



November 2023

Administrator's Message

In November, our Character Trait is Empathy. Our focus has been on teaching our students about what empathy feels like, looks like and sounds like.

November has been a busy month with Progress Reports being sent home to families and Parent-Teacher interviews. Classroom teachers spend each school day with your child, but parents/guardians play a very important role in sharing information about their child. Regular home-teacher communication is an integral part of student learning and your support is critical to the ongoing success and well-being of our students (your children). In addition to parent-teacher interviews, you can request a meeting at any time during the school year by contacting the school or your child's teacher directly.

Our school is looking forward to hosting a Snuggle Up and Read Event on Tuesday, November 28th. The focus for this event is to share information and strategies with families to support your child's reading skills. Our school staff, will partnering with our school Speech and Language Pathologist, to provide families with information and activities that you can do at home with your children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Hanifi for all of her support over the past year. She has been a welcome addition to the Malvern JPS team and we hope to see her back at our school soon. We would like to welcome Miss Jess to our staff! Miss Jess is a Special Needs Assistant that will be working at our school this school year. Also, thank you to Ms. Walters, who has been helping us out in the office over the past two months, her assistance is greatly appreciated.

The cold weather has arrived! Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the cold – winter coat, hat, mitts/gloves and scarf.

School Council

Parents/guardians/caregivers are welcome to attend School Council meetings as often as you can. Please look for dates and times on the school calendar. Our next School Council meeting is Monday, November 20th at 5:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in the library, and families are also able to join virtually (a link will be shared prior to the meeting date).



Remembrance Day



On Friday, November 10th students and staff at our school and across the city marked Remembrance Day with classroom activities and school assemblies. During this week, our staff and students explored why we have Remembrance Day while sharing messages of peace and remembrance.

November is Hindu Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November because of a motion passed in April 2018 by the Board of Trustees.

Two years prior, on December 8 2016, the Province of Ontario passed the *Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016* which declared the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month. The Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016 states, *Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the*

20th century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture, and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity, and innovation throughout Ontario.

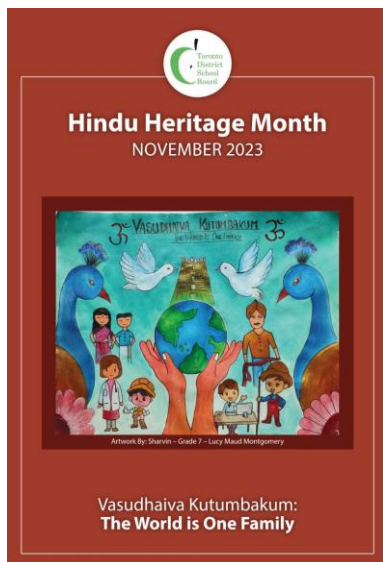
Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion.

This year's theme is **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum: The**

World is One Family. *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* is a Sanskrit word in Hindu dharma that means, 'The World is one Family.' It is based on the spiritual idea that every human being is born with a divine spark and is a part of one divine universal consciousness. This ancient message of oneness aims to

promote friendliness, acceptance, compassion, and a sense of belongingness towards all others, despite differences of culture, languages, or thoughts. The word *Vasudhaiva* means "earth" and therefore this message of caring and compassion is also meant for all living creatures and the non-living environment.

During the month of November several Hindu Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Hindu traditions.



November is Indigenous Heritage Month

November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

It is important to remember to center First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity. The TDSB is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre (UIEC) will be hosting a number of events to support students and staff to learn from Indigenous Peoples.

VRP - Volunteers Reading Program

We are working to bring the Volunteers Reading Program (VRP Program) to Malvern JPS this school year! VRP is a registered charitable organization that helps Grade 1 and 2 students with reading. Volunteers



attend a 2 hour online training session, complete a police reference check, and are asked to either volunteer weekly or every other week for 2 1/2 hours (half a school day). We are currently looking for volunteers in our community to be part of this program as we are working on bringing the Volunteer Reading Program to Malvern. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the attachment for more information on how to sign up as a volunteer: [Volunteer Readers Program.pdf](#)

Thank you to our volunteers who have signed up already!

Travelling To and From School

Thank you to the many families who have been walking with their children to and from school this school year. Walking to school helps to reduce traffic congestion around our school during drop off and pick up times which makes drop off and pick up go more smoothly on the surrounding streets.

