



## 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

Volume I, Issue 5

March 2017

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Toronto, Ontario  
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## Principal's Message:

The month of February delivered some extreme winter weather and we appreciate the ongoing efforts our caretaking team put forth during these challenging times. We ask all of you to practice due diligence while walking your children to and from school. Avoid walking on icy patches that have resulted from below seasonal temperatures! We continue to hope that March will bring us warm and close to seasonal weather!

We are about to have a staff change. Ms. Redmond is away on maternity leave as of March 10th, we wish her all the best on her new journey into family life.

We had a very successful turn out for our Parent Teacher Conferences on February 16th and 17th. Parents rekindled relationships with our teaching staff and also provided an exciting opportunity for some of our Kindergarten students to receive their "first" Report Card!

We registered over 70 new Kindergartners this month. It was fulfilling to welcome many new families to Gracedale during Registration on February 22th, 23rd, 27th and March 6th. We wish to extend our utmost thanks to the Gracedale team who helped run the process so smoothly.

Our **Safety First** Drop off/ Pick up initiative continues. We do encourage all students to walk to school. In cases where there are students who are dropped off in cars, we ask parents to follow by the 'coned' route in our parking lot and the safety routines that have been established. Your child's safety is very important to us! You will see the traffic law enforcers and our staff supervising to ensure all are safe. Any parent volunteers who are able to help direct traffic in the morning or afternoon please let us know in the office.

Friday March 10, 2017 marks the beginning of March Break. We will resume classes on Monday, March 20, 2017. Have a wonderful and safe March Break with your family and friends!

Sincerely,

Robert Collict  
Principal

Lara Schneider  
Vice Principal

## Message from the School Council Chair

The purpose of the council is to actively engage parents to improve student success. It also provides a regular opportunity for its members to discuss how to make the school a better learning place for students. 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 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! Our next meeting will be on **March 29, 2017** at 6:00 p.m. As always, Refreshments and Child Care will be provided.

## Character Education :This Month's Theme

# HONESTY

### Your child can show honesty by:

- sharing his or her feelings and being truthful
- telling the truth, even though he or she may know that there will be consequences
- being reliable and responsible in completing a job

### Quotations

*"Speak only the truth. Act with only the best intentions.*

*Once you get into the habit, you can live by this code." (Unknown)*

*"A lie has speed, but truth has endurance." (Edgar J. Mohn)*

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be honest? Discuss different ways to be honest with yourself, your peers, and others.
- What should you do if you need to tell the truth, but you know there will be consequences?
- How do you feel when someone else has been dishonest with you? What would you do?
- Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have you ever lost someone's trust? Has someone lost your trust?
- What's the difference between being honest with your own family and with someone you've just met?

### Encouraging honesty in your child:

- Give your child opportunities to tell the truth.
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry.
- Encourage and praise your child when he/she is honest.
- Model honesty by returning lost items.

### Dates to Remember March 2017

March 13, 2017	Mid-Winter Break Begins
March 20, 2017	First Day Back
March 29, 2017	School Council Meeting ( 6:00 )
April 14, 2017	Good Friday
April 17, 2017	Easter Monday
April 26, 2017	School Council Meeting ( 6:00 )
May 22, 2017	Victoria Day
June 9, 2017	Reporting PA Day
June 29, 2017	Last Day of Classes
June 30, 2017	PA Day

### Gracedale's Equity Experts!

How can the Gracedale community work to be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem? This month we want to promote open conversations about Classism.

### Definition:

**Class Bias** is an attitude which leads to discrimination based on an individual's or group's income, occupation, education, wealth, and/or economic means. **Classism** is the social, systemic, and personal assumptions, practices, and behaviours that often discriminate against persons according to their socio-economic level; and an economic system which creates significant inequality and causes human needs to go unmet. (TDSB glossary)

### Quotation:

"The community which has neither poverty nor riches will always have the noblest principles." - [Plato](#)

"The history of all previous societies has been the history of class struggles." - [Karl Marx](#)

What do you think?

### Reflection:

Has classism ever affected your life or the lives of the people around you? Have you ever stood up against classism?

How can classism affect student achievement?

**What do you think?**

### P.A.L.S. at Gracedale!

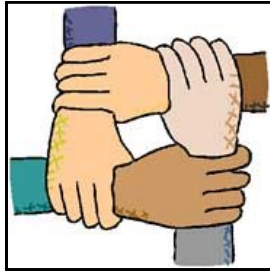
Mrs. Pereira and Mrs. Nagra will be working with Grade 4 and 5 students to start the P.A.L.S program at Gracedale. Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS) is a leadership program. It provides leadership opportunities for students as students lead physical activities at lunch and recess. The program has been shown to decrease conflict and reduce the incidence of playground bullying. A Public Health Nurse will train the students to implement P.A.L.S. Students from the Junior classrooms will be trained and then work with younger children at lunch and recess.



