



## **FRIDAY FILE – Sept. 22, 2023**

***KINDNESS. RESPECT. PRIDE.***

***Follow us on X (former Twitter) @ZionTdsb***

School Website Link <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/zionheights/>

School Contact Information:

5900 Leslie St, North York ON M2H 1J9

Phone: 416-395-3120 Email: [zion@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:zion@tdsb.on.ca)

Dear Zion HMS families,

We want to share that we will not be reorganizing in October! Although our final enrolment as of Sept. 14 was lower than our spring projection, our school was fortunate not to lose staff as per our teacher allocation. After consulting with our Teaching Staff and School Council, admin has decided that our classes will not reorg so as to provide the least disruption to our school community. Parents who have any questions or concerns are welcome to contact the office for further information.

Please note that First Day Start-Up Form glitches have been fixed by our IT dept. and all parents should be able to submit digital forms. Please contact the office if you need any help at all! Our School Office Administrator, the wonderful Ms. Barlas can also be reached at [toula.barlas@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:toula.barlas@tdsb.on.ca). Thank you to all the families who have submitted their forms!

Please also note that ***SCHOOL PHOTO DAY is on Wednesday, September 27th (all day!)***. This year we will be doing class group photos and our Grade 8 Graduation Photos (scheduled at a later date) will be composites of our Grade 8 graduating cohort.

Please scroll down to see more important updates on this week's Friday File!

***We hope you all had a wonderful week of focused learning!***

***Chi Le  
Principal  
Zion Heights Middle School***

***Monica O  
Vice-Principal  
Zion Heights Middle School***

**Zion Heights Middle School - IMPORTANT UPDATES:**

# YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!

September 27!



## Showcase Your Best Smile

- Students will be photographed at school.
- On photo day, no order form or payment is due.
- Review your images and purchase online with ease!



### DON'T FORGET

School photos are a Canadian tradition to capture the school year and preserve your continued growth.



### GET REMINDERS

Sign up for notifications at [edgeimaging.ca/photoday](https://edgeimaging.ca/photoday) to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.

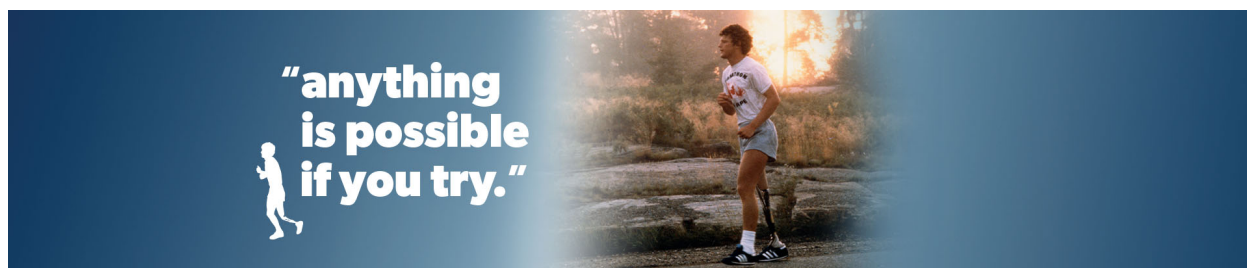


1 (866) 707-3343

[edgeimaging.ca](https://edgeimaging.ca)

