



February 2024

Administrators' Message

In February, our Character Trait is Fairness. We often remind our students that fairness does not mean that everyone gets the same thing as we all are unique and have different strengths and needs. Fairness actually means that everyone gets what they need to be successful.



On January 24th our school took part in Bell Let's Talk Day which focuses on positive mental health and well being. Our Healthy Schools Leadership Team invited students to write down something positive about themselves or someone else and to hang it on our Bell Let's Talk

board. This resulted in a wall full of student affirmations! Affirmations such as, "I can do everything. I am kind. I am honest." Affirmations can play an important part of building positive mental health for all of us. We invite our families to share affirmations with their children at home as well to support our work as a school with mental health and well being.

On February 9th we celebrated the 100th Day of School! Our Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 students engaged in fun activities throughout the day to celebrate. These activities included books



and poems and integrated counting to

100 in a variety of ways (by 5s, by 10s, by 2s) while making things like 100s crowns and 100s paper chains. It was a fun day of celebrating!

As well, on February 28th our school will be taking part in **Pink Shirt Day**. This **Pink Shirt Day** focuses on Lifting Each Other Up with our actions and our words which aligns with our school wide goal of creating



conditions of Joy and Belonging for all. We invite students, staff and parents/caregivers to wear pink on this day in support of **Pink Shirt Day**.

School Improvement Planning Goals

As a school we have been focusing on learning about and sharing what brings our students a sense of Joy and Belonging at school. Creating learning spaces and a school that supports Joy and Belonging for our students is one of our School Improvement goals. In Kindergarten to Grade 3 the common themes are: playing, friends, family, calmness, being safe and included. In Grades 4-6 some of the common themes are: friends and family, sports/movement, being part of a team, kind/nice words, religion and learning. When students feel joy and belonging, engagement and academic achievement follow. All of the work we do is centered around affirming student identity and providing equitable outcomes for all students. We also are continuing our focus on supporting student's mathematics skills – early years foundational mathematics skills and for our junior students creating learning opportunities for the

application of concepts embedded in rich mathematical problem solving experiences, and literacy skills with a specific focus on implementing the new Language Curriculum and the Science of Reading strategies.

We encourage our families to ask their child's teacher how they can support their child's learning at home as well, and to attend the various workshops that are offered through the TDSB and/or the school that focus on these areas of focus as we continue to work in partnership to support your child/children's ongoing learning and growth.

Travelling To and From School

Thank you to the many families who continue to walk with their children to and from school. Walking to school helps to reduce traffic congestion around our school during drop off and pick up times which helps to make drop off and pick up go more smoothly on our surrounding streets.



Remember, please do not park in the bus loading zone on Malvern Drive as our school buses need to use this zone to drop off and pick up students. Parking in this zone is illegal.

We understand that traffic congestion can be frustrating and we appreciate the patience of our families as you wait patiently for driving paths to clear out on the street. Driving cautiously around the school zone is important as we have over 300 children entering and exiting our school each day. The good news is it usually only takes about 5-10 minutes at the beginning and end of the school day, and then everyone is on their way to wherever they are going next. We appreciate your support as you work with our crossing guards and school staff while they support students and their families during these busy times. ☺

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs began on February 1st.

We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Kindergarten students in September! To attend Junior Kindergarten in



September, children must turn four years old by December 31, 2024. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five years old by December 31, 2024. The registration process will be completed online and a meeting will also be booked with the school office staff to complete the registration process.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Kindergarten Registration takes place throughout February. Once you complete your registration forms online, the office will review the registration forms and will then call you to book an appointment.

Our office staff will let you know what materials you will need to have available for your registration appointment and are also able to provide guidance with completing the registration forms online if you have any questions.

African Heritage (Black History) Month

At TDSB, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004. During the month of February, African Heritage (Black History) Month is recognized across Canada thanks to The Honourable MP Jean Augustine, who introduced the motion in the House of Commons in December 1995; it officially took effect in February 1996. The Black History Month Act was also passed in Ontario in 2016 and has been formally recognized since.

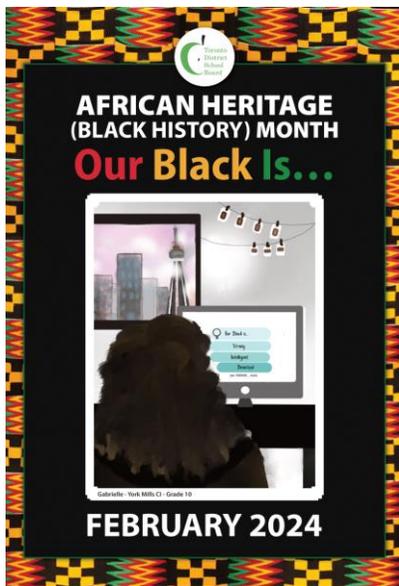
African Heritage (Black History) Month is an occasion to commemorate present and past individuals who helped shape the path of our future student leaders,

while also celebrating the many achievements and contributions of numerous individuals with this heritage! Their voices and actions impact our society, and work to continuously improve the world we live in.

