



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

October 2023



Administrators' Message

Thank you to our students, families and staff for all of your support as we worked together to settle back into our school routines and expectations over the past month and a half. It is hard to believe that we have finished 7 weeks of school already! We are off to a great start!

Thank you to our many families who attended our Family Meet and Greet Night. It was wonderful to see so many of our families, and for our families to have an opportunity to reconnect with each other and visit classroom spaces once again. Family Meet and Greet Night is a great way to connect with school staff, learn more about your child's classroom program, the routines and expectations that are in place, and to ask the teachers questions around programming and/or the curriculum. We encourage you to keep these lines of communication open throughout the school year as our staff works in partnership with our parents/guardians/caregivers to support our students' academic achievement and overall well-being.

Our monthly Character Trait and Heritage month assemblies are underway for our Kindergarten-Grade 6 students. Much appreciation to Ms. Di Rito and Ms. Tharmarajah and their classes for their leadership and for all of their work making our assemblies informative and interactive for our students. As well, our school's co-curricular opportunities have been starting up once again with Cross Country, Soccer, Announcement Leaders and Kindergarten Helpers. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to our students.



Much appreciation to our parents who set up the Islamic Heritage Display in the foyer – this display contains a wealth of information to share with our students, families and staff.

A reminder, to remember to check your child's backpack on a regular basis, as forms, and/or notes are sent home with your child throughout the school year. Notices/letters sent home for the entire school will most often be sent home via email, with paper copies only being sent as needed. *All newsletters and monthly calendars will be sent home via the School Connects email system. Should you require a paper copy, please let the office know.

Health Screening Guidelines

Although we are returning to many of our school routines and activities such as monthly assemblies and co-curricular activities, it is important that families continue to screen their children before they come to school. To help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses, please screen your child(ren) daily following the updated screening guidelines below.

Please have your child stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of illness, even if they are mild. <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/974a-General-Screening-Business-Questionnaire-March-29-2022.pdf>. Also,

remind your child to wash or sanitize their hands often and cover their cough or sneeze with their elbow or a tissue.

Thank you for your continued support.

School Council

Thank you to our parents/guardians/caregivers who attended our first School Council meeting.

Our School Council Executive for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

Co-Chairs: Sharmil Khan and Bushra Shujaat
Secretary: Saman Syed
Treasurer: Iffat Fatima



Congratulations to our new School Council Executive!

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).

Working Together to Ensure Student Success

In order to ensure the best possible education for your child, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly and to be on time for class. A student's academic progress depends on regular class attendance – whether they are part of In Person or Virtual Learning. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities. Research indicates that attendance patterns and attitudes are



developed at an early age, so establishing and supporting these expectations at home is very important.

You can help ensure your child's success by:

- being involved in your child's education;
- knowing the school's schedule and ensuring that your child comes to school unless they are sick;
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers;
- ensuring that your child gets a good night's sleep so that they have the energy they need for the next day.

Let's work together to ensure student success!

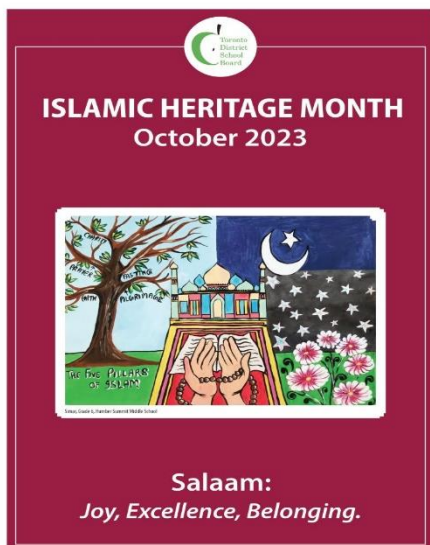
Islamic Heritage Month – October 2023

The TDSB proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) during the month of October. This recognition follows the motion passed by the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2016. The main theme for the month is **Salaam: Joy, Excellence, Belonging**.

Islamic Heritage Month has been recognized across Canada in different ways since October 2007. In November 2016, the Province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month through the **Islamic Heritage Month Act**, and further stated that "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 in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

During the month of October several IHM educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Islamic traditions and customs. The poster selected from last spring's poster contest represents this year's theme of **Salaam: Joy, Excellence, Belonging**. Salaam means "peace" in Arabic and is a shortened version of the Islamic greeting "peace be upon you". This year, the TDSB Islamic Heritage

Month Committee would like staff, students, and community members to greet, or say "salaam" to joy, excellence and belonging within the activities planned and learning available during this important month.



