

Percy Williams' Post

JANUARY

Welcome Back and Happy New Year



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

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break and spent some quality time with family and friends. As we start the third decade of the 21st century, we look forward to supporting your child and providing learning opportunities that reflect the changing times and our students' needs and interests. The New Year is a good time to encourage students to set goals, improve work habits, or pursue a new activity or hobby. We know that the decade ahead will be full of both opportunities and challenges with regards to the environment, advancements in technology, and many other local and global issues. With this in mind, we must encourage students to be innovative, resourceful and resilient learners in order to foster the next generation of leaders and problem solvers.

January is Tamil Heritage month in the TDSB. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Tamil families and community a Happy and Healthy Thai Pongal and New Year. The New Year is definitely off to a busy start at Percy Williams. We currently have house-league indoor soccer happening at morning and afternoon recesses. Many of our junior students are participating in the Silver Birch Club in which they have to read a number of fiction and nonfiction books and be interviewed by a staff member who is an expert on the book. We have had 4 sessions of Scientist in the School in for our Grade 1s & 2s, and many of our students participated in the Pizza Nova Pizza making workshop. In December we had the Anti-Bullying Magic Show presentation for the school – both staff and students were amazed by the mind boggling tricks and the inspiring message of kindness and how to respond to bullying incidents. Thank you to our school council and parents for supporting the school through our fundraising initiatives that help bring these initiatives to our school.

As you have heard in the news and from the school board, a one day teacher strike is scheduled for January 20th, if no settlement is reached between now and Monday. Please follow your local news station or visit the TDSB website for updates over the weekend.

Jason Donaldson



Reminder!

- School Council Meeting
Wed, January 22nd 5:30
- PA Day Tomorrow

Stay Informed

Drop Off and Pick Up

Since our November Newsletter we are happy to report that we have observed a noticeable increase in the use of the student drop off circle, in the front of our school. When parents use this service it reduces congestion on White Heather Blvd. and drivers avoid making dangerous U-turns or pulling into residents driveways to turn around. Some key tips for using the drop off circle:

- Enter and exit slowly to and yield to parents and students crossing the sidewalk
- Move your car up to the end of the circle so more cars can enter
- Do not get out of your vehicle, teachers on duty and safety patrollers will assist your child
- Enjoy the time you have saved trying to find a parking spot

School Council Meeting Jan. 22nd

Our January School Council Meeting is this Wednesday, at 5:30 in our Library. We are happy to have a representative from Councillor Lai's office attending the meeting to speak about community safety and to meet our parents and council. If you have any questions for the councillor's office pertaining to these or other issues please join us on Wednesday. Depending on her schedule, Councillor Lai may attend as well.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September!

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31. You may choose to register in person at the school or begin the process online.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Tamil Heritage Month

During the month of January, the TDSB is excited to start the New Year by celebrating Tamil Heritage Month. This year the chosen theme, selected by the volunteer planning committee, is Vision 2020: Yengal Kathaigal - Our Stories / Vision 2020: எங்கள் கதைகள் - Our Stories.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students' and staff members' heritage identified as Tamil.

All have stories of their journey, of how they or their families arrived in Canada, and how they continue to embrace this country as their home. We will be acknowledging Tamil Heritage Month at our end of the month assembly.

Colder Weather Advisory

Although we've had a very mild start to our winter, the temperature is supposed drop for next week. Please ensure your child is dressed properly to ensure they are comfortable when playing outside. Please ensure your child has proper footwear (boots), gloves, preferably waterproof, and extra socks in their backpack in the event their feet get wet.

Children need an opportunity to get exercise and play outdoors; however, weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor recesses and lunch periods.

Conditions warranting indoor recesses

- Rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds and extreme cold.
- When temperature and/or wind-chill factor indicates -20 to -28°C , recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess be 20 minutes depending on local conditions.
- Cold weather: When temperature and/or windchill factor indicates -28°C or lower children will remain indoors.

Upcoming Dates

Please visit our school Website to access our Newsletters, School Council minutes and a Calendar of upcoming events at Percy Williams.