## Volume 1, Issue 5

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21, commemorates the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre. Forty-three years ago in South Africa, peaceful anti-apartheid protesters were killed. In 1966, the United Nations declared that each year on March 21, this day should be observed as a symbol of the world-wide need to end racism. Canada is a country of which we can be proud. But our pride is diminished when we do not use our individual and collective voices to oppose racism. March 21<sup>st</sup> reminds us to recommit ourselves to the struggle against racial discrimination in the sincere hope of creating a just society where every human being's dignity is affirmed through fair and equitable treatment.

**Popcorn sales at Gracedale**

Omar Omar, Gracedale's Community Support Worker has been mobilizing a group of grade 4 and 5 boys to sell popcorn during lunch periods of Fridays. All classes have had the opportunity to purchase popcorn for 50 cents per bag. The popcorn "Boyz" are responsible for packaging the popcorn, collecting the money and delivering the final purchase. Mr. Omar is giving Gracedale students an insight to what is involved starting a business, advertising a product and making a profit. The funds have been used to buy more popcorn and eventually will be dedicated towards the purchase of physical education equipment. Thank you Mr. Omar!!

**Kindergarten Registration At Gracedale**

On February 22, 23, 27 and March 6, Gracedale welcomed many new families who registered for Junior Kindergarten. We had an excellent turn out and wish to thank the Gracedale staff for their dedication. Thank you to Mrs. Novia and Mrs. Latiff and our Kindergarten teachers and Early Childhood Educators who helped ensure all days ran smoothly through their excellent facilitation. We registered over 70 students over the four days and continue to enroll students for September 2017.

**Grade Four Students Attend TDSB Marlies Game at Ricoh Center**

The Marlies game was so much fun! When the first period finished, then Ms. Tosello let us get some snacks to eat, I got popcorn. Soon the Marlies were losing 0-2 so everyone was cheering. The mascot was dressed like a dog and he was giving autographs. Later on the Marlies weren't losing they were tied 2-2. The people who were working there were throwing t-shirts and giving tattoos. The people who made the posters were on t.v. At the end of the game each team was fighting each other. Then the Marlies shot and they won! The game was so much fun. Aisha, from Ms. Tosello's class





### Summer School at Gracedale

We will be offering a summer learning program at Gracedale during the month of July. The focus of our program will be Literacy (reading and writing) through Global Education. Students will be involved in inquiry activities where they examine local issues and use technology to research and demonstrate their learning. There will also be a physical education component with opportunities to engage in activities in the gym and outside that get their heart rates up and promote health and well-being. Applications will be made available in March and teachers recommend students to attend the program. The program will run from July 5- 28. Bussing will be provided and we expect students from Daystrom will also be in attendance. Please return forms and



Speak to your child's teacher if you are interested in this opportunity for students to continue learning!

### Delta Family Resource Center

This year students at Gracedale have the opportunity to participate in the Future Explorers After School Program offered by Delta Family Resource Centre (DFRC). DFRC is a multi-ethnic, multi-site organization situated in Humber Summit. The program is aimed at improving student's physical, mental, and emotional health as it



correlates to their academic and behavioural success. It will begin Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 and will take place Thursdays and Fridays from

3:30pm - 6:00pm at Gracedale Public School in the back gymnasium. Key components of the program include sports, nutrition, mental health and wellness and homework assistance. The program is free of charge and is offered to students 8-12 years old. More information about the Delta Family Resource Center can be found at:

<http://dfrc.ca/community-programs-and-services/>

### Gracedale Settlement Worker Team

Gracedale Settlement Worker, **Nowshin Choudhury**, is available 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 the month of December 2016, the Settlement Worker organized a Workshop on 'Early Detection of Diabetes' for parents and Grandparents of Gracedale 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. Citizenship preparation classes are starting from the 2nd week of April 2017 for 8 weeks. There are limited spots for this class so please call and register your self. Also the second Diabetes workshop will be on April 2017. Flyers will be sent home the first week of April 2017.



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

### Trustee Ford Visits Gracedale

School board trustees are the members of the district school board. They are locally-elected representatives of the public, and they are the community's advocate for public education. They are required to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under the *Education Act*. On Tuesday March 7, 2017 our School Trustee Tiffany Ford visited Gracedale from 3:15 to 4:30. She talked with parents outside and then met with Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Collicott afterwards. We would like to thank her for coming to Gracedale and look forward to her next visit.

