



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to your best year of school ever! We hope you enjoyed the summer! Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning family, we're glad you're here! Getting ready to begin the school year is not an easy task. It requires hard work, dedication, careful planning, and the collaborative efforts of students, parents, and staff.

As your Principal, I am truly honoured and excited to be part of the wonderful Morrish P.S. Community. This year promises to be an exciting adventure and I look forward to getting to know all of you. Our **Meet the Teacher Night (Curriculum Night)** is scheduled for **Thursday September 26, 2019 at 6:30pm.** Our Annual **Pancake breakfast** is confirmed for **Friday September 13, 2019.** Please mark these dates in your calendars.

This school year promises to present us with a full range of learning opportunities and challenges that will allow us to learn and grow as we continue our strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Further, students will gain an opportunity to explore many aspects of The Arts and Physical Education as we expand our extra-curricular opportunities. During the next month and a half, we will be working with our teachers to review our school data and measure our success with our school improvement plans from last year in Achievement, Equity, and Well-Being. This process will help us develop an updated School Improvement Plan for this year. If you are interested in learning more about the development and implementation of these plans or, if you wish to participate, please contact Mr. Nathoo.

Unfortunately, shipment of our school Agendas have been delayed. Once we receive them we will hand them out to the students. In the meantime, each classroom teacher will work with their class to find a method of communicating information to you.

When we all work together to help one another in a positive, respectful and productive manner, the possibilities for improvement and success are immense. On behalf of all staff, sincere best wishes for a terrific school year!

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

As families continue to move in and out of our school catchment area during the last week of August, we may have to make some minor changes to our school organization for this year. Parents will be informed of any changes if they should happen.

Class	Room	Teacher
JKSKA	Room 101	M. Chen, F. Hassan
JKSKB	Room 102	N. Viegas, P. McGrath
JKSK C	Room 100	N. Dela Cruz
ISP – PRIM	Room 105	N. Dhira, R. Myers-Peters
ISP-PRIM-JR	Room 108	H. Bell, C. Denike, Y. Comfort
ISP -JR-INT	Room 104	E. Pollari, A. Mephram
1/2	Room 107	D. Harper
1/2	Room 106	S Fife.
2/3	Room 205	A. Masihlall V. Gordon-Williams
2/3	Room 204	R. Townsend
3/4	Room 103	A. Sirigobin
4/5	Room 206	K. Taylor
5/6	Room 207	S.Cooper
6	Room 203	D. Shields
7	Room 201	N. Alves
8	Room 202	L. Vanderpol
French/Literacy	Room 208	S. Vlaskalin

SERT

A. Shelton, J. LeGrand

Library/Computers		M. Parsons
Phys.Ed	Gym	C. Crabbe,
ESL (am)	Room 200	L. Rauthmell
Caretaking		D. Black
		R. Presila
Lunchroom Supervisors		A. Anderson
		J. Thaha
		J. Van Dusen
		K. Jeyakumar
		W. Elliot
		M. Epasinghe
DD Noon Hour Assistant		B. Chahal
		C. Panchakrishnan
		J. Falzon
Office Administrator		T. Walsh

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

This online system is an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents/guardians to pay for their children's school fees, including agendas, yearbooks and class trips. School Cash Online is now available for you to pay for agendas, upcoming field trips, and our nutrition program.

All school fees applicable to your child will be posted on School Cash Online. Once you register, you can choose to purchase the items or activities using a debit or credit card. You will be able to see when the school has a new item posted online for purchase and you will also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school event requiring payment.

You must register for an account. To register for School Cash Online, please visit <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com> select "Get Started Today" and complete the three registration steps. Once registered, you will receive an email notification when items become available online.

If you have questions about the registration process or using School Cash Online, please select the "Get Help" option on the top of School Cash Online web page. You can also contact the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 and parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com.

The Parent Help Desk is available to assist parents/guardians with the registration process, password recovery, accessing your account or payment issues

DATES TO REMEMBER

Holidays	Date
Labour Day:	September 2, 2019
Thanksgiving:	October 14, 2019
Christmas Break:	Dec. 23, 2019 to Jan. 3, 2020
Provincial Family Day:	February 17, 2020
Mid-Winter Break:	March 16 to 20, 2020
Good Friday:	April 10, 2020
Easter Monday:	April 13, 2020
Victoria Day:	May 18, 2020

Professional Activity Days:

Friday, October 11, 2019
Friday, November 15, 2019
Friday, December 6, 2019
Friday, January 17, 2020
Friday, February 14, 2020
Friday, June 5, 2020
Friday, June 26, 2020

First Day of School:

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Last day of school for students: June 30, 2020

**CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: A
PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES**

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings. Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some tips for supporting Character Development in the Home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live character every day

For more information, please visit

www.tdsb.on.ca/character

**SEPTEMBER’S CHARACTER
ATTRIBUTE:**

RESPECT

*Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on **RESPECT**.*

What does respect mean to you?

