



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

November 2024



Administrator's Message

In November, our Character Trait is Empathy. Our focus is on teaching our students about what empathy feels like, looks like and sounds like within our classrooms and greater school community.

November is a busy month with Progress Reports being sent home to families and our upcoming Parent-Teacher interviews. Classroom teachers spend each school day with your child, but parents/guardians/caregivers play a critical role in sharing information about their child. Regular home-teacher communication is an integral part of student learning and your support is essential 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.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Gobimanaharan to our Malvern team. She has joined our office team in the afternoons as a secretary while Ms. Khan is away, and will continue in this role until Ms. Khan's return. She is a wonderful asset to our office team! We would also like to thank Mrs. Vieira for all of the support she has provided to us in her role as Acting Vice Principal. Mrs. Vieira will be finishing her time with us on Friday, November 15th and then we will be welcoming back Mrs. Walters-McLean who will support us as an Acting Vice Principal until the end of November.

The cold weather seems to have arrived. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the cold – coat, hat, mitts/gloves and scarf. If your child forgets a hat or a pair of mittens, we have extra ones in the office that we can give them or lend to them.

School Council

On behalf of School Council, thank you to our community for a successful fundraiser to support purchasing recess equipment for our classes! Thanks to your support we raised \$565 for recess equipment. Mrs. Magoffin will be conducting a survey with classes to gather information on class requests for equipment and then an order will be placed. When students were asked last school year what brought them 'joy', recess and playing with their friends was a common theme – thank you for contributing to this.



School Council will be organizing a Bake Sale on Tuesday, November 26th. More information will be sent out soon.

Remembrance Day



On Monday, November 11th students and staff at our school and across the city marked Remembrance Day with classroom activities and school assemblies. During this time, our staff and students continue to build their understanding of why we have Remembrance Day while sharing messages of peace and remembrance both in their classrooms and at our school assembly.

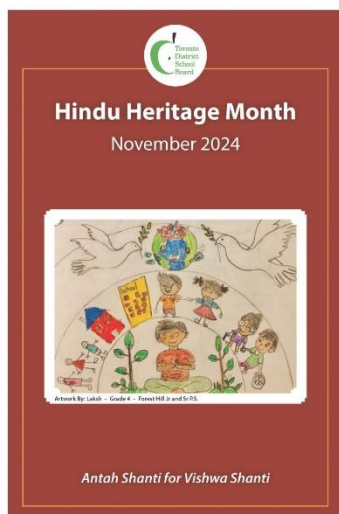
November is Hindu Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. This heritage has been celebrated by our

students, staff, and the community since April 2018 as a result of a motion passed the Board of Trustees. Further, Hindu Heritage Month is also recognized in the Province of Ontario since 2016 with the declaration *Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016*.

[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 ***Antah Shanti for Vishwa Shanti***. This Sanskrit phrase conveys that to foster World (Vishwa) Peace (Shanti) we need to have Inner (Antah) Peace (Shanti).

Hindu dharma recognizes three levels of peace. The first level is inner peace – that in the mind of a person. The second level is peace in our immediate environment: in our family, neighbourhood, school, and community. The third level is peace in the world, between nations. That is why, at the end of prayers, Hindus chant OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

Inner peace is the foundation to build peace in our immediate environment. A peaceful state of mind is essential for the courage, confidence and compassion required to act for the greater good of humanity.

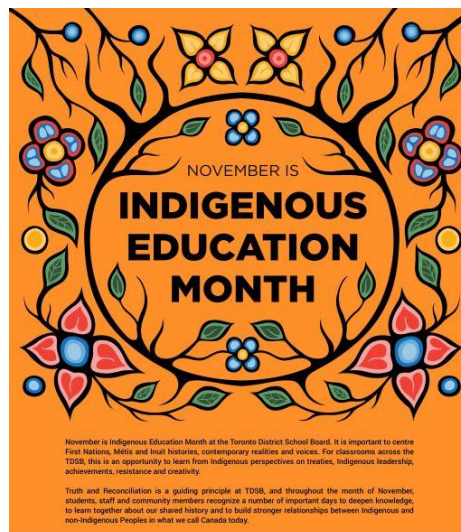
When we feel peace within us, the journey towards Vishwa Shanti or World Peace has begun.

During the month of November several Hindu Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Hindu traditions. These offerings include primary students having an opportunity to engage in an author reading and all grade levels to participate in various workshops.

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



[CLICK HERE](#) for resources to support Treaties Week, Inuit Day, Indigenous Veterans Day, Louis Riel Day

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IS ALL DAY EVERYDAY



important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

It is important that we remember to centre 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 implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

VRP - Volunteer Reading Program

Our Volunteer Reading Program (VRP Program) has returned for its first full year at Malvern. We are still looking for interested volunteers to support this program for our Grade 1 students.



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 would like to expand the program to support more of our Grade 1 student readers. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the following information on how to sign up as a volunteer: *Send in the application on their website: www.volunteerreaders.ca or contact: Kristina Hunt, Managing Coordinator at kristinavrp@gmail.com or call 416-220-5928.*

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. We have also had community concerns about cars blocking people's driveways – please do not block anyone's driveway for any period of time. You must find an open parking area, while adhering to the street signs.

