

Thomas Street Middle School

2640 Thomas Street, Mississauga, ON L5M 5G8

November 2018 Newsletter

Website: thomasstreet.peelschools.org ↔ Twitter: @thunderwolves98 ↔ Instagram: tsmpride



Dear Thomas Street Middle School Families!

I hope that this fall, your child and family have settled into a nice routine for the school year. September and October, although busy, have been incredibly positive. Students are settling into their reorganized homerooms and have engaged in friendly competition and team building in the ever popular Homeroom Games. If you haven't checked out Instagram for highlights and updates, be sure to check it out. On Wednesday, October 3rd, we opened our doors to families and guardians for our Curriculum Night. Teachers and support staff shared presentations and information about curriculum and programming for the term and year. We enjoyed having families in the school and meeting many of our new families as well. The support we receive from you is tremendous, and we greatly appreciate it.

Fall is definitely upon us...warmer days have passed and we fill the daily chill (and sometimes frost) of November. With the change in the weather, we ask that you please ensure that your children are appropriately dressed for the cooler temperatures. Layers are a great idea for this time of the year when mornings are cold and afternoons tend to warm up.

As we continue our learning journey in Indigenous Education this school year, the month of November has some important teachings. This first week is Treaties Week. We've learned that First Nations were the original occupants of this land we call Ontario. Treaties were established about 400 years ago, between the British Crown (government) and Indigenous peoples. The treaties were negotiated and signed with the intent of delivering mutual benefits, and they signed as independent, self-governing nations. Part of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, includes a commitment to educating Ontarians about the role treaties play in each of our lives and in our relationships with each other. Although treaties were signed many years ago, legally binding agreements that set out the rights, responsibilities and relationship of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments, not all treaties have been honoured. The treaties outlined cession of First Nations' title to lands, creation of reserves, protection of fishing, hunting and harvesting rights, promises of schools, clothing and farming equipment and supplies, and payments of goods and cash. Ontario is covered by 46 treaties. We learn about treaties to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. On November 1st, a few of our classes will have the pleasure of meeting with John Hupfield, who is part of the Ministry's Living Library program for Treaties Recognition Week.

A BIG thank you is extending to our School Council Fundraising Committee for running another successful annual fundraiser at Thomas Street. Your time, dedication, and organization supported us greatly with this. If you're interested in learning about how much was raised, debriefing the fundraising process and providing feedback for next year's fundraising efforts, please join us at our **next School Council meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 5th, upstairs in the Library.**

Our Thomas Street Teachers and Support Staff are hard at work designing program and curriculum connections that will support your children in finding success in their classrooms. On November 8th, your child's Progress Report will be coming home. Please take the time to review your child's progress with them, paying particular attention to the first page which outlines learning skills and work habits. Without these skills in place, academic success is difficult to find. Your child's teacher has commented on strengths and areas for improvement to support that discussion at home. On November 15th evening and 16th day (PD day for students) you will also have an opportunity to reconnect with your child's teacher and discuss his or her individual Progress Report. This is a great opportunity for your child to be part of the conversation, and collaborate to set goals for the remainder of first term. Of course, should you have any questions about your child's classroom, programming or any other concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss your child and his/her learning.

As you can tell, teachers at Thomas Street are incredibly busy running a number of exciting clubs and teams. Please encourage your child to take part in these opportunities. If they don't make a school team, there are always intramurals, drop in times in the gymnasium, art clubs, music clubs and seasonal sports clubs. Please review our daily announcements for updates (found under the "School News" tab on our School Website), connect with your child's teacher, or contact our Guidance Teacher if you would like further details. We look forward to reconnecting with you this month during student/parent/teacher interviews. Happy Fall!