This year's chosen theme is ***Our Black Is...*** Our Black Is Resilient, Community, Beautiful, Unity, Joy, Self-Determination, Excellence, Empowering, Purpose, Brilliance, Engaging, Creative, Belonging, Tenacious, Powerful, Faith, Audacious, Powerful, Me...

This open statement, "Our Black Is..." was selected as the 2024 African Heritage Month theme, as it is for Us as a Community to define. We invite our community to continue to boldly define ourselves. Please enjoy a brief video on ***Our Black Is...*** conveying reflections from our students from elementary to secondary level.

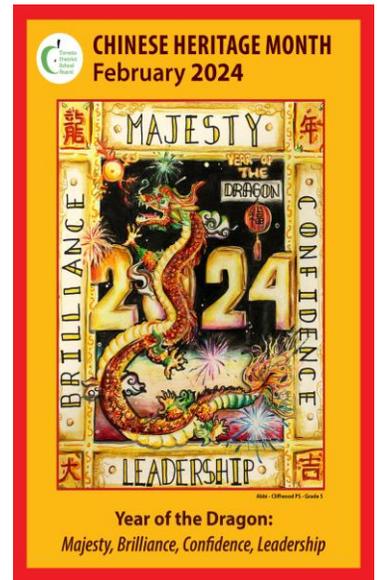
The African Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee and its partners continue to produce quality programs for students. This includes the *Know Your Worth Black Youth Empowerment Conference* partnership with York University Black Law Student Association. This initiative produced *Know Your Worth Educators Conference* for staff and for the first time this year, the *Know Your Worth Black Youth Elementary Empowerment Conference*.



February is Chinese Heritage Month

TDSB is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month in February each year. This year we celebrate the ***Year of the Dragon: Majesty, Brilliance, Confidence, Leadership.***

Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most important celebrations for Chinese communities around the world. Lunar New Year is celebrated annually, and its dates are based on the lunar calendar. For 2024, it starts Saturday, February 10 and ends Saturday, February 24. The festivities include family gatherings, decorations, and of course a feast!



Parent Workshops: Model Schools Hub & TDSB

The Model Schools Hub and the TDSB has been hosting a variety of parent workshops this school year focused on various areas (e.g., literacy skills/joy of reading, mathematics). We will continue to share this information with our families via email.

School Council

All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend School Council meetings as often as you can. Please look for dates and times on the school Google calendar, the links to our virtual meetings will be sent to parents via email. Our next School Council meeting is Monday, March 4th at 5:30 p.m. Our next School Council fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, March 6th – please support our school as we raise money for buses to support our students going on excursions this school year.





Dates to Remember

Kindergarten Registration Begins	February 1 st
Swim to Survive Program Gr. 4/5 (Ms. Green, Ms. Rinsma, Mr. Melchiorre, Ms. Simos)	February 2
Interview Request Forms Due	February 5
Back to School	February 7
Winter Walk to School Day	February 8
Interview Confirmation Forms Sent Home	February 8
Swim to Survive Program Gr. 4/5 (Ms. Green, Ms. Rinsma, Mr. Melchiorre, Ms. Simos)	February 9
School Council Meeting	February 12
Report Cards Sent Home	February 13
Character Trait and Heritage Month Assembly	February 14
Ms. Pavlovic & Ms. Cheung (Gr. 1/2) Class Trip	February 15
Interviews	February 16 (eve) February 17 (a.m.)
Family Day	February 19
Ms. Simos & Ms. Lall's Class Trip	February 20
Winter Concert	February 22 (eve)
Ms. Tharmarajah's Community Class Trip	February 23
Pink Shirt Day	February 28
Kindergarten: Fire Safety Presentations	February 28
Try Hockey Program (Gr.2-5)	February 29
Grade 1/2 Classes: Fire Safety Presentations	March 1
School Council Meeting	March 4
Gr. 5/6 Boys' Basketball Festival	March 5
Gr. 5/6 Girls' Volleyball Tournament	March 6
March Break	March 11-15
Good Friday (No School)	March 29
Easter Monday (No School)	April 1
Grade 6 Graduation Photos	April 4

Principal
Vice Principal (Acting)
Superintendent
Trustee
Office Administrator
Secretary (p.m.)
Head Caretaker

Andrea Lane
Cyril Lewin
Monday Gala
Yalini Rajakulasingam
Grace Romeo
Mary Kloutas
Quang Lao

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[Malvern JPS](http://www.malvernjps.ca)

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