



Toronto  
District  
School  
Board

**March 2016**

## Principal's Message

As we watched 12 cm's of snow fall around us recently, it is hard to believe March is upon us and spring is right around the corner.

March is going to be an amazing month for the Simcoe family! The first two Fridays have been designated "Fun Fridays". Students will be able to "Chew For A Cause". Students who bring a toonie will be able to chew gum and wear a hat. The money raised will be donated to the Guildwood Refugee Action Committee, who are raising money to support a Syrian family settling in our extended community! Please encourage your child's participation for this very worthy cause! Thank you to Mrs. Flagler and Mrs. Grant along with many student leaders for coordinating these Friday fun events.

On Friday, March 11th, the Simcoe family will warmly welcome Mayor John Tory. He will be visiting our school for an Open Mike assembly at 2p.m. in our west gym. If you are available please join us for this exciting civic experience. Each class will present a question to the mayor that has been discussed and organized by our students with the guiding hand of their teacher. A huge thanks to Mrs. T for organizing this phenomenal real life learning experience for our students!

Spring ushers more amazing experiences and opportunities for our students. April is Earth month. Activities will be planned with a strong emphasis on our ongoing commitment to Eco values and greening practices. They are embedded and practiced year round, but will be highlighted and celebrated in April, during Earth month. All the fun and learning for the month will culminate on Earth Day! As a Gold Eco School we remain extremely proud of everything our students, staff and parents do to go green all year round.

Our Spring Concert and our Alice in Wonderland production will be major highlights for the month of May. Our students and staff are already busily preparing for the concert and we anticipate our students shining brightly for both of these great evenings. A huge thank you to Karlyn Tunbridge for organizing and coordinating Alice in Wonderland! Thank you to our amazing staff for all working together extremely well to organize and orchestrate the Spring Concert. Thank you to Mrs. Di Paolo and Mrs. Kosa for coordinating the Spring Concert. Simcoe Shines!

These are just a few of the highlights we have planned this spring. Please join us for these and other events. Thank you for your continued support for everything we do at Simcoe!

Mrs. Knights

## 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).

## The Elizabeth Simcoe Signal

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S.  
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# Your Community



## Working Together for a Safer Community

One of the best parts of living in our community is the variety of activities we can enjoy in our parks and public spaces all year round. With spring and March Break around the corner and the days getting longer, students may be spending more time outside. This is a good time to remind everyone to take extra care in enjoying all the outdoors can offer.

As you know, we are fortunate to have a number of safety measures, programs, and policies that contribute to a safe and caring school. However, most incidents happen away from school and outside school hours. All parents, students and staff are reminded of the need to be aware and alert at all times, even in the most ordinary and everyday routines. Our staff regularly speak to students about how to stay safe. I know that you too will want to help ensure our community is as safe as possible. Here are some tips that you may find helpful when discussing safety with your child:

- always walk with a buddy to and from school
- always tell your parents where you are
- never accept gifts from strangers and never approach or enter a stranger's car; adults have no acceptable reason to offer a ride or to ask children for directions or assistance
- if a car is following you, change directions and run
- when help is needed, go to the nearest store or school, the home of a friend or run towards a group of people or a parent with children
- know your name, address and phone number
- know that police officers are friends and can help you
- tell your parents or teacher whenever someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe; TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.

Our staff also periodically review street and traffic safety with our students. We ask that you reinforce these safety messages with your children as well. Below is a list of tips that might be helpful to review:

- stop, look, and listen for traffic
- only cross at corners and crosswalks
- never run into the street
- obey crossing signals
- walk on sidewalks
- where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible facing traffic.

For those who drive, please take extra care on the roads, especially in areas where children might be present.

Parents can help further by keeping school contact information up-to-date, including cell and business numbers. It's important for our staff to have this information to know who to contact in cases of emergencies.

Working together, we can make our communities safer for our children.

## Grade 6 Basketball

The Grade 6's were treated to a Basketball Skills Development Clinic over a number of lunchtimes in January. Under the direction of Coach Glenn Svarich, who came out of retirement for this opportunity, the students progressed through a number of skill improvement exercises. They worked on balance and movement, ball handling skills and finally dribbling, passing and shooting techniques. All participants showed great enthusiasm and significant improvement in the fundamentals of basketball.

The group then prepared for playing another team. Unfortunately, the grade 6 tournament was scheduled for the day that the team would be at the highly regarded and anticipated trip to Kearney Outdoor Education Centre. This group was therefore unable to showcase their skills against other teams. Yet, the Seahawks did indeed compete at the Grade 6 Boys Basketball tournament. We had another group of basketball enthusiasts who came together quite quickly and formed our team. These participants were from grade 4 and 5 both boys and girls.

At the tournament, the Seahawks showed some good skills and strategy. We were greatly outmatched by one other school and were more competitive with the other two schools. In our final game we were leading for the most part of the game and were only a couple of points behind after one late game rally by the other team. We came back to dominate play, however, an invisible force prevented the ball from going into the hoop for us even though the Seahawks had multiple excellent shots. Overall, all participants had a great time and enjoyed the great sport of Basketball.