We know that traffic congestion can be frustrating; however, if you choose to drive instead of walking, we need you to be responsible drivers, and to be respectful and patient. 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 due to snowy and icy conditions.



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 impacts students' learning 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/caregivers. 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 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 2025 is between November 4 and November 29, 2024.

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

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week November 18-22

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 throughout the school year.

Below are the **Steps to Problem Solving** that our K-Grade 6 students have been taught to help them to problem solve when conflicts arise.

- 1- Tell the person, "Stop! I don't like what you're doing." (Name specifically what they are doing).
- 2- If the problem continues, walk away or move 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/caregivers, educators and students.

2024 Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference

Join us on Saturday, November 16, 2024! This year, you can attend the conference virtually. TDSB is committed to parent, caregiver, and community engagement as an essential element in our shared

efforts to improve outcomes for children throughout their lives. Our role is to help build capacity by successfully engaging parents and caregivers, strengthening home-school partnerships, and aligning our collective efforts. The [2024 Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference](#) provides an opportunity to highlight innovation and high-impact strategies for partnering, collaborating, and nurturing parents' and caregivers' partnerships and alliances. [Register here.](#)

Special Education Inclusion Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

[This monthly newsletter](#) is designed to support families in navigating the journey of supporting students with special education needs. Each edition will feature valuable resources, tips, and success stories to empower families and their children.

Apply to TDSB Central Student Interest Programs

Learn more about [elementary central student interest programs](#) and [secondary central student interest programs](#). The application for these programs opens on November 4 and closes on November 22, 2024, at 4 p.m. Visit the [CSIP website](#) to learn about each program, review requirements, get dates for open houses and view webinar recordings.

Elementary Alternative Schools Online Application Process

Elementary Alternative Schools Online Application Process - The TDSB offers a wide range of [Elementary Alternative Schools](#) available to students. The application process is managed centrally and includes an online application form. Complete information about the central online application process is available on the [Elementary Alternative Schools Application and Admissions Process webpage](#).

The online application for admission for September 2025 will be open from **Monday, January 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, January 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

Elementary alternative schools will hold information sessions and/or open houses for students and

parents/guardians/caregivers in late November 2024 to mid-January 2025. More information is available on the [Elementary School Open Houses and Information Nights](#) webpage.

TDSB staff is hosting two Elementary Alternative Schools live webinars, including one daytime and one evening session. Registration is required, and a recording of the webinars will be posted on the [Elementary Alternative Schools Application and Admissions Process webpage](#).

Register here:

[Daytime Session - Tuesday, November 26 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM](#)

[Evening Session - Tuesday, November 26 from 7:00PM to 8:00PM](#)

If you have any questions or require additional support, you can contact the school or contact EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca.

Learn4Life Adult General Interest Programs

Registration for winter courses in the Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program opens on November 13 at 8:30 a.m. Available to adults 18 and older, the Learn4Life program offers a unique opportunity to pursue interests, expand knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning. The program features a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions—from art and fitness to languages, sports and handiwork.

Just some of the new courses this term include:

- Making Your Home Smarter
- Classics of Horror
- Wood Carving Introduction
- How to Minimize Cost of Living and Maximize your Purchasing Power
- Strength for Life - Full Body Fitness
- Portugal's Iconic Pastel de Nata Workshop

Courses start January 11, 2025. [Visit Learn4Life's program page for more information.](#)

Parent Engagement Session: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Special Education and Inclusion will be holding two virtual sessions on **Wednesday, November 27, 2024** and **Thursday, November 28, 2024** for parents/guardians/caregivers to provide information on strategies and supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the TDSB. These sessions will be recorded and housed on the TDSB Special Education public website for parents/guardians/caregivers to access at any time. Please see this [flyer](#) for registration information.

Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs because of [severe weather](#). On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 238,000 students in nearly 600 schools, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose. Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB web site and TDSB social media by 6 a.m. Visit the website to learn about [Snow/Cold Weather](#) and the [Procedure for Severe Weather](#).

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.



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

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/caregivers, 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.

Dates to Remember

Interview Request Forms Sent Home	November 1
Early French Immersion Online Application Window Opens	November 4
School Council Meeting	November 5
Interview Request Forms Due Back	November 6
Krispy Kreme Pick Up Day	November 7
Interview Confirmation Forms Sent Home	November 8
Character Education/Heritage Assembly	November 11
Remembrance Day Assembly	November 11
Report Cards Sent Home	November 12
Parent-Teacher Interviews (eve)	November 14
P. A. Day	November 15
Parent Teacher Interviews (AM)	November 15
National Education Support Professionals Day	November 15
Anti-Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week	Nov. 18-22
School Picture Retakes (AM)	November 20
Mrs. Bloom & Mrs. Topple's Class Trip	November 22
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	November 26
School Council – Bake Sale	November 26
Kearney Parent Session (Gr. 6)	November 26
PA Day	November 29
Early French Immersion Online Application Window Closes	November 29
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	December 3
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	December 4
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	December 10
Winter Holidays	December 21-January 5

Principal	Andrea Lane
Vice Principal	Anna Vieira (Acting)
Superintendent	Monday Gala
Trustee	Yalini Rajakulasingam
Office Administrator	Grace Romeo
Secretary (p.m.)	Shahana Gobimanocharan
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)

