



From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers and Students

# Withrow Bulletin

## Special Dates

February 7—School Council  
@ 7 pm

February 14—Valentines  
Day

February 14—Report Cards  
go home

February 15—after-school—  
Parent Teacher Conference

February 16—PA Day—Par-  
ent Teacher Conference  
morning

February 19—Family Day

February 22—Pizza Lunch

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## Kindergarten Registration

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September!

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31, 2018. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31, 2018. You may choose to register in person at the school or begin the process online.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

Here at Withrow our Kindergarten registration will take place on Tuesday February 13, 2018, all day in the front foyer of the school, entrance from Bain Avenue.

Please bring:

1. Child's proof of birth
2. Child's immunization record
3. Two pieces of ID with your current address (can include utility bills, bank statements, tax statements, pay stubs, Drivers Licences are not accepted)

Optional:

Child Health Card Number



Withrow will be hosting the TDSB's Cuban/ Brazilian Percussion Kit for the next few months.

We will also be welcoming guest artist and Toronto Jazz/ Latin percussionist Joaquin Nunez to work with our junior classes, and all students will be using these instruments . This will start on February 1 and run through the month of February.



Jazz/ Latin percussionist, Joaquin Nunez

## **Celebrating Black History Month**

We have also booked a school performance with Ballet Creole. This performance is for all kindergarten to grade 6 students. The performance is on Friday February 2 to kick off Black History Month.



Ballet Creole

# Winter Weather

## Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the wind-chill is below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

## Recess During Cold Weather

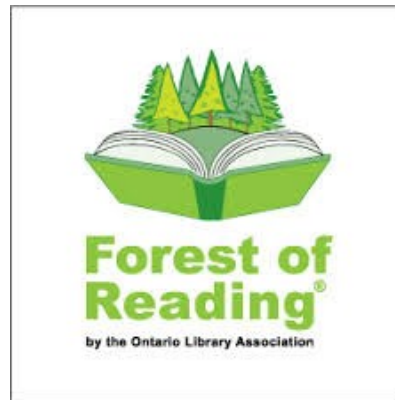
Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hour may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if parents have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please contact the school office.





# Library and Learning Commons

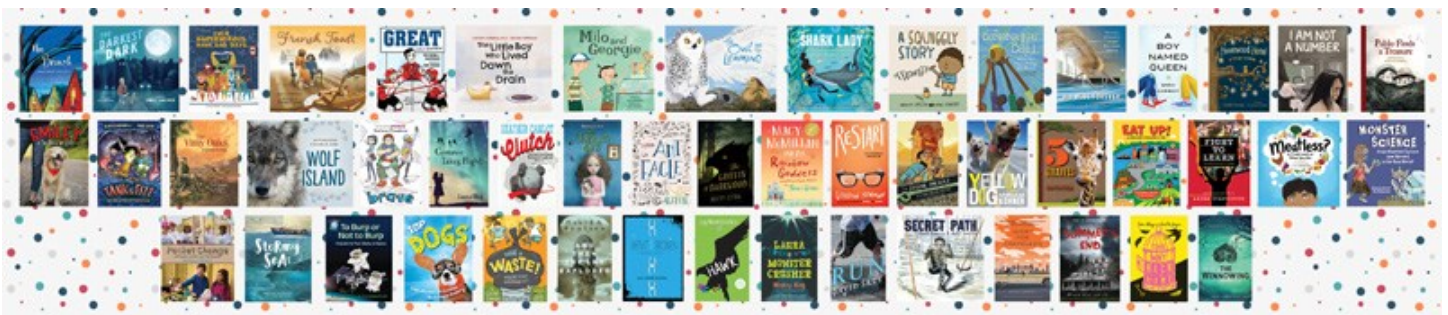


## Forest of Reading

The library has been buzzing ever since the launch of the Forest of Reading program this month. This is an Ontario-wide reading program in which students read a minimum of 5 Canadian books in a variety of categories, each focused on a different age level. At Withrow we are participating in the 7 categories (4 English and 3 French) that are geared towards Kindergarten - Grade 6 students. Kindergarten and primary students will be read either the Blue Spruce or prix Peuplier books during their weekly library visits. Students in grades 3-6 can choose to participate in the Silver Birch or prix Tamarac categories. Students have until April 24th to read at least 5 books in one category and earn a leaf for the Silver Birch tree in the library windows.

