

Lynnwood Newsletter October 2021

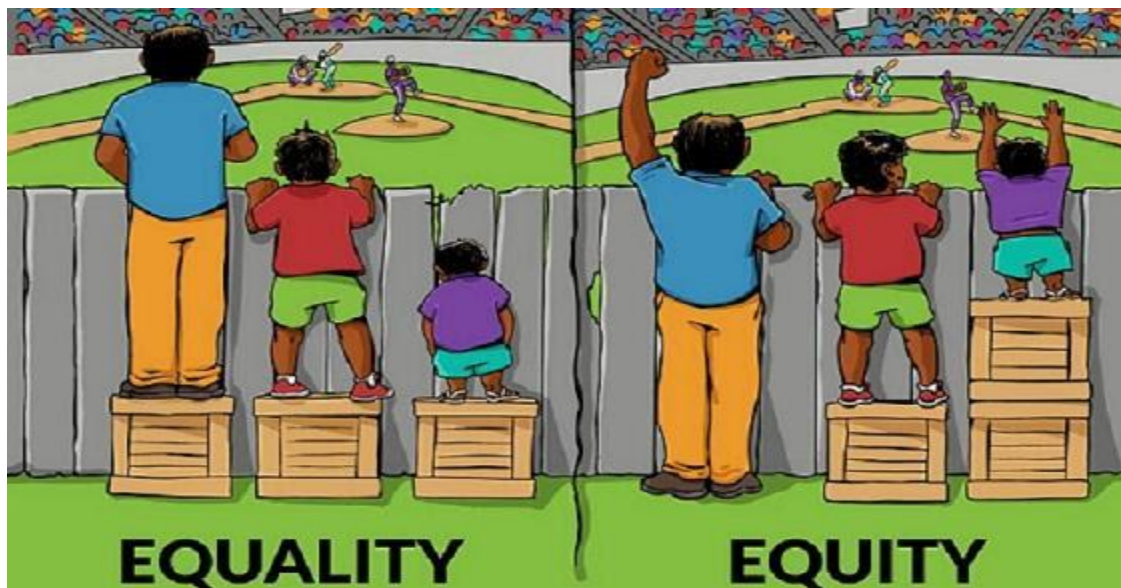


Principal's Message

Hello and good day,

As we at Lynnwood Heights JPS reflect on our equity goal in alignment with the TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan, I would like us to remind ourselves and reflect on what equity means to us, and what it looks like in the classroom.

To me, equity means fairness. It is giving everyone what they need to be successful. It is not the same as equality. Equality means treating everyone the same. This cartoon comes to mind:





All students have the potential to learn and succeed, and we need to meet our students where they are at and make changes, accommodations and modifications to our environment and to our methods according to students' needs so that they can succeed.

What does equity mean to you? Would you like to part of our School Improvement Planning?

If you would like to contribute input and be part of the discussion, we welcome your voice please email me at joy.reiter@tdsb.on.ca

Sincerely,

Joy Reiter

Daily Health Screening

Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority and everyone plays a role. The most important thing families can do to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, is to screen their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. All staff and visitors will also be required to screen themselves before entering a TDSB building.

Before coming to school each day, all students must conduct an active student health screening self-assessment and if, based on your answers you are clear to come to school, please record the information daily through the paper pass or the Health Screening App, which will allow you to enter to your school or administration building.

Toronto Public Health has revised its [COVID-19 screening for students/children in childcares and JK to Grade 12 schools](#) for use immediately.

Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/healthscreening

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating





in family parties. Hallowe'en is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Hallowe'en is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security.

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY

If parents are concerned about trick or treating, here are some basic safety rules to follow:

- Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
- Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- If you can not accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- Remind children of road safety rules. Cross only at corners. Do not criss-cross the road. Go up one side of the road and down the other side. Never cross between parked cars. Walk facing on-coming traffic if there is no sidewalk
- If adults are driving their children, drive slowly, with lights on and be cautious when pulling to the side of the road.
- Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en, and to avoid any homes that have no lights on. Also remind children not to run through neighbours' yards or gardens.
- With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- Set time limits when children should return home.

How to Get Involved

We welcome your involvement in Lynnwood Heights JPS.





Parent and Community Engagement

Parent involvement plays a significant role in student achievement and well-being. When schools, families and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy school more.