@edgeimaging

## Terry Fox School Run @ ZHMS: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

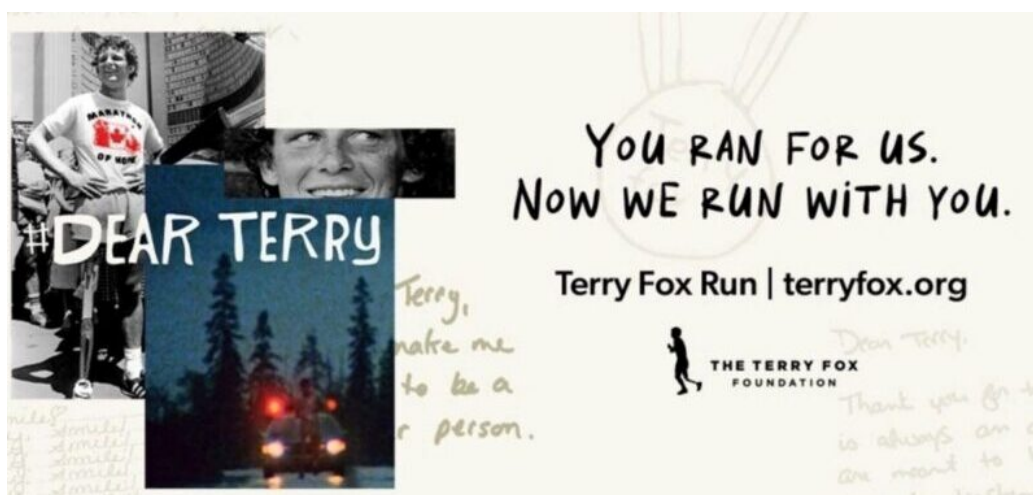


Our Terry Fox School Run is on Thursday, September 28th, 2023. The day is meant to promote Wellness, Empathy and Social Awareness for staff and students. We will spend time outside doing something to help others who have been affected by cancer while at the same time building community. Thanks everyone for doing your part!

Terry Fox said, "**Anything is possible if you try.**" Inspired by his amazing example, our school is proudly taking part in this year's **Terry Fox School Run**. Please consider supporting us and help us raise much-needed funds for cancer research

Terry Fox said, "**Anything is possible if you try.**" Inspired by his amazing example, our school is proudly taking part in this year's **Terry Fox School Run**. Please support us in our **try**, and help us raise much-needed funds for cancer research. *Donate today at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ZionHeightsMSToronto> #terryfoxschoolrun @theterryfoxfoundation*

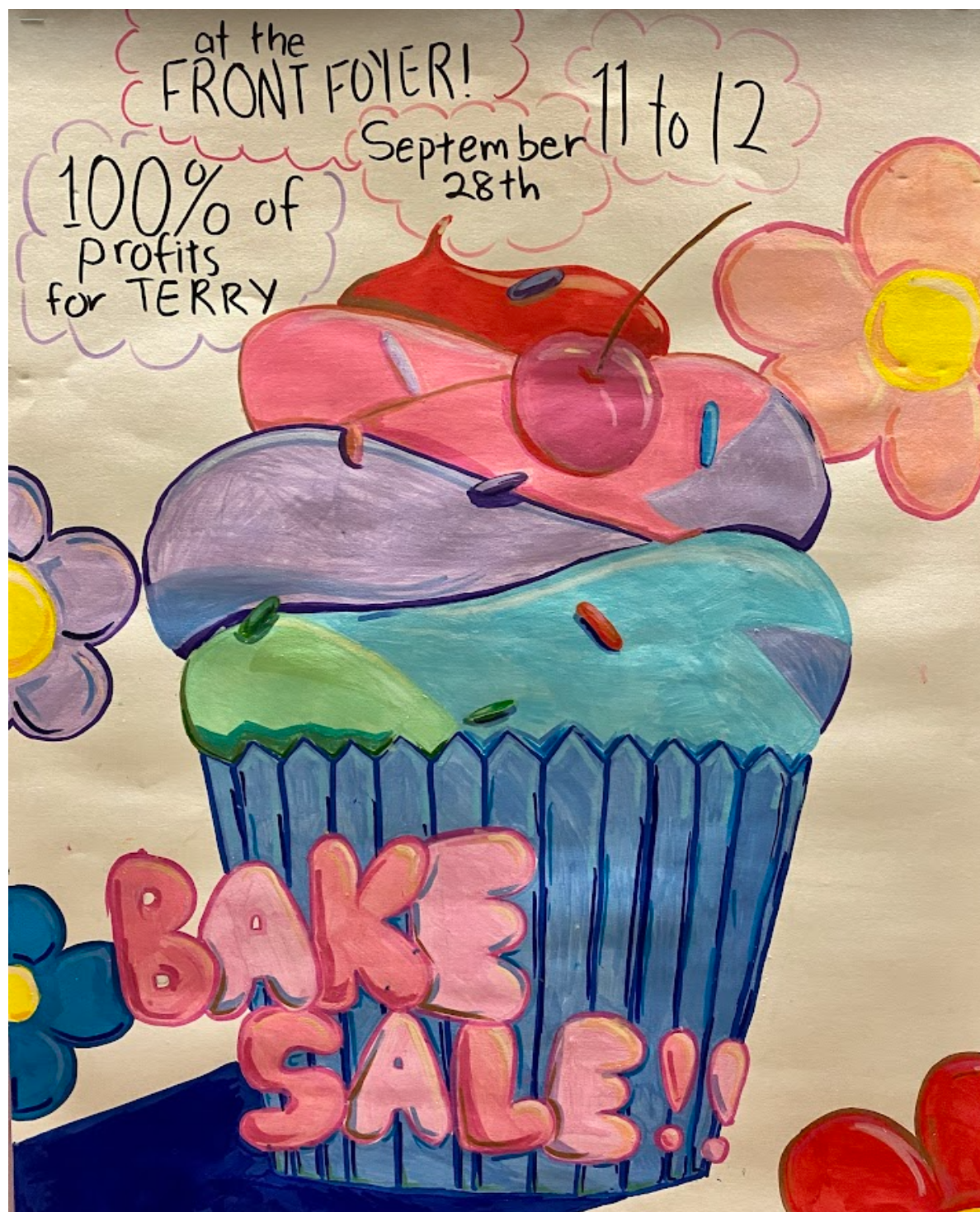
*Last year we raised over \$1300 to support cancer research, this year our goal is \$2000!*





