

# Percy Williams' Post

## DECEMBER



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With less than three weeks to go until winter officially starts, December has arrived with a blast of snow and cold temperatures. Our students could not be happier as you may have noticed with all the forts, snow sculptures, and sledding happening in our school yard. The students are always happy when they have an opportunity to get outside and play.

Getting everyone active throughout the year is important for all of us and we were thrilled to see so many families join us last week for our "Family Fit Night". We had over 130 participants attend last Thursday and take part in activities like Yoga, Zumba, Bollywood Dance and Nutrition Trivia. It was a really fun evening and it was great to see so many of our parents enthusiastically participating with their children. A big "Thank You" to our two Public Health Nurses, Sharon Chin and Silence Lai for helping to train our student leaders who presented at the start of each session and to our staff for helping to organize and run this event. Sharon Chin also presented to parents earlier in the month on how to keep your child healthy at a parent information session. We had one of our best turn outs as we offered the session in the morning. Stay tuned for more sessions for parents. Two weeks ago was Bullying Prevention month in the TDSB. As a school, students worked on an activity with their reading buddies around the story, "I am Human – A book of Empathy" that each class was given a copy to read. Each student reflected on what makes them unique, how our actions have an impact on others and the importance of empathy. Students recorded part of their reflection on a self-portrait styled after the books illustrations. Stop by our front hallway to see the art installation of the students work. Parents may also join us for our Anti-Bullying Magic Show on Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Grade 2 – 6 presentation is at 9:00 AM and our Kindergarten / Grade 1 presentation is at 10:30 AM.

This past week we hosted a Junior Boys' Volleyball tournament. Our Boys' played incredibly well, demonstrated fine sportsmanship and were welcoming hosts for our visiting teams. Visiting parents commented on what friendly and kind students we had at our school – which as a Principal makes me very proud. As well, on a recent trip to Queens Park and City hall our Grade 5 students were complimented on what courteous and respectful guests they were. Well done students!

For the final three weeks of the school year we have many activities planned for our students. See the attached calendar about our 12 days of holiday cheer. As we close out the year 2019 and the second decade of this century, on behalf of all the staff I would like to wish your family a relaxing and restful winter break.

Jason Donaldson



# Stay Informed

## Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several 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

## Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians 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

## Holiday Concert

Our holiday concert will be held on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. At the holiday concert all our primary classes (Kindergarten to Grade 3) will be performing a variety of winter and holiday songs. Our junior students will have the opportunity to perform at our Arts evening in April. Doors to the gym/auditorium will open at 6:20 p.m., We ask that guests be limited to immediate family as space is limited.

Leading up to the concert, we will be selling raffle tickets for the chance to win one of two beautiful donated baskets, two toy baskets and a cosmetic and beauty themed basket. Proceeds from the sale of these baskets help our school council raise money to help support a variety of initiatives at Percy Williams. Tickets are available prior to the concert at the front office for \$3.00 for one or \$5.00 for 3. Tickets will also be sold the evening of the concert, and we will also be selling VIP tickets that evening for a chance to win front row seating. We look forward to seeing you at the concert.

## Cold Weather Advisory

As the days are starting to get colder please ensure your child is dressed properly to ensure they are comfortable when playing outside. Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors; however, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses and lunch periods.

### Conditions warranting indoor recesses

- Rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds and extreme cold.
- When temperature and/or windchill factor indicates –20 to –28C, 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 -28C or lower children will remain indoors.

# Percy's 12 Days of Spirit

Wed., Dec. 4th--**Christmas Hat/Toque Day**



Thurs., Dec. 5th--**Scarf Day**



Mon., Dec. 9th -- **Grinch Day** (wear green)



Tues., Dec. 10th-- **Snowman Day** (wear white)



Wed., Dec. 11th-- **Hanukkah Day** (wear blue/white)



Thurs., Dec. 12th- **Happy Kwanzaa Day**  
(wear Black, Red and Green)



Fri., Dec. 13th--**Reindeer/Elf Day**



Mon., Dec. 16th--**Hot Chocolate/Gingerbread Day**



Tues., Dec. 17th--**Blue Planet Christmas Day**  
(wear blue and bring a litterless lunch)



Wed., Dec. 18th--**Silver and Gold Day**



Thurs., Dec. 19th--**Holiday Sweater Day**



Fri. Dec. 20th-- **Santa/Red & White Day**



## Label, Label, Label

Each day articles of clothing such as winter coats, gloves, hats, lunch bags, back packs and reusable bottles are found throughout the school. It is easy to return these items to the classroom and the student if the item is labelled properly. Please take a moment to ensure your child's things are labelled with their name in permanent marker on the label of the clothing item or lunch bag. This will prevent items being lost and unclaimed at the end of the month and parents having to purchase new ones,

## Agincourt Community Services Food Drive

Agincourt Community Services Association's food bank serves over 650 individuals and families every week. You can support this organization and join them in the fight against hunger and poverty by bringing in food donations to our school. We will accept donations up until December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please donate any non-perishable goods to help families in need, Drop off donations at the front office or bring them on the evening of the holiday concert. Thank you for your support.

## Important Dates

December 6<sup>th</sup> – PA Day (No School)  
 December 7<sup>th</sup> – Richmond Park Dinner & Dance  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> – Richmond Park Community Christmas Party  
 December 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> – Prize Basket Tickets on Sale  
 December 11<sup>th</sup> – Grade 2s to Science Centre  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> – Anti-Bullying Magic Show  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concert 6:30 PM  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Lunch (Deadline Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>)  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School before Break  
 January 6<sup>th</sup> – First Day back from Break  
 January 31<sup>st</sup> – French Immersion Applications due for Extended French Gr. 4 & 7  
 September 2020

