



From the Withrow Public School Staff, Teachers and Students

Withrow Bulletin

SAFETY ISSUE



Special Dates

October 6—PA Day
October 9—Thanksgiving
October 12—Parent Council
October 13—Cross Country
November 15—Progress Reports go Home
November 16 and 17—Parent Teacher Interviews
November 17—PA Day

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Safe Arrival Program

One way to keep students safe is to ensure students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent and you have not informed the school.

When you receive the call, you are required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly.

You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence. If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.

We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping your child safe and accounted for.

Bus Safety - Keeping Kids Safe



Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses and around traffic if driving to school.

Drivers should follow these tips:

Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.

Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.

Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AT WITHROW

Toronto District School Board's Vision of Special education is based on principles of: Fairness, Equality and Inclusion. The key component to TDSB's approach to special education is the belief that all students in the community, including those with special learning needs, should be welcomed and receive their education "to the full extent possible" at their local school. This philosophy of inclusion is the basis of the Community-Based Resource Model we use at Withrow Ave. Our school is staffed with special education teachers including a Methods and Resource Teacher (MART), a French Resource Teacher a Junior English Resource Teacher and a Home School Program (HSP) teacher who provide direct, indirect and withdrawal programs for students.

In- School Team (IST) Meetings

When a teacher is concerned about a student academically or in regards to learning/ social skills, the teacher implements specific strategies to support the needs of the student. The next step can be to refer the student to the In-School Support Team (IST). This meeting takes place within the school and usually involves the classroom teacher, the Methods and Resource Teacher and the Principal. The purpose of this meeting is to review the strategies that have already been used in the class to support the student and to develop an action plan involving additional intervention strategies. Once the strategies recommended at the IST have been implemented for a period of time there is a review of student progress. If more support or information is required a referral to the School Support Team is made by the Teacher.

School Support Team (SST) Meetings

The SST meeting is attended by school administrators, the MART, parents, as well as professionals from Special Education, Psychology, Social Work and Speech- Language Pathology. This larger team has more expertise and experience to help support the student. During the SST there is an open discussion about the student's strengths and needs. There are a range of recommendations that this committee can make based on the student's profile. In some cases, further information is needed and a referral for professional assessments is recommended. In other cases the development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) might be the next course of action. Parents involved are always invited and encouraged to attend SSTs at our school.

Sources:

www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/Processes.aspx

TDSB Special Education Plan 2016

Parent Class Reps

We are very pleased with the response that we had last year for parent rep volunteers.

Once again this year, we are asking for two class reps from each class. We ask that one or both of the reps attend the Home and School/ School Council meetings (5 per year) .

The class reps serve as an important connection between the School Council admin, and the greater community. They attend meetings and workshops at the school, and providing feedback to staff, in various ways throughout the year.

If you are interested in being a class rep this year, please email Barbara Tinney at barbara.tinney@tdsb.on.ca and indicate which class your child is in. We will select parents at random if there are more than two interested parents for a particular class.

We will go over all the emails we receive by Friday October 6th and supply more information to the wonderful volunteers who are selected for this role. We will also be meeting with the volunteers in person at our first School Council meeting on Thursday October 12 at 7 pm.

See you then, and thanks in advance for your contribution to our school community!

REAL FOOD FOR REAL KIDS



Once again parents have the opportunity to have a well balanced nutritious and hot lunch available to their children through the Real Food program. We have a four day option. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday). Parents will be able to register starting Wednesday Sep 27st for the first lunch date on Oct. 2nd. Keep in mind that no lunch is provided on Pizza lunch days. See the list of Pizza days on the next page. There is no hot lunch being served on any Thursday. Please visit the website to register:

<http://www.rfrk.com/catering/lunchclubs/list/>



Parking and Safety

As we begin a new year, I would like to remind you of the issues regarding illegal parking on the sidewalk. For safety reasons we would like to remind parents to park in a designated parking spot on Bain for student drop off and pick up. Please check signs and to be advised of parking times. When parking on the sidewalk you jeopardize the safety of students and this practice is illegal. I encourage parents to call Traffic Enforcement at 416-8086606 and report it. Traffic Enforcement continues to work with the school and the community to ensure the safety of all students.

