



# Pleasant P.S. Pleasantries Newsletter

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## Administration's Message

Thank you to those parents and guardians who have come out to our school's first two Meet and Greet sessions for parents on the first Friday of each month right after drop off. It is lovely to meet new faces and have an opportunity to casually meet and talk. School Council is supporting this initiative and we all look forward to seeing you in December!

After meeting with staff to discuss the EQAO Math results at the October PA Day, we presented our analysis to parents attending the last School Council meeting in October. We have since worked with staff at the October staff meeting to present our results, observations and implications for learning related to Reading and Writing, as well. Please see within the newsletter for information related to our findings. We continue to work on our School Improvement Plans with this information, with foci in Equity, Student Achievement and Well-Being.

Elementary Progress Reports will be sent home on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>. Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening, and Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning. All parents will be offered an interview with the teacher. Please ensure you book a time to meet with your child(ren)'s classroom staff to discuss their progress and what next steps are recommended.

As our weather continues to change, please ensure you send your children to school with the appropriate outdoor clothing (warm jacket, gloves, hat) as students go outside three times each day. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Mrs. Schneider*  
Principal

*Mr. Niarchos*  
Vice Principal

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## Toronto Public Health Information re: Vaccines

Please see the information on the Public Health poster below for information on online reporting. For parents/students who are unable to report online, they can send us a copy of their immunization information. Parents should include the student's name and birth date on the immunization record and mail to:

Toronto Public Health  
235 Danforth Avenue, 2nd floor  
Toronto, ON M4K 1N2

School Council Co-Chairs –  
Boris Roginsky and Alissa  
Park

Safe Arrival Line:  
416-395-8577  
Press 1 for Absences

#### Changing Weather

All students are expected to go outside for some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather: hats, mittens, warmer jackets, snow pants and boots are good suggestions.

As well, please remember that if your child is too sick to go outside at recess time, your child is too sick to be at school. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

#### Inclement Weather

A reminder to parents that should the weather warrant the cancellation of school buses, the buses are cancelled for the full day. The Board does not offer transportation later in the day, once the buses have already been cancelled in the morning.

Information will be available on AM Radio: FAN 590, CFTR 680, CFRB 1010, CHUM 1050, CHIN AM- 1540, CHOG-TALK 640

FM Radio: KISS 92.5, CHFI 98.1, CBC 99.1, CKFM 99.9, CFNY 102.1, CHUM 104.5, CILQ 107.1, CHIN FM-100.7, CIDC-HITS 103.5, CJEZ-EZ ROCK 97.3, FLOW-93.5

TV- The Weather Channel, CP 24, CFMT, CFTO, CITY-TV, GLOBAL TV, ROGERS .COM – [www.globaltv.com](http://www.globaltv.com), [www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)

**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](http://toronto.ca/health/immunizationconnect)

416.338.7600 [toronto.ca/health](http://toronto.ca/health) | **TORONTO** Public Health

Please contact Toronto Public Health as soon as possible to address any issues you have regarding your child's immunization.

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## School Council Corner

School Council held its second meeting of the year on October 23rd. Our meetings are open to the public. In fact, we'd love to see more parents and caregivers join us!

Our popular Pizza Lunch program will resume this month. Look for the order forms in your kids' folders in the coming weeks.

The Meet & Greet event introduced in October was a success. As this month, so as in the months to come, we invite everyone to join us for some coffee and treats to chat and build our school community together (first Friday of every month in the staff room @ 9 a.m.). If you would like to contact School Council, please email us at [SC.PleasantPublicSchool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SC.PleasantPublicSchool@tdsb.on.ca)

Boris Roginsky and Alissa Park  
Council Co-Chairs

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## EQAO Information

Our 2018-2019 scores in EQAO increased in all areas for Grade 3 and for Grade 6. Please see the chart below for results:

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Reading	82% (+23%)	88% (+2%)
Writing	74% (+15%)	90% (+3%)
Mathematics	69% (+28%)	55% (+1%)

Overall observations and implications include:

### Reading

Grade 3 - overall results are good

Challenges: Implicit/Making Connections

- Vocabulary building is needed
- Using schema, giving an opinion, using text to make meaning of unknown words

Grade 6 - overall results are good

Challenges: Implicit/Making Connections

- using schema, give one's opinion
- students struggle when answers are not directly in the text

### Writing

Grade 3 - overall results are good

Challenges: organizing information

- Organizing writing, drafting and revising writing, vocabulary knowledge, expand on the topic in their answer, editing and proofreading

