



Twitter @MorrishPS

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MORRISH P.S.

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Principal: Arif Nathoo

Superintendent of Education: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini

School Trustee: Anu Sriskandarajah

<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/morrish>

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca>

FEBRUARY'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

Fairness

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you and your family! We hope you had a restful break and enjoyed some well-deserved family time. It was great to see so many of you at our December Holiday Concert and Family Movie Night. We were glad to have a gymnasium full of parents, and extended family, to celebrate the holidays with our student performances. We hope you enjoyed the evening.

The Ministry of Education released a document titled The Kindergarten Program. The document invites all stakeholders of our children's education (families, educators and children) to pay attention to the views of each other in the contexts in which we learn and make sense of the world around us. Below are the recognized view of children, families and educators that acknowledge the reciprocal relationship that each of us hold as we continue and engage in this learning journey.

View of Children: All Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential and experience. They grow up in families with diverse social, cultural and linguistic perspectives. Every child should feel that he or she belongs, is a valuable contributor to his or her surroundings and deserves the opportunity to succeed. When we recognize children as competent, capable and curious, we are more likely to deliver programs that value and build on their strengths and abilities.

View of Families: Families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. Families love their children and want the best for them. Families are experts on their children. They are the first and most powerful influence on children's learning, development, health and well-being. Families bring diverse social, cultural and linguistic perspectives. Families should feel that they belong, are valuable contributors to their children's learning and deserve to be engaged in a meaningful way.

View of Educators: Educators are competent, capable, curious and rich in experience. They are knowledgeable, caring, reflective and resourceful professionals. They bring diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives.

They collaborate with others to create engaging environments and experiences to foster children's learning and development. Educators are lifelong learners. They take responsibility for their own learning and make decisions about ways to integrate knowledge from theory, research, their own experience, and their understanding of the individual children and families they work with. Every educator should feel he or she belongs, is a valuable contributor, and deserves the opportunity to engage in meaningful work.

The views that are presented above have a profound impact on the role each of us play in children's learning. I sincerely hope that each of us can take time to reflect on these views and strengthen our relationship.

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the wind chill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

MORRISH P.S. GOALS

We are often asked what are the goals of the school or area of focus for our learners at Morrish P.S.? Our staff work together to identify specific areas of focus and identify ways to narrow the achievement gap amongst our students. A copy of our school goals are found below. By sharing this with you, we hope that you will assist us in supporting our vision at home with your children. Please keep in mind that we are constantly updating and refining our goals based on the voices of all our stakeholders and achievement and census data. We will continue to share any changes or updates with you through our Parent Council and newsletters.

SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MESSAGE



Next School Council Meeting is on Thursday
January 23, 2020
@ 7pm in the library

JOIN FLIPGIVE

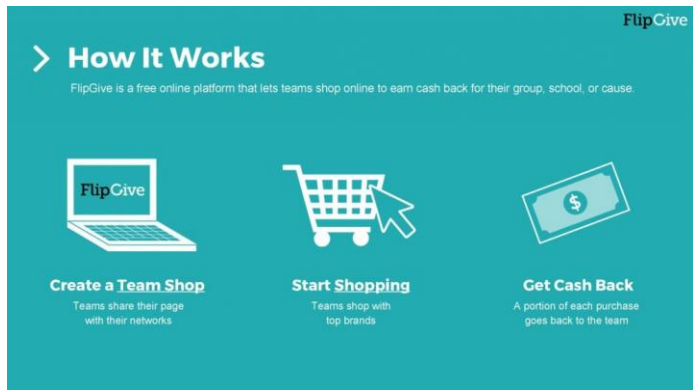
We are pleased to announce our new FUNDRAISER. FLIPGIVE, a team funding app that earns us cash for the things you’re already buying. With family favorites like Walmart, Esso™, Swiss Chalet, Nike and Under Armour all you have to do is continue to buy the things you need. When you buy you earn cash for the school.

FLIPGIVE is FREE to use! Simply download the app (www.flipgive.com/join) and enter our unique:

CODE 72LKWH

Share this code with family and friends and invite them to use the App.

