

Twentieth Street Junior School

May 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

April showers have been numerous, and we hope for many beautiful May flowers. Winter this year has been cold and has felt very long. We're hoping for some warm and sunny days in May where we can enjoy more time outdoors.

There were many important days that were recognized and activities that took place in April, in most cases virtually. We had Easter, Passover, the beginning of Ramadan, Pink Shirt day, World Autism Awareness Day, Earth Day and Canada Book Day.

May is also filled with numerous events and activities. The first week in May, we will be recognizing Education Week. Many of us have spent significant amounts of time indoors and often in front of screens for school/work as well as for entertainment and for personal connection. May is "*Get Outside Month*", so let's take advantage of the beautiful weather and spend time outdoors because we know spending time outdoors improves our mental health and also allows us opportunity to get some physical activity. Finally, let's not forget that May 8th is Mother's Day! Wishing all of the mothers, grandmothers and mother figures out there a Very Happy Mother's Day!



PREPARING FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

This is a very busy time of year as we continue with our current year, but we are already thinking about classes for next September.

When forming classes, all issues related to developmental/learning issues and/or conflict of personalities between children are taken into consideration. The principal and teachers meet to create classes and to ensure that there is a balance of learning abilities, gender, and of course, personalities. A tremendous amount of thought and care goes into student placements and we always try our best to ensure maximum student success.

While children always want to be in a class with all their friends, it is important to remember that classes are put together to ensure that students are in balanced, dynamic classes -- we cannot put children in classes based on friendship alone. All information that will assist in creating successful classrooms is welcome and we encourage parents to contribute to the process.

We would also like to remind parents and caregivers that teacher assignments are not finalized as teachers have the opportunity to explore other opportunities at this time. Student placements will be announced the first day of school in September. Class lists will be posted on the doors in September. Below is the School Organizational Model for the next school year.



SCHOOL ORGANIZATION MODEL

JK/SK
JK/SK
Grade 1
Grade 1/2
Grade 3
Grade 4/5
Primary Autism
Junior Autism
Primary DD
Junior DD

Please remember that this model is based on projected number of students anticipated for September 2022 and it may need to be adjusted in September. Therefore, class and student placements may be affected at that time.



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2022-23

The 2022-23 school year at the TDSB begins on September 7, 2022 following the Labour Day long weekend. For more information about important dates and holidays for the upcoming school year, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar>

All parents are invited to attend our next school council meeting scheduled on **Tues. May 31st at 7:00 p.m.** It will be a virtual meeting and the Zoom link will be shared with those parents who register to attend by completing the form here: <https://forms.gle/7zvhDDbV86bdX3es9>

The meeting will take place from 7:00 – 7:30. Following the School Council meeting we have a Parent Workshop scheduled from 7:30 – 8:30 on Tackling Anxiety.

Parent Workshop: May 31st at 7:30 there will be a one hour Parent Workshop on *Tackling Anxiety and Stress through Arts and Mindfulness (TASAM)*.

The session will be led by a child development expert and will teach strategies, tips and tools that will effectively help parents deal with shy, anxious or stressed children during these unprecedented times. Early intervention and creating a safe and nurturing environment where the child feels protected, understood, in control, and develops healthy habits is the key to tackling these issues.

We hope you can join us for the TASAM session on Tues. May 31st at 7:30 – 8:30 pm. The sessions for the students took place in April.

Topic: Twentieth Street-TASAM- Parent Talk-School Community

Date: Tues. May 31st, 2022

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82762641704?pwd=WHYzK3VCTDlaY01KRHFmL0lQalo5QT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6264 1704

Passcode: 450106



ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

The focus of the 2022 Elementary Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Program is to continue student engagement through the month of July. Programs, embedded in Literacy and Numeracy, are developed by the local summer school principal to reflect the local school focus.

Programs are offered **in-person** to students in K to Grade 8, from July 4 to July 29, 2022. This year, one online (remote) summer school program will be available.