Sincerely,
Tanya Tymkiv, Principal
Thomas Street Middle School

Articles

- ✓ **Townhouse Complex Drop Off**
- ✓ **Supply Lunch Room Supervisors Needed**
- ✓ **Art Night at John Fraser Secondary School**
- ✓ **Casting Call!**
- ✓ **Save the Date! A Festive Noel**
- ✓ **The Student Census**
- ✓ **Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**
- ✓ **Extended French**
- ✓ **Treaties Recognition Week**
- ✓ **Grade 9 Course Selections**
- ✓ **Explore High Skills**
- ✓ **Cannabis Legalization**
- ✓ **Mental Health Resource Team**
- ✓ **Bus Cancellation And Closing Schools Due To Bad Weather**
- ✓ **Back-to-School Eye Exam**



Remembrance Day
Reflection

Townhouse Complex Drop Off

We are requesting your support of our neighbours at the Townhouses on the corner of 5535 Glen Erin and Thomas Street. We are asking parents not to drop off or pick up students in the Townhouse complex and instead to use the Kiss n Ride, or an alternate drop off and pick up location. The town houses are private property and cannot be used as a place to stop, or park. Thank you for your cooperation!!!!

Supply Lunch Room Supervisors Needed

Thomas Street Middle School is looking for SUPPLY Lunch Supervisors to provide supervision to students Grades 7-8 during our lunch hour from **11:30 am to 12:30 am**. If you are interested in this position for **September 2018**, please contact the school at 905-812-3725 or drop by the Main Office with the following:
Criminal Reference Check for Employment to work with Children
Two recent references

Counting on You(COY)

Our school Thomas Street Middle School has recently implemented the Counting On You program for our students and our community, designed to improve student learning and to provide students with the necessary skills that will ensure future academic successes. This program will run outside of regular school hours **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays** from **2:30pm – 3:30 pm** and will provide those students enrolled in the program with skill building in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and French.

Student eligibility for this program is **based on teacher and principal recommendation**. Your child is eligible for enrolment into this program based on (his/her) current marks

and recommendations. In this program your child will receive small group, intensive support through tasks that will target and develop (his/her) skills. Your child will also learn key strategies to improve his/her critical thinking skills – skills that can be used in all subject areas. If your student was recommended you, will have received a permission letter in the last few days. Please sign and return it to school as promptly as possible. Classes will begin in November. Please watch for exact start date.

Thank you,
Ms. Ngoie and Mr. Aldana

Brampton Welcome Centre moved to new location

The Brampton We Welcome the World Centre, previously located at 25 Kings Cross Rd. has moved to 510 Balmoral Dr., located in Bramalea Secondary School.

If you're making a visit to the new Brampton Welcome Centre, please note that the entrance will be on the east side of Bramalea Secondary School, facing Bramalea Rd. The parking entrance is on the east side of Balmoral Dr.

For more information, please contact 905-366-8791 or visit www.peelschools.org/newtopeel.

Art Night at John Fraser Secondary School

The artwork from some Thomas Street Students will be on display at John Fraser's Arts Night on **November 29th**.



Casting Call!

Thomas Street Middle School is excited to announce this year's musical production: Dear Edwina Jr. taking place on **Wednesday, May 15th** and **Thursday, May 16th** at **7:00 p.m.**



Save the Date!

The TSMS Music Department presents:



A Festive Noel

Thursday, December 13th, 7:00 pm.

Thomas Street School Gymnasium

Performances by the Grade 6 Band, Grade 7 Band, Grade 8 Festival Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Glee Choir.

We look forward to an evening of music as we celebrate the festive season!

#chooseACTION on Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

The Peel District School Board will recognize Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week during the week of **Nov. 18 to 24, 2018.**

Bullying is a relationship problem with relationship solutions. This year, to maintain and build healthy relationships in the Peel District School Board, we ask our Peel community to '#chooseACTION to be an Ally' in their classes, offices, schools, or communities, in order to make these spaces better places for everyone. Establishing and maintaining a positive Climate for Learning and Working requires all of us to actively intervene on assumptions, stereotyping, bias, discrimination and hate. We also must proactively be inclusive, accept others and value difference.

