



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Administrators' Message

We are off to a great start this school year! 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.

Thank you to our many families, as well as our community partners, who attended our Family Meet and Greet Night. It was a good opportunity 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 open communication 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. This year our classes have an opportunity to sign up each month to present to our school. Much appreciation to Ms. Magoffin and our student leaders for our October assembly. As well, our school's co-curricular opportunities have been starting up once again with Cross Country, Soccer, Announcement Leaders, Library Leaders and Kindergarten Helpers. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to our students.

Much appreciation to Zeba and the ICNA Sisters who provided our school with the Islamic Heritage Display



in the foyer and donated books to our school library for our students to enjoy. If you are in the school, please take time to visit the display in the foyer, it 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.

School Council

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

Our School Council Executive for the 2024-2025 school year is as follows:

Chairs: Bushra Shujaat
Secretary: Hanaa Dawood
Treasurer: Faatima Hafejee



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 Tuesday, November 5th at 4:30 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!

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. Registration information is coming soon.

Islamic Heritage Month – October 2024

TDSB has proudly recognized Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) during the month of October since 2016. This year, the theme is **Sabr and Shukr**.

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." (Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16i20>)

Sabr and shukr are often mentioned concepts in the Qu'ran that offer guidance as to how Muslims should face challenges. **Sabr** is patience, perseverance, and persistence, which are essential to accomplishing goals, overcoming obstacles, and dealing with setbacks. **Shukr** is gratitude that allows one to recognize one's blessings and can take the form of words, feelings, or behaviours. Every day, we find ways to face challenges, both small and large, with a combination of sabr and shukr. This Islamic Heritage Month we will explore how sabr and shukr are woven into the lived experiences, histories, and cultures of Muslim communities.

This year's IHM poster features ten remarkable **Muslim Olympic athletes** whose journeys are a testament to the values of sabr and shukr. Competing at the 2024 Paris Olympics, these athletes overcame significant personal and professional challenges, embodying resilience, faith, and perseverance at the highest level. From **Arshad**

Nadeem’s record-breaking javelin throw to Sifan Hassan’s triumphant treble after a heart-breaking fall at the 2023 Worlds in Budapest, each athlete’s story showcases how sabr and shukr are not only principles of their faith but integral to their success.

This poster highlights their achievements, reminding us that with patience and gratitude, greatness is possible even in the face of adversity. A copy of this poster has been sent to each school, along with a 3-page supplement offering more information about these athletes. It is also available digitally here: IHM 2024 Poster.



At the Toronto District School Board, several educational opportunities are being organized for all students, staff and the TDSB community to further learn about Islamic traditions, cultures, and customs. These offerings include:

- Coding Workshops
- A Poet-Author Talk
- Art Workshops
- Fresh daily announcements
- Educational resources

Please review this weblink which includes the TDSB Islamic Heritage Month Resource Guidebook, updated in 2023, and also features the newly updated daily announcements.

Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter): @tdsb_ihm

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.

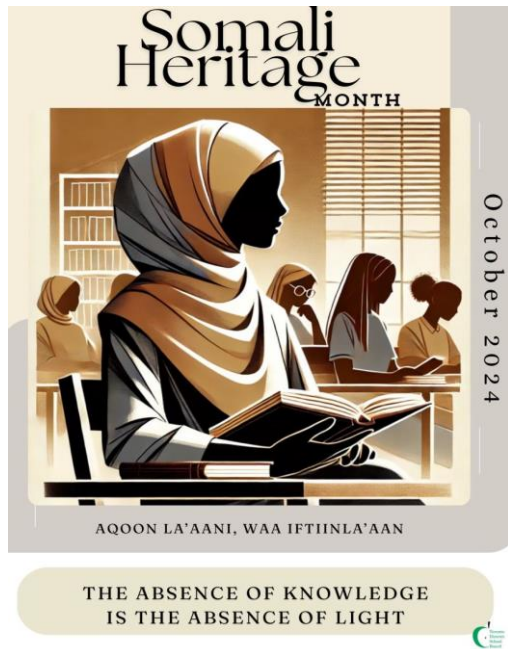
In October 2020, the Government of Ontario proclaimed Somali Heritage Week Act, 2020 which will take place on June 25 through July 1.

"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. (Province of Ontario, 2020)

This year, the theme of Somali Heritage Month is *Aqoon la'aani, waa iftiinla'aan - The absence of knowledge is the absence of light.* The saying highlights the fundamental value of knowledge and education. By choosing this saying, we hope to underscore the importance of learning and intellectual growth, aligning with our educational mission of fostering a knowledgeable and enlightened student body.

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

The poster below was commissioned by Saada Awaleh and is being shared with all Toronto District School Board schools, and sites. Saada Awaleh is a Toronto based Visual Artist, Educator, and the Creative Director of Awaleh Arts. She identifies as a visual storyteller, aiming her lens at her Somali and Muslim roots. Saada loves textures, patterns and vibrant colours and often incorporates mixed media elements into her work. We thank Saada Awaleh for her beautiful work!



Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) for daily messages throughout the month of October: [SomaliHM@TDSB](https://twitter.com/SomaliHM@TDSB)

Latin America History Month

Latin-America History Month is proudly recognized by the Toronto District School Board. Originally observed in April since 2016, a motion was carried at the January 31, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting to move the recognition to October. This change aligns with the Government of Canada's designation of the month as well.

