

HUMBERWOOD DOWNS JMA

850 Humberwood Blvd., M9W 7A6, Tel. 416-394-4750

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Trustee: Harpreet Gill

Superintendent of Education: Lorraine Linton

Admin Team: Roula Skordakis (Principal) Dave Singh (Vice-Principal)

School Website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humberwood/home.aspx> Twitter: @HumberwoodDowns



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

To all of our Humberwood Downs families we would like to wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

We are asking for your support to reinforce our school's uniform. Many of our older students are choosing to come to school with dark jeans and athletic pants. It is important that parents and caregivers oversee their children's clothing choices and ensure that when their child leaves for school in the morning they are dressed in their **proper uniform**. All students must wear the following each day: navy or black pants (cotton or dress pants only), white dress shirt or blouse, navy blue vest with golf shirt, or sweatshirt with school crest. Every student must have a crested navy blue vest. Sweatpants, athletic pants and tops and jeans are never to be worn as part of the school uniform.

REPORT CARDS

Our teachers are in the process of administering final culminating tasks and

assessments for term 1 report cards. *Your child's*

report card will be sent home on Tuesday

February 12th. Parent-teacher conferences will

take place on February 15 (evening) and February

16 (morning). A letter inviting you to a conference will be sent home on January 31st.

A gentle reminder if you have any concerns and/or questions about your child's progress or an incident related to the classroom, please speak with your child's teacher first. Your child's teacher should have the opportunity to respond directly to any questions and concerns that you may have.



FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for all TDSB

Kindergarten programs begins in

February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September!

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 this process online. The online process will be available on February 4th.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

Registration is done by **appointment only**. Please call the school at 416-394-4750 and book your appointment to register your child for Kindergarten.

We **will not** process any registrations without all of the required documents.

TRUSTEE GILL VISITS

On Tuesday January 8th 2019,

Trustee Gill came to our school and met our staff as well as

visited a number of our

classrooms. Our students and

staff enjoyed meeting our new trustee and we are looking forward to having Trustee Gill visit us again.



WALKING to SCHOOL



Walking to school fosters children's personal growth by building independence and important life

skills. It also positively impacts on our health, safety, environment and community. Working with your child to develop healthy habits early in life will contribute to health benefits that will last a life time.

Walking helps your child meet the daily physical activity recommendations

The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that Canadian kids aged 5-11 accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity each day, which will help improve heart health and prevent obesity. Children should accumulate at least



12,000 steps each day. However, only 5% of Canadian kids are meeting these recommendations. Walking to school is a fun and easy way to help your children meet these recommendations.

Walking to school is safer than driving to school

Many parents believe that driving to school is safer than walking. In reality, research shows that children are more likely to be injured when being driven to school than from walking to school. You can make walking both safe and fun by getting to know other parents from your school to create walking groups, and by encouraging your child to have walking buddies.

Walking to school is good for the environment

Replacing car trips with walking and cycling can reduce air pollution and can lead to significant health benefits. Traffic-related air pollution is linked with lung and heart diseases.

Walking to school is important for mental wellness and academic success

Research shows that children who walk to and from school perform better academically, feel happier, and have lower levels of stress. Exercise is important for brain development, and enhances your child's learning during class by boosting their attention and alertness. Walking to and from school with buddies also helps your child relax and builds emotional bonds.

(Source: Toronto Public Health)

7 TIPS TO WALK SAFELY to SCHOOL

1. **Children 10 and under** need to be with an adult or older child to cross the street. Practice good role modeling by walking with your child and showing them road safety rules so that they can develop good habits. Remember children learn from seeing and doing!

2. **Wear the right clothing.** Bundle up in the winter and protect your skin in the summer with a hat and clothing. And always wear sunscreen and sunglasses all year round. Remember to wear bright, reflective clothing or accessories in cloudy or dark conditions so drivers can see you better.

3. **Teach** your child to use their eyes and ears. Always **stop, look** and **listen**, even if there is a crossing guard, or traffic signals to help them.

4. **Stop** and check that cars in every lane can see you and make eye contact with the drivers. Wait until drivers have stopped before crossing the road.



5. **Look** left, right and left again. When the way is clear, or all the cars at the crosswalk or intersection have come to a full stop, teach your child to cross the road, and not to turn back or run. Children should be told not to cross between parked cars, or in the middle of a street, but at a corner.



