



TDSB's MISSION STATEMENT

TDSB is committed to creating an equitable school system where the achievement and well-being of every student is fostered through rich, culturally authentic learning experiences in diverse, accepting environments where all are included.



R. Collict
Principal

L. Schneider
Vice-Principal

Office Hours:
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

School Council
Naseer Sadiq
Chair
Shazia Aziz
Co- Chair
Gillian Cullen
Vice-Chair

Audley Salmon,
Superintendent

Tiffany Ford,
Trustee

The Gracedale Gazette

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Web Site: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gracedale/>

Twitter: [@GracedalePS](https://twitter.com/GracedalePS)

Telephone: 416-395-2480

Fax: 416-395-2484

Attendance Line: 416-395-2738 Press #1

December 2016

Gracedale Public School

186 Gracedale Blvd.

Toronto, Ontario

M9L 2C1

(This newsletter available on our website)

Principal's Message:

December has brought us cold weather and some surprisingly warm weather too. Winter is definitely in the air. All families are reminded to please ensure that children come to school properly dressed for the weather.

Teacher-Parent Interviews took place in November and were a great success. I believe that the majority of families met with teachers. Many of you made the most of your interview time to engage in an open conversation about your child's progress. It is very important to let your child know that you are in contact with the teacher and are working together to help him/her succeed. Children should be present during the interview so that the child sees parent and teacher in collaboration. Positive learning partnerships between home and school are essential for your child's success. Let us continue to work together to support your child. Together we are helping them to meet curriculum expectations and become responsible global citizens by being the best they can be! If you would like to consult your child's teacher please call the school, make an appointment and our staff will be happy to meet and talk with you.

The Progress Report is a first guide to achievement and areas that need improvement. I am hoping that you will use this information to help your child set goals for the next term. Our next reporting period will be in February.

By now, you should have received the proofs for the photos taken on Picture Day. If you have placed your order, please enjoy these pictures and save them as keepsakes.

Our parking lot remains an area of concern with regard to safety. We have had TDSB and Toronto Police observe our drop off and pick up and recommendations have been made which we will be putting into place. As we move forward, cones will be placed to guide cars through the parking lot, signage will be increased and speed bumps will be installed. These measures are all to ensure safety of students, parents and staff. We are looking for volunteers to support us in maintaining a safe situation in the parking lot. If you are interested please come and see us in the office.

For all those celebrating the holiday season with Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa. To all our community members, we wish you a happy holiday season. Enjoy the joys that the season brings with family and friends and build wonderful memories together for years to come.

I wish you well and hope that 2017 will bring you all good health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Robert Collict Principal

Message from the School Council Chair:

The purpose of the council is to actively engage parents to improve student success. We provide a regular opportunity for members to discuss how to make the school a better place for learning. The principal brings important information about the school to the school council. The school council, in turn, advises the principal on matters related to the learning goals of the school, the school's policies and procedures, students' needs, activities and resources for students and parents, and ways of involving parents in the life of the school. We have just appointed a dedicated School Council. However, we are always looking for new members. All interested parents are very welcome to participate in School Council meetings. Thank you for all your support! **All are invited to join us on Dec. 20th at 8:45 for our first Parent Coffee club in the staffroom.** Mr. Omar, our CSW will be present to lead the gathering. (Gracedalepsc@gmail.com)

Character Education :This Month's Theme

KINDNESS

What is kindness and caring?

- Showing understanding of others by treating them with compassion, generosity, and a forgiving spirit
- Being gentle, willing to help, friendly, and considerate
- Showing concern or sympathy for others
- Being sensitive to the needs of others
- Offering support
- Giving your time, talents, and resources to help others
- Talking positively about others
- Considering the needs of others, not just your own

Quotations

"Give to another human being without the expectation of a return." (Bill Bradley)

"Don't wait for people to be kind, show them how." (Unknown)

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate." (Albert Schweitzer)

What does kindness/caring look like and sound like?

- Smiling at those you know and those you don't know
- Saying "Good Morning"
- Reminding someone who is feeling down about how special he or she is
- Saving to buy something nice for someone
- Donating to a charity
- Volunteering time to help others in need
- Cooking a meal for someone
- Giving friends and family members encouragement and sharing kind words
- Asking, "How can I help?" or "How are you?"
- Doing something nice for somebody--a random act of kindness
- Cleaning up a space that is shared with others
- Helping to keep the environment clean
- Taking care of someone who is sick, or wishing them a quick recovery with a visit or a card

Accommodations Available

We have had inquiries from parents about students being given the opportunity to engage in prayer during the school day. Gracedale Public School will provide a space for this observance. Please speak to the office and arrangements will be made.

Follow Gracedale on Twitter

Keep up with the many things going on at Gracedale by following us on Twitter at : [@GracedalePS](https://twitter.com/GracedalePS) . We communicate information as it becomes available about bus delays, forms due and more that may help families be aware of important deadlines and happenings.

Roots of Empathy in Room 117

Roots of Empathy is a program which focuses on raising levels of empathy among school children, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships. An infant and parent visit the classroom every 3 weeks over the school year and a trained Roots of Empathy instructor coaches the students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. The baby is the "Teacher" which the instructor uses to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings. We are so lucky at Gracedale to have Ms. Sasso as a trained Roots of Empathy facilitator. She and Mrs. Kaushal have started this program in room 117 with the Kindergarten children. During the first meeting on November 30th the children met baby Yameenaa and learned how they will interact with her. Thank you so much to Mom Layla and sister Shafaq who is a member of the class. Updates will follow.



