



## June 2016

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a good year at Thistletown C.I despite the ongoing Secondary Teacher sanctions. Many events have continued to run and celebrate our students this year with the efforts of some amazing staff: our Graduation Breakfast on May 27 was a very successful event, our Athletic Banquet on June 1 honoured many of our amazing athletes who have competed all year in the many sports TCI offers, and our Prom held at Pearson Convention Centre on June 3, was a real treat to see so many of our young people so nicely dressed up and having a great time.

With the ongoing support of our dedicated staff, our students continue to perform well on the provincial standardized tests in both English and Math. Moving forward we hope to achieve greater scores with our continued work towards identifying skills gaps and to target them through our Literacy and Numeracy boosters and curriculum work to improve student achievement.

If you are returning to TCI next year please ensure you have a full timetable and that you come into school the week before classes begin to pre-register and pick up your timetable. This year we are hosting our Moving on Up Orientation Day for Grade 9's on Wednesday, August 31. We look forward to seeing you then. Make contact with the Main Office or Guidance Office if you have any questions.

We also look forward to hosting a couple of Parent Academies in the fall to help our parent community with understanding our students' career planning, and pathway choices including My Blueprint and uncovering some of the essential learning our students need to embrace to be successful.

I would also like to highlight some of our wonderful accomplishments TCI has had since our last Newsletter. We have been honoured with a Gold Medal Eco School Award for our work recycling, our garden and composting, our Conservation Hours and for a wonderful nature, Aboriginal Artwork produced by our Grade 9 students in the NAC class that will hang in a place of honour in our cafeteria. Congratulations must go to Ms. Pepper, Mrs. Kharotia and Mrs. Mangat for all their hard work and support of our students. We also had five of our students win gold medals at the TDSB Technology Skills competition and go on to represent Toronto at the Ontario Skills competition hosted in Waterloo. Our Foods students won the People's Choice Award at the Mac 'n Cheese Festival held at Ontario Place June 3 - 5.

Congratulations to our Graduates! We look forward to honouring you at our Commencement ceremony in the autumn, held in our Auditorium on Friday Nov. 4. Good luck with your post-secondary plans and have a wonderful summer.

I want to say thank you and farewell to Ms. Jean De Shaw and Mr. Karl Sprogis for their support and helping our Administration during the past few months. Their contributions have been invaluable to TCI's successes. We look forward to our new Vice-Principal starting with us in August.

As there is every year we have a few staff members that leave Thistletown for new horizons. We wish them all the best!

We will be sending home over the summer a school opening letter with information to help you and your children be prepared for school. Please also make note of our important dates for next year.

Have a truly amazing summer and keep safe.

With kindest regards  
Ms. Alison MacLachlan

KEY DATES	
<b>July 15</b>	Office Closes for the summer
<b>Aug. 22</b>	Office Reopens
<b>Aug. 29</b>	Grade 12 Timetable Pickup
<b>Aug. 30</b>	Grade 10 & 11 Timetable Pickup
<b>Aug. 31</b>	Grade 9 Orientation
<b>Sept. 6</b>	First Day of School

## NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

### Student Timetables for 2016-2017

This past spring, students selected their courses for next school year. Should your son or daughter request a course change, students must visit the Guidance Office during the final week of June or during the week of August 29, prior to the start of classes on September 6. Proper course placement is critical for success.

If you have any questions about your son or daughter's course choices for next school year, you may call the Guidance Department at 416-394-7710, extension 20040.

### Summer School

By now, many students have registered for summer school. Final deadline to enroll in day classes is June 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. There are three sessions offered this summer:

- Summer day school runs from Tuesday, July 5 to Friday, July 29 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for full credit courses, half the day for remedial credits, at various locations across the city. Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Family vacation plans cannot be accommodated. Students who do not attend the first day of class forfeit their place.
- July e-Learning courses begin July 4, 2016. Registration is now closed.
- August e-Learning courses begin August 2, 2016. Registration closes July 18, 2016.
- Please visit <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/elearning/Home.aspx> for details
- Students can only enroll in one full credit summer course at a time.

### Community Service Hours

Summer holidays can be an excellent time for students to earn community service hours. Completing a minimum of 40 community hours is a mandatory component for students to graduate from high school. The aim is to encourage students to make positive contributions in their community and to develop an appreciation for the value of community service. Additional outcomes include learning about their own interests and strengths as well as building resume experience. A few online resources are listed below.

