

Tuesday May 1, 2018



From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers and Students

Special Dates

Thursday May 4 -Kindergarten Art Show 2-4:00pm

Monday May 21-Victoria Day-no school

Tuesday May 22—EQAO (to June 4)

Saturday May 26-Fun Fair

Thursday May 31—Pizza Lunch

Wednesday June 6—Concert 7pm

Tuesday June 12— City Track & Field Finals

Friday June 22— Bike Trip

Wednesday June 27—Grade 6 Graduation 1pm

Thursday June 28—Reports Go Home, Last day for students

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Withrow Jump Rope for Heart & Stroke

We had a blast at our Jump Rope for Heart event!

On Thursday, April 26th, students and teachers spent the afternoon in the sunshine playing in obstacle courses, hula hooping, dancing, and skipping! Our awesome Grade 5/6 volunteers made sure that all of our stations ran smoothly. Thank you to all of our staff and community for promoting this event and raising an incredible \$9500 (so far!) for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. We will find out our grand total in the upcoming weeks as we count up the collection envelopes. We are confident that we have met our \$7500 goal and we will have a school costume day to celebrate.

Stay active and stay tuned!

~Caitlin McAllister and Ashley Nickels

A huge thank you to the Home and School Association and all of the parents who made such delicious food for the Withrow Staff and Teacher Luncheon. It was a lovely event and we truly thank you for all that you do to support us. We are very lucky to work with such amazing parents.

Thank you!

From the Withrow Staff and Teachers



Student Placement—Parent Consultation Form

Student Placements for next year—Parent Consultation form

Each May, we take about two weeks to look at the makeup of each classroom for the coming September. This is a complex, challenging, yet rewarding process through which the teachers and the administration attempt to place all of the children appropriately in a class for September 2018. Our goal is to ensure that we have a balance of gender in each class, as well as a balance of academic abilities, and social needs. We also look at relationships and positive and challenging friendships. Needless to say, this process is time consuming but worth all the time and effort.

As part of this process we ask parents for their input. This year we have a Class Placement Consultation Form for you to fill out. If you would like us to consider a friend request, please fill out the consultation form. Please submit if you want us to consider your input.

A reminder that this is simply a consultation form and given that we have 600 students we are not always able to incorporate the feedback we receive. Some parents in the past have asked for a straight or combination class. Given the few number of straight classes, we cannot look at this request this year.

Last year 211 parents provided their input into our class placement process via our Google survey. While most other schools do not solicit parent feedback, we have found that this process (using the survey) is the best way to allow for parent input and to manage the requests for a school of our size.

This year, we are asking parents to determine one preference:

1. **a friend or**
2. **a student to be separated from.**

Providing us with a name of a friend or child to be separated from, will be considered when we are making our placements of students.

Here are some things to take into consideration for next year when providing parental input into placements:

- Please read the news bulletin—the classroom organizational model is on the next page of the news bulletin
- **Please complete the form on time! IT WILL BE OPEN MAY 1 TO MAY 13! (Just under 2 weeks)**
- **Please no emails about placement.** Parents trying to bypass the form make this process more complicated and we have created this process to streamline things.
- Please fill out the form properly —if you attempt to submit two forms for one student or create two options within the same form we must disregard your input.
- Parents should consult with other parents on friend requests. Every year we have had several friend requests that come with an opposing request (by the other parents) for the children to be separated.
- Please do not ask for specific teachers; staffing changes take place all spring and into the summer and we are not able to do this.

The most important thing is to trust our teachers—they know your children and they will do everything in their power to create a balanced classroom in which all students are able to thrive and meet their potential. That is our goal for every child.

Here is the link to the **Parent Consultation Form**:

<https://goo.gl/forms/i5f7PjbmoWXwDXSF3>

If you have questions about the placement process, please feel free to get in touch with us in the office.

Thank you,
Withdraw Staff

ENGLISH CLASSES

JK

JK

JK/SK

SK (no ECE)