Registration Information

- **Program Dates: July 4-29, 2022**
- Registration is online.
- Program delivery method is in-person this year. One remote (online) program is available. Please see full list of programs below.
- Most classes run for three (3) hours from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., except for four (4) full day sites that run 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. which include: Alexander Stirling, Flemington, Rose Avenue and Yorkwoods.
- Please note, **there are limited spaces** available for both in-person and remote (online) programs.
- The remote (online) program is **NOT** associated with a particular school. Students who are registered will be grouped by grade and assigned an online teacher.

For more information and to register please visit the website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Elementary-Summer-School>



ANAPHYLAXIS NO NUTS PLEASE!

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life-threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Twentieth Street School is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about **not sharing** their snacks or lunches with other students, and **please do not send food and snacks with nuts** in them to school. Read all labels carefully prior to sending an item to school.

Serious allergies are dangerous and potentially fatal because oils and residues from nuts can be spread so easily. Please check food labels carefully. If your child has a severe allergy, please inform the classroom teacher as soon as possible



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This year, the TDSB recognizes Children's Mental Health Week (CMHW) from May 2 to 8, 2022. To help support student mental health and well-being for all, the Professional Support Services team has developed a wide variety of resources in line with this year's theme of Coping, Caring, and Connecting. Please access these resources below.

And, join and follow the conversation on Twitter using #copingcaringconnecting and see how schools are supporting mental health and well-being with their students.

Interactive Resource Kits

- ♣ Elementary Students
- ♣ Teen or Secondary Students
- ♣ Students with Special/Complex Needs
- ♣ Parents/Caregivers



CELEBRATING EDUCATION WEEK

We celebrate with schools across the province to recognize Education Week on May 2 to 6, and highlight the amazing work and initiatives underway in support of equity and students' well-being and achievement.

The pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on our community, but in the face of this adversity, we have come together to find new ways to connect, collaborate, learn, and support each other.

Join us to share how we are coming together as

an education community to support and prioritize the health and well-being of students and staff, engage all students, and maintain connections and support all partners, including parents and families.

Just a few highlights of how we're doing this include:

- Addressing Anti-Asian Racism: An Educators' Guide
- Encouraging outdoor learning
- Advocating for vaccine prioritization for education workers so our schools can be safe places to learn and work
- Continuing to plan for the future and approved a 10-year plan to increase opportunities for all students
- Continuing to support families through a variety of forums including the Parents as Partners Conference, Conversation Series, Virtual Drop-In Hours for Mental Health and Well-Being Support

Join us on Twitter to share and follow how our schools are celebrating success and learning in and outside of the classroom. What great things are you doing? Follow and share online using #TDSBedweek and tagging @tdsb!



BIKE SAFETY

With warmer weather approaching, children may be participating in more outdoor activities like bike riding. To help keep children safe while playing outdoors this summer please follow social distancing and all other guidelines provided by Toronto Public Health.

When children are riding their bicycles, parents and caregivers can take steps to protect them.

Here's how:

1. An adult should always supervise children 10 years of age or younger when they are using a bicycle or other wheeled sports equipment. Even older children may need on-going supervision

when riding near the road.

2. Make sure children wear the correct helmet properly when they ride. Ontario's bike helmet law requires all children and youth under age 18 to wear an approved bike helmet when riding a bicycle.

3. Keep children away from traffic when they use wheeled sports equipment. Make sure they ride in a safe place.

4. Teach children how to:

- a. steer, brake and ride in a straight line
- b. wear the right safety gear, and
- c. do a safety check every time they ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, use in-line skates or wear shoes with wheels.

5. Be within arm's reach when your children are learning to ride any wheeled equipment.

6. Always walk a bicycle, scooter or skateboard across a street intersection, instead of riding across.

7. Tell children that you are happy when you see them riding safely.

8. Remind children of the safety rules when they forget.

9. Be a good role model - wear a helmet and safety gear yourself. Children copy what adults do.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY – SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the

rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.

Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.

Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.

Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.

Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).

Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in

the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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MAY IS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Asian Heritage Month is recognized formally throughout Canada through an official declaration that was signed in May 2002. Subsequently, the Province of Ontario passed the Asian Heritage Act (2005), and the Toronto (TDSB) passed a motion to recognize Asian Heritage Month in 2007.

The TDSB is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada. Nearly one-quarter of our students were born outside of Canada and collectively we speak more than 120 languages. According to the 2017 TDSB Student & Parent Census 40% of TDSB students self-identified as Asian.

During the month of May, the TDSB proudly recognizes Asian Heritage Month by celebrating numerous achievements of Asian-Canadians and their significant role on the global stage. This year our theme is Discover. Share. Celebrate our Resiliency!

During the month of May we are honoured to share with you several opportunities and resources to learn about the traditions, customs, and significant individuals that the Asian heritage brings:

1. A PowerPoint presentation on Asian Heritage Month reflecting our theme, Many Voices United as One, was created and will be posted to the TDSB public website www.tdsb.on.ca.

2. The winning posters from the Poster Contest will be posted shortly to the TDSB website www.tdsb.on.ca.

3. All TDSB students, staff, and community are invited to attend the TDSB Asian Heritage Month Virtual Celebration.

Join us to learn about the vibrant and significant contributions that Asian-Canadians have made to our great country that our staff, students, and community members call home. Canada has been enriched by the vibrant traditions that we continue to recognize in our brilliant city by celebrating our heritage proudly through festivals and customs. Join us for an extraordinary time to learn about Asian Heritage.

Date: Monday, May 9th, 2022

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94506592022>

4. All Elementary Students from Kindergarten to grade 3 are invited to attend an Author Reading with Tran-Davies Nhung. Tran-Davis. Nhung N. Tran-Davis is a physician, author, mother of three, and an advocate for social justice in education. At the age of five, her family was sponsored to Canada as refugees from the Vietnam war. She loves to write children's stories that convey the humanity in our lives. She has spoken at the UN's International Organization on Migration in Geneva as part of their "I am a Migrant" campaign to help reduce hate speech and promote tolerance. Her books have been shortlisted for the Alberta Literary Award, Red Maple Award, and Blue Spruce Award."

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Time: 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm.

Zoom Link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/91570244549>

5. All TDSB students, staff and community are invited to attend a Movie Night at the following schools. More details will be shared when finalized. Stay tuned!

· Henry Kelsey Middle School
1200 Huntingwood Dr, Scarborough, ON M1S 1K7

· Martin Grove Collegiate Institute
50 Winterton Dr, Etobicoke, ON M9B 3G7

· Parkdale Junior and Senior Public School
78 Seaforth Ave, Toronto, ON M6K 3L2

· Zion Heights Middle School
5900 Leslie St, North York, ON M2H 1J9

resources please visit -

<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsbjewishheritagecommittee/home>.



JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH AT THE TDSB

The Toronto District School Board's Jewish Heritage Committee (JHC) is made up of close to 80 staff across every level of the system as well as Trustees. Since its inception in 2015, JHC activities have always been focused around teaching & learning in celebration of Jewish heritage and culture – impactful, innovative, and inspirational work with students in fighting antisemitism, and all forms of hate.

Throughout the month of May (Jewish Heritage Month), TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee and the Ontario Jewish Archives are offering a lively and historical guided walking tour of Kensington Market to Grade 6 & 7 TDSB students.

“A Trip to the Market” is an engaging exploration of the history, music, and architecture the market has to offer. This opportunity will connect students to a significant part of Toronto's local history as a destination for new immigrant groups.

The walking tour focuses on the stories of Toronto's early Jewish community, largely immigrants from Eastern Europe. TDSB's TUSC (Toronto Urban Studies Centre) staff will guide the groups through the sites, smells, and sounds of the market. Destinations include historical homes, former businesses, and culminates at the beautiful and historic Kiever Synagogue.

Please see attached "A Trip to the Market" Kensington Walking Tour flyer! For additional