

The Waterfront School

November 2018 Newsletter

From Ms. Harvey, Principal



Important Updates

Nov. 27 School Council
5pm-6:30pm.
Playground Update

Dec. 7 P.A. Day no school
for students

Dec. 11 Art Celebration
5-6:30pm

Dec. 24 - Jan. 4 Winter break
School is closed

Jan. 7, 2019
Classes start

Jan. 18 P.A. Day no school
for students

Jan. 29 School Council
5-6:30pm

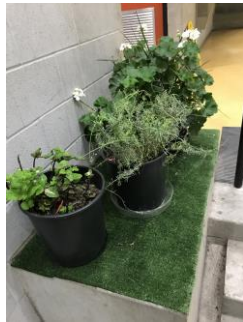
The Waterfront School

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Bringing Wellness to The Waterfront

We know the importance of having a school environment that promotes wellness for students and staff. Our ECO club is partnering with student leaders, Ms. Sharma, Ms. Jostiak and Ms. Tulsieram to create indoor teaching green spaces and areas that promote wellness. Can you see the waterfall? Stay tuned; this is an evolving work in progress.

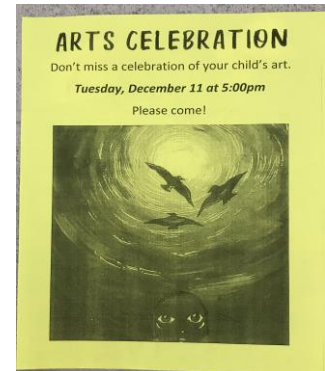


Waterfront Mental Health and Well-being

Every day the Waterfront staff works with your children to promote excellence in learning. A big component of this is the mental health and well-being of our students. Our staff uses mindfulness activities throughout the school to help students focus on learning. In our Kindergarten classes, teachers use mindfulness to support students transitioning from outside into the classroom. Students enter to calming music and gather on the carpet to engage in deep breathing which focuses their minds on learning. Many teachers also teach deep breathing strategies to students to help them calm down when they are upset or angry.

Through the arts our students are taught to use yoga to relax their bodies so they can engage in high level learning. As part of our school-wide focus on well-being, students are also taught that they are never alone when they have a problem or if they need someone to talk to. All of our students are reminded to identify a caring adult who they will go to for help. Our social worker Ruby Kumar has introduced herself to the students and she is another caring adult who supports students at The Waterfront School. These are a few of the ways that we focus on well-being at the school.

Join us for Arts Celebration

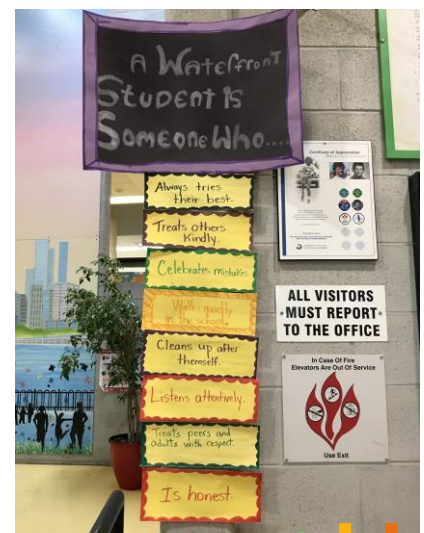


**Tuesday, December 11 at 5-6:30pm
in the large lunchroom**

We hope that you will join us on **Tuesday, December 11** to celebrate the creativity and visual design skills of students at The Waterfront School. In this amazing display, all students will be creating pieces of art based on the theme of "identity," as they explore their identity in the school, community and in the world. Come and enjoy!

Who is a Waterfront Student?

Setting high expectations for students involves a common understanding of school expectations for all students and staff. At the Waterfront School, students and staff are sharing their ideas of the expectations for a Waterfront student. Each class has asked: What are the words and actions that all Waterfront students will show each day? In our next step we will bring all of the classroom ideas together to create one set of expectations for all Waterfront students. Here is a sample from Ms. Petrelli's class.



Drama Partnership with City School; Understanding Bullying

Several classes at the Waterfront School have been working with Ms. Sniderman and the students in the drama class at City School to talk about what bullying is and strategies students can use if they feel they are being bullied. The students from City School are creating improvisations using bullying situations and then stopping the scene to gather suggestions on possible resolutions from the Waterfront students. This is a great partnership between our schools to share knowledge and to build understanding and relationships.

Waterfront School Achieves Platinum!

The Waterfront School was once again awarded Platinum certification by the Ontario Eco Schools for the year 2017-2018. This represents the highest level of achievement in the EcoSchools program. We will continue to build on our past success and encourage student leadership and learning through the lens of environmental education. Some of our continued campaigns throughout the year are Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization and Planting. This month some of our teachers attended the Eco Schools kickoff meeting. The focus this year is on waste management, particularly the elimination of single use plastics such as plastic bottles, plastic bags including zip locks, straws, plastic cutlery etc.

We ask that you provide your child with reusable lunch containers, a reusable water bottle and metal cutlery to reduce personal plastic consumption and bring awareness to this global problem. This also encourages healthy eating and reduced reliance on packaged junk food.

Our motto is "Think Reusable not Disposable"

Did you know that since the 1950s, 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been generated around the world and only 23 per cent of those plastics have been recovered or recycled. The remaining have polluted our land, beaches and oceans.

"Let's do our part to help the environment"



Ms. Sharma, Ms. Tulsieram and the Eco Club Students

Playground Revitalization Update Nov. 27 @ 5pm

Richard Christie from the TDSB will be coming to speak to parents at our **School Council Meeting on November 27 at 5pm**. He will share information about our Playground Revitalization project to give updates on our next steps.

Other News



Students and parents joined together on November 9 in the gym for our Remembrance Day assembly to remember, to reflect and to think about our role in promoting and maintaining peace. I reminded students that peace starts with each one of us in our classrooms, in the hallways and in the school yard. We all have to make a commitment to peace in our school, our community and in our world.

We were honoured to have Ciara Murphy of the Royal Canadian Navy join us to talk about her peace keeping work around the world in her role as Unit Training Officer for HMCS York.

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/>