[www.GetInvolved.ca](http://www.GetInvolved.ca)

[www.volunteertoronto.ca](http://www.volunteertoronto.ca)

**Important:** please note that community service and volunteering is not necessarily the same thing. Giving of one's time at a place of business is not in the spirit of giving back to the community. Each year, we turn away a few students because the completed activity was of a nature that would otherwise "be normally performed for wages by a person in the workplace." That is, students are not to replace paid workers or be paid themselves.

Students can visit the Guidance Office for a *Community Involvement Activity Notification and Completion Form* that outlines eligible and ineligible activities.

Mr. R. Straatsma  
ACL – Student Services

## NEWS FROM THE PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### Athletics

#### Spring Season 2016

**Varsity Girls' Soccer** – coached Mr. Hoare  
The girls played North Albion C.I. in the quarter-finals this year! They had a very successful season.

**Junior Boys' Soccer** – coached by Mr. Simnor  
The junior boys' had a spirited and competitive season as they advanced to the quarter-finals this year.

**Senior Boys' Soccer** – coached by Mr. Simnor  
The senior boys' had a building season.

**Track and Field** – coached by Mr. Simnor and Ms. Tzankova  
The team had a very successful season as many of the athletes moved on to regionals at Birchmount Stadium.

**Ultimate Frisbee** – coached by Ms. Susnik and Mr. Smith  
The Ultimate team won the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Silverthorn Ultimate Tournament on May 20 and made it to the semi-finals against Etobicoke C.I.

**Co-ed Volleyball** – coached by Ms. Susnik  
This season was full of laughs and memories! The team made it to the quarter-finals this year against Silverthorn C.I. Great job Scots!

**Outdoor Cricket** – coached by Mrs. Mangat and Mrs. Kharotia  
The team went on a one day tournament.

**Girls' Softball** – coached by Mrs. Peterkin and Ms. Coleman  
Girls' softball had a building year as TCI has not offered this sport in five years!

**Thank you to all the coaches for their hard work and dedication to the athletic program at TCI.**

**Mr. Bernard** – Cross Country  
**Ms. Coleman** – Girls' Softball  
**Mr. Hoare** – Girls' Varsity Soccer  
**Mr. Karam** – Varsity Football  
**Mrs. Kharotia** – Indoor and Outdoor Cricket  
**Mrs. Mangat** – Indoor and Outdoor Cricket  
**Mrs. Peterkin** – Junior Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Softball  
**Mr. Simnor** – Varsity Football, Senior Boys' Soccer, Junior Boys' Soccer, Track and Field  
**Mr. Smith** – Varsity Football, Badminton, Ultimate  
**Ms. Susnik** – Senior Boys' Volleyball, Junior Boys' Basketball, Senior Boys' Basketball, Co-ed Volleyball, Ultimate  
**Ms. Tzankova** – Cross Country, Track and Field  
**Mr. Williams (Donavan)** – Junior Boys' Basketball, Badminton

### **Athletic Banquet**

Our annual athletic banquet was held on **Wednesday, June 1** at TCI and it was a magnificent celebration. This was an opportunity where both coaches and athletes were recognized

for their commitment and enthusiasm towards athletics.

- **Grade 9 (female and male)**  
Awarded to the most involved athlete in Grade 9: *Keon Morrison*
- **Kirk Wallace (female or male)**  
Most outstanding Grade 9 in track and field: *Keon Morrison*
- **Junior Athlete of the Year (female and male)**  
Awarded to the athlete of the year in Grade 9 or 10: *Zindel Jackson, Safali Patel*
- **Senior Athlete of the Year (female and male)**  
Awarded to the athlete of the year in a senior grade: *Nicole Henry, Jordan Ottey*
- **Mike Rawnsley**  
Awarded to a male who displays outstanding team leadership/sportsmanship : *Harmanjit Dhindsa*
- **Barr – Female**  
Awarded to the female who displays outstanding team leadership/sportsmanship: *Sonya Patel*
- **Letterman – Male**  
Outstanding contribution in a non-competing role: *Tyreke Small*
- **John Stevenson – Female**  
Outstanding contribution in a non-competing role: *Shawna Kay Tulloch*
- **Royal Stewart – Male**  
Awarded to the male who displays outstanding effort: *Michael Linton*
- **Royal Stewart – Female**  
Awarded to the female who displays outstanding effort: *Brianna Mombourquette*
- **Carol Roslin - Athletics and Academic Award (male and female)**  
Awarded to the athlete who demonstrates both high achievement in academics and athletics: *Safali Patel, Abhishek Shah*

## **TAC – THISTLETOWN ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

Staff Advisor: Ms. Susnik

The council is to be commended on their superb organizational and leadership skills which led to many successful events under the amazing leadership of **Nicole Henry** and **Kalisha Santokie**.

