



FRIDAY FILE – Jan. 19, 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,

We hope everyone had another wonderful week of focused learning! As tomorrow is an Elementary PA Day, we are sending out an early edition of this week's Friday File. Please note that our office will also be closed tomorrow as our office staff will be engaging in Ministry-mandated professional learning and training. Please scroll down for some important school and community updates.



Please take good care!

Chi Le
Principal
Zion Heights Middle School

Monica O
Vice-Principal
Zion Heights Middle School

Looking Ahead at ZHMS

Jan. 25 - ZHMS School Council Pizza Lunch

Feb. 6 - Grade 7 & 8 Boys Basketball Tournament @ Don Mills MS

Feb. 13 - Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

Feb. 13 - Updated IEPs to be sent home digitally

Feb. 15 - 16 - Parent / Teacher Conferences

Feb. 16 - Professional Activity Day - No Classes

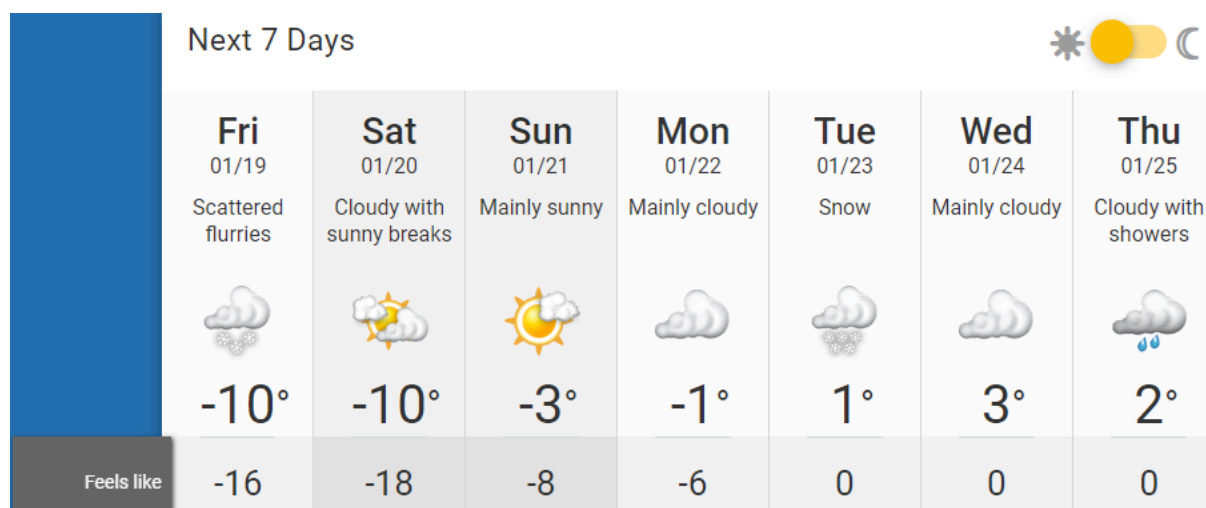
Feb. 25 - ZHMS School Council Pizza Lunch

Feb. 26 - Holocaust Education Presentation

Student Clubs / Extracurriculars @ ZHMS

- Boys Basketball
- Seneca Hill Chess (after school)
- Volleyball (drop-in)
- Library Helpers
- Math Club
- Eco Team
- Zion Advisory Club (ZAC)
- Band / Strings
- Basketball (drop-in)
- Debate Club

Students, just a reminder to dress for the weather!



ZHMS IMPORTANT SCHOOL UPDATES



School Drop Off & Pick Up Safety Reminders

At Zion Heights Middle School, we are fortunate to have several safety initiatives, programs, and policies that contribute to a safe and caring school. Even though most incidents happen away from school, we want to emphasize to all students, staff and parents the importance of awareness and the need for extra care in even the most ordinary and everyday routines, no matter where you are.