More information about the program and about this year's nominated books can be found at

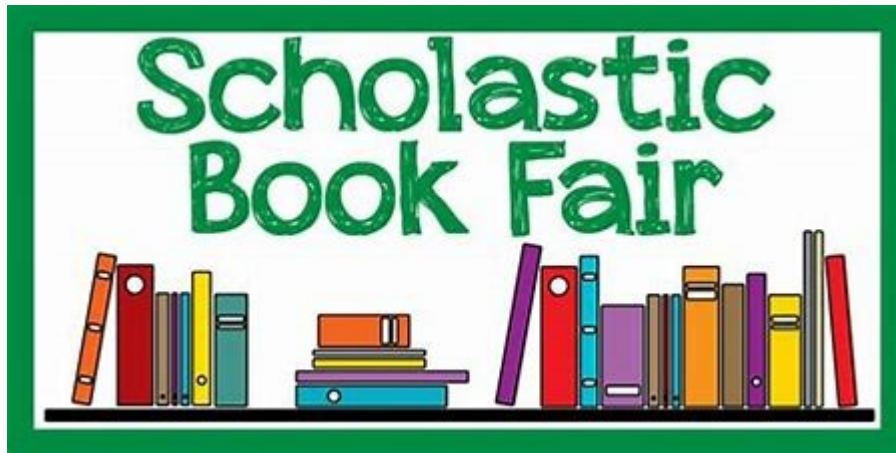
[http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/Forest\\_of\\_Reading/Nominated\\_Lists/OLA/Forest\\_of\\_Reading/Current\\_Program\\_Year.aspx](http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Nominated_Lists/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Current_Program_Year.aspx)



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 FOREST OF READING NOMINEES!**

For the full nominated lists, visit [accessola.com/forest](http://accessola.com/forest)





## **Scholastic English Book Fair**

This year's Scholastic English Book Fair will be held in the library from Monday, February 12th until Thursday, February 15th. Adult volunteers are needed before school, after school and during the school day. Duties will include selling the books as well as helping the kindergarten and primary classes create possible wish lists during their classroom visit. Student-Librarians will also be helping out before and after school.

The hours are as follows:

Monday, Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 11:45am, 12:45pm – 4pm
Tuesday, Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am – 11:45am, 12:45pm – 4pm
Wednesday, Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am – 11:45am, 12:45pm – 4pm
Thursday, Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am – 11:45am, 12:45pm – 5pm *interview night

Any help that you can provide would be most appreciated. A sign-up sheet for adult volunteers has been posted on the wall outside the library doors. You can also email me your availability at [jane.mundell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jane.mundell@tdsb.on.ca) and I can add you to the schedule.

Thank you! Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian

## **Music@Withrow**

### **Withrow Primary and Junior Choirs**

A HUGE BRAVO to our Primary and Junior Choirs for their December performances! Our Primary Choir hosted two school-wide Carol Sing-a-Longs in the gymnasium. Not only did they learn and perform all ten songs, but they also introduced them and counted in our accompanist. Our Junior Choir opened the Withrow Winter Concert with vigor and energy with their performance of 42nd Street. We welcomed back Mme. Blais-Jones to conduct one of our favourites, When I Grow Up and finished with the classic Edelweiss.

