



FRIDAY FILE – Dec.1st, 2023

KINDNESS. RESPECT. PRIDE.

Follow us on X (former Twitter) @ZionTdsb

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

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Dear Zion HMS families,

We hope everyone had a warm, healthy and productive week at school! Our Scholastic Book Fair was a smashing success! Thank you to all for supporting our School Library Program! Both our volleyball teams moved on to the semifinals in their respective tournaments. Thanks to all the parents who came out to support and take pictures! Next week our Girls' Basketball team will play in their semi-final at Highland MS. Thank you to our parent drivers for supporting our teams!

Go Lions!!!

Please scroll down for more important updates in this week's Friday File!

Have a lovely weekend!

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

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

Looking Ahead at ZHMS

Dec. 4-11 - Silent Voice Toy & Food Drive (ZAC)

Dec 7 - ZHMS School Council PIZZA LUNCH

Dec. 8 - PA Day - No School / Office will be closed for the day

Dec. 20 - Holiday Bake Sale

Dec. 20 - Student Internet Safety Presentation / Parent Presentation @
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Dec. 22 - Last day of school before WINTER BREAK

Student Clubs / Extracurriculars Happening Next Week

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Art Club | - Volleyball |
| - Chess Club | - Karaoke |
| - Eco-Team | - Band / Strings |
| - Robotics | - Lunch Tutoring |
| - Girls Basketball | - Debate Club |



What's Happening at ZHMS...

Thank you to Mrs. MacArthur and Mr. Campbell for running our lunch-hour house league. Incoming!!!



Congrats to Ms. Fernandes and our library helpers for running an awesome book fair this week 🌟🌟🌟 We hope you all get your read on this weekend! @MrLeTDSB @O775693910 @MsDFernandes @tdsb





WE NEED YOUR HELP! Inflation and rising food costs have made things more difficult for families struggling financially. Please contribute to our **"Holiday Food & Toy Drive"** all donations will go to Deaf families in need during the holiday season.

WHAT TO DONATE:

Non-perishable food items, new unwrapped toys (children age 2-16), diapers (size 4-6), school supplies, toiletries & grocery gift cards.

You can also sponsor a family for \$300 or make a donation towards holiday hampers.

For more information or to arrange pick-up and drop-off details — please contact **Ken**, at: silent.voice@silentvoice.ca

Thank you for your generosity!

Deadline: Monday, December 11th by 3:00 PM



Silent Voice is a registered charity serving Deaf children, youth, adults and families, all in an American Sign Language (ASL) environment. You can find out more about our programs and services by visiting www.silentvoice.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 107980625RR0001

A huge shout out to our Boys Volleyball Teams for advance in their conferences this week! Special Thanks to Mr. Gardiejczyk and Ms O for organizing our home tournaments! Go Lions 🦁🦁🦁 @MrLeTDSB @O775693910 @tdsb



Zion Heights Middle School - IMPORTANT UPDATES:



Please Bring Indoor Shoes On Monday!

Due to the changing weather, we are asking all students to use indoor shoes starting next week (if they haven't already done so). Our students are outside and in the schoolyard during recess periods for 30 minutes each day and we want to prevent the tracking of slush and snow into our classrooms as much as possible.

ELEMENTARY PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY (PA) DAY on December 8, 2023

During the school year, TDSB school staff participate in a number of Professional Activity (PA) Days. On these dates, students remain at home and schools are open for staff to engage in professional learning.

As per the Ministry of Education's [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#), *Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities*, school boards are required to designate three Ministry mandatory PA Days. This year, these PA days will focus on the priority areas of Literacy and Mathematics, Curriculum Implementation, and Student Well-being, School Safety and Violence Prevention.

Additionally, school boards may designate up to four additional PA Days per school year with additional topics identified by both the Ministry and Toronto District School Board. Professional learning activities for PA Days will consider factors such as equity and human rights in education, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, Indigenous Education, and equitable learning opportunities for students with disabilities and special education needs.

Below, please find information about the December 8, 2023 PA Day.

Friday, December 8, 2023

Target Audience: All Staff - Elementary

Topics: Literacy, Mathematics, Curriculum Implementation, Student Well-Being and Belonging

Length: Full Day (in-person and virtual options)

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): TDSB Staff and External Facilitators

Description: Educators will engage in a variety of professional learning workshops focused on effective strategies to support student learning centred on the following:

K-8 instructional strategies (i.e., critical and comprehensive literacy, CRRP, comprehension, striving/struggling readers, literacy across the curriculum, etc.), early reading instructions, and universal

design for learning in a manner consistent with the recommendations in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read report.

