



# The Gracedale Gazette

## 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

## Volume I, Issue I

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Toronto, Ontario  
M9L 2C1

### Principal's Message:

It has been a busy two months at Gracedale and certainly the time has gone by fast. We have had a good start to the new school year with many happy returning and new faces! Student achievement and safety will continue to be our focus at Gracedale. We appreciate the positive comments we have heard from you on this.

As we've passed the halfway point in our first term, it is an excellent time to ask yourself, "How well is my child doing as a student at Gracedale?" Do you talk to your children about what happens during their day? Do they read while they are at home? Do they appear excited about learning? Some students are very good at hiding their excitement! Do you have a sense of the learning that takes place every day? Sometimes, as parents, we are not sure what good work looks like for any given grade. Ask your child's teacher! They have learning goals and success criteria for Reading, Writing, Math and all the other subjects covered at school. These are standards to which teachers compare when assigning marks or grades.

We have already had our Curriculum Night in October. Those of you who attended had a preview of the classroom program, learning goals, success criteria, assessment and evaluation practices when the teachers presented their classroom expectations together with other highlights of their program. For those of you who were not able to attend, there is still time to meet the teacher on Nov. 17th and 18th. .

Progress Reports will come home this month in November. We will have Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 17 and 18. Please ensure that you plan to meet with your child's teacher.

I cannot emphasize enough, the importance of continued partnership between home and school to ensure the success of all our students at Gracedale.

It continues to be my privilege to serve the Gracedale community.

Sincerely,  
Robert Collict  
Principal

### School Advisory Council

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 place for learning for its 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 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!

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday November 30, 2016 at 1:15 pm**  
Refreshments and Child Care will be provided. Please call the office if you require child care



### Ahmadiyya Peace Symposium

It was a privilege for me to accept an invitation from a Gracedale family to attend the Peace Symposium on October 24th in Vaughan. It was an evening filled with inspirational speeches, good food and fellowship. I was very pleased to meet families from Gracedale and my last school as well. I happened to be seated with a former Gracedale student who is now an accountant. It was a chance for me to learn about and get to know some members of our community. Thank you,

Robert Collicot Principal

### Gracedale's Terry Fox Walk

Students and staff at Gracedale participated in the annual Terry Fox walk on Friday October 11. Thanks to all families that donated. All funds were directed towards the Canadian Cancer Society. Teachers shared Terry's story with students on this the 35th anniversary of this Canada-wide event. Students were supervised as they walked through a 1 Km route in the park and back field.



### Halloween at Gracedale!



Gracedale was full of costumed students and teachers on October 31 during the annual Halloween celebration. Super heroes, princesses and transformers appeared to be the most popular costumes. It was a wonderful celebration for all at Gracedale!

### Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 11, 2013, students and staff at our school and across the city will mark Remembrance Day with classroom activities and our school assembly. During Remembrance Day, our teachers make connections between global events and students' lives by promoting peace within our school community. On this solemn occasion, our staff, students, parents, and the wider community all join together in a call for peace.

#### In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### Gracedale Cross Country Team

On October 13th, 60 students from Gracedale ventured to Centennial Park to run a 2 kilometre race. Each race had over 200 runners in it. Our students showed excellent sportsmanship, cheering on their teammates as well as other schools. Five students finished in the top 75 (out of 300 runners). Congratulations to Radwa, Prit, Annqa, Masroor and Radhe. Special mention to Shaelyan who qualified to compete in the West Conference finals on October 17th. Thank you to our coaches Ms. Mryglad, Mrs. Tempeny, Ms. Mariano and Ms. Cooc who helped with practices.



### Primary Classes Visit a Farm to See The Fall Harvest

On Monday, October 24, 2016, Mrs. Sher, Mrs. Richard and the Grade One classes went to Round the Bend Farm. We had the opportunity to experience life on a farm! We went through a corn maze, went on a tractor ride, harvested vegetables, learned about pumpkins and saw many different types of farm animals. When we got back to school, we used the vegetables that we got from the farm to make vegetable soup! It was very delicious. As you can see from these pictures the trip to the farm was such an exciting adventure. The teachers used the vegetables they brought back to make very tasty and healthy soup for the students. Our students experienced a real Canadian farm and learned how they harvest crops in the Autumn so we all have food to eat during the winter.



