



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

February 2026



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 taken care of and be successful.



On January 21st our school took part in Bell Let's Talk Day focusing on positive mental health and well-being and removing the stigma around mental health. Our Healthy Schools Leadership Team has named this day as *Malvern Talks Day*. The team prepared activities

for our Kindergarten to Grade 6 classrooms to engage in focusing on gratitude.

Our classes were invited to take part in read alouds that focused on gratitude. Our students' reflections from the read alouds about what students are grateful for are proudly displayed in our hallway. Some reoccurring gratitude reflections are: 'I am grateful for my friends, 'I am grateful for my family' and 'I am grateful for my teacher'.



Practising gratitude is an important part of building positive mental health for all of us. We invite our families to share what they are grateful for with their children at home as well to support our work as a school around mental health and well-being.



On February 11th we celebrated the 100th Day of School! Our Primary students always enjoy the fun activities that the teachers prepare on this day to celebrate the 100th

day of school, and some of our junior classes also engaged in math problem solving activities based on the number 100.



As well, on Wednesday, February 25th our school will be taking part in **Pink Shirt Day**. The theme for **Pink Shirt Day** day this year is *Sprinkle Kindness*. We all have the ability to do this each and every day through both our actions and our words which aligns with our school wide goal of creating conditions for Well Being, Joy and Belonging. Learning about Pink Shirt Day encourages all of us to stand up to bullying and to show compassion and kindness to others in our school, our community and beyond. We invite students, staff and parents/caregivers to wear pink on this day in support of **Pink Shirt Day**.



We ALL have the power to create change, and it starts with our actions and words!

School Improvement Planning Goals

As a school we continue to focus on well being, joy and belonging in our learning spaces which is part of our work around School Improvement. The work we do is centered around affirming student identity and providing equitable outcomes for all students. Indigenous Education is integrated into our classroom programs, teaching students about history and Indigenous perspectives and ways of being.

We also are continuing our focus on supporting students' mathematics skills – building early years foundational mathematics skills (Kindergarten to Grade 3) and for all grades, creating learning opportunities for the application of concepts embedded in rich mathematical problem solving experiences while engaging students in accountable math talk, collaborative problem solving and the use of various tools and representations to communicate math thinking. Our literacy focus continues to be on implementing the Science of Reading strategies to support students' reading fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension through both whole and small group instruction opportunities.

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

African Heritage (Black History) Month

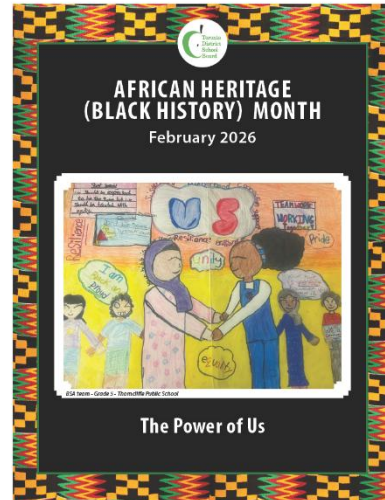
African Heritage (Black History) Month is recognized every February at the Toronto District School Board. Nationally, it has been recognized since 1996 through a motion introduced in the House of Commons by The Honourable Jean Augustine.

This year's theme, ***The Power of Us***, guides the month's activities. It highlights Black Student Well-Being, belonging, and Black Brilliance, and invites

everyone to help build community and support Black Mental Wellness.

The TDSB has organized a range of events to

celebrate the heritage and histories of the people and nations of Africa and the African Diaspora. These include the Know Your Worth Black Youth Empowerment Conference for secondary students, offered in



partnership with the York University Black Law Student Association. The Know Your Worth Educators Conference and the You See Me Black Youth Empowerment Elementary Conference will also continue this year to expand learning across the system.

Black Students Alliance groups continue to grow across the TDSB under the guidance of staff advisors. Through meetings, assemblies, guest speakers, and presentations, students support one another and help advance the TDSB commitment to equity, inclusion, and Black students' success.

The African Heritage (Black History) Month Volunteer Planning Committee has also established a Know Your Worth Scholarship, which provides three financial awards of up to \$2,000. These awards support students entering a Canadian post-secondary institution. Details about the application process will be shared in the coming months. Here is information on [how to make Know Your Worth Scholarship donations](#).

Black-identifying students across the TDSB were invited to submit artwork for the African Heritage (Black History) Month Poster Contest, reflecting their interpretation of this year's theme.

