

Thursday June 29, 2018



**From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers
and Students**

Special Dates

**Monday September 3,
2018—Labour Day—
school closed**

**Tuesday September 4,
2018 —First Day of
School—meet in the
school yard**

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Placements

We want to thank all the parents who took the time to participate in our on line survey to parent input to placements.

We received about 120 responses and we were able to honour about 90 % of parental suggestions. We do not take requests for teachers or classrooms. This year we asked for a friend request or a student to be separated from.

Placements are a difficult process which take into consideration multiple of factors.

We ensure that each class has a balance of genders, academic levels as well as balance of needs and personalities. One small change upsets that balance.

When we ask parents for input, it can complicate things in some cases. It can also make placements more difficult especially when we only have one class of that grade. Combination classes give us greater opportunities to place students especially when we are pairing friends or separating children.

I repeat, at times we were not able to honour your input, but we have tried. We have created the best classroom combinations that will allow all students to feel successful.

Lets thank all the teachers and staff who dedicated their lunch hours and stayed afterschool to build great classes for all during the month of May. Teachers spent numerous hours discussing the best combination of students for each individual class. It's a lot of hard work and we need to trust that staff, who know students well in context of a class, have created the best possible classes for all.

Making one simple change can disrupt the entire dynamics of the class. This lengthy and thoughtful process aims to create balance, harmony and ensures meeting the needs of all the students in the class. Please trust the process.

There will be two Long Term Occasional Teachers next year. One in the grade 1 French Immersion class and another in the grade 3/4 French Immersion class. Some parents may be disappointed that their child does not have a permanent school teacher, but these teachers will be hired before the end of August.

Please spend this summer building confidence and resiliency in your child by being positive about their placement for next year.

Thank you for trusting all the Professional Staff here at Withrow who are dedicated to all students and their success.

Staff Changes for next year

We have a few staff changes for next year.

Madame Sebestyen is moving to London Ontario and working for the Thames Valley District School Board. We thank her for all of her many contributions to Withrow and wish her all the best in her new endeavour. We are pleased to have hired experienced teacher Jennifer Waddell for grade 5/6 French Immersion.

Ms. Anastassiadis, our Dance and Drama teacher will be teaching full-time at Quest next year.

Madame Cronin will continue to be on her maternity leave and an LTO will be hired over the summer. Once we fill this position, we will let those families know. We want to thank Madame Lepek for taking on this class for the past two months.

Madame Boujos continues on her maternity leave and we will also be hiring an LTO for her classroom over the summer. Again, once we fill this position, we will let those families know.

Mr. Parravano is transferring to Principal at Dewson P.S. and Ms. Harvey has been promoted to Principal at The Waterfront School. We welcome Principal Beverly O'Brien to Withrow. The new Vice Principal for Withrow will be announced soon.



WITHROW CLASSROOM DIRECTORY

2018-19

Class	Room	Teacher
ENGLISH		
JK-SK	102	Kathleen Ardill & Courtney Irving-Scott
JK-SK	112	Christine Costa & Jyoti Sharma
JK	113	Elaine Hofer & Latoya Michell
SK	116	Liz Kingstone
Grade-1/2	219	Aleya Rashid
Grade-1/2	220	Monica Brollo
Grade-2/3	218	Tom Mandel
Grade-3/4	230	Daniel Ferguson
Grade-4/5	337	Euan Mars
Grade-5/6	336	Mary Jane Noiles
Grade-5/6	338	Bella Wu
HSP-4/5/6 AM Only	339	Carolyn MacDonald & Shirley Yu
FRENCH		
SK	101	Johnna Sacrey-Butler & Carmen Gaspar
SK	114	Vincent Bolduc & Aspasia Battiston
Grade 1	221	TBA
Grade 1	223	Rebecca Wong
Grade 1-2	222	Marryn Anamali
Grade 2	224	Claire Dehenne
Grade 2-3	226	Ashley Nickels
Grade 2-3	227	Steve Massa
Grade 3	228	Christophe Maze dit Mieusement
Grade 3-4	229	TBA
Grade 4-5	340	Helen Lambert-Denis
Grade 4-5	341	Caitlin McAllister
Grade 5-6	342	Reed Roberts
Grade 5-6	343	Jennifer Waddell

Library and Learning Commons **Forest of Reading and Festival of Trees**

In the middle of May, thirty-five Forest of Reading readers were lucky enough to attend this year's Festival of Trees at Harbourfront. They were able to meet many of this year's nominated authors, participate in workshops with them, and attend the Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction or prix Tamarac Express awards. The highlight for many was being able to see who won each award in person. You can find information about this year's nominees and winners at accessola.com/forest

Thank you

A huge thank you goes out to the 70 students who volunteered to be student-librarians this year. These dedicated students in grades 4, 5 and 6 came to the library once a week to shelve books, prepare new books for the collection, work at the circulation desk, and do a variety of other library-related jobs. They also helped out during their classroom's weekly book exchange. The library would not be as organized as it is without their help! Special thanks also go out to all of the adults who helped run the two book fairs this year, as well as to Carolyn Robarts and Rosemary Barton for volunteering in the library on a regular basis.