G. Svarich

**Get Ready for  
Fun Fridays!!**

**Friday March 4th and Friday March 11th You Can:  
“Chew Gum For a Cause” and “Wear A Hat to Help”**

For the next two Fridays we will be hosting “Chew Gum For a Cause” and “Wear A Hat to Help”. As part of Simcoe’s ongoing campaign of kindness and caring, we have partnered with GRACE, the Guildwood Refugee Action Committee and all of the funds raised will be used to support their efforts.

If you would like to participate just bring in your toonie and have fun chewing your gum or wearing your favourite hat at school!

Thanks for helping Simcoe Shine!!

**Primary and Junior Choir**

It’s time to start again to prepare for the Spring Concert! All students in grades 4-6 are invited to join the Junior Choir. This choir will practice before school on Tuesdays starting March 22nd. Please note that this is the second morning back after March Break. We will practice from 8:00 am-8:30 am at the back of the library, in the music space. At 8:30 am students will be dismissed for a 10 minute break outside, until the bell goes. If there are any additional practices, a note will be sent home. A permission form went home on March 3rd. Please find additional forms on the table outside of room 29.

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! Please stay tuned for information about what choir members should wear for this concert.

Mark your calendars!

**Musical Theatre Information**

We are excited to be offering a **Musical Theatre Choir** once again for the months of March and April. This singing, dancing, acting choir will be learning a medley of six songs from Broadway shows. It is open to students in grades 4-6. We will perform at the Spring Concert during the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at Elizabeth Simcoe JPS.

The Musical Theatre Choir will meet 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: March 23, 30, (no practice the very first day back after March Break), April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, (no practice April 20), April 25, 27, May 2.

**Primary Games Club**

The Primary Games Club met for six weeks every Monday in the library to enjoy board games together. We had fun playing charades, Twister, Monopoly and games from home. Thanks to all who participated. See you next year!

Ms. Bhola and Mrs. Clarke

**Kindness and Caring at Simcoe**

During the month of February the students from Mrs. Flagler’s, Mrs. Grant’s and some special guests from Mrs. Noble’s class were hard at work running our candy gram campaign. They collaborated to make and sell over **\$500** worth of candy grams! The candy grams were delivered for Valentine’s day and it was so nice to see the love spreading around Simcoe.

Thanks to the great ideas and initiative from Lily, Isabel, Hannah who spearheaded the idea for us to support the Toronto Zoo and adopt a white lion cub. It is so wonderful to support the amazing ideas that come from our students.

The remainder of the funds will be given to a local community group, GRACE - Guildwood Refugee Action Committee for their efforts to settle and support new families arriving in Canada.

Thanks to all of our Simcoe Families for their continued support!

Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Flagler and Mrs. Noble

### School Ice Hockey Team

Congratulations to our school ice hockey team on their performance at the Toronto District School Board hockey tournament for the east division on February 19th and February 26th. The team battled very formidable opponents last Friday. The team won 1 game, tied 2, and lost 3. All were very close games, but, overall the players had a great time and did Simcoe proud.

Thanks and congratulations go to their coaches Mr. Cato, Mr. Knight and the General Manager Mrs. Moss

### Visit by Mayor John Tory

We have a special event coming up on Friday, March 11. The Mayor of Toronto Mr. John Tory is coming to our school! He agreed to come to Elizabeth Simcoe Jr.P.S. to answer student's questions. A letter was sent home for parents to indicate if they would like to attend. Please let us know if you are coming because we need to know how many seats we need to put out. The assembly welcoming the Mayor will start at 2 pm sharp in the west gym and will last for approximately 45 minutes. Some local media may be in attendance to take pictures of the event. What an exciting opportunity for our school!

By Settar

### Black History Month Presentation

On February 23rd, Mrs. Tsioutsoulas' class, Mrs. Noble's class, Ms. Bhola's class and Mrs. Di Paolo's class went to City Hall for a Black History Month presentation. Mr. Mark Saunders, the Toronto Police Chief, the Mayor of Toronto Mr. John Tory, Mr. Mike "Pinball" Clemons and the host of the Dragon's Den, Mr. Michael Wekerle were there to speak to students. It was fun to see the city council chamber and City Hall up close. We even took a picture standing in front of the Toronto sign!

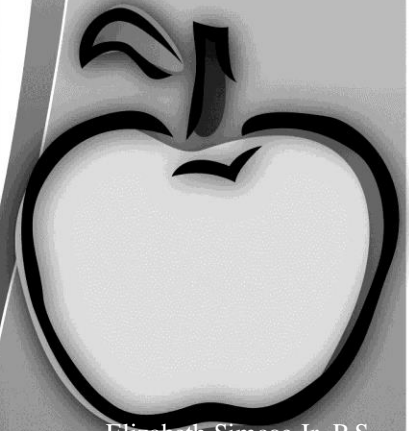
By Settar

### 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](http://www.parentsaspartners.ca). All parents/guardians of TDSB students are welcome. Register today - space is limited!

Upcoming	Events
March 11	Pizza Lunch
March 11	Assembly @ 2p.m.
March 14-18	March Break (no school)
March 25	Good Friday (no school)
March 28	Easter Monday (no school)
April 15	P.A. Day (no school)
April 22	Pizza Lunch



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