



February 2018



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Principal's Message



We are midway through the 2017-2018 school year and it has been a busy 6 weeks of school since the winter break. So far in 2018, we have had Literacy Night, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, Folk Dancing, Poetry Club, a Steel Pan Presentation, and Pizza Lunch just to mention a few activities. We also have an upcoming trip to Young People's Theater for all grade 1 to 6 students and parent/teacher interviews scheduled later this week.



With the cold weather upon us, parents are reminded that it is an expectation that students come prepared to be outside every day. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for winter weather including wearing, hat, gloves, boots, etc.

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightening in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Outdoor recesses may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and -20C.



We continue to have concerns regarding the school parking lot at entrance and dismissal times. Despite a request for those driving students to school not to park in the school parking lot during entry and dismissal times, many parents continue to do so. This puts students, staff and others in danger as the parking is overcrowded and there are vehicles stopped in no parking areas. Adults driving children to school are encouraged to park on Bimbok Rd. or Broadbent Ave. and walk their children to the schoolyard. **The parking lot is for staff parking only.** All staff have been given parking passes for their vehicles. All other vehicles will be tagged. As all our families live in the area, we encourage all students to walk to school.



The evenings of February 14th and 15th have been designated for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Teachers will not be requesting interviews with all parents, however, if the teacher has not requested an interview but you would like one, please let the teacher know. Parents / Guardians play a partnership role in the education of their children so I look forward to seeing many of you on those two evenings. A reminder that the school office will be open these two evenings from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. to help parents register for School Cash On-Line.

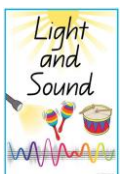
News from the Library

I hope that the New Year is off to a good start for all of our families. The library continues to be a busy place where lots of learning occurs.



Over the last couple of months I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Crothers' grade 5/6 class as we took part in novel study groups. Students met with their group two times each week and engaged in meaningful and insightful discussions around their novel. Our unit concluded with students completing a variety of activities to demonstrate their understanding of the novel and its theme(s). Students produced many wonderful projects, from dioramas to mock interviews with the author, recorded songs, poems and art/media works.

In January, Ms. Karanka and I worked with her grade four class to learn about *Light and Sound*. The students were engaged in many different experiments and activities to learn about the properties of light and sound. Students had the opportunity to make a musical instrument and explain how it works. They are also researching to find out how things that use sound and light and are helpful to us can also have a negative impact on our environment. Students will be



creating a PSA (Public Service Announcement) to share their findings with their peers and perhaps even other students in our school.

I also had the privilege of working with Ms. McDonald and her grade 4/5 class. The grade fours posed inquiry questions around their social studies unit EARLY SOCIETIES, 3000 BCE–1500 CE. Students developed their understanding of how we study the past to examine social organization, daily life, and the relationship with the environment in different societies.



The grade fives focused on FIRST NATIONS AND EUROPEANS IN NEW FRANCE AND EARLY CANADA and developed their understanding of how historical events in early Canada have had an impact on present-day Canada.

We have started our Blue Spruce reading program with students in grades one to three. After we read each book students have the opportunity to share their feelings, opinions, and reactions to each story.

The library will be open to our families on both interview nights (Wednesday, February 14 and Thursday, February 15) from 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please join us for some fun activities and / or an opportunity to read with your child(ren).

Congratulations to our most recent "Just Read It!" winner Vishnu in grade four.

Your partner in reading ~ Mrs. Karaoulis

Family Literacy Night



On Thursday, February 1, 2018, we had our Annual Family Literacy Night with close to 50 of our families present. Parents had the opportunity to read and take part in literacy activities with their children. Students tested their

estimating skills with a number of contests. Musarat, in grade one, showed everyone how to use Dash and Dot as Ms. Bacchus explained how we use this technology in reading, writing, math and other subjects. We also had Mahati and her mom, Ananya and her mom, read nursery rhymes in two voices. Jordan shared a poem with us as well. The evening ended with many laughs and giggles as jokes and riddles were read by students. Thank you to all who attended.

Fundraising



The Glen Ravine Fundraising Committee is organizing a movie night on March 8th at 3:15 p.m. More information will follow in the near future.

Boys' Basketball

This year we had 11 boys join the Glen Ravine basketball team. They practised throughout the month of January and played a tournament on February 7th. The boys played two hard fought games at Samuel Hearne School. They played with perseverance and sportsmanship, never giving up on the game right up until the end. Congratulations to Christopher, Sayvion, Vishnu, Mahir, Aisosa, Zakiul, Subanes, Keane, Piyal, Abdul, and Gunalan. Special thanks to the coaches Mr. Oberer and Ms. Kuroshima.



