



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Principal's Message



Welcome back to our students, families and staff! The beginning of the school year is always full of excitement as students return to school, meet their teachers and reconnect with their friends and new classmates after the summer holidays. We are looking forward to a successful school year ahead!

The Malvern JPS staff acknowledges and values the important role we have keeping your children safe and supporting their sense of belonging, joy, well-being and academic success. Relationships amongst our students, and between staff and students and their families, are crucial to the work we do throughout the school year. We are looking forward to continuing to build on our relationships with our students and families, and offering various co-curricular experiences for our students as well as family based events throughout the school year.

We would like to introduce you to a few new staff members that have joined our Malvern Junior P.S. team this school year. A warm welcome to Mme. Bouchard (Core French) and Ms. Chintakunta (Grade 1).

A big thank you to our teachers, support staff, custodians and our office staff for all of their hard work preparing for the 2026-2027 school year! It takes a village to prepare a school for reopening in September, and each staff member plays an important role in contributing to a smooth school start up for our students and families.

The school will keep parents/caregivers informed of upcoming events/dates, and other important information by sending information to you via School Messenger (our school wide email system) such as our monthly school calendars and newsletters. Please note that the school calendar and newsletters will also be posted on our school website. Our school's Google Calendar, located on our school website's landing page will also serve as a reference for families for upcoming school dates and events. We ask that you carefully read all communication that is sent home (electronically and in hard copy), and check your child's backpack daily.

Parent/caregiver partnerships between home and school are very important for your child's ongoing success at school. We encourage you to keep open communication with school staff throughout the school year. Ask your

child's teacher how you can support your child at home with their learning, and share concerns you may have with your child's teacher in a timely manner in order to problem solve collaboratively. It is through this dialogue that we are able to discuss options for supporting your child, problem solve as a team and strengthen our home-school partnerships, which play a crucial role in your child's well-being and success at school.

**It is important to note that in September we will be watching our enrolment numbers very carefully. The Board will be letting us know if we need to reorganize any of our classes due to low or high numbers. If reorganizing is necessary, parents will be notified by letter in the third week of September if your child is moving classes due to a reorganization. We anticipate this is very likely given our high numbers in the primary grades.

We look forward to a great school year with our Malvern Junior P.S. community of learners, our families and our dedicated staff!

Building Security/Student Safety/ Parent Access/Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

A reminder to families that we have a secure access system installed at our main entry doors. When you arrive at our school during the school day, the outside doors will be locked and a buzzer system will need to be used to gain access to the school. Using this system will provide a safe and welcoming environment and a single point of entry to our school. Please remember to go directly to the office when you enter the school so the office staff can assist you.

If you are dropping off lunch for your child(ren), please ensure your child is aware of this in advance, and drop their lunch off at the table in the front entrance. Label your child's lunch with their name using a sticky note so there are no mix ups with other children when picking up their lunches.

When dropping off and picking up your child from school at entry and dismissal times, please wait outside of the school at your child's entry/dismissal door and plan accordingly during inclement weather. Your child's teacher will greet and dismiss their students at the same door each day. By everyone working together to follow these routines, it will assist our staff with ensuring safe entry/dismissal routines for all of our students and families.

*Please note, if you need to speak with your child's teacher regarding an inquiry and/or concern, we ask that you

arrange a meeting or phone call. Entry and dismissal times require the staff's focus on all of their students for a safe entry/dismissal process.

Drop Off/Pick Up of Students



Almost all of our families live within walking distance to school. We ask that whenever possible you walk your child(ren) to school instead of driving. This helps to reduce traffic congestion around the school during entry and dismissal times.

If you do drive your child(ren) to school, please do not park in the Bus Drop Off/Pick Up zone as this is reserved for busing and is used daily during

morning and afternoon drop off/pick up times. Remember to read and obey all posted signs and do not make u-turns or 3-point turns on the road. The main parking lot is for Malvern Junior P.S. staff only, with the exception of the 2 handicap parking spaces which require a permit and are for parking only. As a school, we will continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Services and the parking authority to help ensure the safety of our students/families.