Please do not park in the Withrow parking lot as a drop off and pick up location.

Withrow Staff

| <u>Grade/ Position</u> | <u>Teacher/ ECE/ Staff</u> | <u>Room #</u> |
|------------------------|--|---------------|
| | <u>ENGLISH</u> | |
| SK | Elizabeth Kingstone | 116 |
| JK | Elaine Hofer/ Claire Roper and Latoya Mitchell | 113 |
| JK/SK | Kathleen Ardill + Courtney Irving-Scott | 102 |
| JK/SK | Christine Costa+ Jyoti Sharma | 112 |
| Grade 1/2 | Monica Brollo | 220 |
| Grade 1/2 | Aleya Rashid | 219 |
| Grade 2/3 | Thomas Mandel | 218 |
| Grade 3 | Daniel Ferguson | 230 |
| Grade 4-5 | Euan Mars | 337 |
| Grade 4-5 | Bella Wu | 338 |
| Grade 6 | Mary Jane Noiles | 336 |
| | <u>FRENCH IMMERSION</u> | |
| SK | Johnna Sacrey-Butler + Carmen Gaspar | 101 |
| SK | Vincent Bolduc + Aspasia Battiston | 114 |
| Grade 1 | Steven Massa | 221 |
| Grade 1 | Rebecca Wong | 223 |
| Grade 1-2 | Helen Lambert-Denis | 224 |
| Grade 2 | Marryn Anamali | 222 |
| Grade 2/3 | Ashley Nickels | 226 |
| Grade 2/3 | Ashley Boujos | 227 |
| Grade 3 | Reed Roberts Wanless | 228 |
| Grade 3 /4 | Claire Dehenne | 229 |
| Grade 4/5 | Gabrielle Blais-Jones | 342 |
| Grade 4/5 | Caitlyn McAllister | 341 |
| Grade 5/6 | Christophe Maze dit Mieusement | 340 |
| Grade 5-6 | Katie Sebestyen | 343 |
| | <u>ROTARY + SUPPORT</u> | |
| HSP/ Drama and Dance | Carolyn MacDonald | 339 |
| Music | Sarah Parker | 109 |
| Phys. And Health Ed | Adam Tarvit | Gym |
| Drama/Dance / Phys Ed | Emily Anastasiadis | 334/ Gym |
| Special Education/MART | Karin Kurkcuyan | 231 |
| Library/ Stem | Jane Mundell | Library |
| French Resource | David D'Netto | 227A |
| Resource/ Drama/Dance | Michelle Kelly | 334 / 231 |
| JK/ SK Prep | John MacMillan | 335/ Gym |
| | <u>ADMIN TEAM</u> | |
| Secretary | Helen Saroglou | Office |
| Office Administrator | Barb Tinney | Office |
| Vice Principal | Dolora Harvey | Office |
| Principal | Serge Parravano | Office |



Fire Drills



At the school we have 6 fire drills a year. The purpose of the drills is to give adults and children the experience of getting out of the building in a timely manner in case of an emergency. Last year the Fire Marshall came in to observe and let us know we are able to do get out under 5 minutes. The safety of all children is really important to us and practicing drills makes us prepared.

School Lockdowns and Hold and Secures

From time to time, police activity and/or incidents in and around schools and their communities may result in a school being put into a “Hold & Secure” or “Lockdown.” These are procedures that are designed to keep students and staff safe. Below is a brief explanation of each.



Hold & Secure

Hold & Secure is a response to a threat and/or incident in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. School life continues as normal inside the school; however, as a precautionary measure, outer doors are locked and no one enters or leaves the building. Note: As a result of Secure Access Systems that are installed at TDSB Elementary schools, outer doors are typically locked during the learning day.