### **2016 – 2017 TAC Executive**

Presidents:	Abdirahman Abdi Sagal Abdillahi Rochelle Henry Safali Patel
Vice-Presidents:	Halima Hussein Bilkisa Tayib
Publicity:	Sagal Abdillahi
Treasurer:	Halima Hussein
Secretary:	Safali Patel
Intramural Coordinator:	Rochelle Henry
Yearbook Advisors:	Abdirahman Abdi Bilkisa Tayib

### **TAC's Spring Carnival**

TAC organized a school wide carnival on May 18 for 350 students. The afternoon consisted of team building, leadership and cooperative activities. It was an exciting and fun afternoon for all who attended.

### **Curriculum**

#### **PLF4M – Recreation and Leadership**

Thistletown was voted the best Leadership class in the Toronto District School Board and will be an expletory class for other TDSB teachers to experience and learn how to teach leadership.

The students ran a Grade 7 and 8 co-ed volleyball tournament on May 19 for Hollycrest M.S., Smithfield M.S. and Beaumonde Heights J.M.S. Congratulations to Smithfield for winning the tournament.

Four healthy school initiatives were organized by the Leadership class:

- **DPA – Daily Physical Activity**  
Five minute musical interludes were played for five days to get TCI moving.
- **Anti-Substance Abuse Prom Assembly**  
The YMCA and MADD came to speak to the Grade 11's and 12's before prom.
- **Informative Poster Campaign**  
Posters about gambling, drinking and driving, and car racing were placed around TCI as well as announcements in the morning.
- **Cyber Bullying Agenda Page**  
This page was created to inform students about the harms of cyber bullying.

Ms. C. Susnik  
ACL – Physical and Health Education

## **NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

A number of students from Grades 9 to 12 participated in a variety of events during the months of April and May 2016. A brief description of these events is provided below.

A small group of Grade 11 and 12 students participated in Sick Kids Medical Health Workshop at Sick Kids Hospital on April 24. This was an opportunity for the participating students to get first-hand information on careers related to Health Science including medicine.

A number of students from the Grade 11 University Physics class wrote the University of Waterloo SIN Exam on May 5.

Some Grade 12 University Chemistry students participated in the University of Waterloo Chem 13 News Exam on May 12

Six students from Grades 9 and 10 participated in Sick Kids Science Extravaganza at Sick Kids Hospital on May 16. The participating students had the opportunity to visit different laboratories, listen to presentations by renowned medical professionals and to meet with various professionals at Sick Kids Hospital.

A large number of Grade 11 University Chemistry students participated in the University of Waterloo Avogadro Exam on May 19.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all participating students and staff for their time, effort and contributions.

Mrs. B. Mangat  
ACL – Science

### **NEWS FROM THE THISTLETOWN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL (TEC)**

We are very pleased to share with you that Thistletown has earned “GOLD CERTIFICATION” status for the school year 2015-16. The Eco School Certification audit was held on May 24. The role of TCI’s vegetable garden in engaging students, the mural painted by Ms. Pepper’s NAC class in collaboration with a local artist, and the involvement of the school community through “Tech It Away” were the three main activities that were greatly appreciated by the Eco School Certification auditors.

“Tech It Away” was an electronic waste cleanup event organized in collaboration with Best Buy on May 18. A truckload of electronic waste was collected from Thistletown and its neighbourhood and was given to Best Buy for proper recycling and disposal.

In addition, Earth Hour was observed for the months of April and May.

We wish to extend our heartiest thanks to all TCI students, staff members, administration and parents for supporting the events and activities of the Environmental Council. We also thank all members of the Environmental Council for their efforts, time and contributions.

Mrs. A. Kharotia  
Mrs. B. Mangat  
Teacher Advisors