6. **Listen** to oncoming traffic and be alert. Make it a rule for your child to **not use** headphones or cellphones when walking, especially when they are crossing the road. Distractions, even talking while walking, can put children in danger of being hit by a car.



7. **Walk**, don't run, while crossing the street. By running, you risk tripping and falling in the middle of the road. Walk

(Source: Toronto Public Health)

JANUARY-TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH

In October 2016, the House of Commons voted unanimously to recognize every January as Tamil Heritage Month. This month was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal Harvest Festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world, irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal, and offer thanks for an abundant harvest.



IN FEBRUARY WE CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE and CHINESE HERITAGE



In 1995 a motion was passed in the House of Commons to recognize Black History Month. Throughout the school year but in particular this month, the many valuable contributions of black Canadians are highlighted and celebrated.

Students will learn about the contributions of such people as Oscar Peterson, Viola Desmond, Elijah McCoy, and Jackie Robinson, just to name a few.



Members of the Chinese community represent approximately 10 percent of the total GTA population and form its

second largest visible minority group. Canadians remember the Chinese workers who helped build the Canadian Pacific Railway that united our country.

Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year. This occasion is celebrated over many days and includes a range of activities from fireworks displays, drumming, distinctive foods and arts and crafts.

GRADE 8 to 9 TRANSITIONS

Throughout the year, Gr. 8 students will visit some of our local high schools in order for them to get a glimpse of what is ahead for them in their academic careers in secondary school. Before the winter break our students had the opportunity to visit West Humber CI where they learned about the school's many programs and met a number of staff and students. In January our students will also be visiting Weston Collegiate to learn more about their specialized programs. Staff members from Thistletown Collegiate are visiting our school and will be presenting the various programs and courses available to students. Students have been using the new online program called my Blueprint. This website is a wonderful resource for goal setting, course selection and learning about career pathways. Thank you to Mr. Lippa, our guidance teacher, for continuing to support our grade 8 students.





INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

On January 10&11 students in grades 4-8 will participate in an exercise called the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. This is an experiential learning opportunity whereby students will learn and understand post contact experiences, as well as the culture, beliefs and lived experiences of Indigenous families.

PIZZA DAYS-

A reminder

Pizza lunches take a great deal of time and staff to help organize so that they run smoothly and although we'd like to continue running them, we cannot do so unless all families pay using cash online. We simply cannot sort, count money and order for over 800 students at our school. We are asking that if you'd like your child to participate on pizza days please place your order using **cash online**.



The online link may be accessed from our school's website for your convenience at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humberwood/Home>

If you do not have internet at home please see Ms. Upward and she will assist you to sign up online. The Humberwood Toronto Public Library has computers and internet access for free that you can also use.

All money raised this year is going towards subsidizing field trips and for the purchase of technology (Promethean Boards, Chromebooks and iPads) for classroom use.

Remaining Pizza days this year:

- Friday January 25
- Friday February 22
- Friday March 29
- Thursday April 25
- Friday May 17
- Friday June 14

These dates are also posted on our school's website- click on the calendar to view them.

PARKING LOT UPDATE

The Humberwood Centre parking lot was discussed at a meeting of the TDSB'S Site Design Coordinating Committee. Given the complexity of our site, it was decided that the expertise of a traffic consultant will be needed to advise on the best solution for pick-up and drop-off of students. The TDSB's Design Coordinator will be developing a scope of work for the Humberwood Centre. Once a consultant has been hired, a site visit will be scheduled – this will likely occur sometime in the spring. After the site visit the consultant will create a design plan and then a decision on the work needed will be made. We will keep you posted along the way.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 10&11-** Indigenous Education session grades 4-8
- **January 18-** PA Day- No school
- **January 25-** High 5 assembly
- **January 31-** Letters sent home for parent-teacher conferences
- **February 6-** MADD Canada presents to grades 7,8
- **February 12-** Parent Council Meeting@6:30pm
Report Cards go home
- **February 15-** Parent-teacher conferences (evening) by appointment only
- **February 16-** PA Day, No classes
Parent-teacher conferences 8:30am-11:30am by appointment only
- **February 18-** Family Day- **NO SCHOOL**
- **February 22-** High 5 assembly
PIZZA DAY
- **February 27-** Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying campaign)
- **March 8-** Grade 7,8 Dance PM
International Women's Day
- **March 10-** Daylight savings begins
- **March 11-15-** March Break, no school
- **March 21-** Robotics evening grades 4-8
- **March 29-** High 5 and PIZZA DAY