Lockdown

Lockdown is used in a serious emergency situation where the threat is inside a school, on or very near to school property. A Lockdown minimizes access and visibility in an effort to shelter students, staff and visitors in secure locations. Similar to a Hold & Secure, all outer doors are locked; however a Lockdown requires that all students be kept in classrooms or other designated locations and that inner doors also be locked where possible. Entry to, and exit from, the building is restricted to emergency services personnel only.

During a Lockdown, lights are turned off in the classrooms, curtains are closed where possible, cell phone use is restricted and all people inside the building should remain quiet. During a Lockdown, school phones will not be answered as the administration is tending to the ongoing situation. As cell phone use is restricted, students are asked not to use phones until cleared to do so.

It's important to note that every school across the Toronto District School Board is required to practice two Lockdown drills per year to ensure students and staff know what to do in case of an emergency. This is mandated by law.

We hope these descriptions help parents to understand some of the precautions we take at the school to ensure safety.

Pizza Lunch

Pizza Lunches are held the last Thursday of each month with the exception of December and June. Our Pizza Lunch days this year are:

September 28
October 26
November 30
December 21

January 25
February 22
March 29

April 26
May 31
June 21



Order forms were sent home and payment option were cash or cash on line

A reminder that Real Food for Real Kids does not operate on Pizza Lunch Days or any other Thursday .

If you are a Kindergarten parent and are able to volunteer on Pizza Lunch days, please contact our Parent rep Carmen Fuentez at carmenzillah@gmail.com.

Kindergarten Pizza Lunch can only function with a significant number of volunteers. Please help out if you can. If your child is in grade 1-6 and you have any questions regarding Pizza Lunch or cash on line please contact barbara.tinney@tdsb.on.ca

School Garden Educator Update

Withrow's School Food Garden grew well over the summer, and classes have been out exploring, learning, and tasting!

My name is Elin Marley, and I've been Withrow's School Garden Educator since the spring of 2010. I work with classes out in the food garden, running hands-on curriculum-linked lessons. We explore topics like plant life cycles, biodiversity, seasonal cycles, mapping and measuring, environmental topics, compost and soil, and so much more. And best of all, we get to harvest, cook and eat what we grow!

Garden in the Classroom

Garden lessons are open for all teachers to sign up, and this fall's schedule filled up quickly! Teachers choose lessons based on what best fits with what they are working on in class, linking lessons with what is happening in the garden in that season. Students enjoy the chance to learn outside and to connect with where their food comes from.

Garden Club on Mondays at Lunch

Garden Club had its first meeting of the season and will continue to meet on Mondays during lunch recess until November 6th. Garden Club is open to all students from grades 1-6. They do a lot of the regular garden maintenance, such as watering, weeding, adding compost to the garden, etc. New members are welcome to join!



New Staff

As the new year begins, we have new staff to acknowledge.

Ms Hofer has returned from her leave but on a part time basis. She will be teaching the JK class in the morning and we welcome back Claire Roper (our OT) who will be covering for Ms Hofer in the afternoons.

Ms. Cronin continues to be on maternity leave. We have hired Ms Gabrielle Blais-Jones who is covering the grade 4/5 class until she returns.

Finally our head caretaker has moved to a location closer to home. We welcome Nermina Pojskic as our new head caretaker.

Dog Safety

I am reminded by parents that there are a number of children who are afraid of dogs and that here at Withrow Quest there are signs that clearly state no dogs allowed in the schoolyard and on school property.

If you have your dogs waiting for you while in the building, please tie them up on the outside of the school fence. We want to ensure that all students feel safe and acknowledge those fears.

Finally we want parents to be aware that we have a Service dog in the building named Charm. She is not a pet so please refrain from petting her.



Parents entering the building

A reminder to parents entering the building. If you require access to your child or your child's teacher, please ensure you sign in at the office and pick up a visitors pass.

This is for everyone's safety. If we follow this basic simple rule, we ensure the safety of all students at all times.