During this week we will be highlighting the importance of allyship for ourselves and others. We will highlight the following qualities and characteristics of allies:

- An ally will choose to stand up for what is right - even when it's hard.
- An ally will change the world - for marginalized communities.
- An ally will stand - beside, in front, or behind someone to support them.
- An ally will commit to un-learning - a history that is incomplete.
- An ally will actively learn - about people who are different from them.
- An ally will challenge stereotypes - to prevent discrimination and injustice.
- An ally will refuse to stay silent - and use their voice to help others.
- An ally will use their power and privilege - to help others feel included.

CARING

COOPERATIVE

HONEST

INCLUSIVE

RESPECTFUL

RESPONSIBLE

The Peel board would like to hear about the big and small actions, pledges, promises and the attitudes that our Peel community value, and ask that you take a moment to share your #chooseACTION to be an Ally moments on social media.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is one of the key items contained in Bill 13: *The Accepting Schools Act*, that came into effect on **Sept. 1, 2012**. For more information, visit www.peelschools.org/aboutus/safeschools/bullying or www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/prevention.html.

Peel District School Board to support Treaties Recognition Week

[Treaties Recognition Week](#) was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This year, Treaties Recognition Week will take place from **November 5 to 9, 2018**.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) has issued 94 Calls to Action, which include calls for schools and communities to teach students about Treaties. Addressing the TRC's Calls to Action are embedded in Peel's commitment to achieve inclusion for all through continuous progress on equity. This commitment is captured in Peel's Plan for Student Success. The Peel District School Board is proud to support Treaties Recognition Week to help bring awareness to students and staff about their collective treaty obligations in Canada.

For resources and information on Treaties, please visit the [Government of Ontario website](#) as well as [The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Association of Ontario website](#).

The Student Census launches this November

The Peel District School Board is committed to providing the very best learning environments so that *all* students can achieve personal excellence. In order to do this, the Peel board will launch its first *Student Census* this November.

The census findings will help the board and our schools to:

- better understand student populations and school communities.
- identify and eliminate barriers to student success, inclusion and well-being.
- establish effective programs and reallocate resources to where they are needed most.

Who will participate?

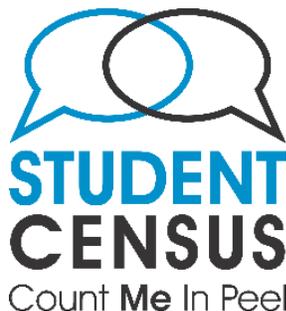
Students in grades 4 to 12 will be invited to complete *the Student Census* in class during **Nov. 19 to 30, 2018**. The questionnaire will take approximately one class period to complete, and will include questions that ask students about themselves and their experiences in and outside of school.

Parents/guardians of students in kindergarten to grade 3 will receive the questionnaire to fill out on behalf of their child(ren). Questionnaires will be sent home in early November with your child's progress report.

Is participation mandatory?

We want to capture the voices of *all* students - the more Student Census responses we receive, the more effective the data will be to help inform and improve programming and instruction.

That being said, the *Student Census* is voluntary. If you **do not** want your child to participate, please return the slip on the bottom of the consent form that went home in October.




TSMS Grade 8 students enjoying a friendly game of ball hockey outdoors at Muskoka Woods.
October 29-31/18



Hello Muskoka Woods!
Here comes TSMS!!!

How will responses be kept confidential and private?

The *Student Census* is confidential, but not anonymous. All collected responses will be stored in a secure, confidential database and will **only** be accessed by authorized Peel board research staff to identify and summarize trends among Peel students.

For more information, including translated questionnaires and resources, visit www.peelschools.org/studentcensus

Is Extended French right for my child?

If your child will be starting grade 7 in **September 2019**, one of the important choices you will make is whether you want to apply for the Extended French (EF) program.

To find out the EF school your child would attend, visit www.peelschools.org/French or call the school in your area.

Grade 7 Extended French dates for the 2019-20 school year

Information night Attend the information meeting at the Extended French school your child would attend	Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018 at 7 pm.
Applications open Apply at www.peelschools.org/French	Friday, Nov. 23, 2018 at 1 pm.
Application deadline Applications received after this date will be put on a waiting list.	Friday, Jan. 25, 2019 at 4 pm.

