



2 | Labour Day
 8 | International Day for Literacy UN
 9 | Anant Chaturdashi Jain
 9 | Terry Fox Kick-off!
 11-22 | Caring and Safe Schools Week
 15 | International Day of Democracy UN
 19 | School Council Elections! 6:30-8:00pm
 21 | International Day of Peace UN
 21 | Fall Solstice
 23 | National Tree Day & National Forest Week
 25 | National Tree Day
 26 | Terry Fox Run (AM)
 26 | Curriculum Night 5:30-6:30pm
 27 | P. A. Day
 30 | Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation Day

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



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 2024-2025 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. We have 4 new teachers that have joined us at Gledhill. Ms. Pace-Asciak, Ms. Barker, Mr. Garrido and Mme. Catanea. We are so lucky to have all of them join an amazing teaching team. They will be introducing themselves at Curriculum Night which is scheduled for Thurs., Sept 26th. More information will be sent home.

I'm also very excited to announce that we have a new Superintendent of Education, Mr. Kwame Lennon. We wish Ms. Nadira Persaud well as she transitions to a new area of schools north of us. Mr. Lennon has been visiting all the schools in our area. He is looking forward to leading, learning and supporting Gledhill students and families.

In terms of facility projects, we are anticipating more line painting around the hockey and basketball nets. With the renewed grounds work, we are establishing safe behaviour in doing so. Our smooth start for the first day of schools echoes our commitment to ensuring that students enter and exit in safe ways.

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 are available **on-line**. You can access all these forms on-line. (e.g. Medical, Emergency Contact, Media Release, etc.). This September issue focuses on school safety. Please review all the informational sections about many safe schools issues.

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 2024-2025!

Sincerely,

Peppi Kondilis-Minos, Principal

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, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <http://foodallergyCanada.ca>.

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.

Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Monday, September 30 marks Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

Visit the [Urban Indigenous Education website](#) for more information about events happening across the TDSB for staff and students.

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. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca often to learn more about opportunities to connect.

Road Safety

It's back to school time and we would like to remind drivers to slow down in school zones.

In recent years, TDSB staff has been working closely with the City of Toronto's Transportation Services, Toronto Public Health and other community partners to improve road safety for children and youth. In 2017, the TDSB launched its Traffic Safety Program (TSP) which helps schools identify travel issues and develop workable solutions. The TSP program aligns with the City of Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, which seeks to reduce the number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Toronto's roads.

Together, we can keep school zones safe! To learn more about road safety, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Road-Safety>.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Children under ten should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Learn more <https://bit.ly/2ETzMO5>.

Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age ten, and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.

Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.

Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.

Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.

Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).

Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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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 at all times. We must know who is on the property to ensure safety of all students and staff.**

School Communications

Maintaining open, responsive lines of communication with families is important. Families are encouraged to contact TDSB staff during regular work hours from Monday to Friday. While emails can be sent whenever it is convenient for you, staff will respond during normal work hours (not after hours). In case of an emergency after hours, staff will be available as needed. Please contact the principal with any questions.

Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use in Schools

Beginning on September 1, 2024, the Ministry of Education has provided new direction around cell phone and mobile device use in all Ontario schools. By reducing the distraction of cell phones and mobile devices, together we can create more focused and engaging learning environments for students. Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/mobiledeviceuse or contact the school with any questions.

Follow Us on Social Media

Join the conversations and find the latest information about the TDSB on our Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Threads accounts.

X - @TDSB
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