Grade 6 Writing - overall results are good

Challenges:

- Topic development and open response questions

### Mathematics

Challenges for Grade 3 and 6:

- The language in math - word problems (e.g., greatest to smallest; how many taller), vocabulary (e.g., prime number)
- Comparative work: e.g., an ordering question
- Manipulatives: e.g., to visualize objects spatially from different angles, represent objects with linked cubes
- Reinforce concepts cross-curricularly: e.g., Geometry and 3D art or perspective in art
- Multi-step word problems - go back and check that you answered all parts and did all the steps
- More practice needed with application and thinking related exercises as opposed to just knowledge and understanding
- Provide practice with word problems with no context of which unit the word problem is from

We are working with staff and our Superintendent to draft our School Improvement Plan from this data and plan staff professional learning for the year.

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## Math Corner

Many parents wonder how they can support their children in Math. Teachers frequently hear comments that parents have difficulty since much of the work is different from the math they learned in school. Our school data suggests that most students do very well with basic computation but continue to struggle with multi-step problems. This is an area where parents can help. Below is a sample question from grade six EQAO with prompts/steps that can be used to support your child's thinking as they work through this type of problem.

These types of questions can be intimidating for students, but the more they practise them, the more confidence they will build.

**Andrew blinks his eyes about 3 times per minute when he is awake. He is awake approximately 14 hours per day. Does he blink his eyes more than 1 000 000 times in one year? Justify your answer.**

*What is being asked in this question?* Does he blink his eyes more than 1 000 000 times in one year?

*What do you know already?* He blinks 3 times per minute for 14 hours per day.

*What other information do you need to know to answer this question?* How many times does he blink in one day? How many minutes per hour? How many days per year?

*What is your first step?* How many times does he blink per hour? 3 times per minute multiplied by 60 minutes per hour.

*Have you justified your answer? Did you show all of your work?*

Ms. Milford-Warren

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## Reading Activity – Analyzing Story Characters to Improve Reading Comprehension

A **character** is a person, animal or even a thing that plays an important part of a story. Characters think, feel, talk and act in stories.

When students analyze the thoughts, feelings, words and actions of characters, they deepen their understanding of a story.

For younger students: Read a-loud any picture book and use prompts to "talk about" their favourite character.  
For older students: Use prompts to discuss a story or chapter book that your child is currently reading and ask them to give the reasons for their answers.

Describe how the character feels. How do you know that?

e.g. response, "*Marigold is sad. I know that because in the picture she has a frown and is crossing her arms*".  
or "*Marigold is angry. I know that because it says that she suddenly threw her favourite toy on the ground and marched away*."

Ms. Lewis

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## Mini Master Plan

We met with the Mini Master Plan team from the Board on October 28th to review the final plans for the parking lot and the playground. We have narrowed down the playground colour scheme to cyan blue and chartreuse, grey platforms and red and white plastic components. There are many opportunities for gross motor activities, balancing and climbing. The activity panels include a braille board and a musical tap-a-tune panel. We anticipate the work to begin in the spring sometime and will keep you posted with updates. At this time I would like to thank the members of the committee for all their time and effort in meeting to discuss the design and help the plan take shape. A big thank you to: Natalia Bivol, Nigel Mohammed, Ms. Cowan, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Clunas, Ms. Zeglen, Mr. Munroe, Mr. Tough and Mr. O'Grady.

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## Athletics

Pleasant's Grade 4-6 Cross Country Team took 25 dedicated students to Earl Bales on October 4 for a meet to compete against other schools. Our students cheered loud, ran hard and represented Pleasant with pride. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and how they came together to practice and compete as a team.

Coach Brierley and Coach Meinsma

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## Arts Corner

It has been an exciting month in the Arts! Students in the Junior Division are working on simple choreographed dances and are working together towards a common performance goal. Students in the Primary Division have been working on short skits and have been learning about character development and speaking in role.

Mme. Bidala and Mme. Roman-Leizerovici's classes are preparing pieces for the upcoming Remembrance Day Assembly, and we look forward to honouring this significant day.

Our Create and Inspire Club for Grade 5 and 6 students has been learning about representing student voice in written form. This month, students in this club have entered the Toronto Public Library Design a Bookmark contest as well as have submitted entries for the TDSB's Somali Heritage Month Poster Contest. We wish them the best of luck!