All of our parents/caregivers need to work together to continue to make our student drop off and pick up times safe for all of our families, and to help ensure that things flow as smoothly as possible during this busy time. A reminder to families to use the sidewalk when exiting the school property and not to walk, or let your child ride a bike/scooter through the parking lot as we have cars travelling in and out of this area throughout the school day.

Our school crossing guards will continue to support students and their families. They will be at their assigned intersections each morning and after school. It is important to remind your children to listen to the instructions that the crossing guards give them.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Children under ten should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still not fully developed, and they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2ETzMO5>.

Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they are young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the



time your child reaches age ten, and can act more independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

Teach your children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach them to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing. Listening to crossing guards is also very important to help keep our students safe on their way to and from school.

Teach your children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in a crosswalk.

Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.

Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.

Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).

Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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Student Safe Arrival Program

One way of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence or use the School Messenger app or call in system. **You may call 416-396-6440 (the main office) directly to report a**

student's late arrival or absence. This telephone line is available 24 hours a day for messages.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on a day where the school was not previously informed. Once the Safe Arrival calls begin at 9:30 a.m. (morning) and 1:00 p.m. (afternoon), the school cannot stop the call to you.

The system call-out works as follows:

Parents/guardians/caregivers identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems and emergency contacts with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call.

When you receive the call, you are required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly.

You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence.

If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.

If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence. The following options will be provided for you: illness, doctor's appointment, dentist appointment, family matter, weather and other. **At the end of the message, you will have to press 2 to confirm you received the message. If you do not confirm receipt, you will receive a call on your second number that is listed.**

If there is no response from a Priority 1 contact, this same process will be followed for Priority 2 contacts. If there is no contact with either Priority 1 or Priority 2, this entire process will be repeated 3 times in 10 minute intervals.

In the evening, all parents/guardians/caregivers of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information or emergency contacts change at any time throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping your child safe and accounted for. Please remember that regular attendance is essential to the academic success, and well-being of all students. As such, it is important that your child attend school every day unless they are sick.



Punctuality

Learning to be punctual is a skill that students **must** develop in order to be successful at school and it is also an important life

skill. Valuable learning takes place at the very beginning of the morning and afternoon that students miss if they arrive late. It is also disruptive for the flow of teaching and learning when students arrive late to class.

Grades 1-6 School Times

School starts	8:45
Recess	9:55-10:10
Lunch	11:30-12:25
Recess	1:45-2:00
Dismissal	3:10

Kindergarten School Times

School Starts	8:45
Lunch	11:30-12:25
Dismissal	3:10

****Students who go home for lunch are to return to school just before the lunch entry bell rings for student entry for the afternoon. This assists us with supervision of students who must stay for lunch.**

Kindergarten students **MUST be supervised by an adult until they are handed off to their classroom teacher or Early Childhood Educator at entry times** (8:45 a.m. and 12:25 p.m.). They are not to be dropped off and left unsupervised on school property at any time.

Families are also reminded that all young children must be carefully supervised by their parent/caregiver when using the playground equipment – please be mindful of the age range posted by the park playscape. We highly recommend assisting young children when using this equipment. Please ensure that children wear proper footwear and clothing, are not holding anything in their hands when using the climbing areas, and are being safe at all times.



School Council

Thank you to our 2025-2026 School Council members for their dedication to supporting our school and the initiatives they organized to support our students and our school community last school year! We are looking forward to continuing our work together this school year.

Soon, you will be receiving information regarding the upcoming School Council election. We encourage new members to join the Council and support our school.

Snack Program



Our school Snack Program provides all of our students with healthy snacks every school day thanks to family donations as well as funding from Toronto

Foundation for Student Success. The Snack Program for the 2026/2027 school year will continue to be run by our Snack Program Coordinator, Ms. Joshi. **Our Snack Program will begin on Monday, September 21st.**

Permission forms will be sent home to families and we ask that these are returned as quickly as possible. Every child is welcome to participate, however, a Snack Program

permission form must be completed for each individual child in order for them to be part of the program.



