



1 International Day of Older Persons
 United Nations
 4 TDSB Walk to School Day
 5 World Teachers' Day
 United Nations
 6 PA Day
 7-11 Body Confidence Awareness Week (2nd Week Oct.)
 9 Thanksgiving Day
 10 World Mental Health Day
 World Health Organization
 13 Terr Fox Run
 14-18 Week Without Violence
 YMCA
 11 International Day of the Girl
 United Nations
 Canadian Government
 16 World Food Day United Nations
 17 International Day of the Eradication of Poverty United Nations
 18 Early Childhood Educator's Day
 18 Photo Day! Smile!
 27 Pizza Lunch

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Hello,

I'd like to begin by congratulating all staff, students, parents and community members for persevering through a very eventful first month of the school year! In September, we focused on the Character Trait of Respect as teachers and students discussed how this can be modeled on a daily basis to ensure a supporting learning environment for all. Monthly, we have sharing assemblies where this is discussed.

This month marks Hispanic Heritage Month (City of Toronto), Islamic Heritage Month, Somali Heritage Month, and Women's History Month. There is so much to be celebrated and learned about each other and cultural differences that we can honour.

From Kindergarten to Grade 5, there is a high level of student engagement in classrooms as we strive to ensure high expectations of teaching and learning at Gledhill. We hope to continue providing various hands-on resources to students and teachers in creating 21st Century Learning opportunities each day.

We will be getting ready to practice Fire Drills as well as a Lockdown Drill to ensure health and safety standards are upheld and that each individual in the building feels safe at all times. Parents, you play a critical role in the education of our students and this was evident from the great community turnout for our Welcome Back BBQ & Curriculum Night Sessions. Thank you for your continued support to the school as our partners in education.

We look forward to the annual Terry Fox Run as we continue to raise awareness in the fight against Cancer. Gledhill Jr PS also celebrated Orange Day/ Truth and Reconciliation as a school-wide event as we continue to reconcile with the Indigenous community.

As we look ahead to October, our Character Trait focus will be on Responsibility. Our student leaders from Grade 3/4/5 show us responsibility by being Prefects. They play an important role in this regard as they provide support during lunch periods as well as serving as ambassadors throughout the school.

There will be opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning as classes begin taking part in various field trips in addition to hands-on experiences. We hope to provide enhanced access for students and teachers to integrate technology through the use of iPads, chrome books and Interactive Whiteboards.

As we look forward to another exciting month ahead embracing Islamic and Somali Heritage Months, Women's History Month, Cancer Research Month, Hispanic Heritage Month for the City of Toronto as well as the teaching and learning, we thank you parents for your continued support.

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

Sincerely,
 Peppi Kondilis-Minos

Anaphylaxis – Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Everything You Need to Know

The beginning of school can be an exciting and overwhelming time – for both parents and students. But we're here to help make the transition as smooth as possible and provide all the information you need to know to get started on the right foot. We have created a one-stop resource page full of back-to-school information, including the school year calendar, where to go when you need help, how to get involved. Please reference your Parent Handbook when needed.

As a parent or guardian, there are many ways to be involved in your child's education, such as participating in field trips, engaging them about their school experiences, reviewing homework, joining the school council and attending parent teacher interviews and school events. To learn more about school councils and parent involvement on a Board-wide basis, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/howtogetinvolved. Being in the know about the TDSB is also an important part of that and we are committed to keeping in touch with you through regular webcasts and web chats, ward forums and social media, including Twitter and Instagram.

Kids and Flu

The flu germs spread when people cough, sneeze or talk. The flu germs can also live on surfaces like toys, countertops, and door handles for up to eight hours.

Students can pass the flu germs to each other, to school staff and to family members before they show symptoms. Children under five, seniors and people in poor health are at greater risk of complications from flu.

Vaccination is the best protection against flu. It takes 2 weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective so get it early.

Tips on staying healthy this flu Season:

1. Get your flu shot early
2. [Wash your hands](#) often
3. Avoid touching face and eyes
4. [Cover your cough](#) or sneeze
5. Do not share drinking cups and utensils
6. Disinfect common surfaces like door handles, hand railings, keyboards, cell phones and tablets.

For more information, visit toronto.ca/health/flu

Keeping Kids Safe

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
 - Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
 - Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
 - Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
 - Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.
- Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.

Did you know?

It is TDSB policy that dogs and smoking are not permitted anywhere on school property at any time!

Please help us to look after the comfort and safety of our students by respecting these rules. Please share this with your neighbours.

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties. Hallowe'en is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Hallowe'en is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security.

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY

If parents are concerned about trick or treating, here are some basic safety rules to follow:

- Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
- Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- If you can not accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- Remind children of road safety rules. Cross only at corners. Do not criss-cross the road. Go up one side of the road and down the other side. Never cross between parked cars. Walk facing on-coming traffic if there is no sidewalk
- If adults are driving their children, drive slowly, with lights on and be cautious when pulling to the side of the road.
- Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en, and to avoid any homes that have no lights on. Also remind children not to run through neighbours yards or gardens.
- With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- Set time limits when children should return home.

Register Now! Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference

Join us for the Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference on October 21 and 22, 2023. This year's conference is focussed on *Joy in the Journey of Learning* and will be a weekend full of learning and connection. Attendees can participate virtually and also join in-person presentations. Visit www.parentsaspartners.ca for more information and to register.