Below are a few samples of poetry written this month:

### **The Feeling of Fall**

Flowers go just like magic  
Baked pumpkin pie out of the oven  
Bare trees just like skeletons  
Loud crunching of the leaves  
Fall feelings everywhere!

-Nicole, Grade 5

### **White as Snow**

As water makes its way up, snow  
makes its way down  
Gently flowing through the sky  
Turning, Twisting  
Giving a shiny white glow, that ends  
when Spring shows  
That's the end of Winter's snow  
Things come and go  
That's the way of nature's flow  
Helena, Masha, and Emilia, Grade 6

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## Character Education – November Focus is Empathy

Character Development is about helping our children to learn and to practice character attributes which will help them not only do their best but also be their best. November's Character Education focus is on "empathy," the ability to understand and share in the feelings of others. At Pleasant we think of empathy as being able to put yourself in someone's shoes and trying to understand issues from another person's point of view, even though we may not agree with them. We demonstrate empathy when we listen with full attention and look for the feelings behind the words and body language.

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## Construction Site to the West of Pleasant PS/Peckham Centre

There is activity to the west of Pleasant PS/Peckham Centre but construction is not underway. The site is currently being used for construction management and storage for Trisan Construction, who has a contract with the City for road repairs in the area. Trisan Construction will be using the site from now until January 2020, between 7am to 7pm. The site will be accessed throughout the day, generally by pick-up trucks and a trailer.

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## Public Consultations – Optional Attendance and Secondary Program Review

Public consultations will begin in November on a draft revised Optional Attendance policy and as part of the Secondary Program Review.

The Optional Attendance policy is being reviewed to ensure consistency with the TDSB's Mission, Values and Goals Policy, the Equity Policy and the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The Optional Attendance policy has not been fully reviewed since 1998 when the TDSB was created.

We are also holding consultations as part of the Secondary Program Review. In June 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the action plan outlined in the [Secondary Program Review report](#). This report presented the rationale for a

comprehensive review of secondary school programming and related policies, procedures and practices (including Optional Attendance). Final recommendations may include the following:

- Potential consolidation of school
- Relocation or consolidation of existing program(s)
- Repurposing of secondary school buildings to address other system needs, i.e. using a secondary school facility for a large elementary school
- Different models of school organization, including full-year programming and campus models

Please share the following public consultation dates with your communities:

1. November 14, 7:00 p.m. at Western Technical-Commercial School, 125 Evelyn Crescent, Cafeteria
2. November 20, 7:00 p.m. at East Education Office, 140 Borough Drive, Committee Room 3/4
3. November 26, 7:00 p.m. at C W Jefferys Collegiate Institute, 340 Sentinel Road, Cafeteria
4. November 28, 7:00 p.m. at John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, 640 Lawrence Avenue West, Cafeteria

More information about the [Policy Consultation](#) process will be found on the public TDSB site at the beginning of November.

Information about the Secondary Program Review can be found on the public TDSB site <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/SecondaryProgramReview>

Other opportunities for consultation on this policy and the Secondary Program Review (face-to-face and online) will be made available throughout the months of November, December and January.

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## Dates to Remember (check for the most up-to-date events and dates on the school calendar online – <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/pleasant>)

### 2019-2020

November 2/3	Daylight Savings Time ends (clocks move back)
November 4-29	<b>Early French Immersion</b> online application process opens
November 5	Superintendent L. Papathanasakis visit
November 8	Lice Check
November 11	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 12	Reports go home
November 13	Character Ed Assembly @ 9:30 am
November 14	Parent Teacher Interviews (evening)
November 15	PA Day - Parent Teacher Interviews (morning) – no school for students
December 6	PA Day – no school for students
December 11	Character Ed Assembly @ 1:30 pm
December 20	Sing-A-Long
	Last Day before Break
Dec. 21- Jan. 5	Winter Break – Happy New Year!
January 6	Back to School
January 6-31	<b>Junior Extended French</b> online application process opens
January 15	Character Ed Assembly @ 9:30 am
January 15	School Council Meeting (6:00 pm)
January 17	PA Day – no school for students
January 21	Martin Luther King Day
February 11	Reports go home
February 13	Parent Teacher Interviews (evening)
February 14	PA Day - Parent Teacher Interviews (morning) – no school for students
February 17	Family Day Holiday – no school
February 19	Character Ed Assembly @ 1:30 pm
February 13	School Council Meeting (6:00 pm)
March 14-22	March Break