Toronto Foundation for Student Success

Anaphylaxis: Taking the Necessary Precautions



Although this may or may not affect your child or your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening

condition. Students who have severe allergies to food substances are exposed to severe health risks when certain products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you **speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain nuts of any kind or shellfish.**

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure student safety.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management

of anaphylactic reactions.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher and the office staff immediately, so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken to help ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment for all of our students.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on Food Allergy Canada's web site at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>.

Cell Phones



It is important for parents/caregivers to be aware that you can always contact your child through the main office if there is an emergency, and therefore students, especially those in elementary school, do not need to bring cell phones to school.

The TDSB has developed a Personal Mobile Device Use In Schools policy (P106). The expectations below must be followed:

Students in Grades 6 and Below

- Require that the students' personal mobile devices are stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode throughout the full instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator for educational purposes.
- If an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not stored out of view, the student will be required to hand in their device for the remainder of the instructional day.

These expectations also apply when students are on excursions and at all extra-curricular and school related activities – this has been our past practice and is not a new expectation for our students. It is important to understand that students who bring cell phones to school are doing so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for the replacement of such items should they be stolen or lost, or if they are damaged.

Emergency Drill Practices

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful school year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it is important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should they occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is lockdown, bomb and fire drills. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills, two bomb threat drills and six fire drills each school year. These drills are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 10-15 minutes. They help to ensure that our plans are effective and allow us to systematically identify safety concerns that may exist and to make changes as needed.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file at the office is important in making this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school along with contact numbers. Remember to provide this information to the office and your child's teacher as soon as possible, and to update the information throughout the school year as needed.

September 30th marks Orange Shirt Day & The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Wednesday, September 30th marks the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

TDSB will honour this important day by recognizing the history and ongoing legacy of Residential Schools and reaffirming our shared commitment to Truth, Reconciliation, and Indigenous Education. For additional background and resources, please visit the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre website](https://www.toronto.ca/urban-indigenous-education-centre/).

On Wednesday, September 30th we invite students, staff and family members to wear orange.



Special Education and Inclusion Newsletter

The [September 2026 edition](#) of the Special Education and Inclusion Newsletter for Parents/Caregivers is now available on the [Special Education and Inclusion site](#). This monthly newsletter includes important updates, tips, and resources to support students with disabilities and special education needs, and indeed all students.

Stay Connected

To engage with our community across various platforms, the Toronto District School Board maintains several social media accounts that are regularly updated to share important news, celebrate achievements, and foster meaningful connections.

- **Facebook** ([@toronto.dsb](#))
- **Instagram** ([@torontodsb](#))
- **LinkedIn** ([Toronto District School Board](#))

E-Scooter Safety

Usage of e-scooters among children and youth continues to grow, as do serious injuries caused by e-scooters. Please remember that e-scooters are not a toy, they are not safe and are not legal to ride in Toronto. Find more information from the City of Toronto Transportation Services, in partnership with Toronto Public Health and The Hospital for Sick Children at toronto.ca/e-scooters and www.aboutkidshealth.ca/e-bicycles-e-scooters-safety.

Dates to Remember

Caring & Safe Schools Weeks	September 7-18
Grade 1-6 Assembly	September 10
Kindergarten Assembly	September 18
Terry Fox Walk	September 25
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day	September 30
Family/Staff Connections Night	October 1
National Custodian's Day	October 2
World Teachers' Day	October 5
Dental Screening (K-6)	October 5, 7 & 8
School Council Meeting	October 7
World Mental Health Day	October 10
International Day of the Girl	October 11
Thanksgiving Day	October 12
Volunteer Readers	
Program Begin (Gr. 1/2)	October 13
School Picture Day	October 14
<i>(Retakes November 24)</i>	
National Early Childhood Educators & Childcare Appreciation Day	October 21

Principal	Andrea Lane
Vice Principal	Maureen Damian
Superintendent	Monday Gala
Office Administrator	Grace Romeo
Head Caretaker	Quang Lao



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