Our two main choirs combined involve more than 80 children from Grades 2 to 6! Our choirs are continuing to rehearse through to May 2018. We are currently planning a few performances in the coming months. Interested in joining the Primary or Junior Choir? Contact [sarah.parker@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sarah.parker@tdsb.on.ca). The Primary Choir rehearses Wednesdays @ 8:00 am and the Junior Choir rehearses Mondays @ 3:30 pm and Tuesdays @ 12:00 pm.

Thank you to all of our Music Coaches for their commitment to our choirs at Withrow. Mme Johnna, Mme Blais-Jones, Mme Anamali, Mme Sebestyen and our accompanist Marjorie Wiens. Thank you also to the Withrow School Council for your support!

Withrow Rock Bands... ROCK!

Friday afternoons are a time to relax and kick-back... unless you are in the Withrow Rock Bands! Twenty-Four children from Grades 2 - 6 meet Fridays after school to learn, arrange, and rehearse a piece. Children and staff start with the basic chords, bass lines, and melodies, and then work together to learn how to play their parts collaboratively. Children and staff are teaching children and staff how to play ukulele chords, guitar bass lines, strumming patterns, melody lines, and piano fingering. Our percussionists have been working as mini-teams to create rhythmic accompaniments for their Rock Bands.

Shout outs to our Music Coaches Mr. Mars and Mr. Tarvit for helping facilitate our musical learning.... And rocking out with us Fridays after school!

Sarah Parker

## Withrow Welcomes Joaquín Núñez Hidalgo and the TDSB Music Department's Cuban/Brazilian Instrument Kit

The instruments are here! Don't know what we're talking about? Check out the bulletin board by the music room and see if you can name the 18 new instruments we will be playing with for the next few months!

Cuban/Brazilian Drumming is a TDSB Global Music Program that examines the performance practices of various Cuban and Brazilian folkloric and popular drumming styles. The program provides a unique opportunity for teachers and their students to develop fundamental performance skills and gain awareness of important artistic and aesthetic aspects of the Latin drum ensemble. The program includes: the use of a Cuban/Brazilian percussion kit (congas, bongos, cajon, timbales and other percussion instruments) for 8 weeks; teacher workshop sessions as well as classroom visits with a visiting musician/artist Joaquin Nunez who will work with the teacher and students to develop their skills and knowledge in Cuban-Brazilian music; and for teachers-a study of the technical skills necessary to lead a student percussion ensemble in their schools.

Master Rumbero Joaquín Núñez is a self-taught musician who began playing percussion instruments at the age of five. As a professional artist Joaquín has had a successful music career in Cuba. Performing in numerous musical events and festivals, he has shared the stage with most of Cuba's elite musicians. Joaquín will be working with our Junior classes over the next few months.

Thank you to the TDSB Music Department and the Withrow Arts Committee for sponsoring artist visits.

## Music Co-Curriculars Spring 2018 - UPDATE

Withrow Orff Team: Our W.O.T. will rehearse and perform a variety of music with Orff instruments (xylophones, glockenspiels, and metallophones), rhythm instruments (e.g. shakers, drums, etc.), singing, and dancing/ movement. This ensemble will run from March to May in 2018. We will send you application details in March.

Prep Choir: Our Prep Choir is a great introduction to ensemble singing, rehearsal routines, and preparing for performances. Past performances included Music Monday and school assemblies. Students may join in March 2018. Rehearsals will be held at lunch time (Day TBA) between March and May. Prep Choir is for grade 1s only! We will email you sign-up details in March.