A random selection process is used to determine which students will be offered spaces in the grade 7 EF program. Please note that if you are currently enrolled in grade 6 French Immersion, please do not apply for grade 7 Extended French, as you will continue grade 7 in the French Immersion program.

For more information

- visit www.peelschools.org/French
- call your nearest Extended French school
- talk with parents who have children in the Extended French program
- visit the Canadian Parents for French website at <http://on.cpf.ca>

Is French Immersion right for my child?

If your child will be starting grade 1 in **September 2019**, one of the important choices you will make is whether you want to apply for the French Immersion (FI) program.

To find out the FI school your child would attend, visit www.peelschools.org/French or call the school in your area.

Grade 1 French Immersion important dates for the 2019-20 school year

Information night Attend the information meeting at the French Immersion school your child would attend	Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018 at 7 pm.
Applications open Available at www.peelschools.org/French	Friday, Nov. 23, 2018 at 1 pm.
Application deadline Applications received after this date will be put on a waiting list.	Friday, Jan. 25, 2019 at 4 pm.

The Peel board has a limited number of spaces available for students interested in grade 1 French Immersion. At this time, the grade 1 FI enrolment cap is set at 25 per cent of all Peel students enrolling in grade 1. A random selection process is used to determine which students will be offered spaces in the grade 1 FI program.

For more information

- visit www.peelschools.org/French
- call your nearest French Immersion school
- talk with parents who have children in the French Immersion program
- visit the Canadian Parents for French website at <http://on.cpf.ca>

Help your teen plan for grade 9 course selections for 2019-20

Soon, current grade 8 students will select their courses for grade 9. Before they do, we want to ensure that they have the opportunity to consult with their teachers, guidance counsellor, if applicable, and their parents.

As our partners, families are encouraged to help prepare their teens for course selection. We encourage you to become familiar with the process by creating a myBlueprint account. Additionally, parents/guardians and students can review Chart Your Course, the Peel District School Board's common course calendar, at www.peelschools.org/students/commoncoursecalendar. This guide will help you understand the course selection process and provide information on the courses and programs offered in Peel secondary schools.

You can also visit www.myBlueprint.ca/Peel, an online planning tool that includes the following:

- high school planner for course selection
- goal-setting
- career spectrum for finding your learning style
- occupation planner for exploring careers
- post-secondary planner for opportunities after high school

The grade 9 course selection process will be open from **Nov. 12 to 28, 2018**. If you have questions or are looking for course suggestions, please contact your teen's teachers or guidance counsellor.

Train More. Rehearse More. Learn More.



Peel District School Board program offers flexible school options for student athletes and artists

Does your child/teen have an intense sports or arts training and competition schedule that makes it difficult to attend school regularly? The

Peel District School Board's Peel Region High Performers Program will offer flexible timetabling to accommodate student athletes and artists with demanding practice, competition, rehearsal and/or performance schedules.

Applications open on **Nov. 5, 2018** and will be available at www.peelschools.org/HighPerformers

Information nights will be offered as follows:

Grades	Information Night	Location
4 to 5	Nov. 21, 2018 at 7 pm.	Britannia Public School 1145 Swinbourne Dr. in Mississauga
6 to 8	Nov. 7, 2018 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.	Dolphin Sr. Public School 18 Brookside Dr. in Mississauga

The Peel Region High Performers Program is also available to students in grades 9 to 12 at Mississauga Secondary School. For more information about Mississauga's program, please call 905-564-1033.

For more information and applications, visit www.peelschools.org/HighPerformers.

Secondary school Regional program applications open Nov. 5

Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) empower students by providing an opportunity to develop and explore skills in a particular area of interest. The Peel board provides secondary students from across Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon with 11 different Secondary Regional Learning Choices Programs. The programs are open to all eligible students. The entry point for all RLCP programs is grade 9.



All regional programs include a non-refundable application fee and an annual program fee. All RLCP application fees are \$40 annual fees, except the Truck and Coach program which is offered at no cost.