Your child can show respect by:

- being kind to other family members
- using polite language
- talking and spending time with relatives and/or other family members
- listening when someone else is talking

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be respectful?
- What are some different ways in which you can show respect: a) for yourself, b) for others, c) for nature and the environment?
- How can we speak to others with respect? Can you give some examples?
- How can we show respect for our belongings and the belongings of others?

Projects to do together:

- Watch a television show or movie together, and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted respectfully or disrespectfully toward one another. Watch for put-downs, insults, and subtle forms of bullying.

- Interview a grandparent or other relative, and take the time to get to know him or her better.
- Plan how the family can do more recycling or reduce wastefulness. Organize a family project around this.

Encouraging respect in your child:

- Praise and encourage your child when he or she is being respectful.
- Speak to your child with respect, and answer his or her questions in a polite manner. Expect the same behaviour from your child.
- Share an example of how someone was respectful toward you, and how this made you feel.
- Encourage respectful manners and speaking politely to others in the community.

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. At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we now have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed. The system call-out will work as follows:

Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who has access to student records, and emergency contact 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 Appointment, Dentist Appointment, Family Matter, Weather, 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 mobile phone. 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 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 changes at any time throughout the school year.

We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your child safe and accounted for. For more information please visit www.tdsb.on.ca and search safe arrival program.

SECURE ACCESS

A reminder to parents that we have a secure access system installed at our main entry that gives our school staff more control over who enters our school. This means that when you arrive at our school 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 where visitors will be welcomed and directed to the main office.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

As the world continues to move towards connectivity, learning languages becomes critically important. Encourage your child's natural curiosity and enroll them in our JK to Grade 8 International Languages and African Heritage program. Online registration is now available.

In-person registration opens the week of September 9, 2019. Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

ANAPHYLAXIS – TAKING THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS

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 the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

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.

Although this may or may not affect 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 a severe health risk 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 peanuts.

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

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 the Anaphylaxis Canada's web site at <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/> or by calling 416-785-5666.

RAISING A GOOD STUDENT

By: Catherine Rondina (City Parent Newsmagazine)

With a new school year here, families are geared up for another crack at the books. Children may be filled with anxiety over what the new school year will bring, while parents ponder the challenges their children will face. One thing is certain - not all kids start the school year with a bang. Some children struggle with academic skills, while others try to deal with developmental and emotional issues. So how can you give your child a head start on doing well in school?

Research indicates that your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is the key to his or her success in school. As a parent you are your child's number one role model and your participation in school life is essential.

The time you spend with your child away from school is very important. This time allows you both to relax and be together doing things that you both enjoy. Spend this time reading together, playing games, doing projects and just being a family. These family times help your child build self-confidence and self-esteem, in addition to building a strong relationship with you.

To keep involved in your child's school life, visit the school on a regular basis and make yourself known to the teachers and staff. Attend parent/teacher interviews and request a meeting yourself if you deem it necessary. Make the most of your interview time with your child's teacher. Come prepared with questions you'd like answered and don't be afraid to speak up. Discuss with the teacher how you can help your child do better in the classroom and set up a plan of action that you both feel will work for him or her.

Schedule additional time to meet with your child's teacher if necessary. You may even want to arrange to talk on a steady basis over the telephone or correspond via email. It's important to let your child know that you in contact with the teacher and you're all working together to help him/her succeed.

Use your child's report card as a tool to help you both understand what's happening in the classroom. The report card acts as a guide to achievements, progress, areas that need improvement and any behaviour or attendance problems. You can use it to help your child set goals for the next term.

Be open and honest with your child about progress in school. Discuss what the teacher has told you and talk about how to improve. If you have expectations for your child, make them clear. For example if you are happy with your child's effort and she continually brings home B's let her know that you won't intervene unless you see a decline in her grades.

If your child is having troubles and your discussions with her teacher don't seem to be getting the results you wish, ask to see the principal. Sometimes switching classrooms or even schools may help your child flourish.

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ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

It's back to school time and the TDSB is launching a three-week-long road safety campaign aimed to raise awareness and promote road safety around schools.

You will notice the City of Toronto "Whoa! Slow down" lawn signs displayed on school property. These signs are intended to remind drivers to slow down in school zones!

In recent years, TDSB staff has been working closely with the City of Toronto's Transportation Services, Toronto Public Health and other community partners to improve road safety for school aged children and youth in the City of Toronto. In 2017, the TDSB launched its Traffic Safety Program (TSP), which encourages the implementation of education and engineering measures to improve safety. The TSP program aligns with the City of Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan – a five year \$108 million plan to reduce the number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Toronto's roads.