Summer Reading Club

Keep reading during the summer! The Toronto Public Library is once again hosting the TD Summer Reading Club. This is a bilingual, Canada-wide club that encourages kids to develop a love of reading. This year's theme is "feed your passions." Interested students can sign up at their local branch or visit www.tdsummerreadingclub.ca for more information.

Have a wonderful summer full of great books!
Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian





New climber coming soon

WITHROW AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL



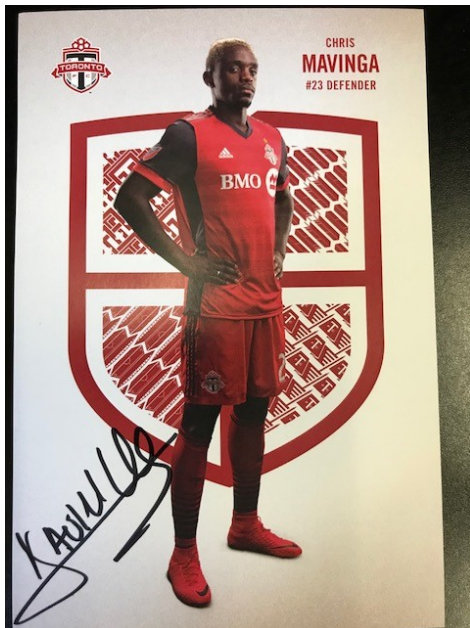
It has been decorated by students and designated as the Buddy Bench. The idea behind the Buddy Bench is simple: if a child doesn't have anyone to play with or is looking for a friend, they can take a seat and wait. Children who pass by and see someone sitting on the bench know that they are looking for someone to talk to or play with and can invite them to join in with whatever game they are playing.

Chris Mavinga From Toronto FC Visits Withrow Avenue Junior P.S.

On Wednesday, May 30 2018, Mr. Chris Mavinga, a renowned French soccer player who's playing for the MLS team of Toronto FC, came to visit Mrs. Lukusa and Ms. Nickels' students.

Mr. Mavinga first spoke to the students about his journey in Canada as a professional soccer player. Afterwards, the students asked him questions. He underlined the importance of being brave and rigorous, no matter what you undertake in life. Mr. Mavinga distributed official gifts from TFC and signed memorabilia brought by the students (soccer balls, jerseys, cards, caps). The students also had some gifts they had made for Mr. Mavinga! Finally, all the students played a mini soccer game with Mr. Mavinga on the school's field.

Mr. Mavinga inspired our students to work hard to achieve high expectations. It was a memorable and inspiring day for the students! **Mrs. Lukusa & Ms. Nickels.**





Saying Good-bye to Withrow

Mr. Parravano

Dear students, parents and guardians of the Withrow community,

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your principal in the last 5 years. Withrow has been a special place.

It's strongest presence are the wonderful students. The children are not only kind, caring and generous; they are also strong willed, committed and adventurous.

They have brought so much energy, excitement and laughter to Withrow during my tenure. There are so many stories and memories that I will bring with me but what really stands out for me is the strong advocacy that exists in our students for social justice issues.

Our students are so well versed on current issues that are newsworthy. It's been a pleasure to watch their initiatives, participation and advocacy for issues such as reconciliation in regards to the First Nation People's of Canada, issues of racism that exist in our community and society and how we work towards a better understanding of prejudice. They have worked tirelessly for community causes such as Camp Ooch for kids with cancer, Withrow cares for needy families during the holidays, coat drives to clothe the needy and homeless and raising money for organizations such as Terry Fox runs for cancer research and a jump rope for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Finally, how the students organized to address homophobia with Day of Pink activities and pride celebrations at the school over the years has been heartwarming. The children's commitment to social justice issues I will remember as the strength of the children's community.