## TERRY FOX BAKE SALE

We are hosting a Bake Sale for Terry Fox on Thursday, September 28th. All donations of baked goods or store bought baked items are welcome and greatly appreciated. Please make sure all donations are peanut and nut free and kindly indicate the main ingredients. Please also label your containers so we can return them to you. Join us in spreading awareness for those suffering from cancer and help us raise valuable funds for cancer research.



## ZHMS Recognizes Orange Shirt Day on September 29, 2023



UIEC\_TDSB  
@UIEC\_Tdsb

...

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day & the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students, staff and families @tdsb will recognize this day on Friday, September 29th to remember the Indigenous children that died in residential schools and honour the survivors #OrangeShirtDay

### ***Paying School Fees / School Cash Online***

School Cash Online has been set up for parents to pay for school fees/supplies. School Agendas, Gym Uniforms and Locks can also be paid for on School Cash Online

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Cash-Online>

### ***Attention Parent Volunteers!***

Please complete this Google Form if you are interested in volunteering at ZHMS this year: [ZHMS Parent Volunteer Form](#)

### ***Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSS) by Toronto Police Services is now online***

Toronto Police Services has moved its Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSS) application online. This will expedite the process of approving school volunteers!

The TDSB has been given a unique code that applicants will be required to use when filling out their application. [A step-by-step process is available online as a PDF.](#)

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online.

If you require any additional information, please email the Police Reference Check Office at [PoliceReferenceCheckOffice@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:PoliceReferenceCheckOffice@tdsb.on.ca)

## **ZHMS School Council Elections**

***will be held in person on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 6:30 PM***

We are looking for **up to 15** voting parent/guardian representatives to be on the School Council that will sit for a term of one year. All parents/guardians with children in our school (virtual and in-person) can be elected to the School Council. Voting representatives will then elect the following:

- the Co-Chairs (two positions)
- a Treasurer
- a Secretary

Members of the School Council must attend school council meetings. A person employed at the school or employed elsewhere by the Board cannot be a member of the School Council unless they take reasonable steps to inform people qualified to vote in the election of parent members of that employment.

School Councils are a way to **improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents** (Reg.612/2.1) through active parent engagement.

We are looking for parents/caregivers who wish to contribute to cultivating **a positive school climate and influencing school achievement**. Our School Council will thrive from having **enthusiastic, collegial, optimistic and equity-minded School Council members**.

If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, please use this form:

[ZHMS School Council Nomination Form](#)

The nomination form/bios are due on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 4:00 PM**. Only parents/guardians of currently registered children attending Zion Heights Middle School may participate in the voting process.

