

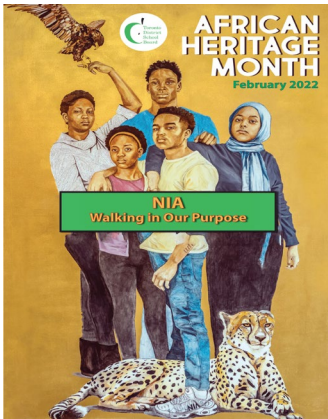


## Twentieth Street Junior School

February 2022



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



### AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is African Heritage Month and it is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Peoples of African Descent to Canada and the world. The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004.

An [artwork](#) created by students under the leadership of their teacher, Matthew Chapman, from Downsview Secondary Schools in 2020 has been updated to showcase this year's theme ***NIA: Walking in Our Purpose***. Five principles of Kwanzaa are presented in this painting:

- Umoja (unity) the tattoo
- Nia (purpose) the logo on the shoe
- Kuumba (creativity) the logo on the shirt
- Imani (faith) the brand tag on the hijab
- Kujichagulia (self determination) found in the fabric of one of the shirts.

There were almost 1.2 million Black people living in Canada in 2016. The Black population is diverse and has a long and rich history in Canada. This dates back as early as 1608 with Mathieu De Costa who came from Holland to Canada to work as a French interpreter. There was also a large settlement of Blacks in New France in and around 1734 with Marie Joseph Angelique. During the 1850's and 1860's many Blacks fled to Canada from the United States seeking refuge from enslavement because of the Trans Atlantic Trade.

Among the Black population born outside of Canada, the source countries of immigration have changed over time. More than half of this population who immigrated before 1981 were born in Jamaica and Haiti. Black newcomers now come from about 125 different countries, mainly from continent of Africa.

During the month of February, several activities are being planned and they include a virtual launch to kick-off African Heritage Month (see details below) as all staff, students and the TDSB community are invited to attend!

#### [African Heritage Month Virtual Celebration Launch](#)

**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

**URL:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/stream/LiveWebcast-African-Heritage-Month.html>

Everyone is welcome to join for a virtual celebration that includes speakers and entertainment



## CHINESE HERITAGE MONTH

The month of February is proudly recognized as Chinese Heritage Month (CHM). This year CHM coincides with one of the most important Chinese celebrations, the Lunar New Year!

The Chinese community is integral to the growth and success of the City of Toronto and Canada. Members of the Chinese community represent approximately 10 percent of the total GTA population and form its second largest visible minority group.

During this month, we celebrate the energetic culture and traditions of the Chinese community with students, staff and community members.

Below is a contribution from one of the parents at Twentieth Street from our Virtual Kindergarten Class, Jennifer Tam who wrote a little bit about Chinese or Lunar New Year. This year it is celebrated on Tues. Feb. 1, 2022.

*Happy Chinese New Year to all of you, I hope everyone is doing well and are staying safe. I'm happy to be able to write about our culture this year for all the families, I hope you all enjoy this piece as we welcome a new year, this year being the year of the Tiger let me tell you a little history about it..*

*The Tiger is known as the king of all beasts in China. The zodiac sign Tiger is a symbol of **strength, exorcising evils, and braveness**. Many children wear hats or shoes with a tiger image for good luck.*

*Treats are shared during Lunar New Year, It's a classic Lunar New Year scene: Family and friends huddled over a red and gold candy box, unwrapping edible treats and shelling nuts. Cyun hap (LNY candy boxes) have a history that can be traced back for more than 1,000 years," says Gloria Chan, spokesperson for the Hong Kong Culture Heritage Studies and Promotion Association. The traditional word 'cyun' means 'to put together, or to bring together. By putting all the fortune candies in one place, a cyun hap symbolizes bringing luck together and wishing blessings for the coming year. "It's important to note the word "candy" should be used loosely and can refer to anything from seeds to dried fruit. Nian gao, also known as "rice cake" or "New Year cake" in English, are a must for Chinese New Year. The "gao" in nian gao is a homophone of 高 (gāo—tall/high). It's a wish to be successful and "higher" each year. Every year will be better than the last. Some funny parents like to tell their children that eating this will help them grow taller too. They are either made of sticky glutinous rice or yellow rice, giving nian gao two major colors and textures. During Chinese New Year, any flower market or shop will have abundant bouquets, pots and arrangements of Orchids - to decorate our homes for a fresh beginning*