To learn more about road safety, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Road-Safety>

TRAFFIC SAFETY AT MORRISH P.S.

Our CAA School Safety Patrollers will be out providing assistance in both the cross walk and drop-off loop again this year, before and after school. Please use the cross walk with your child when crossing Canmore Boulevard. The School Safety Patrollers check both ways on the street and confirm the way is clear BEFORE “opening their gates” and letting pedestrians cross. All Safety Patrollers attended a training session last year and will be receiving refresher training along with our new patrollers later this month. To learn more about the CAA School Safety Patroller program and to enter a contest for a chance to win some great prizes:

<http://www.caasco.com/Community-Action/School-Safety-Patrol/Smart-Like-a-Patroller-Contest.aspx?WT.ac=el-0912%7cSmart+Like+a+Patroller+Contest%7cCommunity>

We understand that some parents or caregivers prefer to drive children to and from school. However, in consideration for the safety of everyone, we ask that drivers use caution and abide by our safety rules on school property and the traffic and parking laws in the community. This is extremely important given the construction around Canmore Blvd. for the next few weeks. To ensure accessibility by emergency vehicles, and to keep all student pedestrian traffic out of the parking lot, **parents or caregivers are not permitted to enter the parking lot during any entry or dismissal times, in cars or on foot.** Parents or caregivers should make use of the drive through to drop-off/pick-up their children. If you would prefer to park and wait with/for your child, parking is permitted on the south side of Canmore Boulevard. Please be sure to keep the TTC bus stop and the cross walk area clear. We would ask you to please walk with your children to and from the entrance/exit doors, following sidewalks and pathways. Remember when transporting children to make sure that they buckle up and place small children in a car or booster seat. Also, please keep in mind, not only is parking not allowed on the north side of Canmore, no stopping is permitted.

Please see the map below for a visual of what the plan looks like. Please visit our website (<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/morrish/Newsletter.aspx>) to view the photo below in colour. Green arrows indicate the traffic path in the drop-off loop and blue arrows indicate pedestrian pathways.



PLAYGROUND SAFETY

At the beginning of each year, all children are trained in the safe use of our playground equipment during the first few weeks of school. Once all students have been trained, a schedule for the playground is created for its use during recess times, including lunch. Our kindergarten students will have access to sports equipment every day from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The use of the playground equipment by the assigned grade at lunch begins at 12:10 p.m. The

schedule ensures that only students of similar age ranges are using the equipment at the same time and that there is not overcrowding on the equipment. Playground schedules are posted in the windows of room 100 and 108 and at the door 4 exit. During morning entry, there is no grade scheduled for playground use. We would ask for parents to supervise their children on the equipment during this time. We remind families that there is no scheduled supervision for playground use after the end of the instructional day.

SNACK PROGRAM CONTINUES AT MORRISH

FACTS ABOUT THE SNACK PROGRAM



- Supervised by Toronto Public Health
- Daily Halal snack includes at least 2 food groups per snack
- Partially funded by Toronto Foundation for Student Success (approximately 25%)
- Relies heavily on parental contributions and fundraising to fund the remaining 75%

BENEFITS OF THE SNACK PROGRAM

- Students receive a healthy snack each day they attend school.
- Snack is worry-free for parents
- No need to shop, prepare and pack a snack
- Dietary restrictions and allergies are accommodated, thus making snack time safer for children/adults who have serious allergies.



HOW DO I GET MY CHILD INVOLVED?

- Complete and sign a SNACK Program Participation Form and list any food restrictions.
- We ask families to contribute a small amount each term for each child. This amount does not cover the cost of running this program. It is a nominal amount which will assist us to keep the program running.
- This year, families will have 2 options from which to choose to send in their contributions:



- by term (payment made two times a year to cover *Oct. to Jan. and Feb. to June*); or, yearly (one payment covers the contribution for the whole year)
- Depending on which contribution option you choose, a new envelope will go home with your child at the beginning of the term.
- Return the contribution envelope, with money enclosed, to your child’s classroom teacher, or pay ONLINE.

WHAT IF I DON’T WANT MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE?

- We are hoping that all children will participate in the SNACK program, but we know that some children may not be able to participate for health or religious reasons. Please indicate on the participation form if you would prefer your child not take part in the program.



WHAT’S ON THE MENU?

- Some of the snacks provided in the past have included bananas, apples, grapes, strawberries, samosa, carrots, cucumber, muffins, crackers and cheese. We will email you a weekly menu so you know what snacks are being planned for the week.