



FRIDAY FILE – Jan. 12, 2024

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,

Welcome to the first ZHMS Friday File of 2024! We hope everyone was able to enjoy a restful Winter Break and we are glad everyone is back and recharged for more focused learning! The TDSB Character Trait for January is TEAMWORK, so let's work together to ensure that we ALL have a strong finish to Term 1!

Please See below for *some important updates as well as some online and road safety tips* to keep in mind in January.



Please take good care!

Chi Le
Principal
Zion Heights Middle School

Monica O
Vice-Principal
Zion Heights Middle School

Looking Ahead at ZHMS

Jan. 16 - Term 1 Report Card Cut-off Date

Jan. 19 - Professional Activity Day - No Classes

Feb. 13 - Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

Feb. 15 - 16 - Parent / Teacher Conferences

Feb. 16 - Professional Activity Day - No Classes

TEAM WORK

Coming together is the
beginning

Keeping together is
progress

Working together is
success

ZHMS IMPORTANT SCHOOL UPDATES

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED AT ZHMS



If you are interested in becoming a Lunchroom Supervisor at Zion Heights Middle School please email Ms. Toulia Barlas at toulia.barlas@tdsb.on.ca

Please note that experience working with children is required for this position.

Online Safety - Parental Control - Blocks

What is Blocks?

Blocks is an extension for web filtering, YouTube filtering, and Parental Control for Chromebooks. As students in grades 5 & 9 have been provided with Chromebooks to support digital learning, parents/guardians may request the ability to manage screen time and/or content filtering.

Features

- Web filtering, including adult content, security and malware categories
- YouTube Filtering
- Safe Search across text, image, and video across major search engines
- Content filtering (scan web pages and blocks by keyword match)
- List of allowed/not-allowed websites
- Homework Access Time Control

Parental Controls

- Blocks's parental dashboard is password enforced, which allows parents to lock down the extension on their children's Chromebook or Chrome browser.
- Parents/guardians can enforce time access control on streaming media, social media, YouTube, gaming and other time-addictive content.

- Parents/guardians can view web history and analyze internet browsing activity for their children and get warned when blocked content is accessed.

How to request Blocks for a student's account

Please email VP O at monica.o@tdsb.on.ca for more information

ACCESS DENIED

This video belongs to a category that is



Road Safety

Walking to School

Here are some safety tips from Toronto Public Health:

- *Practice good role modelling by walking with your child and showing them road safety rules so that they can develop good habits.*
- *Wear bright, reflective clothing or accessories in cloudy or dark conditions so drivers can see you better.*
- *Teach your child to use their eyes and ears. Always stop, look and listen, even if there is a crossing guard or traffic signals.*
- *Stop and check that cars in every lane can see you and make eye contact with the drivers. Wait until drivers have stopped before crossing the road.*



**BE ALERT
SLOW DOWN**



- Look left, right and left again. Teach your child to cross the road only when the way is clear, or all the cars at the crosswalk or intersection have come to a full stop. Children shouldn't cross the road between parked cars or mid-block.
- Listen for oncoming traffic and be alert. Pedestrians shouldn't use headphones or cell phones when walking, especially when they are crossing the road. Distractions, even talking while walking, can put children in danger.
- Walk, don't run, while crossing the street. By running, you risk tripping and falling in the middle of the road.

Driving to School



A child struck by a car travelling at 50 km/hr is eight times more likely to be killed than a child struck at 30 km/hr. Children 10 and under are most at risk for pedestrian-related injuries. Therefore, **if you are driving your child to or from school, it is important to be alert and slow down as children are smaller and harder to see.** In addition, it might be difficult for children to determine the direction of sound and judge distance or speed.

Here are some safety tips from Toronto Public Health:

- Follow the school zone safety traffic rules.
- When possible, park legally on a side street or in school-designated areas and walk your child to school to avoid adding to the traffic in front of or near the school.
- Stop at crosswalks and intersections. Allow children and other pedestrians to fully cross the road before continuing on.
- Enter and exit school zones and driveways slowly and carefully. Watch for children on and near the road, particularly in the morning and after school hours.
- Have your child exit the car on the right side nearest to the sidewalk.
- Do not speed.