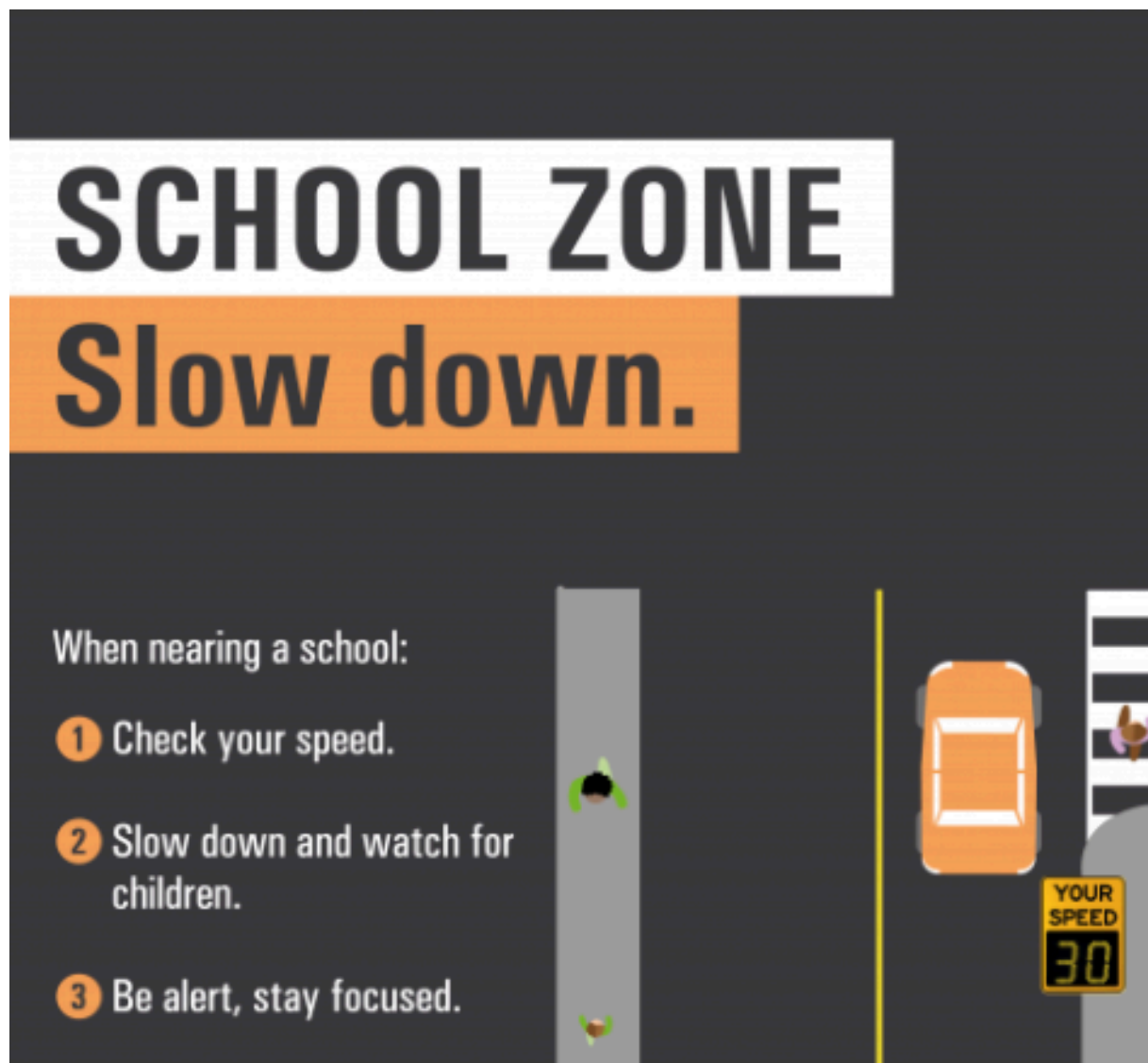
- **Morning Drop-Off and After-School Pick-Up Reminders**
 - Morning supervision begins at 8:38 AM, teachers are on duty during this time and students should not be dropped off at school earlier than 8:38 AM
 - ***Please do not idle in the drop-off/pick-up area; starting next week staff on duty will kindly ask parents idling in the morning to proceed to the exit lane to reduce morning congestion outside the school***
 - The community parking lot can also be used across the field for morning drop-off
- **Afterschool Pick-Up Reminders Morning Drop Off and After School Pick Up Reminders**
 - Teachers are on duty after school from 3:05 PM - 3:20 PM; an outbound phone in the office can be used by students to call parents when needed
 - ***Please do not idle in the drop-off/pick-up area; starting next week staff on duty will kindly ask parents to park in a parking spot or proceed to the exit lane to reduce congestion outside the school***
 - The community parking lot can also be used across the field when our school parking lot is full during after school pick up

STOP Car Idling

With the elimination of car idling, we will be one huge step forward in reaching our goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Car Idling is when one leaves an engine on (running) when the vehicle isn't in motion, when it can be avoided. This action takes a toll on your wallet, your own health, and releases unnecessary greenhouse gases.

Please Slow Down When Entering & Exiting our School Parking Lot



Professional Activity Day

The following information outlines the expectations for school-based staff on the upcoming **Professional Activity Day – January 19, 2024 (Elementary)**.

[Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#), *Professional Activity Days Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities*, mandates Boards to identify three PA Days focused on provincial education priorities. The provincial education priorities for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

- Literacy and Mathematics
- Curriculum Implementation
- Student Well-being, School Safety and Violence Prevention

As per [PPM 151](#), the professional learning activities for PA Days shall 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.

All TDSB PA Day information will be posted on www.tdsb.on.ca/PAdays.

High Performing Athlete Programs - Central Application Process

The High Performing Athlete Programs provide academic programming and flexible scheduling for student-athletes who are involved in provincial, national or international level training and competition.

In order to meet the demands of intense training schedules, these programs provide more flexible timetables to balance school with out-of-school commitments, so that athletes can strive for both academic and athletic excellence.

Historically, applications have been done through the former Optional Attendance process and, last year, as a Central Student Interest Program. To better align with the timing at which athletes are identified for these high levels of competition, the process is now run through a separate application, which opened in the first week of January. The application will remain open until January 31, 2024. Should spaces remain available after that time, the application will be re-opened later in the Spring for student-athletes who qualify at a later date. Moving forward, the application is intended to remain open for continuous intake, where space is available, to meet the needs of newly eligible student-athletes.

More details about the programs and the link to the online application can be found on the [High Performing Athlete Program Website](#).

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED AT ZHMS



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

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



PIZZA LUNCH

Dear School Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

Our next school pizza lunch is on **Thursday, January 25th, 2024**.

Parents can pre-order their child's lunch through the School Cash Online at <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> no later than **Sunday January 21st, 2024**.

The cost is **\$6.00** for:

- ONE JUMBO slice
- Choice of Pepperoni or Cheese and chips



Or



&



PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on the day of the event!

We need 8 volunteers from 10:50 AM – 12:00 PM on Thursday January 25th.

To sign-up, please go to: <https://www.signupgeenius.com/go/5080E4CACAF2BA1F58-47252514-jan>

Thank you for your continued support!



ZION HEIGHTS MS
SCHOOL COUNCIL

SCHOOL COMMUNITY MESSAGES

Trustee Update

James Li • Ward 13: Don Valley North

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • James.Li@tdsb.on.ca



Happy New Year

I hope you enjoyed a restful winter break and are ready for the exciting opportunities the new year holds. To our students: welcome back! Your enthusiasm makes our schools truly special, and I look forward to supporting and witnessing your growth and achievements in 2024. A heartfelt thank you to our families for your ongoing support. Together, we create an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally – inside and outside the classroom. May 2024 bring curiosity, discovery, and success to each student in our community. Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with learning, laughter, and lasting friendships!

[Ward 13 Trustee Update: January 2024](#) - [Read Online](#) | [HTML](#)

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 Toronto District School Board students. They work closely 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](#).

Online Interpreter Training Program

The Parent/Caregiver Engagement Office is excited to offer the Online Interpreter Training program again. We will be offering the opportunity to 85 TDSB parents/caregivers to receive online interpreter training in TDSB's most requested languages! Administrators are asked to share this opportunity with their school communities.

Are you a parent/caregiver with a child registered in the TDSB who:

1. has full proficiency in English and another language (i.e., Pashto, Farsi, Roma, Ukrainian);
2. is interested in being trained as an interpreter to work with the TDSB;
3. is comfortable with virtual/online learning;
4. has access to a computer, and the internet and has, at minimum, intermediate computer fluency;
5. has a recording device, headphones, and dictionaries (hard copy and/or online).

TDSB is the largest school board in Canada and one of the most diverse. 23% of our students were born outside of Canada and there are over 120 languages spoken by TDSB students and their parents/caregivers. Research also identifies communication between the home and the school as essential to student success. Ensuring equitable engagement opportunities for our multi-lingual parents/caregivers, while maximizing their language assets, will enable the TDSB to improve communication between parents/caregivers and the school/Board.

Please join us on January 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more details.

Latin-America History Month - Student Voice Required

April is Latin-America History Month at the Toronto District School Board!

Last year was a great success with thousands of students learning more about Latin-America hystories through various educational opportunities that were offered.

This year, we want your students' voices to inform our theme as we move forward towards further learning about the vibrant and exciting traditions of Latin-America hystories!

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemId/90#:~:text=Latin%20America%20History%20Month%20is,Board%20of%20Trustees%20in%202016>.

Support your Latine/Latinx/Latino/Latina/Latin America students, those from the lands of Latin America/Abya Yala/Pachamama, in filling out the below form. Their voices will directly inform our theme for this year!

Deadline: Friday, January 26, @ 4:00 pm Link: www.bit.ly/StudentVoiceLAHM

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!