IMPORTANT DATES

	SECONDARY	ELEMENTARY
Applications open	Nov. 5, 2018 at 12:01 am.	Jan. 28, 2019 at 12:01 am.
Applications close	Nov. 21, 2018 at 3 pm.	Feb. 11, 2019 at 3 pm.

SECONDARY REGIONAL LEARNING CHOICES PROGRAMS OFFERED

Programs	Starts in grade:	6	7	9
Advanced Placement – Central Peel SS, John Fraser SS				✓
Arts – Earncliffe Sr. PS (starts in grade 6), Queen Elizabeth Sr. PS (starts in grade 7), Cawthra Park SS, Mayfield SS		✓	✓	✓
Graphic Design Management – T.L. Kennedy SS				✓
International Baccalaureate – Bristol Road. MS, W.G. Davis Sr. PS, Erindale SS, Glenforest SS, Harold M. Brathwaite SS, Turner Fenton SS		✓		✓
International Business and Technology – Allan A. Martin Sr. PS, Lisgar MS, Williams Parkway. Sr. PS, Meadowvale SS, North Park SS, T.L. Kennedy SS		✓		✓
International and Executive Leadership Academy – T.L. Kennedy SS				✓
Regional Skilled Trades – West Credit SS (starting in September 2019)				✓
SciTech – Centennial Sr. PS, Macville PS, Tomken Road. MS, Chinguacousy SS, Port Credit SS		✓		✓
Sports – Applewood Heights SS				✓
Strings – Central Peel SS, Port Credit SS				✓
Truck and Coach Engineering and Technology – Bramalea SS				✓

For more information about program information nights, busing, fees and the application process, visit

www.peelschools.org/RegionalPrograms

Jump start your future with Explore High Skills

Explore High Skills is a Peel District School Board pathway program that allows secondary schools with Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs to offer a unique specialized program choice for grade 9 and 10 students.



These sector-related programs are available to students in all skill levels and in all pathways. Specialized programs in grade 9, like Explore High Skills, provide unique learning experiences to engage students as they transition to high school. Students can focus their learning on an area of interest as they build self-confidence, learn essential skills, and develop a sense of belonging in school and in the community.

Important dates for the 2019-20 Explore High Skills programs

Application opens Apply at www.peelschools.org/ExploreHighSkills	Nov. 5, 2018
Application closes	Nov. 21, 2018 at 3 pm.
Out of board applications available	Nov. 22, 2018
Out of board applications due	Dec. 19, 2018 at 3 pm.
Explore High Skills offers sent out	Feb. 11, 2019
Explore High Skills offers must be accepted by	Feb. 19, 2019 at 3 pm.

For more information about the Explore High Skills programs offered, visit www.peelschools.org/ExploreHighSkills.

What you need to know about cannabis legalization

On **Oct. 17, 2018**, cannabis was made legal by the federal government. The Peel District School Board remains committed to maintain school and work environments that are totally **free of smoke**. The vaping, smoking, holding or use of lighted tobacco, cannabis, herbal material (or any other combustible material) and electronic smoking devices are **prohibited at all Peel schools and worksites**.

Please visit our school website for more information and links to resources.

Introducing the Mental Health Resource Team

The Peel District School Board welcomes Tali Aikenhead, Valerie Anderson, Todd Elliott, Krista Gass and Rosa Sist, clinicians recently hired to form the new Mental Health Resource Team (MHRT). The team will be supporting the work of the Peel board's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy alongside Maureen MacKay, Co-ordinator of Student Well-Being.

The Peel board is committed to promoting positive mental health for all students; a priority within the Board's systems goals. MHRT will collaborate with staff, students, parents and community partners with a focus on mental health promotion and prevention activities.

In the elementary panel (Kindergarten to grade 8), the focus will be staff capacity building and professional learning, particularly in the areas of Everyday Mental Health Practices in the Classroom and Suicide Prevention/Intervention.