As we reflect and learn this October, we practice joy in celebrating rich Islamic heritage; we honour the excellence of diverse Muslim identities and cultures; and foster belonging for the many Muslim students who attend TDSB schools.

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."

During the month of October Somali Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Somali traditions and customs.



Keeping Students Safe – Street Safety

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe.

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 (*our school's bus loading zone is located in front of the Kindergarten playground area*) 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.

Families can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are around school zones which are very busy during entry and dismissal times.

Terry Fox

A great big thank you to all of our students who participated in our annual Terry Fox Run this year! Much appreciation to Ms. Maggoffin for coordinating this event for our school.



Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents/guardians/caregivers and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, and planning fun activities. Hallowe'en provides opportunities for celebrations, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons.



At school students will be engaging in a variety of activities, including Fall themed activities. On Tuesday, October 31st, students are welcome to dress up in a costume if they would like to wear one, or they may wear orange or black.

Safety Tips:

Hallowe'en is also a time for students, families, 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 items that 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 cannot accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant 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 across 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.
- Set time limits when children should return home.

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](#).



**Student Valuables/
Cell Phones**

Parents can always contact their child through the main office if there is an emergency, and therefore students do not need to bring cell phones to school for calling home. Students are encouraged not to bring valuables such as cell phones, electronic devices, jewelry, as well as large quantities of money.

We realize that in some cases students may have cell phones for safety purposes (e.g., for walking home). While on school property; cell phones are to be turned off and placed out of view during the regular school day, on excursions and at extra-curricular and school related activities. Students are responsible for storing their cell phone in a secure location. It is important to understand that **students who bring cell phones and other valuables to school are doing so at their own risk.** The school is not responsible for the replacement of such items that may be damaged, stolen or lost.

The school's 'Lost and Found' is located in a bin by the front entrance. Students are encouraged to check the bin for lost items. We ask that families ensure that their child's clothing, boots, shoes, back packs and lunch bags are clearly labelled.

Snack Program

Thank you to Ms. Savoie, our Snack Program Coordinator, who will be providing our students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 with a daily healthy morning snack. The Snack Program is available for any family that wishes to participate in it, you just need to complete the Snack Program form for your child to receive snack.

If you choose to send your own snack for your child, remember that **many students and staff members have life-threatening allergies to certain foods, in particular nuts and nut products.** Please try to send



a healthy energy boosting snack for your child, such as fruits and vegetables.

**PLEASE
DO NOT SEND NUTS OR
NUT PRODUCTS TO SCHOOL!**

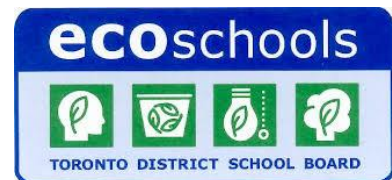
Reminder: If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or the office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken, and to ensure everyone's co-operation in creating a safe learning environment.

Lunch Supervision

Lunch time is a very busy time at our school! If parents/guardians/caregivers are at home during the lunch hour we encourage that students go home for lunch for a break, **students are to return to school right before the entry bell rings which is at 12:25 p.m. (Grades 1-6) and 12:40 (Kindergarten).** Going home at lunch time is an opportunity for students to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the school day and to have a chance to relax with their family while enjoying their lunch.

Eco Schools

Malvern JPS is an ***Eco School***. Our school continues to work on



initiatives such as recycling of materials in the classrooms, turning our classroom lights off and technology when it is not in use and using a Boomerang/Litterless Lunch Program.

Families can support our Eco initiatives by teaching your children through showing Eco awareness in your homes and supporting our Boomerang Lunch Program.

Suggestions to Parents to Support Boomerang Lunch:

Encourage your child to eat leftovers as a snack after school if they are still safe to eat.

Pack sandwiches, fruits and vegetables in reusable plastic containers.

Help your child pack their own healthy foods that they like to reduce food waste.

Only pack as much food as you know your child will eat.

Label all containers so that lost items can be returned home.

Avoid packing drinks that cannot be resealed.

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Social Media Presence

Visit our school website at: Malvern JPS



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



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National Custodian's Day	October 2
World Teachers' Day	October 5
P.A. Day	October 6
Thanksgiving	October 9
Cross Country Meet	October 11
K-6 Responsibility, Islamic & Somali Heritage Month Assembly	October 12
National Early Childhood Educators & Childcare Appreciation Day	October 18
Cross Country East Finals	October 19
School Picture Day	October 26
Islamic Heritage Month Kindergarten Presentations	October 30
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. 1 st)	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 18
School Council Meeting	November 20
School Picture Retakes & Class Pictures	November 26
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
