

Thursday November 30, 2017



From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers and Students

Withrow Bulletin



Special Dates

December 1 –PA day

December 20—
Holiday Concert –7 pm

December 22—last day before break

December 25—
January 5—Holiday Break

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Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in our schools and sites each day, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB website, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe Weather:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>



Rebecca Wong's Dash and Dot

Dash, the robot, was an immediate hit in our class, salle 223! As a whole class and in pairs at a math centre, the students explored: "What are repeating and growing patterns? How are repeating and growing patterns different? Where is the math in music?" The students were able to use Dash and his xylophone attachment (along with the Xylo app on the iPad) to explore these questions as well as practice their skills in identifying, creating and extending patterns. It catered to various senses and visual, musical intelligences. The students composed tunes for Dash to play by creating patterns (ex. AB, AAB, ABCD, ABCB) using the notes/colours of the xylophone. Then, they could visually see Dash move his mallet and hit the notes on the xylophone as well as hear the notes being played. There were also students who composed a tune while others listened to Dash playing it; then, the listeners guessed the rule of the musical pattern. We look forward to including Dash in our learning again soon!



le concert d'hiver de Withrow



Artwork by Mr. Massa's Class

Wednesday December 20, 2017 @ 7 :00 pm*

*students arrive at 6 :45 pm

Withrow Winter Concert

School Garden Educator Update

Withrow School Garden Educator Update

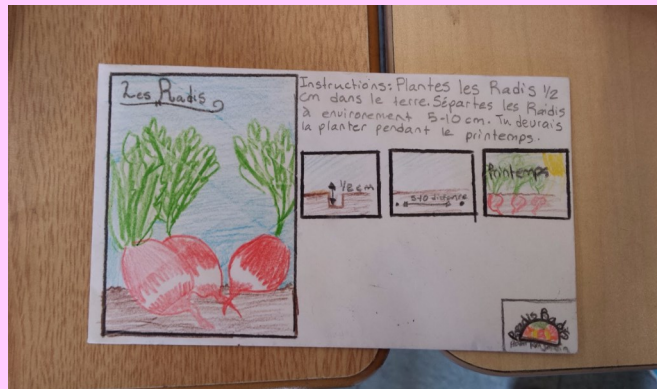
The school garden has gone to sleep for the winter, but not before we had a busy fall exploring, learning, harvesting and tasting. This past season was already my 8th working in the Withrow food garden - time flies! During the spring and fall, I work with classes from all grades providing hands-on, curriculum-linked lessons in both English and French on a variety of topics: plant life cycles, compost and worms, biodiversity, measuring and mapping, and lots more. Thank you to the parent council for your ongoing support of the school food garden programme!

One of this fall's most popular activities was making kale pesto. We started by going out to the garden to harvest some kale and herbs. We even had some garlic from our own garden, harvested in the summer! We then headed inside, where students chopped up all of the ingredients with scissors. And then, it was time to eat! It was amazing to watch the kids devour huge bowls of pesto that they had made! "I didn't think I'd like this, but it's actually really good!" "This is SO delicious!" If you want to try making this at home, you can find the recipe here on my school garden blog: <https://seedlingstories.wordpress.com/recipes/>



Seeds are some of my favourite things to explore in the garden in the fall, and I love sharing that excitement with the students. When a few classes first headed out for our seed scavenger hunts, the garden was starting to look brown and withered. But we found that if we looked closely, there was so much life to find in the little seeds that were there, waiting for spring! Students explored the shapes, textures and patterns of the seeds, and learned about how they travel. We then collected seeds, and students were able to take some home. We examined the design of seed packages and the information we find on them, and students had a chance to design their own.

Some grade 5s and 6s had a chance to practice some of their math skills in the garden this fall as well. We headed out to the garden with measuring tapes and chart paper, and students measured the garden beds, calculated the perimeter and area of our garden beds, and created scale maps of the garden. We learned why it's important to know the size of our garden beds for planning next year's garden.



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I'm looking forward to using our garden maps and seed knowledge to plan and plant next season's garden!

Elin Marley
School Garden Educator
seedlingstories.wordpress.com

Building Healthy Relationships

Last year Gaela Mintz (from TDSB) presented an information session for Parents on Navigating Relationships.

Helping students build positive relationships at our school is a part of how our staff support the Health and Well-being of our students.

Here are some Key Messages from the presentation that you might find helpful when you are supporting your child at home.

- ◆ **Humans have a fundamental need for love and belonging.**
- ◆ **We want to focus on behaviours within relationships, taking care not to brand entire relationships or people as unhealthy, toxic, or “bad for you.”**
- ◆ **We can not require people to be friends, we can require respect, and not engaging in unhealthy behaviours.**
- ◆ **Relationships are a process.**
- ◆ **No person is “the bully.”**
- ◆ **All relationship behaviours are learned.**

Brainstorming Healthy and Unhealthy Relationship Behaviours

What do you value in your friends?

What do your friends value in you?

What do other classmates value about you?

What do you value about other classmates?

What would a healthy relationship: • look like? feel like?

WITHROW AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL



New Climber

The Board's Viability Assessment Team met with Parent Council and confirmed costs.

We are now waiting for a Spring start date.

We will keep you posted.



Library and Learning Commons

This month's Scholastic French Book Fair was the most successful one yet. We had total sales of just under \$6775. When the taxes were removed, our net sales were almost \$6300. With sales this high, Scholastic rewards us with 60% of our net sales in books for our school. Each French classroom teacher was given \$50 to spend on books for their class and the rest of the \$3780 in books that we earned will go towards new resources for our library.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our school by purchasing something at the book fair. Thanks also go out to the many student-librarians and parents who volunteered their time to help out during the week. It would not have been possible without any of you.

Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian



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School Year Calendar



For more information about important dates and holidays for the upcoming school year, please visit

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar>

We are on the web! Check us out:

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

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