A dark blue rectangular box containing the hashtag "#WELLinPEEL" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

In the secondary panel (grades 9 to 12), each school will be connected to a Mental Health Resource Clinician who will collaborate with school teams in their ongoing work to promote student mental health. This may include providing consultation to school teams, assisting with capacity building of staff, students and parents, and direct evidence based group support for students to increase their social emotional skills, and bolster resiliency.

For updates and to follow along with the work of the Mental Health Resource Team, find them on Twitter @MHRTPeel.

Bus cancellation and closing schools due to bad weather

During the winter months, we may need to cancel buses or close schools because of inclement weather.

Information regarding details of cancellations or closures will be announced on radio, television stations and will also be available on Twitter @Peelschools, Facebook at www.facebook.com/peelschools, www.peelschools.org and www.stopr.ca or by calling 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1146.

One of the following messages will be announced (highlighted text only):

Peel District School Board buses are cancelled

This means that schools remain open for students and staff, but buses are cancelled. Bus cancellations could occur in all or parts of municipalities. Buses will remain cancelled all day. All activities that require busing will also be cancelled. Permits, night school classes, child care and other activities in schools will operate as usual.

All Peel District School Board schools and board offices are closed

This means that all schools and Peel board offices are closed to students and staff. All activities in schools and board offices are also cancelled, including child care, night school and permits.

All evening programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled

This means that all activities in schools and Peel board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

All weekend programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled

This means that all activities in schools and Peel board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

Community Corner

Stay up-to-date with community-based opportunities

The Peel District School Board is pleased to introduce an electronic resource page on www.peelschools.org called, Community Corner, which contains links to information and resources in the community that may be of interest to students and their families. This site replaces our previous method of sending promotional materials about community clubs, camps, contests, fundraisers and events home with students on a regular basis.



How you can access Community Corner

1. Visit www.peelschools.org/parents/communitycorner
2. Click on the "Community Corner" button, found on the **main page** of school websites, as well as on www.peelschools.org.

Prevent the flu. It's in your hands.

Hand washing is the most important way to prevent the spread of infection. Always wash your hands with soap and water when they are dirty.

Clean your hands before:

- i. touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- ii. touching/preparing food or drinks
- iii. eating or drinking
- iv. caring for someone in your home who can easily get sick (baby, elderly or someone who has an unhealthy immune system)
- v. first aid



Clean your hands after:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|--------|--|
| i. | touching pets or other animals | x. | sneezing or coughing |
| ii. | touching raw meat, particularly chicken | xi. | using a facial tissue |
| iii. | touching surfaces such as a railing or grocery cart | xii. | using the washroom |
| iv. | touching money | xiii. | removing gloves |
| v. | touching objects sick people have touched | xiv. | cleaning |
| vi. | touching blood or body fluids such as urine, vomit or feces | xv. | gardening |
| vii. | contact with those who have a cold, the flu, diarrhea or virus of any kind | xvi. | What to do when you cough or sneeze: |
| viii. | changing diapers | xvii. | cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve |
| ix. | wiping your own or a child's nose | xviii. | put used tissues in the wastebasket |
| | | xix. | clean your hands with soap and water or a hand sanitizer |

For more information call Peel Health at 905-799-7700 or visit www.peelregion.ca/flu.

Winter bus safety

The following winter school bus safety tips will help to keep your child safe throughout the winter months.

- Allow extra time to get to your bus stop.
- Wear bright clothing so the bus can see you in the early morning and late evening.
- Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Use the handrail when boarding or exiting the bus to prevent slipping on wet or icy steps or road surfaces.
- Dress properly—winter clothing, hats, and boots will keep you warm.
- Don't throw snowballs at the bus or other children waiting for the bus.
- Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street.
- Don't push or shove around the bus. Someone could fall down on the ice and get hurt.

On very rare occasions, buses are late because of weather conditions or mechanical problems. Talk to your child about what to do if the bus is late. Here are some suggestions:

- When possible, wait with your child for the bus.
- Make sure your child knows a phone number where he can reach you or another trusted adult.
- Teach your child how and where to get help. Talk to your child about what a "safe" stranger is.
- Help your child set up a bus stop buddy system so your child has someone to wait with for the bus.