Secondly I will remember the wonderful and dedicated hard working teachers we have here at Withrow. Not only do they work hard in the classrooms and their divisions, but work

hard after school hours running clubs, ensuring that they appreciate the love of reading, music, sports, dance and drama. They work hard to organize special events in their class, their division and the school. They are committed to each student and are strongly united in supporting each other. Every year they work hard on Inquiry groups where they professionally dialogue and test out new strategies in the class to improve professional practice. This commitment to self improvement is modelled to students who see that no matter what age you are, you are constantly learning. Their warm ,kind and creative approach to children I will always remember. Withrow is lucky to have all of you.

Teachers are not the only staff invested in the education of your children. We like to give a thank you to the ECEs the caretakers office staff and a huge thank you to Mrs. Tinney and Mrs. Helen for being mother hens to all of you children and to parents and staff especially myself. Mrs. Tinney you make Withrow a special place.

I have been fortunate to have two wonderful VPs at Withrow. Their commitment to students and public education will always be their strength. Thank you Dan Fisher and Dolora Harvey for bringing such creativity and energy to this wonderful place.

And finally the great parent and caregiver community. Your hard work not only to raise funds to get the students everything they deserve at the school, but more importantly the amount of human hours helping kids learn how to read, play, support kids on trips, special programs, sports and music and all the volunteer hours that you put into your child's education. You make Withrow a special place I thank you.

Withrow has truly demonstrated that it takes a village as part of each child's education.

I want to thank all of you for embracing me, my partner and my dogs Coco and Toby.

Withrow will always have a special place in my heart.

Although I am sad to leave I am excited about the new change that I embark on in a different school, closer to home.

Thank you,
Serge Parravano



Saying Good-bye to Withrow

Ms. Harvey

To The Withrow Community,

Leaving Withrow Jr. P.S. is very hard. Withrow is a unique place. There is a great team of staff, students, parents and community, who work together to give the students/your children, the best learning experiences that they can. I have learned so much from being at Withrow and I have enjoyed collaborating with this community to continue to build on the great things that happen here.

I am proud of the difference that I have made at Withrow, by listening to the students and giving them opportunities to share their voices at the school in many ways such as at assemblies or in the publication of the student Newspaper - Withrow's World News. Over the last two years, I have gained a greater understanding of the students at Withrow and helped them make positive choices, as well as developing Mental Health and Well Being strategies. Together we were also able to build capacity in technology, robotics, coding and global competencies.

But most of all, every day, I made sure that the students knew that I believed in them and I that I knew they could be successful. I reminded them that at Withrow we are all learning new things every day. I am learning too.

I will miss the students and I will miss the great relationships and friendships that I have made with the Withrow community. I will be taking all of my wonderful memories with me as I move onto another school and to other challenges. I want to thank all of the Withrow community for making this such a wonderful experience for me! I have many happy memories to celebrate.

Good-bye for now. I hope that our paths will cross again in the future.

Dolora Harvey

Jump Rope For Heart

We just wanted to say a HUGE thank you to everyone for participating in Jump Rope for Heart again this year! It was a huge success! Our final total of money raised was **\$12,769.75!!!** We surpassed our goal (\$7500) by a landslide and earned a school-wide costume day!

Students dressed up in costumes on Tuesday, June 19 as a reward for their effort and success in raising so much money for such an important cause.

Thanks again to everyone for your support! We look forward to running this event next year!!

Ms. McAllister & Ms. Nickels

Professional Activity Days:

Friday, October 5, 2018	Friday, November 16, 2018
Friday, December 7, 2018	Friday, January 18, 2019
Friday, February 15, 2019	Friday, June 7, 2019
Friday, June 28, 2019	First Day of School: Tuesday, September 4, 2018
Last day of school for students: June 27, 2019	

Dates to Remember:

Labour Day: September 3, 2018
Thanksgiving: October 8, 2018
Christmas Break: December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019 inclusive
(last day of school December 21, 2018; school resumes January 7, 2019)
Provincial Family Day: February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break: March 11 to 15, 2019 (inclusive)
Good Friday: April 19, 2019
Easter Monday: April 22, 2019
Victoria Day: May 20, 2019
Total Instructional Days: 188



Withrow Avenue PS
25 Bain Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

Phone: 416-393-9440
Fax: 416-393- 9595
Twitter: @TDSB_Withrow
Email: Withrow@tdsb.on.ca

Please check out the **Withrow Athletics Board** or Mr. Tarvit's website for updates on all sporting activities and events.

sites.google.com/site/mrtshpeandwithrowathletics/



We are on the web! Check us out:

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

Follow us on twitter @TDSB_Withrow