



April 2016

Principal's Message

The Board passed its annual budget this past month and we received our staffing allocation for next year. With our allocation comes the responsibility of creating a staffing model that best addresses the learning needs of our school and the best possible classroom configuration for our staff to instruct all of our students. The staff has met a couple of times already to begin the process and we will be meeting further to come to a consensus for our model. We also value parental input for this important process. We will be sharing the staffing information with Karlyn Tunbridge, our Chair of School Council, and Stuart Rogers our Vice-Chair of Fundraising to get input and feedback on our staffing model. After this important process is complete we will send our preferred organizational model to our Superintendent for approval. Once approval is given, I will be consulting with staff on their teaching assignments for next year.

If interviews for new staff are required, there are three rounds of job postings and interviews that will take place in April and early May for contract teachers. It is important to note that no school organizational model or teaching assignment is completely finalized until the Board's reorganization date in September. If reorganization for our staff model is required in September due to changes in our enrollment, I will be keeping our school community up to date as it unfolds. Similarly if there are staff changes I will be communicating and keeping everyone informed of these changes as they unfold.

If you are interested in more information regarding our staffing process for the year, I will be discussing it at our next School Council meeting on Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. See you there!

Additional PA Day – Important Information for Parents

An additional Professional Activity Day (P.A. Day) has been added to the calendars of all schools in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

All TDSB schools will have a newly designated P.A. Day on Friday, April 15, 2016. This additional P.A. Day has been mandated by the Ministry of Education as a result of provincial labour negotiations.

All TDSB schools will be closed to students on Friday, April 15, 2016. On this day, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Minister of Education.

Most Before-and-After School Programs will offer full-day care for children currently registered in their program on the P.A. Day. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to speak to their local child care provider for further details.

The remainder of the 2015-2016 school year calendar remains unaffected. Details on the school year calendar can be found on the TDSB website at: www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar.

The Elizabeth Simcoe Signal

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Your Community



Silent Auction

The date for the auction will be Saturday May 14, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. and the location will be at Ace's in the Guildwood Plaza.

We will have more information on this available in the near future.

Parents as Partners Conference 2016

Register today for the 2016 TDSB Parents as Partners Conference. This year, the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Partnership Committee and Model Schools for Inner Cities' Parent Academies have partnered to bring one inclusive conference to the Allstream Centre on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

For more information and to register, please visit www.parentsaspartners.ca. All parents/guardians of TDSB students are welcome. Register today - space is limited!

High Water Levels Brings Increased Risks

The Toronto and Region Conservation monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.

Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.



Student Attendance and Punctuality

Regular student attendance and punctuality are important in order for students to be successful at school. The Education Act states that it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that their children attend school regularly. A student's academic progress depends on regular class attendance.

TDSB elementary schools practice the Safe Arrival Program that requires schools to perform a school-home attendance check. Notify the school when your child will be absent. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities and complete all homework assignments and tests when they are absent so make sure your child is getting homework assignments when they are absent.

You can help ensure that your child is in school and on time for classes by:

- being involved in your child's education
- knowing the school's schedule
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers (use your child's planner to send notes to the teacher)
- calling the school if your child is going to be absent
- writing a note if your child is late due to an appointment
- ensuring that your child gets a good night's sleep so that they have the energy they need for the next day.

Primary and Junior Choir

We are in full swing preparing for the Spring Concert! This choir practices before school on Tuesdays. We practice from 8:00 am-8:30 am at the back of the library, in the music space. If there are any additional practices, a note will be sent home.

The Alto Section meets Monday and Wednesday@ 8:00 a.m. in room 28.

Primary Choir is also preparing for the Spring Concert. This choir is for students in grades 1-3 and practices on Tuesdays at 12 noon, in the back of the library. Students eat lunch in the lunchroom (or daycare) before the rehearsal.

The Spring Concert

The choirs, bands and strings will all be performing at the Spring Concert on the evening of Wednesday, May 4th @ 6:30 p.m.! Please stay tuned for information about what choir members should wear for this concert.

Mark your calendars!

Musical Theatre Information

The Musical Theatre Choir is working hard to prepare a medley of six songs from Broadway shows. We will perform at the Spring Concert during the evening of May 4th, 2016, at Elizabeth Simcoe JPS.

The Musical Theatre Choir meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30am-12 noon, in the back of the library. Students can eat lunch during the second half of lunch, in the lunchroom. The dates include: April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, (no practice April 20), April 25, 27, May 2.

Upcoming	Events
April 15	P.A. Day (no school)
April 22	Pizza Lunch
April 29	Earth Day Assembly (p.m.)



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