More information can be found at: rootsofempathy.org



Days of Significance December 2016

Dec. 2 International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
 Dec. 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 Dec. 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Canada
 Dec. 8 Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment) Buddhism
 Dec. 8 St. Clements Day Orthodox Macedonian
 Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
 Dec. 12 Mawlid-al-Nabi Islam
 Dec. 13 Birthday of Imam Agakhan Islam
 Dec. 18 International Migrants Day
 Dec. 21 Festival of Lights Concert
 Dec. 20 Gracedale Parent Morning Coffee Club
 Dec. 23 Last Day of school
 Dec. 21 Winter Solstice - Yule* Wicca/Pagan
 Dec 24 - Jan 1 Hanukkah* Judaism
 Dec. 25 Christmas Christianity and Public Holiday
 Dec. 26 Ashu Zarathosht's Death Zoroastrianism
 Dec. 26 Boxing Day Public Holiday
 Dec 26- Jan 01 Kwanzaa African Canadian
 Jan. 9 School Resumes



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Gracedale Boulevard Traffic

All families dropping children off in the morning and picking up in the afternoon are asked to please respect traffic signage on Gracedale Boulevard. Toronto Police Service will be visiting to observe the situation and may be issuing tickets. In addition please respect our Bus Drop off zone when you are parking. Our valued neighbours on the east side of Gracedale Boulevard also need access to their driveways. Please do not block driveways when you are choosing a drop off spot in the morning. By working together we can ensure that students arrive at Gracedale on time and in a safe and efficient manner. Thank you!

The telephone voice mail is available for your convenience. Please feel welcome to place your call at any time, day or night.

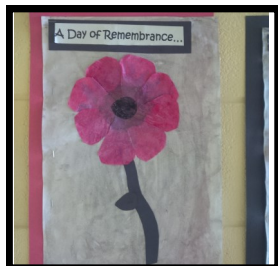
To report your child's absence, **please call School Attendance Line (416)395- 2738 Press Number 1**

**Lunchtime Routine Changes Coming**

In order to ensure safety at lunchtime we encourage all parents who are home to have their children eat at home and return to school for afternoon classes. If your child is staying for lunch please pack them a lunch in the morning so they do not have an interruption during the day while they wait for lunch to arrive. We are planning to change our lunchtime routine in the near future. All students will be eating lunch in the back gym in two shifts. Our hope is that safety, exercise and student well-being will all be increased with these changes. Further communication about this change will be sent home in the near future.

**Remembrance Day at Gracedale**

Our entire school respectfully and silently watched Gracedale's Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday November 11, 2016. We paused to reflect and remember Canada's War Heroes. We gathered in the gym to share about peace and how difference in the world. Parents who attended as students and teachers in this assembly. A special thanks to Mr. Currie for overall co-technical wizardry.



songs and poetry we can all make a difference. We thank our guests, and all the who participated. Special thanks to Mr. Currie for his coordination and

We Scare Hunger Food Drive: Parents Lend a Helping Hand!

As the need for food continues to rise in our city, we are so grateful to everyone who brought in non-perishable food items for our We Scare Hunger food drive. Due to your generosity, we collected over 2000 lbs of food, beating last year's record! So whether you brought in one item or many, **thank you very much for your contribution.** The **North York Harvest Food Bank** is coming to recognize Gracedale P.S. as a regular contributor! Congratulations to the three winning classes (Ms. Kim, Mrs. Tieche and Ms. Jha) for bringing in the most food items and winning a pizza party! Many thanks to our Kindergarten classes for keeping the competition so close!!

A special thanks to the leaders of the **'Me to We'** group who devoted many hours to visiting classes, making posters and announcements, as well as collecting, sorting and packing food. We should all be very proud of the time and effort they put into this initiative.



Our Me to We Team 2016- Nafisa T, Radhe P, Yusuf S, Radwa M, Anwar I, Haresh G, Arisha M and Gurmanpreet S. with Mrs. Jha

Label it! / Lost and Found

We have a number of clothing articles and other items (lunch bags, water bottles) in the school Lost and Found bin located near the Gracedale office. We are asking that students check this area regularly for lost items. It is important to label clothing, especially coats and shirts as these items can be quite costly. Please ask your child to check the Lost and found if items are missing.

Thank-you for your support!

Gracedale's EQAO Information Night

On November 23, our Grade 3 teachers held an Information Nights for the parents of their students. Thank you to all the parents who attended the evening. The teachers had worked hard to prepare a package for each student. Parents worked on the reading and math components of the provincial assessment. It was very heart warming to see parents at work with their children to complete the EQAO questions. Our Grade 3 team presented a detailed explanation about EQAO, its history and on how marking is done by the province. Parents walked away from the evening, understanding the process how they can work in partnership with their teachers to support their child's achievement in reading, writing and mathematics. Thanks to Ms. Kosta, Ms. Silver, Ms. Grguric, Ms. Periera-Massa, Ms. Richard and Ms. McNeilly.



More Information available at : <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/primary-division/parents>



Gracedale Settlement Worker Team

Gracedale Settlement Worker, **Nowshin Choudhury**, is available every Monday, and Tuesday from 9:00am to 4:30 pm. You can contact Mrs. **Nowshin** by phone at 647- 296- 7683 or using school phone number at 416-395-2480 for more information. For the month of December 2016, the Settlement Worker has organized a Workshop on '**Early Detection of Diabetes**' for parents and Grandparents of Gracedale School. The workshop is taking place on Monday December 5th from 12:30-3:00 at the school. In addition if you need any information on Learning English, finding a job, housing for your family, schools & education, health care, the law, immigration and any other issues contact school settlement worker.



S.E.P.T
Settlement and Education
Partnerships in Toronto