



# APPLE SEEDS

APRIL 2018

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<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/ossingtonoldorchard>



## PLANNING FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Making up the class composition is a task that requires much thought, care, time and teamwork. The teachers and I consider many areas in order to create the most ideal learning and teaching environment for our students. We take into consideration:

- academic ability
- learning styles of our students
- gender
- learning needs
- social groupings
- friendships

Because there are often families that move over the summer and because of the Ministry caps on primary class sizes, we often find that we need to make some minor adjustments to the number of students in the classes in September. At times, there are also staff changes (retirements, leaves, transfers). To avoid disappointment and to ensure that each classroom is the best it can be for our students, we will finalize the classes just before the school year starts. We intend to post your child's classroom number in the school's front foyer on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Although school begins at 8:40 a.m., you may wish to arrive a bit earlier to check the class lists.

The classrooms are organized based on projected student enrolment. At the end of September, when actual student numbers are known, it may be necessary to re-organize.

**\*In order to assist us with actual figures, if you know that your child will not be returning to OOOPS in September (ie: moving, French Immersion, etc.), please let us know as soon as possible.**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

There will be a School Council meeting on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for the Executive at 6:30 p.m.

## KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten orientation will take place on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for new parents to the Full Day Junior Kindergarten Program. We look forward to welcoming our new students and families.

## EQAO

The Primary and Junior EQAO testing will take place from May 22 to June 4. To learn more about the assessments, parents can access student booklets containing actual questions from the assessments and scoring guides containing examples of student answers taken from past years' assessments using the following website: <http://www.eqao.com/Parents/Elementary/036/036.aspx?Lang=E&gr=036> Students are also practicing former EQAO questions, problem solving and test taking strategies on an ongoing basis in the classroom. It is always beneficial for parents to familiarize themselves with various types of assessments the children encounter. We will continue to work and support the children to ensure they are prepared and not feeling stressed.

## PARENT CONFERENCE 2018 – Parents as Partners

The Parents as Partners Conference 2018 is on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Beanfield Centre (105 Princes' Blvd. on the Exhibition grounds) and all parents are welcome to attend. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closer to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians and caregivers of students of all ages and all stages of education. Transportation available; fun and free child care activities; lunch provided; sign language interpreters, language interpreters and blind/low-vision accommodation available. Keynote speaker is Unstoppable Tracy – an award-winning educator and leader in schools, business and in sport, humanitarian, advocate, decorated athlete, and international speaker. Her mantra is: If I Can Do It, You Can Do It! What's Your Excuse? For more information and to register, visit [www.ParentsAsPartners.ca](http://www.ParentsAsPartners.ca)

## SCHOOL-WIDE HEAD LICE CHECK

Staff from the Lice Squad and parent volunteers will be at OOOPS one last time on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to do a school-wide check. If you do not want your child to be checked, please let the school know a.s.a.p. Please remember to check your child regularly at home for head lice and nits. Many thanks to the Lice Squad, our parent volunteers and to School Council for funding the checks.

### **PANFEST 2018**

PanFest 2018 (Elementary and Secondary Steel Band Festival) will take place on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Grade 4 Steel Pan students will perform at the Bickford Centre between 10-11:30 a.m. under the direction of Mr. James Gregoire, our Itinerant Music Instructor. Students will be walking to the Bickford Centre with their classes. Parents (with a police reference check) wishing to escort the classes to the Bickford Centre are most welcome. Parents are also welcome to be at the Bickford Centre in advance, as an audience member.

### **EARTH HOUR/EARTH DAY**

OOOPS participated in the TDSB's Earth Hour on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. From 2-3 p.m., the entire school went electricity-free for ONE HOUR. Wherever possible, our school and office turned off all interior lighting, except necessary emergency lights. Earth Day will take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with the emphasis on: "Consuming Less and Playing More". Earth Hour and Earth Day are wonderfully inclusive campaigns – the youngest children can participate and learn about energy conservation and slowing climate change.

### **SONG WRITER'S CLUB**

On Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Grade 4 and 5 members of the Song Writer's Club welcomed a special guest to OOOPS. Singer/Songwriter Royal Wood, spent a good part of the morning guiding the group through the song writing process and by the end of the session, everyone was singing and playing the song they had composed together. Many thanks to Massey Hall for funding this pilot project, as well as to Musician and Music Educator Mr. Doug Friesen, who invited OOOPS to participate. Mr. Friesen will meet several times with the group between now and Royal's next visit to assist Ms. Grierson in supporting the student song writers as they develop their musical ideas even further. Everyone is looking forward to May 11<sup>th</sup>, when their original song will be premiered at Royal Wood's Massey Hall concert.

### **GLOBAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

In April and May, the junior students will be working with percussionist Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo in their music classes to learn about the instruments and music of Brazil and Cuba. This is part of the TDSB's Global Music Program, which provides two sessions with Mr. Hidalgo, as well as the loan of a kit of instruments, including cajons, bongos, congas and other Latin instruments.

Thank you to Ms. Grierson for helping to facilitate these wonderful music opportunities for our students here at OOOPS!