If needed elections shall be by secret ballot on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM. We encourage all parents interested in joining our school council to attend the [PECO workshop](#) that will be held on Sept. 28th at 6:00 PM. This will be an informative session on School Councils. Should only 15 names be brought forward, those individuals will be acclaimed and elections for voting members will not be required.

Only parent/guardian representatives may then vote for executives on the School Council.



# Your School Council Elections

## How School Council Elections Work

All parents/caregivers of students registered in the school are invited to attend meetings and events, help out and participate in their school community. They are also eligible to become Voting Members or Executive Members on the School Council if they are nominated and elected.

### What is a Voting Member?

Voting members are the parents/caregivers elected on election day. They form the new council together with school staff, student (where applicable) and a community rep (appointed by the new Council). They vote on items through-out the year and are encouraged to be active in meetings and help coordinate events and initiatives.

### What is an Executive Member?

Once the Voting Members are elected, they decide on roles like chair/co-chair/vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and any other position approved by the Council's Bylaws. These Executive roles hold the same power as Voting Members but take on more organizing responsibilities.



September



Election date is announced and nominations begin

- Election date is announced publicly at least 14 days before the election
- You can self-nominate or nominate someone to be included on the ballot in the vote for Voting Members\*



Election Day

Every parent/caregiver gets one vote for every position available, as stated in Council Bylaws

Everyone Votes!



## Your School Council

Day 30

An election will be held within the first 30 days of school.



## Looking Ahead at ZHMS

Sept. 27 - Photo Day! (Grade 8 Grad Photos will be scheduled in the Spring)

Sept. 28 - Terry Fox Bake Sale (AM) / Terry Fox Run (PM)

Sept. 28 - Curriculum Night (6:00 PM - 7:15 PM)

Sept. 29 - Orange Shirt Day - Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Day

### Student Clubs / Extracurriculars Happening This Week

- Library Helpers
- Cross Country
- Gr. 8 Boys Soccer
- Afterschool Volleyball (drop-in)
- Friday Basketball (drop-in)

**Students, just a reminder to dress for the weather!**

Next 7 Days



Sat 09/23	Sun 09/24	Mon 09/25	Tue 09/26	Wed 09/27	Thu 09/28	Fri 09/29
A mix of sun and clouds	Sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	A mix of sun and clouds	A mix of sun and clouds
20°	21°	20°	18°	19°	20°	18°



## KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-2024

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from  
September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, inclusive.

Professional Activity Days	October	November	December	January	February	April	June
Elementary Schools	6	17	8	19	16	19	7
Secondary Schools	6	17			1, 16	19	27, 28

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development 2. November 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences 3. December 8, 2023 – Assessment 4. January 19, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting 5. February 16, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences 6. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development 7. June 7, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting	1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development 2. November 17, 2023 - Professional Development 3. February 1, 2024 - Professional Development 4. February 16, 2024 - Professional Development 5. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development 6. June 27, 2024 - Professional Development 7. June 28, 2024 - Professional Development

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**OSSLT:** TBD

**Primary/Junior EQAO:** TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
Labour Day:	September 4, 2023
Thanksgiving:	October 9, 2023
Winter Break:	December 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024
Family Day:	February 19, 2024
Mid-Winter Break:	March 11 - 15, 2024
Good Friday:	March 29, 2024
Easter Monday:	April 1, 2024
Victoria Day:	May 20, 2024

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY MESSAGES**

During the school year, school staff participate in a number of Professional Activity (PA) Days. Beginning this school year, boards of education are now required to publicly share detailed information about PA Days, as outlined in [Policy and Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#).