Mr Tarvit—WAA



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

sites.google.com/view/mrtshpeandwithrowathletics

French to English move

Sometimes children struggle in the French immersion stream and parents are not sure if their child should continue with French. If you are one of these parents, please let your teacher know. This is a process that we want to involve our SST team of professionals to weigh in on each unique case.

Moving to instruction in a different language comes with numerous challenges so we ask that all parents communicate their desire as soon as possible as this can be a lengthy process and not always the best solution for the child. The process begins as follows:

It begins with a teacher bringing the parents concern to an IST meeting with the Principal. At that meeting, we decide if we can try to remediate the challenges the student is experiencing with resource assistance. This may involve a Resource teacher providing small group support for 6 weeks. At the end of 6 weeks we reconvene to decide whether to continue support and if the child needs specific accommodations or modifications to their program to be successful.

If the challenges continue, we bring students to a School Support Team where the meeting is attended by the parent, School psychologist, Social Worker and Speech Language Pathologist, to determine what specific challenges the student is having, and to review what supports were put in place.

Each case is uniquely different. Sometimes students after they move to English continue to struggle with school and the move to English may not have been the right move, as they continue to have the same struggles.

So we want parents to know that the move is not a simple one and that we want to involve many professionals in the decision making.

If a decision is made that it is best for a child to move to the English stream, we normally do not move them in the middle of a term, but rather in a natural break in the year, after the winter holidays or summer holidays.

Please involve us in the conversation to make the best decision for your child. It starts with your teacher.



Fall is here! On October 4th, join schools across the country in celebrating International Walk to School Day (iWalk/iWheel).

Did you know October is also International Walk to School Month? If you're feeling up to the challenge, consider promoting walking to school all month long.

As autumn arrives, the days begin to get shorter and increasing our visibility as pedestrians and cyclists becomes especially important. Whether heading to school by foot or on two wheels, the following are some safety tips from [Toronto Public Health](#) to keep in mind before heading outside:

- Carry identification, a cell phone and a whistle
- Bring water
- Wear comfortable walking shoes and bright, reflective clothing
- Dress for the weather
- Cross streets at traffic lights, stop signs or crosswalks-always walk facing traffic
- Avoid using headphones and cell phones while walking
- Tell someone where you are going
- Check the Air Quality Health Index and UV index before you start your walk
- Be sun safe

Show us how you're celebrating!

Share your iWalk/iWheel event with us by tweeting @EcoSchoolsTDSB using the hashtag #walktoschool or #biketoschool



Your City Councillor is Paula Fletcher.

If you have any city concerns, please contact Paula Fletcher. You can access her website at:

<http://councillorpaulafletcher.ca/community-newsletters/>



Orange Shirt Day



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

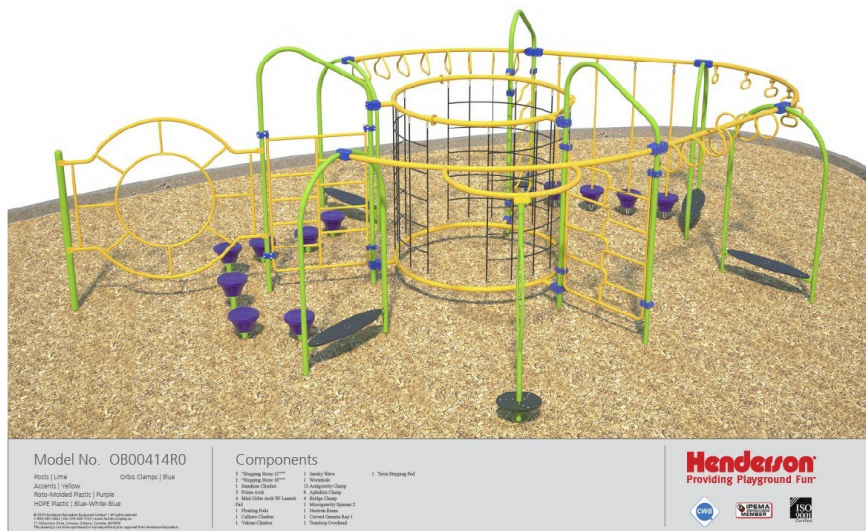


Terry Fox Run



Our 15th annual Terry Fox Run was a success! Thanks to cooler weather, we were able to run outside comfortably. Our goal this year is to raise \$6000. To donate please go to the Terry Fox Run website and donate : <http://www.terryfox.org/Run/>