To begin the month, all students, staff, and community members were invited to join a virtual celebration featuring performances by Black artists, students, and notable speakers. [Watch a recording of the February 2 event here.](#)

Happy African Heritage (Black History) Month at the TDSB! Please follow us on X at [@tdsbAfricanHM](#) and on Instagram at [@tdsb_african_hm](#). Visit the [Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement website](#) to learn about additional events and opportunities for African Heritage Month.

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

In honour of African Heritage Month, join us for an exclusive [Screening of Black Life Untold Stories](#) at Winston Churchill C.I., along with an opportunity to support your child(ren)'s postsecondary dreams at our virtual [scholarship application workshop](#). See our full [caregiver/community menu](#). For more information about programming, register for the [mailing list](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

Screening: Black Life Untold Stories

Join us at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute on **February 26 at 5 p.m.** for a screening of episodes of the groundbreaking Black History docu-series – Black Life Untold Stories, followed by a discussion regarding the development of the series and the educator guide. [Learn more.](#)

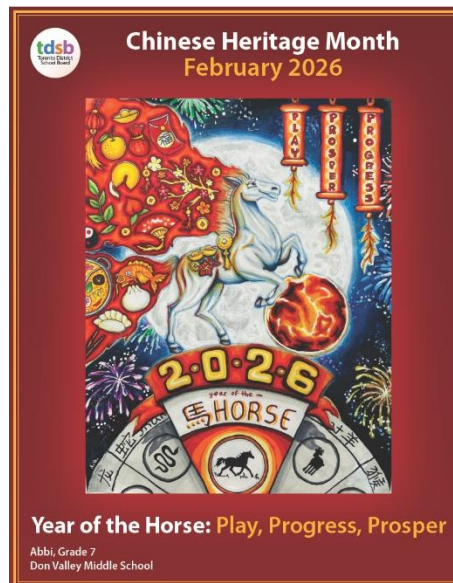
February is Chinese Heritage Month

The Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month each February. This year, we celebrate the ***Year of the Horse*** with the theme ***Play, Progress, Prosper.***

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant celebrations within Chinese heritage. The date is based on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, and festivities last sixteen days. This year, the first day of Lunar New Year begins on February 17. Celebrations often

include family gatherings, decorative displays, and a festive meal!

All TDSB students were invited to take part in the Chinese Heritage Month Poster and Artwork Challenge.



We applaud every submission received this year.

An in-person Chinese Heritage Month celebration will take place at Highland

Middle School with traditional performances, presentations, and speakers. The event will be videotaped, and a highlight video will be posted afterward for everyone to enjoy!

Elementary students will also have an opportunity to further explore Chinese heritage by participating in an author reading presentation.

Happy Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB! For updates and daily messages throughout February, please follow us on [X at @tdsbChineseHM](#).

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. You must adhere to the traffic and parking signs that are posted around the school regarding parking, stopping and standing areas for cars. We continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Services to monitor these areas and ensure that parking signs are being adhered to.

We understand that traffic congestion and finding parking 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 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, Student Safety Patrollers and school staff to help to ensure the safety of students and their families during these busy times. ☺



School Council

All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend School Council meetings as often as possible. 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 Wednesday, February 18th at 4:00 p.m.

School Council will be running a Pizza Lunch on Tuesday, February 17th.

Visit our school website at: [Malvern JPS](#)



Follow us on X [@TDSB_Malvern/JPS](#)



Interview Request Forms Due	
Back to School	February 4
Fairness & African Heritage Month and Chinese Heritage Month Assembly	February 4
Interview Confirmation Forms Sent Home	February 6
100th Day of School	February 11
Ms. Tharmarajah's Class:	
U of T Trash Team Presentation	February 10
Report Cards Sent Home	February 11
Parent-Teacher Interviews	February 12 (eve)
PA Day	February 13
Parent-Teacher Interviews	February 13 (AM)
Family Day	February 16
Pizza Lunch	February 17
School Council Meeting	February 18
Grade 6 Graduation Pictures	February 24
Pink Shirt Day	February 25
Community Iftar Dinner	March 5
Honesty & Greek Heritage Month Assembly	March 9
March Break	March 16-20

Principal	Andrea Lane
Vice Principal	Maureen Damian
Superintendent	Monday Gala
Trustee	Yalini Rajakulasingam
Office Administrator	Grace Romeo
Secretary (p.m.)	Shahana Gobimanocharan
Head Caretaker	Quang Lao