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

### 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** @ 647- 296- 7683 or school # 416-395-2480 for more information. For the month of November 2016, the Settlement Worker will organize Workshops on 'English Conversation Circle' for parents and Grandparents of Gracedale School. First Class will start from Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Also Settlement Worker is planning to start Citizenship preparation classes from January 2017. The date and time will be communicated later by sending a flyer to home. Any one willing to join in English Conversation Circle or Citizenship Classes need to contact Nowshin to register @ 647-296-7683. In addition, "Pre-Employment Workshop Class" is running every Tuesday from 1:00 – 3:00pm until November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.





## Character Education : This Month's Theme

# EMPATHY

### What is empathy?

- Putting yourself in someone else's shoes
- Understanding, sensing, and sharing in the feelings and emotions of others
- Showing love, sympathy, compassion, and encouragement
- Identifying with, and understanding, another's situation, feelings, and motives
- Having concern for someone experiencing misfortune

### Quotations

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

"Be nice and smile at everyone you meet. You don't know what they are going through, and they may need that smile, and treasure it." (Christine M. Huppert)

### What does empathy look like/sound like?

- ⇒ Listening with full attention to the speaker and looking for the feelings behind the words, facial expressions, and body language
- Respecting the thoughts of a friend who has shared his or her feelings
  - Acknowledging the emotions of someone by saying something like, "I can see that you are really uncomfortable about this."
  - Showing appropriate reactions to someone who is sharing his or her feelings (i.e., nodding, smiling, paraphrasing)
- ⇒
- Allowing the person to share his or her feelings without interrupting, judging, or trying to solve his or her problem
  - Trying to really understand a person's feelings and motives, even when you may disagree with the actions of a person
  - Speaking from "I" and owning your emotions
  - Understanding that we are all a lot more alike than we think, even if on the outside we look and act differently
  - Seeing ourselves in others—even those we think are so different from us

### Important Lunch Information

Supervision is provided here at Gracedale PS however, we encourage students to go home for lunch.

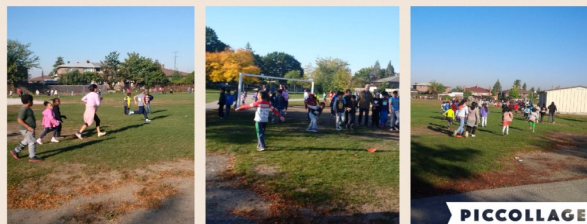
Students going home for lunch should stay home for the lunch hour and return just before the 12:25 entry bell.

If you should require your child to change lunch arrangements (e.g., to stay at school for a day because of an appointment) you must notify the school in writing. A quick note in your child's planner would be fine.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

(Please note this newsletter is also available online at: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/gracedale/> )

### Gracedale's Terry Fox Walk



### Dates to Remember 2016- 2017

- Nov. 1 All Saint's Day Samihian
- Nov. 2 Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I Rastafari
- Nov. 4 Gyana Panchami
- Nov. 11 Remembrance day
- Nov. 12 Birth of Baha u Ilah
- Nov. 14 Birthday of Guru Nanak Sikhism
- Nov. 14 World Diabetes Day
- Nov. 14 Lokashaha Jayanti Jain
- Nov. 14 Prakash Sikhism
- Nov. 15 **Progress Reports sent home**
- Nov. 16 Louis Riel Day (Toronto) First Nations, Métis
- Nov. 18 **P.A. Day**
- Nov. 14. Ashura
- Nov. 16 Louis Riel Day
- Nov. 17 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib
- Nov 17-23 Bullying Awareness and prevention Week
- Nov. 20 Universal Children's Day
- Nov. 20 International Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Nov. 20-26 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
- Nov.21 Presentation of the Virgin Mary
- Nov. 24 **Gracedale Photo Re-takes**
- Nov. 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
- Nov. 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Nov. 26 Day of the Covenant \*
- Nov. 27- Dec 24 Advent