When parents are actively engaged in supporting their child's success in school, students are more likely to be motivated, earn higher grades, have better behavioural and social skills and continue their education to a higher level.

There are a variety of ways that [you can get involved](#) and contribute to your school community. From volunteering in your local school to participating in school councils or advisory committees, you can make a difference and have your voice heard.

Get Involved

- Connect with your teacher or Joy Reiter about ideas you have about your classroom and school
- Join or attend [School Council](#) meetings
- Join or start a student group in your school to share ideas
- Join in a [Heritage and History Month Committee](#)
- Share feedback on [Policy Consultations](#)
- Participate in [School Censuses](#), [School Climate Surveys](#) and other opportunities to share your voice
- Connect with Joy Reiter about upcoming events or opportunities to get involved
- Join or attend [Community Advisory Committee](#) meetings
- [Volunteer](#) in your child's school
- Attend a [TDSB Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference](#)
- Attend your [Trustee's Ward Forum](#)

You can make a difference and have your voice heard. Only one parent attended the last School Council Meeting. Please do attend our next meeting or become involved in another way.

Volunteering within the school during school hours is on hold by TDSB for right now due to Covid.

Keeping Kids Safe

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:



- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.

French Programs Application Deadline

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Programs, we offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in JK and SK, for September 2022 only) and Middle French Immersion (begins in Grade 4). An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. The timelines for applying for these programs for September 2022 are:
Early French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between November 1 and November 26, 2021.

Middle French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between January 3 and January 28, 2022.

Offers of placement within your chosen program (not a specific school) will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

Virtual Information Sessions for the Early French Immersion application and placement process are available in November on the following dates:

- November 8, 2021 at 7 p.m.
- November 15, 2021 at 10 a.m.
- November 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.

For more information about the Virtual Information Sessions, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions.

For more information about French programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french or click on Application Process.



October is Islamic Heritage Month at the TDSB

History of Early Canadian Muslims Poster

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month during the month of October since our Board of Trustees passed their motion on June 22, 2016. Our main theme for the month continues to be: Reflect. Celebrate. Learn.

Canadian Islamic Heritage Month has been recognized across our nation since October 2007. Subsequently, since November 2016, the province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

The TDSB Islamic Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee initiated a poster created by photographs provided by author Richard A. Awid with the theme History of Early Canadian Muslims. In addition, we're excited to release an updated version of the TDSB Islamic Heritage Month Resource Guidebook (2021) as it may be used as an educational tool to learn about the Islamic heritage.

During the month of October several Islamic Heritage Month events are being organized for students, staff and TDSB community members. TDSB students - Grade 7-12 will be invited to attend a virtual event with Bilqis Abdul-Qadir, former American Professional Basketball Player who challenged the International Basketball Federation when informed that she could not participate in the league while wearing a hijab. Bilqis will share the challenges she faced while trying to change this requirement for players.

TDSB community members, students and staff will also be invited to a join a virtual event with Master Chef contestant Reem Ahmed and City TV Host Maleeha Sheikh in the upcoming weeks. We will learn about preparing a meal and we'll hear a candid conversation about Islamophobia and what it is like to be Muslim in Canada. Registration will be required, and details will be shared soon.

Follow the Islamic Heritage Month Committee on Twitter at - @tdsb_ihm

October is Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Somali Heritage Month during the month of October. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since





June 2016, and we continue to expand on the selected theme Educate. Elevate. Excel.

In October 2020, the Government of Ontario proclaimed Somali Heritage Week Act, 2020 which will take place on June 25 through July 1.

“By proclaiming the week of June 25 through July 1 as Somali Heritage Week, the Province of Ontario recognizes the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society. Like many refugees and immigrants who have made Ontario their home, Somali Canadians are proud to be part of diverse communities across the province.”

The attached power point is being shared with you as it provides information about the Somali Heritage. Enjoy and learn about us!

Please follow us on Twitter: SomaliHM@TDSB

100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women (2020)

Congratulations Director Colleen Russell Rawlins and Centrally Assigned Principal, Karen Murray who were recently recognized at a gala as two of one recipients for the “100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women” of 2020. We are lucky to benefit from their leadership in TDSB. To learn more about, 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women honourees and events, visit: <https://www.100abcwomen.ca/>