



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope you had a wonderful summer break that was relaxing and memorable for you and your family. We are extremely excited about the upcoming school year 2023-2024 and look forward to **collaborating** with you in supporting the growth and success of *all* students. While this initial newsletter contains some important information below we encourage you to continue accessing school information whether it be through monthly Newsletters, Twitter, our school Website, Principal weekly updates, gym news and various other mediums. You will receive a great deal of information and forms that require your attention. We strive to be as paperless as much as possible, as a Platinum eco school. The majority of our communication with you will be through email, and in some cases a hard copy to remind you.

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the changes in the school, aside from my arrival. We have 1 new teacher that have joined us; Ms. A. Khalili. Welcome to Gledhill! We are so lucky to have an amazing teaching team.

I'm excited to announce that our Superintendent, Ms. Nadira Persaud has already been to the school to visit with us. She is looking forward to leading, learning and supporting our network of schools.

All classes will be entering and exiting from the west side of the building. **Please ensure that your child lines up in the correct line up area and that parents step back to allow the classes space to assemble themselves. We would like to get into the building quicker so that we can start learning and our day.** Students entering from the front will be marked late as you are expected to be on time and in the line-up each morning. **Defer to teachers for direction at all times.**

We are anticipating another layer of asphalt in October before the pavement condition is finalized. We will have painted lines on the west pavement to ensure students are lining up prior to entering in the building. We are establishing safe behaviour in doing so. As well, we have a crossing guard at Lumsden and Gledhill now. We are happy to see that there is support there for students to safely cross the street.

In addition, we kindly ask that you do not use the parking lot to drop off your children. There is not enough adequate parking spots for our staff. Please be respectfully and observe the signage on the property. The same applies for pets. The board property and bylaw do not permit dogs on site. Please read through the Parent Handbook for information on this. This came as part of your first day package.

Finally I'd like to thank parents in advance for your support in completing the important package of forms that are **available digitally**. We are paperless! Having the most updated and accurate information on our students is critical to ensure their safety and appropriate care at all times. Please **review** and **complete** the various **forms** that will be **on-line**. You can access all these forms via a permission click application, on line, pending email distribution and submit them to us. (e.g. Medical, Emergency Contact, Media Release, etc.,). If you haven't received it yet, it is coming.

It is an honour to serve the students, staff and parents of the Gledhill Jr. Public School. I wish you all a rewarding school year ahead!

Sincerely,

Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Principal

2 | Labour Day
8 | International Day for Literacy UN
9 | Anant Chaturdashi Jain
11-22 | Caring and Safe Schools Week
15 | International Day of Democracy UN
16 | Rosh Hashanah
21 | International Day of Peace UN
21 | Fall Solstice
23 | National Tree Day & National Forest Week
25 | National Tree Day
25 | Yom Kippur
27 | Curriculum Night 5:30-6:30pm
29 | Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation Day
29 | Terry Fox kick-off!

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

Caring and Safe Schools

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 and great homework tips for both elementary and secondary students.

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.

Caring and Safe Schools Week September 11–22

This year, September 11-22 are Caring and Safe Schools Week. During this time we focus on caring and safe school initiatives and also promoting and celebrating the outstanding partnerships and programs that promote harmony and respect in our schools.

During Caring and Safe Schools awareness week, we focus on Promoting a Positive School Climate, reiterating the Board's support of bullying prevention and intervention practices and promoting the activities of our Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools Team. This team will be established at Gledhill PS. Your involvement is welcome.

This is also the time of the year where we remind parents to make sure they have up to date contact information on file at their child's school. One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence. Please refer to your Parent Handbook for detailed information on this process. At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed.

All of us have a part to play in making and keeping schools safe. By working together, we can provide learning environments that are caring, safe, healthy, accepting, respectful and inclusive, where students can acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of their communities.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that by working together schools are safe places for all people, including service workers, caretakers, and support staff so that their support to students is undisturbed and unaffected.

Anything that jeopardizes the positive climate of a school must be addressed as per the Caring and Safe Schools Act.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

The beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff have that information as soon as possible.

Secure Access Systems

A reminder to parents that we have a secure access system installed at our main entry that gives our school staff more control over who enters our school. This means that when you arrive at our school the outside doors will be locked and a buzzer system will need to be used to gain access to the school. Using this system will provide a safe and welcoming environment and a single point of entry where visitors will be welcomed and directed to the main office.



The Gledhill Energy Bus

Kindergarten students will be hearing the story "The Energy Bus for Kids" by Jon Gordon. It is a wonderful explanation of the impact of positivity when everyone operates from a growth mindset. Gledhill Kindergarten children will love the reading of the book by Ms. Minos, our new Principal. Students have the power to be fantastic change agents in a world with rapid technological advances. We are thrilled to be learning together.