Grade 1/2

Grade 1/2

Grade 2/3

Grade 3/4

Grade 4/5

Grade 5/6

Grade 5/6

FRENCH IMMERSION

SK

SK

Grade 1

Grade 1

Grade 1/2

Grade 2

Grade 2/3

Grade 2/3

Grade 3

Grade 3/4

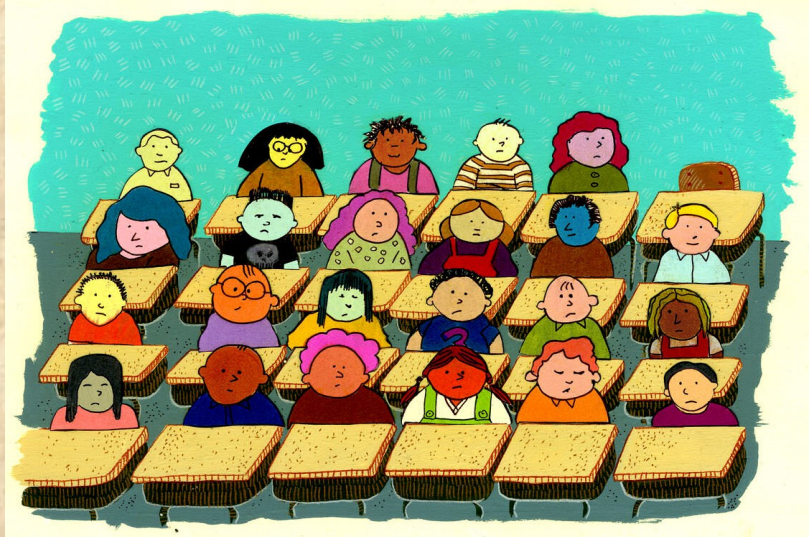
Grade 4/5

Grade 4/5

Grade 5/6

Grade 5/6

Classroom Organization for September 2018



I want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who came out to our April 4 School Council meeting to discuss, consult and participate in the creation of our Classroom Organization for September. We had over 30 parents attend and we had an opportunity for parents to collaborate with our staff to share their ideas and suggestions regarding our staffing model for next year.

At the April 4 meeting, parents were given an opportunity to create different models given the parameters created by the Ministry of Education. Such parameters include a maximum of 20 students in the primary grades. This made it difficult to create all straight grades throughout the school. No caps exist for junior grades. We had many good discussions! It was enlightening to explore the challenges that all schools face in creating a model that works to benefit all children.

The model that was selected was the one that offered as many straight and combination classes in the primary grades as possible while ensuring opportunities for teacher collaboration in junior grades along with multiple grade placements for students. We were unable to create straight classes in the Primary English but were able to in Primary French. Also, in our English division our classes were too large to create straight grade 4, 5 and 6 classes so as you can see in the table to the left, we decided to go with one combination class of 4/5 and two grade 5/6 classes. With the junior French Immersion we had a similar situation and decided on two combination classes of 4/5 and two of 5/6 which gives us numerous places to place students. The grade 3/4 classes in both the French and English were mandated.

I want to thank all of the parents and the teachers who came out and participated in creating various models.

As for additional student support in the school, we were allotted half a teacher less. We will continue to provide supports through our Junior HSP program for identified students with special needs along with Resource support for students in Primary and Junior and will integrate supports in both French and English.

As for the rotary subjects, we will continue to provide Dance and Drama, Music and Physical Education.

We will also continue to have a Librarian. This teacher will provide some prep delivery in STEM, in addition to focusing on promoting reading, partnering with teachers and assisting students with research and programs.

International Day of Pink



Students at Withrow joined together with other TDSB students and students around the country on April 11 to mark **International Day of Pink**.

Together we wore pink in support of diversity and to raise awareness to stop discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia, and transphobia. More than just a symbolic single-day event, the Day of Pink is also a commitment to be open-minded, accept differences and respect each other all year long.

At Withrow all of our students came together for an assembly in the gym where students presented powerful messages celebrating diversity and acceptance. We ended the assembly singing together "Lean on Me" - "You just call on me Withrow, when you need a friend!"



Our First Kindergarten Art Show

Friday May 4


Friday May 4 is the first ever KINDERGARTEN ART SHOW.

The Kindergarten team has chosen to showcase some of their students' visual art this year. For this year, the art show will replace the "all kindergarten performance," that usually takes place in the Spring. Kindergarten parents are invited to view the show with their children between 2 pm and 4:00 pm (the time has been extended) on Friday, May 4.

For interested parents in the Withrow community outside of Kindergarten, the show will be displayed in the gym all day on Friday and you are welcome to check it out anytime on Friday.

You are invited.....to the first, and hopefully not last

WITHROW KINDERGARTEN ART SHOW



WHERE: THE WITHROW GYM
DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 4
TIME: 2:00pm to 3:20pm

Details: Come pick up your child from their classroom anytime between 2:00 and 3:20 and tour the 'gym gallery' at your leisure with your child. Following your viewing your child can return to class until regular dismissal time, or leave the school with you - please let us know if they are leaving early with you.

Library and Learning Commons

Library and Learning Commons

After more than three months of reading, the Forest of Reading program has come to an end and the library is a lot quieter at morning recess! All week long, Kindergarten and primary students have been voting for their favourite picture books in the Blue Spruce and prix Peuplier categories. Students in Grades 3-6 have been reading novels, non-fiction and some longer picture books in the Silver Birch and prix Tamarac categories. Anyone who read 5 books in one category earned a leaf for our Silver Birch tree and was able to vote for their favourite book last Wednesday. Our voting results are now being tabulated and sent to the Ontario Library Association, the organizers of the Forest of Reading program. Province-wide winners of the awards will be announced at the Festival of Trees at Harbourfront in May.

Congratulations to the over 100 students who earned a leaf for our Silver Birch tree. Special mention goes to Kaylee and Sam P in Rm 336, and Signy in Rm 337, for earning a leaf in all three Silver Birch categories. Recognition also goes out to the many Grade 3 students who read all 10 books in their Express category -- Eleanor, Rebecca, Evan, Chloe and Elle in Rm 218, and Gloria in Rm 229. Bravo!

A huge thank you also goes out to the staff who read some Forest of Reading books and acted as experts for particular books. It would not have been possible without their support.

Happy reading!
Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian



Withrow Helps To Clean Up Toronto

This year Withrow Staff and Students joined with other students in the TDSB for the **School Cleanup Day, on Friday, April 20**. It was a perfect day to bring students and teachers together to clean our school yard and Withrow Park.



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

<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