



MALVERN JUNIOR P.S NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Principal/Vice Principal's Message



We are excited to welcome our students, families and staff back to Malvern Junior P.S. for another school year! The beginning of each school year is always full of excitement as students return to school, meet their teachers and reconnect with their friends after the summer holidays.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and productive school year ahead!

Malvern JPS staff recognizes and values the important job of keeping your children safe and supporting their sense of identity, belonging, joy, well-being and academic success. We have learned many valuable lessons over the past few years and we understand the importance of our students and families being able to connect with each other – these connections and relationships are so important to everyone's well-being and mental health. We look forward to offering various co-curricular experiences for our students and engaging our families throughout the school year.

We would like to introduce you to some new staff that have joined our Malvern JPS team. A warm welcome to the following educators: Ms. Tejpar (Kindergarten), Ms. Di Rito (Grade 5/6), Ms. Lui (Art/Drama/Dance/Music) and Ms. Stamp (Resource teacher). As well, we are welcoming some Long Term Occasional staff who will be working at our school. A warm welcome back to Ms. Oesch (afternoon secretary), Ms. Rinchen (Early Childhood Educator working with Ms. Cheung), Ms. Lokuliyana (Special Needs Assistant) and Ms. Hanifi (Special Needs Assistant).

We would like to thank our teachers, support staff, caretakers and our office staff for all of their hard work preparing for the 2023-2024 school year! It takes a village to prepare school for the start of the school year, and each of 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. We have added a school Google Calendar, to our website's landing page which will serve as a reference 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 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 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 at the end of 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, a letter will be sent home with your child on Thursday, September 29th and classroom moves will happen on Monday, October 2nd.

We look forward to a great school year with our wonderful Malvern JPS 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. This means that 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 it 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 greatly assist our staff with ensuring safe entry/dismissal routines for all of our students and families.

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, we ask that you 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 be working in partnership with Toronto Police Services and the parking authority to help ensure the safety of our students/families.

All of our parents/guardians/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 through the parking as we have cars travelling in and out throughout the school day.

Our school crossing guard, Vern, will continue to support students and their families. He will be at the intersection each morning and after school. It is important to remind your children to listen to the instructions that the crossing guard gives 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, like our school crossing guard Edgar, 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 the crosswalk. You should also teach your children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Children need to know that they need to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street, even if a ball or a toy goes into the street.

Teaching children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner are also important. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars. Whenever 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. 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. *Reprinted with the permission of Safe Kids Canada.* For more information, please visit the following links: <https://www.toronto.ca/VisionZeroTO> and <https://bit.ly/2QU19db>.

Student Safe Arrival Program

One measure 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. **Please remember to call 416-396-6440 (the main office) directly to report a student's late arrival, this telephone line is available 24 hours a day, or absence or use the Safe Arrival App.**

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., 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. It is disruptive for both students and teachers when students arrive late to class. Valuable learning takes place at the very beginning of the morning and afternoon that students miss if they arrive late.

Grades 1-6 School Times

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

Kindergarten School Times

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|---------------|-------------|
| School Starts | 8:55 |
| Lunch | 11:30-12:40 |
| Dismissal | 3:05 |

****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 stay for lunch.**

Kindergarten students **MUST be supervised by an adult** until they are handed off to their classroom teacher or Early Childhood Educator. 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/guardian/caregiver when using the playground equipment. We highly recommend assisting young children when using this equipment. Please ensure that children wear proper footwear and clothing, and are being safe at all times.



School Council

Thank you to our 2022-2023 School Council members for their commitment in supporting our school! We are looking forward to continuing to 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.

Snack Program



Our school Snack Program provides all of our students with healthy and delicious snacks every school day thanks to family donations as well as funding from Toronto Foundation for Student Success. The Snack Program for the 2023/2024 school year will continue to be run by our Snack Program Coordinator, Ms. Savoie. It will start the last week of September

Permission forms have been sent home 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.



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 such food substances are exposed to severe health risks when such 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. No latex gloves are to be brought to school or to be worn by people visiting the school at any time.**

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 allergens 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 to understand 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.

Please note that although students may possess personal communication devices while on school property; cell phones are to be turned off and placed out of view during the regular school day, while on excursions and at all extra-curricular and school related activities. 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.

Lockdown and Fire 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 and fire drills. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire 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 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

Saturday, September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On Friday, September 29th students, staff and family members are invited to wear orange.



Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad, who was excited to wear her new orange shirt to her first day of school in 1973. However, when she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her shirt was taken and never returned. From that day forward, the colour orange, for Phyllis, reminded her of that moment, how her feelings did not matter, how she felt like she was not worth anything and that no one cared for the children who were crying about it that day.

Now, on this day, we recognize the legacy and impact of the residential schools system on First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities.

We acknowledge the legacy of residential schools in Canada by wearing orange and we honour the survivors. We remember the thousands of children who were murdered and buried in unmarked graves.

For more information, visit the Urban Indigenous Education Centre website. To learn more about Phyllis' story and Orange Shirt Day visit: www.orangeshirtday.org

Dates to Remember

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| K-6 Assembly | September 8 |
| Caring & Safe Schools Weeks | September 11-22 |
| Family/Staff Meet & Greet | September 21 |
| Truth and Reconciliation Week | September 25-30 |
| TDSB Truth and Reconciliation Day & Orange Shirt Day | September 29 |
| National Custodian's Day | October 2 |
| World Teachers' Day | October 5 |
| P.A. Day | October 6 |
| Thanksgiving | October 9 |
| National Early Childhood Educators & Childcare Appreciation Day | October 18 |
| School Picture Day | October 26 |

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



Visit our school website at: [Malvern JPS](http://www.malvernjps.ca)