Girls' Volleyball



We had a fun and exciting season for the girls' volleyball team. The girls came together throughout the month of January to practice. Throughout the practices the team showed much improvement and came together as a group. They played a tournament on February 8th at John McCrae School. Every game they played went to a tie breaker. What a great season! Congratulations to: Tiffany, Catherine, Kavya, Samia, Aaisha, Zainab, Sameyah, Safa, Pravina, Krishna, and Naba. Special thanks to the coaches Mr. Lauria and Ms. McDonald.

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31.



You may choose to register in person at the school or begin the process online.

Our Kindergarten Registration evening will be held Thursday, March 1 @ 5:00 p.m. We encourage you to complete the On-line Registration form before coming to the information evening. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September!

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Google Translate

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) website now has Google Translate, an online translation service that makes information more accessible for our community. Because the TDSB website and its web pages are written in English, with the help of Google Translate, the free tool can translate information posted on the web site in over 100 languages. The TDSB is committed to equity and community engagement, and by providing



this tool, we are making our information more accessible to families whose first language is not English.

National Winter Walk Day



Wednesday, February 7th was Winter Walk Day across Canada. It was the perfect opportunity for parents and kids to get outside together and stretch those legs! Walk to school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and ... having fun! Walking is the simplest form of exercise and helps kids get those 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need.

Winter is still a great time to walk and be outside and it's also a great cure for those winter blues! Dress properly and don't let cold, wind, snow or rain keep you from heading out for a walk. Below are some great winter weather dressing tips from Green Communities Canada:

- Keep hands and head covered to prevent heat loss;
- Wear warm, waterproof boots;
- Wear a warm coat that deflects the wind;
- Woolen clothing helps to retain heat;
- On really cold days, wear a scarf over your face and mouth;
- If possible, change wet clothes at school;
- Wear clothing or carry knapsacks with reflective material - it's important to be seen;
- Below -25 degrees Celsius is considered too cold for walking, so move your walk indoors or select another day.

African Heritage Month



February is African Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board and an opportunity to recognize the experiences, contributions and achievements of African Canadians. This year's theme is "From

Africa to the World."

Throughout the month of February, we will highlight the many contributions that the African community has made by offering several educational opportunities to our students, staff and the TDSB community. Opportunities include student visits to the ROM to experience exciting exhibits on the theme of Identity and Belonging to attending the Know Your Worth Conference. This conference is a joint collaboration with the TDSB and the Black Law Students' Association and will take place at York University on February 28, 2018.

Chinese Heritage Month



The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February. The theme selected by the CHM Planning Committee for the year is "Year of the Dog."

During this month, we celebrate the energetic culture and traditions of the Chinese community with students, staff and community members of the Toronto District School Board and the City of Toronto. The Chinese community is integral to the growth and success of the City of Toronto and Canada. Members of the Chinese community represent approximately 10 per cent of the total GTA population and form its second largest visible minority group. Canadians remember and appreciate the Chinese workers who helped build the Canadian Pacific Railway that united our country.

Chinese-Canadians will recognize Chinese New Year on Friday, February 16 with celebrations throughout the month of February. The Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year. This occasion is celebrated over many days which include a range of activities from fireworks displays, drumming, distinctive foods and arts and crafts.

Looking Ahead

- February 14 ~ Young People's Theatre – Grades 4 – 6 – all day
- ~ Parent/Teacher Conferences
- February 15 ~ SST meeting
- ~ Young People's Theatre – Grades 1–3 – half day (9 – 12:30 p.m.)
- ~ Parent/Teacher Conferences
- February 16 ~ P.A. Day – no school
- February 19 ~ Family Day – no school
- February 21 ~ a.m. – Scientist in the School – Room 209
- February 28 ~ a.m. – Recognition Assemblies
- March 1 ~ Kindergarten Registration – 5:00 p.m.
- March 8 ~ Movie Night – in the gym
- March 12 - 16 ~ March Break
- March 22 ~ a.m. – Scientist in School – Room 102
- March 29 ~ Recognition Assemblies – p.m.
- March 30 ~ Good Friday – no school
- April 2 ~ Easter Monday – no school
- April 17 ~ Grade 6 and SK Grad picture – a.m.
- April 30 ~ a.m. – Recognition Assemblies