Nov. 30 opportunity to say 'thanks' to Peel Custodial & Maintenance Workers' Day

In 2014, the board of trustees declared the last Friday in November as the Peel Custodial and Maintenance Workers' Day. This year, the recognition day falls on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. Take this opportunity to thank the important work of custodial and maintenance workers and their hard work and commitment to well-being and safety.

Book Your Child's Back-to-School Eye Exam

Ontario Reminding Parents about the Importance of Vision Care

Ontario is reminding parents to make an optometry appointment for their children.

Eighty percent of classroom learning is visual. An annual comprehensive eye exam can identify vision problems and treatment options to help students reach their full potential. Children who have trouble seeing can encounter difficulties at school because their motor skills, social development, attention span and ability to read, write and learn may be affected.

Some conditions such as lazy eye are most effectively treated at a young age. The Ontario Association of Optometrists recommends that every child have their first eye exam at 6 months of age to ensure proper vision development, again at ages 2 to 3, and subsequently every year thereafter.

Contact your optometrist if you have concerns about your child's vision or notice any of the following behaviour:

- Does not make eye contact
- Closes or covers one eye
- Squints or frowns when looking far or near
- Rubs or touches their eye(s) a lot
- Blinks more than usual

- Reacts strongly to light
- Turns or tilts head when viewing objects
- Trips, falls or bumps into things often.

Don't forget, OHIP covers comprehensive eye exams for kids until they turn 20. And Year 1 kids qualify for complimentary glasses through the #EyeSeeEyeLearn program. For more information or to find an optometrist, visit <https://www.optom.on.ca/>.

Traffic safety in our community

Safety is a top priority at our school. Here is a list of traffic tips to keep students, staff and parents safe while commuting to and from school.

- Respect traffic signs and road markers around the school.
- Drive slowly and with caution on and near school property. Adhere to the posted speed limits on any surrounding streets used by students on their way to and from school.
- Always yield to pedestrian traffic. Wait for students, staff members and parents to cross before driving past them.
- When dropping your child off at the school, use the Kiss'n'Ride area. This is a supervised area that is designed to keep students safe.
- Do not double park or do anything else to block traffic or draw your child off the curb and into traffic. Do not take shortcuts over curbs.
- Have your child ready to exit the car when you reach the curb. Say goodbye to your child before you park at the curb to let your child out of your car.
- During regular drop-off times, students are to remain in the car until it is safe for them to exit the car onto the curb.
- Follow the directions of staff or volunteers on duty in the school parking lot and treat staff, students, volunteers, passengers and other drivers with respect.
- Consider parking off site and walking a short distance to school. This will give you time to talk to your children about their day, review new vocabulary words, math concepts, etc.
- Remind your child to only cross the street at an intersection or crosswalk. They should never “jaywalk” by crossing in the middle of the street.
- Students who bike to school should always wear a helmet, and follow all traffic laws. They should only cross the street at a crosswalk or intersection—never in the middle of the road.

Celebrating Faith and Culture

November 2018

Date	Celebration	Faith and Culture
November	Gwilatkw and Freezing Moon	Indigenous
November 1	All Saints Day	Christianity
November 1	Samhain	Wicca
November 4	Qudrat (thirteenth month)	Bahá'í
November 6	Diwali	Hinduism
November 7	Diwali/Lord Mahavir Nirvan	Jainism
November 7	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism
November 7 or 8	New Year's Day/Day of Enlightenment	Hinduism and Jainism
November 9	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í
November 10	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í
November 11	Remembrance Day	Canada
November 12	Gnan Panchami	Jainism
November 16	Louis Riel Day	Indigenous
November 20	Milad-un-Nabi	Islam
November 23	Qawl (fourteenth month)	Bahá'í
November 23	Dev Diwali or Lokashah Jayanti	Hinduism and Jainism
November 23	Birth of Guru Nanak	Sikhism
November 24	Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	Sikhism
November 26	Day of the Covenant	Bahá'í
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá	Bahá'í
November 28 (J)	First Day of Advent (Christmas fast)	Christianity