Remember, to not park in the bus loading zone as our school buses need to use this zone to drop off and pick up students. Parking in this zone is illegal. As well, do not block or park in any of the surrounding driveways of our school neighbors. We know that traffic congestion can be frustrating, however if you choose to drive instead of walking, you are expected to act responsibly and respectfully with each other and our community members that live close to the school. Congestion is to be expected during both drop off and pick up times at the school, as these are the busiest times of the school day for traffic. This congestion will increase during the winter with snow build up and cars needing to travel at a slower pace on our roadways.



We continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Services and our local Traffic Enforcement Officers to assist with congestion and safety on the roadways surrounding the school. Please ensure you are adhering to the signs posted and the laws of the road.

To learn more about Road Safety, please visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/Road-Safety.

Punctuality

Learning to be punctual is a skill that students **must** develop in order to be successful at school. It is disruptive for students and teachers when students arrive late to class. Valuable learning takes place at the very beginning of the morning and afternoon that students who are late, miss.



If students are consistently late, the classroom teachers and/or office staff will be following up with parents. If the student continues to arrive at school late, or there are frequent absences (10+), a letter will be sent home to families from the Principal to further address this area of concern.

Food Safety & Allergy Reminder

When sending lunch and/or snacks for your child, remember that **many students and staff members have life-threatening allergies to certain foods, in particular nuts and nut products.** **Do not send your child to school with any food that contains nuts and nut products. We all play an important part in keeping all of our students safe.** As well, please remind your child that there is to be no sharing of food with other students for safety reasons.



Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten Entry) Application Deadline

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program, the TDSB offers an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in Junior Kindergarten). An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to

complete an online application for the new student. The timeline to apply to the program for September 2024 is between November 6 and December 1, 2023.

For more information, please visit: [Early French Immersion](#), [EFI Flyer Translations](#), [Virtual Information Sessions](#) or the [Application Process](#).

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week **November 20-24**

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week helps to promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. At our school there will be daily announcements focusing on bullying awareness and prevention which will provide information to students, as well as topics to prompt class discussions. Resources will also be provided to our teachers for in-class activities. Bullying Prevention/Awareness is not a week-long event, it is an ongoing discussion.

Below are some steps students can use to problem solve when conflicts arise.

- 1- Tell the person, "Stop! I don't like what you're doing."
- 2- If the problem continues, walk away.
- 3- If the problem still continues, go and find a staff member for help in solving the problem.

Problem solving skills and bullying awareness/prevention are conversations that also need to happen on an ongoing basis at home. All of us have an important role in keeping our schools safe - parents, educators and students.

Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Flu season is here again! In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.



Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by:

- reminding your children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- reminding your children to cover their sneeze and cough using their arm, not their hands;
- watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- informing the school if your child is ill;
- keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor, or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Helpful tips to avoid the flu:

- Get your flu shot
- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Stay home if you're sick

Visit toronto.ca/health to find a free flu clinic near you

416.398.7600 toronto.ca/health | Toronto Public Health

Dates to Remember

Interview Request Forms Sent Home	November 1
Earth Rangers Presentation (Ms. Topple/Ms. Black/Ms. Bloom)	November 1
Early French Immersion Online K-6 Empathy and Hindu Heritage Month Assembly	November 3
Applications Open (until Dec. 1st)	November 6
Interview Request Forms Due Back	November 7
Interview Confirmation Forms Sent Home	November 9
Remembrance Day Assembly	November 10
Report Cards Sent Home	November 14
Parent-Teacher Interviews (eve)	November 16
P. A. Day	November 17
Parent Teacher Interviews (AM)	November 17
School Council Meeting	November 20
Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week	Nov. 20-24
School Picture Retakes & Class Pictures	November 26
Snuggle Up and Read Event	November 28
P.A. Day	December 8
Winter Holidays	December 23-January 7

Principal	Andrea Lane
Vice Principal	Michelle George-Patrick
Superintendent	Monday Gala
Trustee	Yalini Rajakulasingam
Office Administrator	Grace Romeo
Secretary (p.m.)	TBD
Head Caretaker	Quang Lao

Visit our school website at: [Malvern JPS](http://MalvernJPS)



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) on our new handle: [@TDSB_Malvern/JPS](https://twitter.com/TDSB_Malvern/JPS)

