



February 2016

### Message from Principal

The reporting season is upon us and report cards will be coming home Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> with your child. Parent-teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in the evening and Friday morning, February 12<sup>th</sup> to lunch time. Interviews focus on students who are experiencing some difficulty or by parent request.

The marks and comments on the report cards presents the more recent, most consistent demonstration of your child's learning since September. Please take an opportunity to review the report card with your child. Each report card has something that can be celebrated so please provide your child with positive reinforcement and praise for a job well done! Please help your child set goals for areas that need improvement in conjunction with the classroom teacher!

Positive and productive teamwork between home and school is a very powerful tool to assist your child in their continued learning at school in the days ahead. Please use the interview time to review your child's progress and plan for the second term in a collaborative manner with your child and their teacher. Discuss what you can do as a parent, to assist your child, keep in touch with the classroom teacher. Is she/he moving towards the goals and Next Steps you discussed with the teacher? Through positive and productive teamwork, we will create safe and supportive scaffolding for learning for all our children at Elizabeth Simcoe. Criticism of the teacher is not appropriate and I will follow up with these unfortunate situations, if they occur. I'm sure there will be no need. Together, we will make a positive difference.

### Cancellation of Busses During Severe Weather

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. The decision to close schools is made by the director of education. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca).



## The Elizabeth Simcoe Signal

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## February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Kindergarten is the first step in a lifelong journey that will see your child learn, grow, and succeed at the Toronto District School Board. At the TDSB, we know early learners learn best through doing; so our four and five year olds are introduced to math and science through play as part of k-12 STEM programming. To inspire a love for learning, kindergarten classrooms are bustling with inquiry and exploration through science activities, math games, art projects and more. Visit your local school during February to register.

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31.

All of our schools now offer Full-Day Kindergarten where students will attend Kindergarten for the entire school day. This includes a morning and afternoon schedule and a lunch break. Visit the Kindergarten website to learn more about this program and learn how to prepare your child for school.

## February 15 is a Statutory Holiday

There will be no classes on Monday, February 15, 2016 to reflect the province-wide statutory holiday called Family Day. The holiday occurs on the third Monday in February of each year for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together.

Because teachers are involved in professional learning on Friday, February 12 for the Board-wide Professional Activity Day, students will not be attending school on Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15 which is the statutory holiday - Family Day.

Visit the TDSB public web site at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) to view the school year calendar.

## 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.

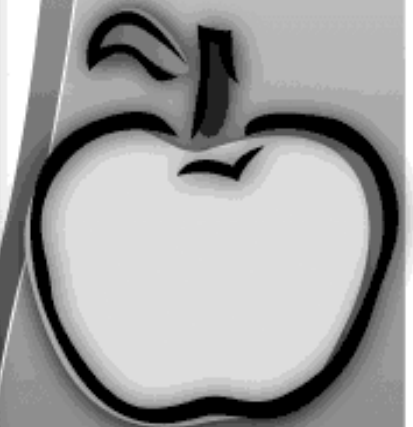
All TDSB schools will be closed to students on Friday, April 15, 2016. On this day, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Minister of Education.

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](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar).

## Dates to remember:

- Feb. 3-5 Grade 6 Kearney Trip
- Feb. 11 Pizza Lunch
- Feb. 12 P.A. Day (no school)
- Feb. 15 Family Day (no school)
- Feb. 19 Dance-a-thon



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