

The Waterfront School

February, 2019 Newsletter

From Ms. Harvey, Principal



Important Updates

March 11-15 Break
School is closed

March 30 Parents as
Partners Conference

April 9 Lice Screening

April 15 Vaccinations Gr. 7/8

April 19 Good Friday
School is closed

April 22 Easter Monday
School is closed

The Waterfront School

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STEM Initiatives

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It is a trans-disciplinary approach to inquiry and problem-based learning that fosters collaboration, creativity, and innovation in all students. On February 6 we had our first STEM day at The Waterfront School. Students in grades 4-8 gathered in the library to form collaborative teams. Their design challenge was to design and build a car that would travel at least 1 metre in a straight line, within the time limit. Students worked collaboratively to complete this challenge and present their products.



Tianna, Parisa and Emily described the experience.

On STEM day classes in the school were asked to make and build their very own car. We were put into groups, and assigned stations to work at. The whole thing was split into four steps that each group had to follow.

1. Design the car
2. Build + Evaluate
3. Test + Finetune
4. Final test

We also had a chance to use tools such as hand saws, jinx wood, safety goggles, glue gun and coroplast. We asked students what they thought and they said, "it was a wonderful experience."



Special Education at The Waterfront School

Toronto District School Board's Vision of Special Education is based on principles of: Fairness, Equality and Inclusion. The key component to TDSB's approach to special education is the belief that all students in the community, including those with special learning needs, should be welcomed and receive their education "to the full extent possible" at their local school. This philosophy of inclusion is the basis of the Community-Based Resource Model we use at The Waterfront School. Our school is staffed with special education teachers including a Methods and Resource Teacher (MART), a Resource Teacher and a Home School Program (HSP) teacher who provide direct, indirect and withdrawal programs for students.

In-School Team (IST) Meetings

When a teacher is concerned about a student academically or in regards to learning/social skills, the teacher implements specific strategies to support the needs of the student. The next step can be to refer the student to the In-School Support Team (IST). This meeting takes place within the school and usually involves the classroom teacher, the MART and the Principal. The purpose of this meeting is to review the strategies that have already been used in the class to support the student and to develop an action plan involving additional intervention strategies.

Once the strategies recommended at the IST have been implemented for a period of time there is a review of student progress. If more support or information is required, the teacher makes a referral to the School Support Team.

School Support Team (SST) Meetings

The SST meeting is attended by the Principal, the MART, parents, and professionals from Special Education, Psychology, Social Work and Speech-Language Pathology. This larger team has more expertise to help support the student. During the SST there is an open discussion about the student's strengths and needs. There are a range of recommendations that this committee can make based on the student's profile. In some cases, further information is needed and a referral for a professional assessment is recommended. In other cases the development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) might be the next course of action. Parents involved are always invited and encouraged to attend SST meetings at our school.

Waterfront's Bag2School Eco-Initiative

Congratulations everyone on a fantastic campaign and your support of The Waterfront School's Bag2School initiative! We hope the students and families enjoyed the experience and are more aware of the importance of responsible textile disposal and conscious purchasing decisions. The textile industry is the second greatest polluting industry in the world, and only together can we help slow the rate of consumption and therefore enact sustainable change.

On January 30, Bag2School collected the clothes and accessories that you all donated. Altogether the clothes weighed 611 pounds!! That is 611 pounds of clothing diverted from the landfill to be reused and recycled. Bag2School in return made a small donation to our school.

Thank you Waterfront community for giving and helping the environment. Way to go!

Ms. Sharma, Ms. Tulsieram and the ECO club



Confidence Club

Confidence Club is an interactive and fun club for primary students in grades 1-3. The students meet every Wednesday at lunchtime with Ms. Knezi's to participate in a range of group activities that help them grow, and develop confidence in a safe environment. The students engage in a multitude of things such as: read-alouds and discussions, acting out conflict resolution through puppet shows/role-playing, community circles, team-building games, brainstorming, and sensory and open-ended group activities. During this time, students learn about their friends, themselves, and all of the wonderful things they are capable of!

Bench Ball

You may have heard your Grade 1, 2 or 3 child talk about the Bench Ball intramurals. Almost every Grade 1-3 student signed up to play once a week until the end of March during lunch. Bench Ball is an introduction to a sport game that incorporates the rules of European Handball and basketball. Once you have the ball you cannot move but have to pass the ball to a teammate to advance the ball. To score, you must pass it to a teammate that is standing on a mat who acts as the moveable basketball net. The mixed grade teams allow for the students to play with a variety of students, introduces different strategies and gives the Grade 3 students a leadership role. Ask your child what Toronto professional team they are on! They could be a Leaf, Raptor, Marlie, Blue Jay, Toronto FC, Fury, Toronto Rock or Argo. From Mr. Low-Ring

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.

Parents as Partners Conference

Registration is now open for the Parents as Partners Conference! The Parents as Partners Conference 2019 is on **Saturday, March 30** and all parents are welcome! This free conference – planned by parents, for parents – includes a variety of workshops and resources that will help any parent support their child in their achievement and well-being at school and at home. Transportation, day camp for children aged 4-12, and lunch are all provided.

Register now at www.parentsaspartners.ca

Girls Volleyball Team

Our girls volleyball team coached by Mr. Low-Ring and Ms. Dimitry travelled to George Webster P.S. to participate in a volleyball tournament. Here is a report on the tournament from Tianna.

Some of us were anxious but we got over it. We got there around 9:30 and there were two games that were going on. Before our first game we headed to the locker room to put on our jerseys and put our bags and jackets away. Before we played our first game we warmed up, we practiced our bumps/passes and volleys. Then Mr. Low Ring talked about what strategies we could use to win. The schools we played against were George Webster, Earl Haig, Earl Beatty and Lord Dufferin. We won one game and lost the others. But we still had fun. After we played our last game we said goodbye to the other teams. We had a great time playing against the other teams and representing the Waterfront School



Kindergarten Registration Is Now Open

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. Children who will be four by December 31, 2019, can start Junior Kindergarten in September 2019. You can begin the registration process online at tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten and then contact our school for an appointment. We look forward to welcoming you and your child!

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/>