TDSB Out-of-Area Admissions

TDSB students have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their home address by applying for Out-of-Area Admissions. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.

2024-2025 Out-of-Area Admissions status for Zion Heights Middle School is **-Regular Program: Limited (Siblings)**

Elementary Key Dates:

Online application form is open from January 8 to January 31, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Round 1:

Families to be informed of the status of the application on Monday, February 26, 2024.

Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Thursday, February 29 at 4 p.m.

Round 2:

Families to be informed of the status of the application on Friday, March 1, 2024.

Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Wednesday, March 6 at 4 p.m.

All waitlists expire on March 1, 2024.

Secondary Key Dates:

The online application form is open from January 8 to January 26, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Round 1:

Families to be informed of the status of the application on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, February 13 at 4 p.m.

Round 2:

Families are to be informed of the status of the application on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, February 20 at 4 p.m.

Final Round:

Families are to be informed of the final status of the application request on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. All waitlists expire on February 21, 2024.

Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Friday, February 23 at 4 p.m.

TDSB Students must finalize their acceptance by completing and submitting the corresponding course selection for the accepted school in myBlueprint no later than Monday, February 26, 2024.

[More Information on Out-Of-Area Admissions and the status of schools](#)

SCHOOL COMMUNITY MESSAGES

Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB - January 2024

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during January at the TDSB since January 2016. It has also been marked across the province of Ontario since March 2014 with the implementation of the Tamil Heritage Month Act, 2014 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14t04>)

This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is Our Memories, Our Truths, Our Paths Forward: A Mosaic of Tamil Identity. Memories play an integral role in how we shape our stories and identities. They are what we tell ourselves about who we are, and they form the basis for how people know us as well as how we perceive and know the world around us. Memories also shape our truths, and it is within our memories and truths that we set goals for ourselves and move forward, individually, and collectively as a group of people.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members who identify as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, and creating a strong self and collective identity and one's roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee.

TDSB Student Elections 2024-25

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is accepting applications for Student Trustee positions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Student Trustees represent the voice of approximately 240,000 students in the Toronto District School Board. They work closely together to empower and promote student voice and engagement across the district.

For more information about the roles and responsibilities of the different positions, and the application and elections process, visit our [website](#).

TDSB Virtual Community Fair: Let's Talk about Camp and Funding

Camping Season Will Be Here Soon!! Come Join Us as We Learn from Our Community Partners About Camp and Funding Options for Your Child Or Youth With Special/Complex Needs. Get Firsthand Information from Agency Representatives about March Break Camps, Summer Camps, Respite and Funding Options. Start Your Planning Early! ([Flyer](#))

Salat in Secret: Love and Belonging in Community Spaces

The Islamic Heritage Month Committee, in partnership with the Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Department, is offering students (Grades K-8), families, and staff the opportunity to attend the virtual session of Salat in Secret: Love and Belonging in Community Spaces.

TDSB students, along with their caregivers and families, in an interactive storytelling session focused on courage, conviction and the importance of prayer spaces. The session is designed for students in Grades 4-8, who will attend with staff during the day, and/or for students in Grades K-8 with families and caregivers during the evening.

Please see the [flyer](#) for more information.

Mental Health & Wellness

The [2023-2024 Winter Well-Being Guide](#) is filled with activities, games, wellness tips, identity affirming resources and community agencies to support wellness for all students, caregivers/guardians, families, and school communities over the winter months!



Toronto District School Board @tdsb · Jan 10

Explore the latest in our newsletter:

- Winter Well-Being Guide
- Online Tutoring
- Middle French Immersion
- Out-of-Area Admissions

See what's new: bit.ly/3RWq4fy



<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Media/News/Newsletters/TDSB-Connects/January-9-2024>