The implementation of high-impact instructional practices in mathematics Curriculum implementation for Grades 1-8 Language (2023)

Professional Learning will also consider factors such as equity and human rights in education, anti-racism and anti-discrimination, Indigenous Education, and equitable learning opportunities for students with disabilities and special education needs.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY MESSAGES

Learn4Life Adult Community Programs - Winter 2024 Registration Now Open!

Winter 2024 registration is now OPEN for Learn4Life's Adult General Interest Program with courses in business, languages, art, music, sports, dancing, and more! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions.

New courses this term include:

- ***Adventures in Photography***
- ***Bringing Stories to Life Through Book Illustrations***
- ***Create Your Own Natural Cosmetics***
- ***De-Stress and Relax***
- ***Pastry Arts for Everyone***
- ***Golf Training Program***
- ***Portuguese Essential Conversation***
- ***Afrobeat Aerobics***
- ***Understanding Landlord Rights and Responsibilities***

Visit [Learn4Life's program page](#) for more information

TDSB Virtual Community Fair: Introduction to Lead Autism Supports Community Agencies

Join us as we invite Lead Agency Representatives that support students with Special/Complex Needs. These agencies include Autism Ontario, Strides Toronto, Lumenus Community Services, Geneva Centre For Autism, and SAAAC Autism Centre. Get firsthand information about these agencies' programs and services such as Autism Supports, Behaviour Therapy Supports (ABA Therapy), Service Navigation, Respite and much more. Get the opportunity to connect with these agencies as you continue to support your loved ones.

Speakers: Autism Ontario, Geneva Centre For Autism, Lumenus Community Services, Strides

Toronto and SAAAC Autism Centre.

When: Monday, December 11th, 2023, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and the same information will be repeated on Monday, December 18th, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 255 846 447 429

Passcode: 3BWFVF

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

For more information send email to virtualfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca Or call Larena Case at 416-570-3314 or Maria Antonia Aymerich at 416-524-1930 or Vanessa Wong at 647-229-0730.

[The International Day of Disabled Persons](#)

On December 3rd, we observe annually, the International Day of Disabled Persons. The International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by [United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3](#). It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

For further information, please visit the [United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities webpage](#).

[Greek Heritage Month @ the TDSB: Multi-Media Contest 2024](#)

One of the highlights for Greek Heritage Month 2024 this coming March will be the TDSB Greek Heritage Month Multi-Media Contest, featuring original student & staff work in three creative categories:

- 1) Be graphic! Design a Poster!**
- 2) Sharpen your pencil! Write something!**
- 3) Let's get digital!**

This year's theme: Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos

Please see [GHM Multi-Media Contest 2024](#) for contest details!

[Free Parent/Caregiver Online Workshop - November 29th from 6:30 - 7:30 PM](#)

It can be challenging to sort fact from fiction online, and an increase in hate speech, alongside ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools, have made it even harder. This [virtual workshop](#) is designed to help parents and caregivers learn simple skills for spotting misinformation in the context of social media platforms and AI.

To register, visit: www.ctrl-f.ca/en/TDSB

Registration is free and will be limited to 300 spots.

This session is a repeat of the April and October 2203 sessions.

ASD After School Skills Development Program – Fall 2023 Session

Fall sessions of the ASD After School Leisure Program which will run from November 28, 2023– February 27, 2023, in-person and virtual. The program is available to students in Grades 4-10 who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop, build and enhance their social-communication skills through either weekly in-person or weekly virtual sessions.

Please forward the [attached letter](#) which includes the link for registration to the parents of Grades 4 – 10 students with ASD in your school. The registration period will remain open until Friday, November 24, 2023.

Tamil Heritage Month @ TDSB: Poster Challenge

This year's theme for Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB is: Our Memories, Our Truths, Our Paths Forward: A Mosaic of Tamil Identity.

There are many educational opportunities underway to mark Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB. All TDSB students from grades kindergarten to grade 12 are invited to participate in a Poster Challenge. The challenge is your opportunity to create one of three posters that will be shared across the system and posted to our TDSB websites (both internal and external) to represent this year's theme.

Please see the [attached](#) for further details!

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**](#)