

Twentieth Street Junior Public School

March 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The winter weather may have started a little late this year, but we've had a lot of snow and some very cold days so far. We're all hoping that spring will arrive soon!

February was cold and grey with lots of cold and snow, but we kept our spirits high here at Twentieth with some wonderful outdoor activities such as sledding, building forts, making snow people, snow angels, shoveling...just to name a few. It truly has been a "winter wonderland" out there!

This past month, we recognized African Canadian Heritage Month and Chinese Heritage month. We recognized the contributions of these two rich cultures via announcements and classroom activities. As a result, we learned more about their rich heritage, cultures and about their contributions to Canadian society.



MARCH IS GREEK HERITAGE MONTH

March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year is based on healthy living:

"Harmony of Life - Healthy Mind, Healthy Body"

Greece has been continuously inhabited for over 7,000 years. Athens is The capital of Greece and is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is also the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, political science, Western literature and major mathematical principles.

One of the most unique and wonderful of Greek inventions was philosophy. Philosophy was the special way Greeks attempted to make sense out of the world, in a non-religious way. This means that rather than using myths and stories to understand the world, they would use their intelligence and reasoning skills.

For example, Ancient Greeks began asking the question, "What exists?" They questioned the world around them and tried to make sense out of what they saw.

One famous quote from Aristotle says, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no [education](#) at all". Aristotle, was an Ancient Greek philosopher and was a tutor of Alexander the Great. Through his teachings, Aristotle hoped to inspire his pupils by instilling in them a love of learning.

Here are some fun facts about Greece:

- With an area of 50,949 square miles (131,958 square kilometers), Greece is roughly the size of [Alabama](#). The population of Greece is more than 10 million people.—comparatively, the population of Alabama is around 4.5 million.^[5]
- Approximately 16.5 million tourists visit Greece each year, more than the country's entire population. Tourism constitutes nearly 16% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).^[4]
- No one in Greece can choose to not vote. Voting is required by law for every citizen who is 18 or older.^[3]
- About 7% of all the marble produced in the world comes from Greece.^[3]
- Greece has more international airports than most countries because so many foreign tourists want to visit.^[3]

□ The world’s third leading producer of olives, the Greeks have cultivated olive trees since ancient times. Some olive trees planted in the thirteenth century are still producing olives today.

□ Thousands of English words come from the Greek language, sometimes via the Roman adaptation into Latin and then to English. Common English words from Greek include “academy,” “apology,” “marathon,” “siren,” “alphabet,” and “typhoon.”[3]

□ In the 1950s, only about 30% of Greek adults could read and write. Now, the literacy rate is more than 95%.[3]

□ Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which approximately 170 are populated. Greece’s largest island is Crete (3,189 sq. miles) (8,260 sq. km.).[5]

For those traveling to Greece for vacation and are hoping for some wonderful weather, please note that Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine - or 3,000 sunny hours - a year!



TIBETAN NEW YEAR – LOSAR

Losar is Tibetan New Year and marks the start of the Tibetan year which is based on a 12 lunar month calendar. The day it falls on is very close to the date of Chinese New Year. The date each year is determined by astrologers based in Dharmasala, India. The Tibetan calendar is in use throughout the Himalayan region and the New Year is a public holiday in Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan. It is a regional holiday in the state of Sikkim in India.

History of Losar

Losar means New Year (lo - year, sar - new) in Tibetan. It is the most important festival in the Tibetan calendar. The origins of Losar can be traced back to pre-Buddhist period and the Bon religion and was most likely celebrated to mark the winter solstice. To mark the beginning of the

end of Winter, festivities included offering large quantities of incense to the local spirits and deities. When the region converted to Buddhism, the date was shifted by Buddhist monks to match up with their lunar calendar.

The Tibetan New Year period lasts for fifteen days, with the first three days and New Year's Eve being the main celebrations. To all students, staff and community members who celebrate Losar, we wish you a very happy and healthy New Year!!



STEPS TO ADDRESS PARENT CONCERNS

We want to hear your questions and concerns, and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible.

In any situation, your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent and your Trustee.

For more information visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns>.

MARCH BREAK



This year, March Break runs from March 14th – 18th inclusive. This is the time of year when many people need and want a break. Winter has been around for what feels like ages, and everyone is craving longer days and more sunshine. While some families choose this time to travel and visit warmer climates, many people also choose to stay at home. There are lots of places in the city that prepare for March Break, running dynamic programs for children, and family activities that have something for everyone.