## Mark these dates on your calendar:

Tue. Feb. 27 @ 2:45 pm - Rock Band Show (School Performance)

Wed. Feb 28 @ 4:00 pm - Rock Band (Family Performance)

Mon. March 5 @ 2:35 pm - Primary and Junior Choir Performance (School Performance)

Mon. March 5 @ 4:00 pm - Primary and Junior Choir Performance & Potluck (Family Performance)

Mon. May 7 @ 8:00 am - MUSIC MONDAY in the Pit (gym - rain location)

Wed. May 30 @ 1:00 pm - Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal (School Performance)

Thur. May 31 @ 7:00 pm - Spring Concert (Family Performance)



## Camp Ooch Fundraiser

With Valentine's Day coming up, it is time once again for our annual fundraiser for Camp Oochigeas (Ooch). Camp Ooch is a volunteer-based organization which addresses the needs of kids with childhood cancers. It provides "fun, enriching and magical experiences" for these children and support for their parents. Unfortunately, the Withrow community has had students who have battled this terrible illness and Camp Ooch is something they have always looked forward to. From Feb. 7th to the 14th, students will be able to buy and send Valentine's Day cards to their friends, family and teachers. The hearts will be displayed in the main hall of the school. The hearts will cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and all proceeds will go directly to Camp Ooch. We hope your children will be reminded of the importance of giving to the community and will participate in raising much-needed funds for this very worthy cause. This year, our goal is \$550 and we're sure we can make it a reality!



Thanks so much!

## Concussion Awareness

If your child has a concussion, please make sure that you inform the school. TDSB has a policy outlining procedures for students with a diagnosed concussion including the development of an individualized and gradual "return to learning and/or return to physical activity" plan for every student with a diagnosed concussion. Click on the link for more information.



[Concussion information for Parents and Caregivers](#)

## Safety

This is a reminder to parents about taking precaution when driving your children to school.

Please do not use the parking lot as a drop off zone—it is a parking lot. Frequently we see children running out of vehicles assuming the parking lot is safe. It is a parking lot being accessed by teachers, staff members and TDSB service vehicles. Please ensure all children are safe and do not use the parking lot as a drop off zone.

The parking lot sometimes is used by parents, children and community members as a short cut during and off school hours. We ask all adults not to model this sort of behaviour as we frequently see students now using the parking lot as a short cut. Lets all be safe!

To ensure all students are safe when coming to school, we are asking parents not to park on the sidewalk for student drop off. It places all children at risk. Never leave running vehicles unattended..

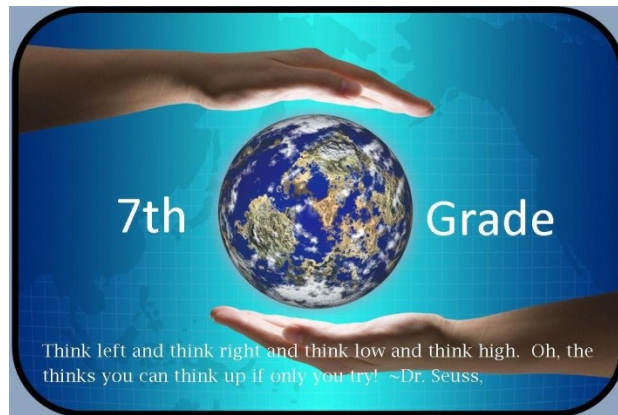
Together we can work towards the safety of all our kids here at Withrow and Quest.





# **DATE CHANGE**

## **Grade 6 to Grade 7 Transition Night**



**On Wednesday February 7 between 7-8:30 pm  
we will host the Grade 6 to Grade 7  
Transition Night in the Library**

We have invited 6 former Withrow students who were in either French Immersion or in the English Program.

These students have taken different paths to middle schools across the city to include Alternative programs, English, French Immersion, and Extended French.

Come listen to their experiences and ask questions.

**This invitation is for all Grade 6 students and their parents to attend!**



## Rock Band at Withrow



Withrow Avenue PS  
25 Bain Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario

Phone: 416-393-9440

E-mail: [Withrow@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Withrow@tdsb.on.ca)

**Withrow Athletics with Mr. Tarvit**



<https://sites.google.com/view/mrtshpeandwithrowathletics/>

**We are on the web! Check us out:**

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/withrow/Home.aspx>

Follow us on twitter @TDSB\_Withrow