This year the focus and theme of October 2024 continues to be: ***"Weaving Our Legacies: Return to Our Collective Path | Enlazar Nuestros Legados: Volver a Nuestro Camino Colectivo."***

The "e" in **Nuestres** was purposefully chosen to disrupt the dominant and default patriarchal binary gender grammar system of the colonial language of Spanish. The intentional use of the letter "e" as gender inclusive was created by LGBTQIA+, gender non-binary, and feminist communities in what is recognized today as Latin-America.

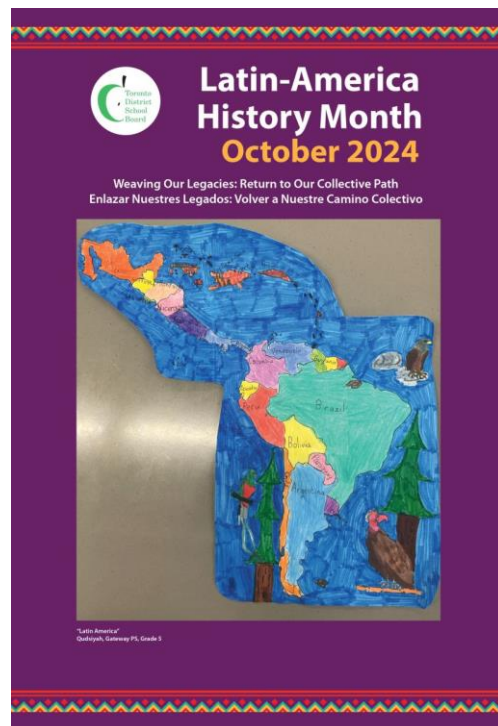
Since the creation of the Latin-America History Month Volunteer Planning Committee in 2016, the

membership, which is comprised of educators, community organizers, parents/guardians/caregivers, community organizers, TDSB staff and alumni, continues to ensure that we are reflective of all intersectional differences within the communities of Latin-America / Abya Yala / Pachamama and its diaspora, including those at the TDSB.

In alignment with this year's theme, we are centering on weaving individual and collective legacies of resistance, struggles, joy, love, and healing as peoples of the Latin-America / Abya Yala / Pachamama and its diaspora. We are also focusing on the communal purpose of raising consciousness and moving toward reclaiming our whole authentic selves, along with a (re)commitment to reciprocal relations, solidarity, and action towards a just world.

During October, several educational opportunities are being planned for students, staff, and community members.

Please follow us on X where daily quotes and announcements will also be shared: [@TDSBLAHM](https://twitter.com/TDSBLAHM)



ADHD Awareness Month

October is ADHD Awareness Month. You can learn more about Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in this [ADHD Fact Sheet](#) or by visiting the [ADHD Awareness Month website](#).

The focus this month is to stop the stigma and support that all students have ABILITIES! For more information, please visit the [LD@School website](#).

Keeping Students Safe In Bus Zones

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

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.

A reminder to our families that you are not to park in our designated bus zone area, even for a brief amount of time, as it needs to be free from parked cars for buses to drop off and pick up students. When our bus zone is blocked it leads to more congestion on the street during an already busy time of the school day and can also affect the safety of the drop off and pick up of our students.

Terry Fox Run

Leading up to the Terry Fox run, our students learned many facts about Terry Fox. Thank you to our students who eagerly participated in our annual Terry Fox Run this year – your energy could be seen and heard! 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 Thursday, 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 Opens November 4th

TDSB offers an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in Junior Kindergarten). To apply to the Early French Immersion Program for September 2025, applications must be completed online by **November 29, 2024**. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program must complete an online application for the new student. Visit the [Early French Immersion](#) page for more information, helpful resources, and to apply.

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, for all of her work coordinating our Snack Program start up, and thank you to our families who made donations to support the program. Our students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 who signed up for the program will receive a daily healthy morning snack which our Student Snack Helper Leaders help to deliver to classrooms each morning.

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 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!**

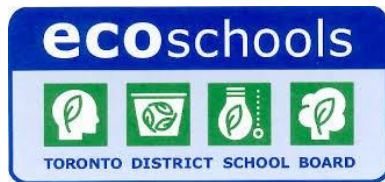
Reminder: If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child’s teacher or the office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken, and to ensure everyone’s co-operation in creating a safe learning environment.

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.** 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 continues to support Eco Schools initiatives. 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.

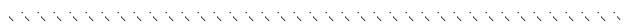
Pack sandwiches, fruits, and vegetables in reusable plastic containers.

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.

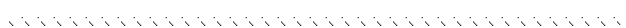


Social Media Presence

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



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) on our new handle: [@TDSB_Malvern/JPS](#)



Dates to Remember

Family & Staff Meet and Greet	October 1
National Custodian's Day	October 2
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Cross Country Meet	October 7
K-Grade 6 Dental Screening	October 9-10
World Mental Health Day	October 10
School Council Meeting	October 10
P.A. Day	October 11
International Day of the Girl	October 11
Thanksgiving	October 14
Cross Country East City Finals	October 16
K-Grade 6 Dental Screening	October 15-16
National Early Childhood Educators & Childcare Appreciation Day	October 17
Krispy Kreme Fundraiser – Orders Due	October 17
Book Character Pumpkins	October 25
School Picture Day <i>(Retakes November 20)</i>	October 24
Interview Request Forms Sent Home	November 1
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
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
School Picture Retakes	November 20
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	November 26
Kearney Parent Session (Gr. 6)	November 27
PA Day	November 29
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	December 3
Swim to Survive Program (Gr. 4)	December 4
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.)	Naureen Khan
Head Caretaker	Quang Lao
