

JOSEPH BRANT JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/josephbrant/>

Welcome Back and Welcome 2023!

Happy 2023 to everyone! We look forward to a year of Peace, Joy, Collaboration, Creativity, Health and Wellbeing. We have much for which to be thankful, among these being the relationships we continue to build with you to support our students and each other. We thank everyone for ending the 2022 year with two amazing Winter Concerts along with a successful Holiday Basket Fundraiser. These two endeavours alone involved the entire school and school community to make possible, and we thank everyone wholeheartedly for making these, and many other school events, successful! We are looking forward to continuing this partnership.

We continue to have a number of volunteer opportunities here at Joseph Brant and welcome community members who wish to assist throughout the school. We are also looking for community members wanting to work as Lunchroom Supervisors. If you are interested, and available to work weekdays from 11:25 – 12:40, please contact the office and review the [TDSB application](#).

As always, we not only appreciate your support but we are here to support you as well! Please remember to check Donna Cardoza's online space (our School Community Support Worker) for learning and information opportunities in a wide variety of topics: <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/donnacardozacsw/home?pli=1> We thank Donna for her outreach work and continued advocacy of our school community. Please also access our 211 information for the Joseph Brant Community <https://211central.ca/joseph-brant-public-school/> . With a quick click, you can find services on food, housing, child/family services, health care and much more that is available in our immediate school area. All of these are also posted on our school website noted at the top of this newsletter.

January is the month of Teamwork

Each month, the TDSB focuses on a character trait to exemplify and strive for. This month, the focus is on Teamwork. Here is how Teamwork is explained by the TDSB, in student friendly language to support conversations both at home and at school: " Teamwork is about working together towards a common goal, using the skills and strengths of all members to get there, and taking a small part in a large job. What does teamwork look like/sound like? It looks like: agreeing on a common goal, supporting each other to complete tasks and overcoming obstacles, spending some time thinking about what is working in the group and what needs to change to make the group more successful, and celebrating the successes of others. It sounds like: sharing feelings and taking responsibility for our own actions, apologizing when necessary and accepting an apology when necessary, sharing thoughts and opinions freely and being open to the thoughts and opinions of team members."

Our Character Trait Assemblies take place monthly at Joseph Brant. This month, these will take place on January 31st (9:30 for grades 1 – 3; 10:30 for grades 4 -6; 11:00 for grades 7-8). Family members are always welcome to join us for these monthly assemblies to celebrate student accomplishments.

January is Tamil Heritage Month

“ Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. It has also been marked across the province of Ontario since March 2004 with the implementation of the [Tamil Heritage Month Act, 2014](#). Further, Tamil Heritage Month is also formally recognized nationally since January 2016 by the passing of a motion which reads, *That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize the contributions that Tamil-Canadians have made to Canadian society, the richness of the Tamil language and culture, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon Tamil heritage for future generations by declaring January, every year, Tamil Heritage Month.*

This year our theme for Tamil Heritage Month is: **Community. Belonging. Joy**

- **சமூகம் சார்ந்த சந்தோசம்** Belonging comes with a sense of acceptance and inclusion for who you are, and there is great joy that comes from knowing you belong within any given community. This year's Tamil Heritage Month theme was selected to highlight that joy and belonging, and is intentionally aligned with one of the TDSB's priorities - Joy, Engagement and Belonging. Please see the **posters below** from our students as a result of a Poster Challenge inviting all TDSB student to submit an image to reflect this year's theme.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members who identify as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self and collective identities, and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee. For further information about Tamil Heritage Month, please follow us on twitter to learn interesting facts on Tamil customs and traditions [@TDSB Tamil](#) ” .

For all the Days of Significance for January, please click here and scroll down to page 19: [A D of S JAN 2022 - DEC 2023 \(REVISED JULY 2022\).pdf \(tdsb.on.ca\)](#)

Friday, January 13th P.A. Day – No School for Students

This coming Friday, January 13th is a P.A. Day. School will be closed as staff work to plan ahead for the next reporting period. Report Cards for Term 1 will go home on Tuesday, February 14th.

Co-Curricular Activities

After reconfiguring our lunch hour, we have not only gained increased supervision outdoors for overall school safety but have also gained the opportunity of a consistent time for co-curricular activities to take place. Students eat lunch from 11:30 – 11:50 a.m., with co-curricular activities taking place from 11:50 to 12:30. Monday, Wednesday and Friday are Intramurals in the Gym. Tuesdays (gr. 3 -5) and Thursdays (gr6 - 8) Ms. Lee runs the Games Club (Chess, Checkers, etc.). Mr. Coleman and Ms. Siddiqi are also leading the Art Club once a week. Our GSA club also meets weekly. Our Ambassador Club continues under the direction of Ms. Lawrence and Mr. Buchoon. And our Performance Training continues every morning from 7:30 to 8:40 a.m.

Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

Registration for English Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at 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. For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Reducing the Spread of Respiratory Illness

A reminder of the number of steps that can be taken to help keep children and others safe from an increase in respiratory viruses among children, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza and COVID-19. Please note that Toronto Public Health, together with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, strongly recommends wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public settings, including in schools and childcares.

Inclement Weather

With the winter comes snow and severe weather! At times, it is necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close TDSB schools, administrative offices or sites. Visit the website to learn about Snow/Cold Weather and the Procedure for Severe Weather. [Snow/Cold Weather \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/snow-cold-weather)

Continuing Education Programming

Explore Continuing Education Programming at the TDSB!

Learning opportunities are available for children, families, adults and visitors:

- Secondary Credit Night School Program - Semester 2 [Night School \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/night-school)
- International Languages Elementary & African Heritage Program [International Languages - Elementary and African Heritage \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/international-languages-elementary-and-african-heritage)
- Learn4Life General Interest Winter Program 2023 - Adults 18+ and Seniors [Learn For Life \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/learn-for-life)
- Continuing Education - Adult ESL Program [ESL Programs \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/esl-programs)

Wishing everyone all the very best for 2023 and always,

 **Christie Trialonis** (she/her)

 Principal

 Joseph Brant P.S.

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