



Apple Seeds

September 2017
PRINCIPAL DIANE JAMIESON
416-393-0710



www.myooops.com

Welcome families to the beginning of another school year! I hope that you enjoyed a restful summer and feel energized for the excitement that school brings to staff and to the students. As the second week of school begins, the children are getting used to the routines and are engaged in new learning. It has been wonderful to get to know so many of you already and I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Our Curriculum Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 27 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.** This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers, to learn more about the program and to visit classrooms. I hope you will be able to attend.

Our first School Council meeting will be **Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see attached letter for more information.

I am honoured and excited about serving you as Principal of OOOPS and look forward to working with you in partnership!

Sincerely,

Diane Jamieson

Principal

NEW STAFF MEMBERS I would like to welcome our new staff members to OOOPS: Claudia Segatore (Grade 4/5 in the Portable) and we welcome back Ali Kates who is filling in as an Early Childhood Educator for Timah Koulaeian until further notice. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to introduce yourselves and welcome them to the school.

FIRE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWN PRACTICES

The TDSB requires that we hold 6 fire drills and 2 lockdown practices per school year. Please talk to your children about these drills in order to alleviate any fears.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. Thank you very much to the following parents who help run our Safe Arrival Program: Alex Arnott, Michelle Spahiu, Monique Ganon, Raquel Maia and Melissa Mindell. **Please remember that school begins at 8:40am and it is expected that students be on time for school.** If you

know that your child will be absent or late due to an appointment, please call our Safe Arrival number: (416-393-0710).

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 and the school has not been informed or notified of a reason for absence/late.

The system call-out will work as follows: Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who have 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 of your child's absence. **If you are unaware, please call the school immediately.**

If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence.

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, regardless of whether or not you have informed the school.

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.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

A reminder to parents who have given their child(ren) permission to leave the school on their own (without adult supervision), that they must leave the school grounds at 3:20 p.m. Students must not be left unsupervised on school property. Our crossing guards on Ossington and Dovercourt are available for only a short time after dismissal. We ask that parents of child(ren) who are dismissed on their own to please reinforce that they must leave at once. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PHOTO DAY

Photo day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th!

STUDENT WASHROOMS

Please remember that the boys' and girls' washrooms are for students only. We have a visitor's washroom across from Room 15 for adult use. The key is in the office. If you need to assist your child with toileting, please use the visitor's washroom.

ANAPHYLAXIS/ALLERGIES

Anaphylaxis is a life threatening allergic reaction. We have several students who are anaphylactic in our school and we need to ensure that **peanuts and peanut/nut products are not brought to the school**. Students are encouraged not to share food or drinks of any kind with any other students and to practice good hygiene. We have students with a variety of other food allergies in our school and several who could have an anaphylactic reaction. We ask that if you bake for our school events, that you please include a **list of ingredients**. Thank you for your cooperation.

PIZZA DAYS

Pizza Days are very popular at OOOPS. Our first Pizza Day is on Thursday, September 28th. Forms will be sent home with students soon. Please return pizza forms and payment to your child's teacher no later than the date indicated on the form. If you are not interested in pizza lunches for your child, simply mark the bottom portion of the form indicating that you do not wish to participate.



CONTINUING EDUCATION- INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

JK to Grade 8 International Languages and African Heritage programs are now open for registration. Online registration is now available. www.ILEprograms.ca

There will be afterschool language classes at Dewson PS on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. The first class is Wed. Sept. 20th. Please call 416-78-2180 for more information.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE SCHOOL

If you wish to volunteer in the school in any capacity, you must complete a **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK** form. If you have not already done so, please pick up a form at the office. It is a simple process with a one-time fee of \$20. If you have already filled out a form, we will be contacting you when it is time to complete your Annual Offence Declaration. All staff and parent volunteers are required to have a Police Reference Check.

VISITING AUTHOR

OOOPS staff are very excited about an upcoming author visit and presentation by bilingual author Alex A, creator of the Mini Jean, Agent Jean and Jon le Bon book series. Alex A's French books are very popular in Quebec and Europe. He entered the English writing world with features in OWL kids' magazines and his Jon le Bon comic books.

Students, staff and parents will be treated to a lively presentation the morning of September 25th by this celebrated cartoonist who has authored over 10 books and three series.

Books will also be available for sale and for signing by the author. Stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, check out Alex A's website for a sneak peek <http://www.alexbd.com/en>

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Staff and students are very excited to begin participating in extra-curricular sports, clubs and music opportunities. Students are encouraged to listen to announcements to get permission forms and information.

Did you receive a letter from Toronto Public Health?

- ✓ See your doctor if your child needs any vaccines
- ✓ Report your child's vaccination record to Toronto Public Health

Online: toronto.ca/health/immunizationconnect

416.338.7600 toronto.ca/health | **TORONTO** Public Health

RESPECT

The TDSB character attribute for September is Respect! As we help our students learn what respect is and how we can show respect to others, here are a few discussion points that you might have with your child.

What does it mean to be respectful?

What are some ways that you can show respect for yourself and for others?

Why it is important to respect our environment?

How can we speak to others with respect?

STUDENT ASSEMBLY

On September 6, students from grades 1 – 6 attended an assembly. It was a great opportunity to meet as a large school community. The purpose of the assembly was to welcome everyone back to school and to review any pertinent school rules. In addition, Mrs. Jamieson shared some key messages with the students. The messages were:

- **Believe in Yourself**
- **Never Give Up**
- **Ask Questions and be Curious**
- **Be Kind!**

Throughout this year, students will be encouraged to have a growth mindset and to persevere when they are met with challenges. Mistakes are okay! In fact, making mistakes helps us to learn and grow.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES!!!

SEPTEMBER 18	SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORMS DUE
SEPTEMBER 19 6:30 P.M.	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25	AUTHOR VISIT
SEPTEMBER 27 6:30 P.M.	CURRICULUM NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 27	PICTURE DAY
SEPTEMBER 28	PIZZA DAY!
SEPTEMBER 28	TERRY FOX RUN
SEPTEMBER 29	ORANGE SHIRT DAY RECOGNITION
OCTOBER 6	PA DAY – NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 9	THANKSGIVING
OCTOBER 12	HARVEST FESTIVAL (more information to follow)
OCTOBER 31	HALLOWEEN
NOVEMBER 14	REPORT CARDS HOME
NOVEMBER 16	PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS EVENING
NOVEMBER 17	PA DAY- INTERVIEWS
DECEMBER 1	PA DAY – NO SCHOOL
DECEMBER 8	GINGERBREAD FAIR
DECEMBER 14	WINTER CONCERT (more information to follow)
DECEMBER 25-JAN 5	CHRISTMAS BREAK

Raising a Good Student

Catherine Rondina
City Parent

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 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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