WITHROW AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL



New Climber

The Board's Viability Assessment Team will be meeting the Parent Council in the next few weeks to finalize costs and set up possible construction dates. We hope that this project will begin sometime this fall.

We will keep you posted.

Primary Grades Lining Up for the Start of the day



As we approach the second month of school, we continue to work on having children getting themselves organized to start their day. Our Junior classes have had years of experience and do a great job. We need our parents to assist us with our primary division out on the Bain Avenue entrance when the bell rings at 8:55 am.

We ask all our parents to be on time when coming to school and ensure that your child joins the appropriate line immediately once the bell rings.

It is so important that we keep this area free of people, strollers, bikes and dogs in order for students to line up and get into school quickly and ready to learn.

Thank you for understanding and thank you for your ongoing support.



Anaphylaxis – Taking the Necessary Precautions

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. The TDSB 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.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

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 any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Before sending any treats to school for the class, please speak to the teacher about the specific allergies of students in the class.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Anaphylaxis Canada's web site at www.anaphylaxis.org/ or by calling 416-785-5666.

Parking lot Safety



Our parking lot is for staff working in the building.

We have two schools a daycare and numerous TDSB employees using the parking lot.

We have been leaving both gates to the parking lot opened to be more convenient for people accessing the building from different streets.

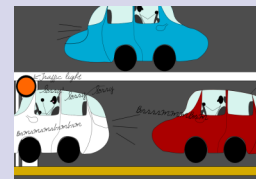
Unfortunately, members of the community are using it as a quick drive through or shortcut placing children and adults in danger and increasing the risk of damage to cars and bikes parked in the lot.

As a result, to ensure safety for all, we will only have the parking lot opened on one side.

The parking lot is for staff to use during the hours of 6 am to 6 pm. Community members can use the parking lot outside of those times and on weekends.

However, if your car is still in the parking lot during school hours, your car will be tagged and towed.

Please use the parking lot responsibly outside of school time.



Medication Administration



If you have a child that requires medication on a temporary basis, please ensure your doctor has filled out the necessary form giving us approval to administer medication to your child. To access this form please follow the link below to the tdsb website:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=259>

Print out PO form 536A and have your physician sign and fill in the administration before bringing this to the office.

Thanks



Withrow Avenue PS
25 Bain Avenue
Toronto, Ontario

Phone: 416-393-9440
E-mail: Withrow@tdsb.on.ca



Library & Learning Commons

Welcome back! The library is in full swing and students have once again started borrowing books. Each class has a designated weekly period in which they can visit the library and exchange their books. The library is also open after school from 3:30pm to 4pm, and students who ask their teacher for a library pass can visit the library at morning recess as well. They can come to exchange their book, read quietly or do homework.

Students are permitted to borrow no more than two books at a time. **Books may be kept for up to two weeks, after which time they are considered overdue and must be returned so that other students can borrow them.** Primary and Kindergarten French immersion students are only permitted to borrow books written in French. Immersion students in the junior grades may borrow either one French book and one English book or two French books.

How can you help your children? Encourage them to take responsibility for their library books. Help them find a special place at home to always keep their books, a place where the books will be safe from younger siblings and pets and will not get lost. Remind them to return their books each week so that they can borrow new ones (your child's teacher should have informed you of their library day and time). Most importantly, promote a love of reading! Read with them often and let them see you reading too.

Jane Mundell, Teacher-Librarian



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>

Follow us on twitter @TDSB-Withrow