



October 13th ,
2023

LESCON

Family
Feature

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Thank you to all the families who joined us last night at our curriculum night. It was a lovely evening and we enjoyed a great turn out. Thank you to all our staff for all that they do to make our school a beautiful and welcoming place.

I also want to express my gratitude to the outpouring compassion and kindness of our community during a very difficult time. As many of you know, I am a proud Canadian-Israeli, Jewish woman. I make my home in Canada but my heart is most definitely in Israel right now during this difficult time that my beautiful country is facing.

On October 7th, 2023 while Israeli families woke to enjoy their holiday celebrations; instead they faced a weekend of terror in which Palestinian terrorists lead by the terrorist group of Hamas infiltrated Israel and brutally slaughtered innocent children, women, elderly and men in their homes, taking more than 150 civilian hostages into Gaza. Homes across Israel have been destroyed by the excess of 5000 missiles rained into civilian communities and families have been torn apart. Israel tragically lost more than 1300 innocent, civilian lives on this dark day of hate and the number increases each day as the 2000+ wounded succumb to their injuries. I am devastated to share that I have deeply and personally been affected by these heinous crimes against humanity. Now, instead of being able to mourn this tragic loss, the people of Israel are at war to fight for their very existence against the evil of a terrorist regime whose only agenda is to rid the world of the Jewish population. Today innocent Israelis and innocent and peace-loving Palestinian people in Gaza are all in fear of what the days ahead will look like.

As we see the rise of antisemitism in our Jewish communities around the world, including here in Toronto, I wanted to assure our beautiful Lescon community that your children are safe in our school. Your children will only be taught kindness and love as there will be zero-tolerance for hate of any kind. It saddens me to hear that some of our Lescon children are feeling unsafe to come to school because of the online threats to Jewish communities that are being made throughout the world. It takes a community to raise a child, and the Lescon children are all of ours. Together we will teach them kindness and compassion, empathy and love as we support one another through difficult days.

To all those in our community, who have come to Canada for refuge from war-torn countries or have family or friends living in Israel or Gaza; we are here for you. The images of evil are triggering, especially for those families who have come from places in the world in which hate and war has been their lived experiences. If anyone is in need of support during this time, please reach out to your child's teacher or to me. There are resources available to support both you and your families. I also ask that you limit your child's exposure to the media at this time and limit their exposure to adult conversations that may be happening in your homes. We need to protect our children and keep their hearts pure.

Yours in education,

Shauna Small

Principal: Shauna Small / 416-395-2640

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/lescon>

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Superintendent: Kurt McIntosh

**Trustee: James Li • Ward 13: Don Valley North
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Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten Entry) Application Deadline

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program, we offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in JK). To apply to the Early French Immersion Program for September 2024, applications must be completed online between **November 6 and December 1, 2023**. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. For more information, please visit: [Early French Immersion](#) or the [Application Process](#).

International Languages Elementary and African Heritage

Open to all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8, the International Language Program offers language learning with engaging activities like games, songs and dance. Activities will be focused on building students' abilities in oral communication, reading and writing and no language background is necessary to participate. The African Heritage Program connects students, from Kindergarten to Grade 8, to the contributions of people of African descent, their histories, cultures and traditions, through inquiry and experiential learning.

[Visit our program page for more information including registration details.](#)

Learn4Life – Adult General Interest Community Program

Fall registration is still open for our Adult General Interest Program with courses in business, languages, art, music, sports, dancing, and more! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions.

[Visit Learn4Life's program page for more information.](#)

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER

2 – Picture Day

14th – First Day of Afterschool Program (NEW DATE)

15 – Progress Reports go home

16/17 – Parent/Teacher interviews

17 – PA day

DECEMBER

8 – PA day

Dec 25 – Jan 5 Winter Break



Please inform the school if your child will be late or absent!



School Council Information

Welcome our New School Council Members

Claudia – Chair

Alex – Treasurer

Shama – Secretary

Member at Large – Nina, Tatiana, Neil, Christine and Tsholofelo

STAY TUNED FOR SOME INFORMATION ON HOW YOU TOO CAN GET INVOLVED!

School Council Meetings

Monday Dec 4th

Monday Feb 5th

Monday April 8th

Monday June 17th

6 pm in the library

All are welcome

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Renewal

We want to hear from you! Please complete the [MYSP online survey](#) and share your thoughts about what the TDSB's priorities should be for 2023–2027. Learn more about how to contribute at www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPrenewal.

Congratulations to class for earning the first Golden Garbage Can award for the year.



Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference - October 21 & 22, 2023

Join us at our annual Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference on October 21 and 22, 2023. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are invited to participate in a weekend of learning, connection, and engagement and to learn strategies to support your child throughout the year.

Last year, we partnered with the TDSB's Outdoor Education team and the City of Toronto to bring a unique experience to the conference. All of the in-person sessions are scheduled between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Transportation from central sites is available to all venues, leaving the location at 1:00 p.m. and returning at 3:30 p.m. More information will be provided as we approach the date.

The virtual conference includes a keynote address on Saturday, October 21, 2023, by Dr. Gholneskar (Gholdy) Muhammad, an Associate Professor of Literacy, Language, and Culture. On Sunday, October 22, 2023, Sarah Baldeo, an accomplished neuroscientist, technologist, corporate strategist, and a successful entrepreneur, will be our keynote.

Visit www.parentsaspartners.ca to register and for more information.

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Jane D. Hull



**DIVERSITY
OUR
STRENGTH**

*We wish all our staff,
students and families a
meaningful holiday!*