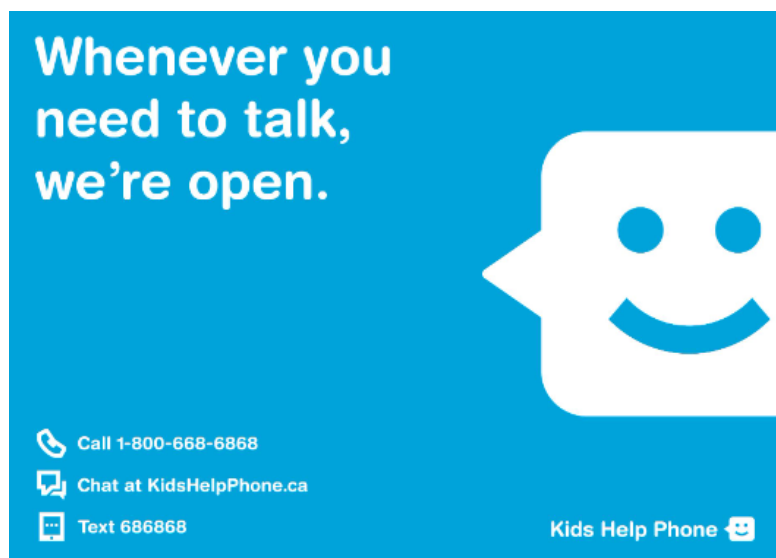
As per the Ministry of Education, 2023-24 PA Days will focus on the priority areas of Literacy and Mathematics, Curriculum Implementation, and Student Well-being, School Safety and Violence Prevention. Additional topics identified by the TDSB will also be covered during PA Days.

All information and details will be posted to [www.tdsb.on.ca/PAdays](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/PAdays) at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled PA Day.

## **TDSB Mental Health Resources**

### *Need Immediate Help?*

- [\*\*TDSB SOCIAL WORK & SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES\*\*](#)
- **Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000**
- **Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868**
- [\*\*Mental Health TO\*\*](#)
- **211 – community supports such as food banks, housing and more.**
- [\*\*Toronto Public Health\*\*](#)



Dear Zion families,

I am a Mandarin & Cantonese-speaking settlement worker from the Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS).

As you may be aware, for many years there has been an ongoing

partnership between settlement agencies in Toronto (such as CICS) and TDSB/TCDSB schools. We provide settlement services to newcomer families, and help them integrate successfully into Canadian society. Our program is funded by IRCC and completely free for newcomers.

Our team speaks different languages, and as school settlement workers, we provide information and referral in different areas such as education, employment, access to resources in the community and much more, so feel free to share my contact information, as well as my colleagues, with all your teachers and the newcomer families.

Best Regards,

**Bing Liu**

School Settlement Worker  
Centre for Immigrant and Community Services

☎ 647-888-1494 ☎ 416-292-0388

📍 2330 Midland Ave. Toronto, ON, Canada, M1S 5G5

✉ [bing.liu@cicscanada.com](mailto:bing.liu@cicscanada.com) 🌐 [www.cicscanada.com](http://www.cicscanada.com)



## New to Canada?



### Get Information on:

- Schools and education
- Learning English
- Finding a job
- Housing for your family
- Health care
- The law
- Immigration
- Other issues



## African Heritage Month - Invitation to Participate in Volunteer Planning Committee

The TDSB's African Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee (AHMVPC) is preparing for a new season of activities and events for African Heritage (Black History) Month 2024 and we're looking for new members!

If you're ready to support students of African Heritage in a whole new way, and build community, we invite you to become a member.

For a taste of what's been offered to the system in years- prior, as well as available resources provided by our TDSB Professional Library and the Professional and Support Services Department [please visit the African Heritage Month webpage](#).

To sign up to be a member of African Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee, please contact Dani Carnevale, Service Co-ordinator at [dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca) or at 416-397-2413.

## Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB - Invitation to Participate in Volunteer Planning Committee

During the month of February, the TDSB recognizes Chinese Heritage Month and plans to celebrate this heritage are already underway and we need volunteers!

Join the Chinese Heritage Month volunteer planning committee for the 2023-2024 school year as we begin to plan and discuss the development of system-wide educational opportunities for our students, staff and community members.

Virtual meetings are scheduled through Microsoft Teams, please see the details of our meeting below. We hope you will be able to join us!

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Time: 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 283 153 639 35 Passcode: mGdQLb

Should additional information be required, please contact Dani Carnevale, Service Co-ordinator at [dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca).