*Chinese lanterns are used in important festivals such as the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year to the Lantern Festival) and the Mid-Autumn Festival. During Chinese New Year it is not uncommon to see lanterns hung on trees in the streets, office buildings, and doors of houses. Hanging a red lantern in front of the door is believed to **drive off bad luck**.*

*People of Chinese origin believe that what you do at the beginning of a new year will affect your luck in the coming year. **Staying up on Chinese New Year's eve** (January 31st, 2022) and **saying good words** to your family/friends like Happy*

*New Year after the clock strikes 12 will certainly bring good luck.*

We wish every family and their loved ones a Happy Chinese New Year and stay happy and healthy in the upcoming year.

*"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark."*

*~ Chinese proverb*

*parents, get involved!*

## School Council Meeting



On Tues, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 we will have our third School Council meeting of this year. All parents are invited to attend. The meeting is virtual and begins at 7:00p.m . Please register to receive the Zoom Link here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsXJPCVfVdFuWM1eohxUrYMgvCx0kfqQDa8e3qqVYaWjfug/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsXJPCVfVdFuWM1eohxUrYMgvCx0kfqQDa8e3qqVYaWjfug/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Kindergarten

Registration

Information



### FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

Kindergarten is the first step in a lifelong journey that will see your child learn, grow, and succeed at the Toronto District School Board. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and your child.

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must be four-years-old by December 31 2022. For registration in Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31.

Please visit the TDSB website or call the school to find out more information about kindergarten registration. Also let friends and neighbours know that we will start registering students in February.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth> or call the school at (416) 394-7810.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



### WINTER WALK DAY

Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Winter Walk Day at the Toronto District School Board and across Canada!

We encourage all parents/guardians to walk their children to school on this day and hopefully every day. There are many reasons to walk to school:

- Walking to school for daily physical activity
- Not driving promotes a healthier environment
- Fewer cars on the street makes for safer streets, especially around schools
- making friends and having fun!

We would love to see as many students as possible participate in Winter Walk Day.

Don't hibernate – walk to school and celebrate!

## WEATHER



We're almost halfway through winter and we've had some extremely cold days and a lot of snow. Like most years we have some indoor recesses when it's extremely cold or wet outside, but we do prefer to have children spend time outdoors for fresh air, exercise and a mask break, so weather permitting, we will send students outside for recess. Please check the weather every morning and make sure the children are prepared for whatever the weather may be for the day. We will, of course, shorten recesses and outdoor time at lunch when the weather is -20 to -28 C and -28 C or below - windchill included, outdoor time will be cancelled, and children will be kept indoors.

Being prepared for the cold means, being able to enjoy our Canadian winters. We encourage all students of all ages to wear layers: snow pants, gloves/mittens/, hats, scarves and/or earmuffs. Many students even bring an extra pair of socks to change in to so that they keep their feet dry throughout the day. Let's stay warm, be prepared to enjoy the outdoors, and embrace the winter!



## GOOGLE TRANSLATE

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) website has Google Translate, an online translation service that makes information more accessible for our community. Because the

TDSB website and its web pages are written in English, with the help of Google Translate, the free tool can translate information posted on the web site in over 100 languages.

The TDSB is committed to equity and community engagement, and by providing this tool, we are making our information more accessible to families whose first language is not English.



## FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY

There will be no classes on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> to reflect the province-wide statutory holiday called Family Day. The holiday occurs on the third Monday in February of each year for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together.

Friday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> is a P.A. Day (Reporting To Parents) and as such teachers will be involved in parent/teacher interviews for the Board-wide Professional Activity Day, therefore, students will not be attending school on Friday, February 18 and Monday, February 21 which is the statutory holiday - Family Day.

Visit the TDSB public web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) to view the school year calendar.

# Virtual Joint Forum Ward 2 & Ward 3

Thursday, February 10, 2022

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Trustees Nunziata and MacLean invite you to attend a meeting to discuss **Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy in Wards 2 and 3**. Special Guests **Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning**, and **Daniel Castaldo, Senior Manager, Planning** will be in attendance to answer your questions and address your concerns.

Members of the South Eatonville Residents Association (SERA) will also be in attendance and will provide a presentation.

**If you are interested in attending, please register:**

<https://forms.gle/2DxBNrXGEky8EPgeA>

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom. Registrants will be sent a meeting invite with a link and call in details for the session, the day of the meeting.

**We hope to see you there!**