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM):

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en>,

The Ontario Science Centre:

<http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/>,

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO):

The Distillery District:

<http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/>, St.

Lawrence Market:

<http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/>, along with many other great locations within the GTA, like Riverdale Farm, The Toronto Zoo, The Hockey Hall of Fame and The Brickworks.

Although most of these programs require an admission fee, some are free and geared towards family and children. And don't forget to just get outside and enjoy the opportunities that are available in our neighborhood such as skating, parks etc. We hope that everyone has a great time for their week off !



TDSB EARTH HOUR 2022
FRIDAY, MARCH 25th FROM 2:00 – 3:00

During Earth Hour, we'll be using as little electricity as possible in the office, halls, classrooms, library, gym, lunchroom. Where possible, schools will also be reducing their electricity usage over the weekend.

More information is available on the EcoSchools website - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/environment>



SCHOOL DROP-OFF/PICK-UP ZONE

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to please adhere to street signage when dropping off or picking up children at the school. Please remember that you must leave a 10 metre distance when stopping near a crosswalk. There are signs to indicate where cars can stop and the school puts out pylons to help you visually see the NON-STOPPING ZONE. For everyone's safety, please drop off children in the designated areas (west side of Twentieth Street) only in the designated areas and on Twenty-First Street just north of the Bus Loop. Please do not use the bus loop so as to allow the busses to move in and out quickly and to ensure the safety of students going on or coming off the busses.

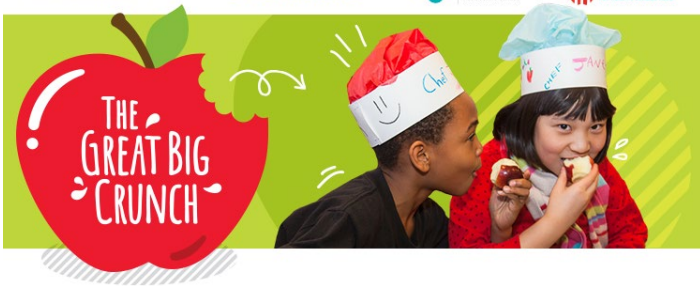
With the milder weather, we're encouraging everyone to walk to school everyday as it is a healthier and safer option.

AN INITIATIVE OF:

FoodShare

FSC
Food Secure Canada

THE COALITION
FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD



Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.

THE GREAT BIG CRUNCH

On Friday, March 11th, at 10:45 a.m. Twentieth Street school will participate in **The Great Big Crunch**. It is a national movement and annual moment of anti-silence in which students, teachers, parents and others who are passionate about food across the country crunch into apples (or other crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! Every year since 2008, Canadians from coast to coast have participated in the Great Big Crunch, an initiative of FoodShare Toronto and in collaboration with the Coalition for Healthy School Food and Food Secure Canada.

HIGH WATER LEVELS BRINGS INCREASED RISKS



The Toronto and Region Conservation monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

One of the best parts of living in our community is the variety of activities we can enjoy in our parks and public spaces all year round. With spring and March Break around the corner and the days getting longer, students may be spending more time outside. This is a good time to remind everyone to take extra care in enjoying all the outdoors can offer.

As you know, we are fortunate to have a number of safety measures, programs, and policies that contribute to a safe and caring school. However, most incidents happen away from school and outside school hours. All parents, students and staff are reminded of the need to be aware and alert at all times, even in the most ordinary and everyday routines. School staff regularly speak to students about how to stay safe. I know that you too will want to help ensure our community is as safe as possible. Here are some tips that you may find helpful when discussing safety with your child:

- always walk with a buddy to and from school
- always tell your parents where you are
- never accept gifts from strangers and never approach or enter a stranger's car; adults have no acceptable reason to offer a ride or to ask children for directions or assistance
- if a car is following you, change directions and run

- when help is needed, go to the nearest store or school, the home of a friend or run towards a group of people or a parent with children
- know your name, address and phone number
- know that police officers are friends and can help you
- tell your parents or teacher whenever someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe; TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.

Teachers also periodically review street and traffic safety with our students. We ask that you reinforce these safety messages with your children as well. Below is a list of tips that might be helpful to review:

- stop, look, and listen for traffic
- only cross at corners and crosswalks
- never run into the street
- obey crossing signals
- walk on sidewalks
- where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible facing traffic.

For those who drive, please take extra care on the roads, especially in areas where children might be present.

Parents can help further by keeping school contact information up-to-date, including cell and business numbers. It's important for our staff to have this information to know who to contact in cases of emergencies.

Working together, we can make our communities safer for our children.