

The Waterfront School

April 2019 Newsletter

From Ms. Harvey, Principal



Important Updates

June 28 - P.A. Day

June 27 - Last day of school for students

June 26 - Report Cards sent home

June 11 - School Concert & Musical

June 7 - PA Day. No school for students

May 21-31 EQAO Grades 3&6

May 20 - Victoria Day School is closed

May 7 - School Council Meeting 5:00pm -6:30

April 23-26 Earth Day Activities

The Waterfront School

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Celebrating Our Diversity

On April 10 Waterfront Students and Staff wore pink to show that bullying has no place at The Waterfront School. The International Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity - it is a commitment to being open minded, understanding of differences and to respect each other. Our school supports diversity and respect for everyone.



All students and families belong at The Waterfront School!

Partnerships with Police to Create Gourmet Dishes

Our students are turning into gourmet chefs with the Cooking Program that partners students with Police Officers. Each school team competes weekly to create the best tasting meals.



Anti-Bullying Presentation & Making Positive Choices

Officer Gribbon came to our school to speak to students about different types of bullying. He discussed the importance of respecting the space of others and consequences for inappropriate actions. We were also very fortunate to have Office Ron Chinnzer speak to our intermediate students. He shared some of the choices he made when he was younger and how he helps students make good choices now. He spoke about the importance of telling an adult when you need help. And he asked students to reflect on important people in their lives, what they are proud of and what their dream life includes.



Student Success

We love to do Math!

Our whole school is working on math problem solving and sharing their solutions to the problem of the week. Student responses are posted in our front hall showing the progression of learning skills throughout the grades. Students have the opportunity to share their skills and to learn from other students throughout the school. Thank you for this idea Ms. Knezi!



Who is a Waterfront Student?

Our Waterfront Student Expectations were sent home to parents with the last report card. This was a collaborative work in partnership with students, staff and parents. We continue to set high expectations for all our students and we expect students to follow these expectations every day. Our Staff provides support to students to achieve these expectations along with parent support at home. We expect all students to make positive choices every day.

Proud Waterfront School Student Water Bottles

It's not too late to get your Waterfront Water Bottle. They are available from classroom teachers for only \$3. This is one of our school initiatives to celebrate our pride in being a Waterfront student and it is part of our ECO initiative to eliminate non-reusable plastics from our school.



Progressive Discipline

All TDSB schools use Progressive Discipline as a whole-school approach to address inappropriate student behaviour. We use a range of interventions, supports, and consequences that give students learning opportunities to make better choices. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, our approach is corrective and supportive rather than solely punitive.

We focus on prevention and early intervention to maintain a positive school environment in which students can learn. Early intervention strategies may include ongoing communication with parents, verbal reminders, review of expectations, and/or written assignments with a learning task that requires reflection. Progressively more serious consequences are considered for inappropriate behaviour that is repeated or more serious. Some examples of ongoing interventions are meeting with parent(s), requiring the student to perform volunteer service in the school community, conflict mediation, peer mentoring, and/or a referral to counselling. Mitigating factors such as the student's age, stage of social development, special education needs, history and the circumstances of the behaviour, are also considered. Each decision on discipline is unique for each student. Suspensions and Expulsions may be considered when progressive discipline has been used and the behaviour continues or for serious behaviours as outlined in the TDSB code of conduct. (You can find this in your child's agenda). Consultation with the TDSB Caring and Safe Schools Team and Superintendent is part of the process when a suspension and/or expulsion are being considered.

How can parents help?

Parents have a primary role to play in their children's education. We actively engage parents in the progressive discipline approach by involving them in ongoing conversations about their children's achievement, well-being and behaviour. When schools and parents are partners we see positive student behaviour and improved student achievement.

ECO Partnership with City School for Earth Day Activities



The City and Waterfront Schools (C.A.W.) Earth Day Summit is one of the highlights of Earth Day celebrations at The Waterfront School. On April 25 for the entire morning, students rotated through a series of Eco-workshops that were hosted by The Waterfront and City School students. The students learned about environmental issues including animal habitat loss and plastic pollution through games and interactive storytelling. They attended workshops that showed them how to repurpose T-shirts to make cloth bags and make musical percussion instruments out of found materials. Some other workshops were: making Seed Packs, Eco-crafts and Sustainable Eating. The students learned that is not only urgent but also "cool" to reduce our carbon footprint and to do our part to save the environment. From Ms. Sharma

Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices is one of the strategies that we use to help students actively engage and take greater responsibility for their actions when they have made negative choices. It gives each student a voice to reflect on their actions and to take steps to change their behaviour. Being restorative is about building relationships and connections that will positively impact academic performance. In Restorative Practices students use the following questions to reflect on their actions and to plan how they will fix what they have done.

Regarding Misbehaviour:

What happened?

What were you thinking of at the time?

What have you thought of since?

Who has been affected by what you have done?

In what way?

What do you think you need to do to make things right?

To help those affected:

What did you think when you realized what had happened?

What impact has this incident had on you and others?

What has been the hardest thing for you?

What do you think needs to happen to make things right.

Our staff also uses Restorative Circles with their whole class to build a positive classroom and school community and to provide opportunities for students to set goals and to share their ideas.

Forest of Reading

We are happy that our students are part of the Forest of Reading program which is designed to expose young readers to Canadian authors and illustrators. Students in the primary grades hear 10 stories and then vote for their favourite. Students in Grades 3 to 8 read independently and any student who reads 5 books can vote for their favourite book. As well they have a chance to go to the actual awards ceremony at Harbourfront in mid-May, to see the awards being presented and to meet their favourite authors. Happy Reading!

From Ms. Jostiak

School Concert

Our School Concert will be on Tuesday June 11 and will feature class performances and The Musical Squirr. Save the date. More information will follow.

Nutrition Program Volunteers Needed

Can you spare an hour or more in the morning to help prepare the morning meal for our students? Please call the office if you are available.

Supply Lunchroom Supervisors Needed

Are you interested in being a lunchroom supervisor? This is a paid TDSB position. Please call the office if you are interested.

This newsletter is available on our school website at

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