### **KINDNESS PROGRAM – Values Through Humane Education Program**

On March 20, 21 and 22, students and staff were visited by Karen Bishop and her 4-legged friend Kendal, of the Beatrice Watson-Acheson Kindness Program. The program provides lessons in Humane Education for Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes. The dogs are very docile and have been "trained" to work with children of all ages and are with their owners at all times. The lessons addressed:

- caring and kindness to pets
- the importance of spaying and neutering
- respecting people, animals and the environment
- developing empathy and compassion for all life
- kindness, respect and reverence for all life



\*Although we love our furry friends, a reminder to parents that there are no dogs allowed in the school or on school grounds. As mentioned above, Kendal was with his owner at all times and has been trained to work with children. Dogs in the school or yard are not familiar to our students, causing them fear and anxiety. Thank you for understanding.

### **SPECIAL WORKSHOPS**

The Junior Division (Grades 4-6, Rooms 16, 18, 20 and 302) were extremely fortunate to have Ofield Williams in the classrooms between March 20 and 23, working on a fusion between two workshops, "B-Boying Yogini" and "Accessing Student Voice through Music Production". Ofield's background includes extensive experience in music production and performance, dance and theatre. Students were thrilled to learn about song writing, the poetry of lyrics, hip hop, yoga, mindfulness and collaboration. We would like to extend a BIG thank you to Ofield for his work in supporting and extending student learning at OOOPS and to Mr. Faulkner for organizing the event.

### **STORYTELLING WITH CHERYL THORNTON**

On Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, we are very excited to welcome Storyteller, Cheryl Thornton to our school. She will be presenting 2 sessions; JK/SK - Gr. 2 and a Gr. 3 – 6 storytelling session. Cheryl is a professional storyteller who is known internationally. She will help us "kick off" a special OOOPS project called, "*What's on Your Shelf?*" Please see next page...

### WHAT'S ON YOUR SHELF?

It has always been a vision of ours to nurture and foster a love of reading. Reading is crucial in children's educational development and advancement.

1. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, guest author Cheryl Thornton will launch our reading project and spark our interests.
2. We will be asking the community to submit photos of your bookshelves at home – "WHAT'S ON YOUR SHELF" will begin. This will hopefully create a buzz and discussions about what kinds of books our community is reading. Children will be asked to write about their bookshelves.
3. Lastly, will be a book review of children's favourite books. This will be framed as a recommendation for summer reading lists, where we hope that reading will continue.

Reading for knowledge, reading for pleasure, reading for the love of it - together, let's ignite a passion for reading in our children! Thank you to Mr. Di Fonzo and Ms. Lundy for spearheading this exciting initiative.

### SCREENAGERS (for Gr. 6 students and their parents)

Delta Alternative (located in Montrose Public School - 301 Montrose Avenue) will be hosting the screening of 'Screenagers'. It is an informative documentary that examines the impact of screening on our tweens and teens. It explores parental struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction.

**DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

OOOPS' Grade 6 students and their parents are invited to attend, but you do need to RSVP to Lisa Hutt at [ljhutt@gmail.com](mailto:ljhutt@gmail.com)

### MINDFULNESS CLUB

Starting April 10<sup>th</sup>, Junior students will have an opportunity to practice meditation and other mindfulness activities at lunch on Tuesdays. Thanks to Ms. Dina and our school nurse (Jessica) who will facilitate the program.

### DENTAL SCREENING

Dental hygienists from Toronto's Dental & Oral Health Services visited our school this week to screen 306 students, 5.23% of which had dental caries and received notices to take home.

Five steps to healthier teeth and gums:

- Brush and floss teeth daily
- Eat fruits and vegetables
- Reduce sugary foods (e.g., candy, cakes, sugary drinks)
- Protect your teeth from injury
- Visit the dentist regularly



### DAY OF PINK – April 11

Students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear **PINK** on April 11 to celebrate diversity and fight bullying. We will also be holding a **PINK BAKE SALE**, so be sure to bring your spare change. If you'd like to bake or help sell, please email Kelly at [kayzettel@gmail.com](mailto:kayzettel@gmail.com)



### KINDNESS and THANKS

Thank you, parents/guardians, for your incredible kindness and generosity in helping the family who had the fire during the weekend of March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please see a note below from the family:

*Dear OOOPS Family and Friends,*

*We would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support in our time of crisis. What an incredible community to be part of! We are truly blessed. We are truly grateful to all. We cannot thank you enough.*

*Sincerely, Ryan, Andrew, Calvin and Leanne*

### COMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Please mark these dates in your calendar:

April 2	Easter Monday – no school
April 5	Pizza Day
April 6	PanFest 2018 at the Bickford Centre
April 9	Storytelling with Cheryl Thornton – p.m. Screenagers screening at 6:30 p.m.
April 11	Day of Pink and Pink Bake Sale Executive Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.
April 19	Pizza Day
April 20	School-wide head lice check
April 22	Earth Day
April 28	Parent Conference 2018
May 3	Pizza Day
May 5	Community Garden Clean-up – 1-3 p.m.
May 16	BIG DIG School Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.
May 17	Pizza Day Concert – more information to follow
May 18	Anti-Bullying Magic Show
May 21	Victoria Day – no school
May 22-June 4	EQAO testing for Grade 3 and 6 students
May 28	Spirit Horse – Roseneath Theatre
May 31	Pizza Day
June 6	Panoramic Photo – weather permitting
June 8	P.A. Day – no school
June 14	Pizza Day – last one
June 15	Fun Fair
June 20	School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
June 22	Talent Show
June 26	Grade 6 Graduation

