donations and registration forms can be dropped off in the Breakfast Club Mailbox in the School Office.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS

We still need volunteers to join our team, especially for the Clean-up shift from 8:40am - 9:15am. Even just once a month is a big help. Please email Gledhill.breakfastclub@gmail.com for more info.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: CULTUREGRAMS

Culturegrams provides information, data sets, infographics, images, videos, maps, flags, recipes, timelines, and more for over 200 countries of the world and the Canadian provinces. Information is written and reviewed by in-country experts and updated as new information becomes available. This resource works well with Read and Write Chrome. Translation and built-in read-aloud features also add to accessibility. Look for it on the TDSB Virtual Library under Quickfinds. For more information about how to access the TDSB Virtual Library from home you can watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrloxdlkHJM>

Culturegrams



Join TDSB for the Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020!

This all-inclusive conference is organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers. Participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies and learn new strategies to support your child's success.

Registration opens in 2020! Register early as there is limited space in each workshop!

Who:

- ALL parents/guardians/caregivers of TDSB students are invited and welcome to attend.

What:

- Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is a FREE conference. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closer to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians/caregivers of students of all ages and stages of education.

Where:

- Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd, Etobicoke, Ontario

Why:

- The Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is planned by parents, for parents and we are so pleased to be able to offer a selection of sessions that cover a broad range of topics to provide parents with useful information and resources to help your child improve their achievement and well-being at school and at home.

We continue to monitor the ongoing labour situation and the potential impact it may have on the Parents as Partners Conference. As of now, the conference is scheduled as planned and registration will open in late February. If plans change, registrants will be notified by email. Thank you for your continued support.

Keynote Speaker



Kim Katrin

Kim Katrin is an internationally acclaimed award winning educator, writer, artist and consultant. As an educator, Kim travels around the world talking to people about justice, equity, and human rights. She has shared hundreds of unique resources and presentations on intersectional issues such as

race, ability, orientation and gender on mental wellness. Emphasizing these connections allows for an inclusive discussion and a holistic focus on mental wellness and community engagement.

X-DANCE: YOU ARE XTRA AWESOME!! Gledhill will welcome X-Dance to our school from **March 9-12**, working with all classes from JK-5. X-Dance is a curriculum-based dance program that explores diversity through a high-energy and culturally rich dance experience. Students identify their unique characteristics, celebrate with the I am Xtra Awesome affirmation, and broaden their understanding of how they can make the world a more inclusive place.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, set your clocks forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring ahead."



COMING EVENTS

Please mark these dates in your calendar:

March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins-Clocks spring ahead one hour
March 9-12	X-Dance
March 13	Spirit Day-March Madness-wear your favourite basketball or team jersey
March 16-20	March Break
March 26	Parent Council Meeting-6:00 PM in the library
March 27	Pizza Lunch
March 27	TDSB Earth Hour
March 28	Parents as Partners Conference- Toronto Congress Centre
April 8	International Day of Pink-stand up to bullying and wear pink!
April 10 & 13	Good Friday and Easter Monday-No School
April 20	Bus Safety Presentations

CONTACT US

School Office: 416-393-1745

School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill>

Cathy McAleese, Principal

Janet Bambrick, Vice-Principal

George Poursanidis, Office Administrator

Dawn Heasman, Secretary

Marisa Silver, School Council Chair

Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of Education (LN24)

Michelle Aarts, Trustee (Ward 16)