Time is an expensive currency that you can’t get back. So visit the website, purchase your gift cards and other items online and earn cash for our school all in the comfort of your home.



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School cash online is an easy to use, safe and convenient way for parents and guardians to pay for the children’s school fees, including agendas, pizza lunches, snack program, milk program and class trips. There would be no need to send cash with your children to school for items listed online! To register for School Cash Online, please contact the office for the step by step instruction sheet. To date we have over 40% of our families registered online. Thank you.

MORRISH PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

Available now ONLINE for parents/guardians to access for upcoming events and trips:
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/morrish/>

FAIRNESS

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

What does Fairness mean to you?

Your child can show fairness by:

- playing and working fairly with others in the family
- treating family members with respect and without prejudice
- treating others in the family in the way that they would like to be treated

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What is fairness, and what does it mean to be fair?
- Do you treat others the way you would like to be treated?
- When someone is unfair, how does that make you feel?
- Does equality mean that everyone gets the same, or that everyone gets what they need?

Projects to do together:

- Watch a television program together. Talk about the various ways in which certain characters acted unfairly toward each other. Discuss how the situation could have been avoided.
- Think about something unfair that is happening at home, at school, or in the community. What might be done about it? What would your role be?

Encouraging fairness in your child:

- Listen to your child if he or she has a concern or request. Engage in fair discussion to resolve the issue.
- Show that fairness is important, and that it is crucial to treat others with respect and without judgment.
- Share a situation in which you felt you were treated fairly or unfairly, and describe how that impacted your day.

Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September! At the Toronto District School Board, our elementary schools offer Full-Day Kindergarten. Our educators recognize that children come to school with diverse backgrounds and rich experiences. Our Kindergarten programs will build upon these experiences and support your child to learn, grow, and succeed. At the TDSB, we believe our youngest learners benefit from engaging in a variety of rich and authentic learning, both indoors and outdoors. Our classroom programs are designed to bring The Kindergarten Program to life by providing children opportunities to learn through play, inquiry, and exploration. Throughout

the two-year Kindergarten program, classroom educators support the children in developing their sense of belonging, well-being, and problem solving skills. Throughout the day, children explore literacy, mathematics, science, physical education and the arts.

- To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31 (*born 2016*). To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31 (*born 2015*).
- Please begin the process online or you may choose to register in person at the school.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten. If you have any questions regarding registration or to book an appointment, please contact:
Ms. Walsh at 416-396-6730

Your child's lifelong journey of learning begins at the TDSB!

TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS: HELP MAKE THIS A SAFE WINTER SEASON

Now that winter is here, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next few months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home.

Below are some tips that might be helpful to review:

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer. 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.

VALENTINE'S DAY COOKIE SALES
FEBRUARY 13, 2020 FOR \$1.00 EACH.



STAY HEALTHY DURING FLU SEASON

Flu season is here again. Ontarians are encouraged to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot. Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by:

- reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- informing the school if your child is ill;
- keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. 1-866-797-0000.

"...Improve student achievement and well-being for each and every student in the TDSB." *A Vision for Learning p. 2*



3 FOCI for Morrish P.S.' School Improvement Plan Equity, Well Being, Achievement Goals include: Students, Parents, Staff and Data



Equity

Implicit Bias - subconscious perceptions of the world around us and is built up over time.

Adult Learning = By identifying individual biases, we will create a safe and welcoming school environment for all including our students with learning disabilities as measured by our School Climate Survey.



Well-Being

Student Well-Being

- Restorative Practices in the classroom
- Self regulation, and resiliency skills to our students and staff

Adult Learning = The staff will implement mindfulness techniques into their program so that students can internalize strategies and be able to support students with self-regulation and anxiety.



Achievement

Math scores continue to be low, especially in Gr. 6. In conjunction with our focus on Math/Problem-solving, explicit literacy instruction is a focus as students.

GRADE 1 READING

- Continue school focus on guided math.
- ALL grades to have intentionally planned literacy blocks
- Classroom environment as third teacher

Adult Learning = Improve student engagement and student communication, with a specific focus in Mathematics, by using open ended questions, common problem solving model and technology at all grade levels.