



WARDEN AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL
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Anja K. Belter, Principal Bill Vatzolas, Vice-Principal

Newsletter

Principal's Message

It's been another great month at Warden Avenue P.S. We are more than halfway through the school year at this point - a fact that our primary classes celebrated at their 100s Day celebration this past month. Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday that we were welcoming students in September to another school year!

Report cards went home on February 11th. Thank you to the parents who came in for interviews on February 13th. At Warden, we believe that education is a partnership, and we must work together in order for our children to achieve their full potential. Thanks, too, to our teachers who write very personal and meaningful report cards - I'm sure our community will agree that our teachers really know our kids well.

The staffing process at Warden will begin following the March Break. For parents who want to learn more about this process, as well as contribute their thoughts and ideas, this will be discussed at our regularly scheduled School Council. Please join us and let us help demystify how schools are staffed and classes are organized!

We have had some staffing changes at Warden Avenue Public School over the past month. We were very pleased to welcome Ms. Dew to our drama and dance position after our Winter Break when Ms. Fowlie went on maternity leave. However, when Ms. Maleganovski began her maternity leave this month, we were very pleased that Ms. Dew agreed to move from that position to work in our grade 2/3 class. We have welcomed Mr. Naska to work in our morning drama/dance program.

We have continued to experience challenging weather! Our students stay inside on extremely cold days...there have been over 30 extreme cold warnings since this season began! Please ensure that your son or daughter is dressing appropriately for the season...we expect to see our students in layered clothing, and wearing their hats and mittens. Frequently in the morning we see students with neither hats nor mittens, although they tell us they are in their backpacks. Frostbite is a real danger in weather like we have been experiencing; please help us keep your child safe.

We are continuing to experience parking lot challenges as well. As the weather has been colder, a significant number of parents choose to drive to school to drop off or pick up their child. Please remember that you may NOT park in our parking lot. If you have a student to drop off, use our drop off area at the front of the school. Kindergarten children will be walked to their classroom by responsible mentors. Other students will walk to the back of the school where they are supervised by our staff from 8:40 on.

Spring is on its way - enjoy!



Tips for Helping Your Child Develop Confidence



Tell them never to fear asking questions: Questions lead to knowledge and knowledge leads to confidence. When children question, they learn.

Share your stories about trials to triumph: When they hear your struggles and how you overcame them, they will learn that they can overcome their struggles as well. You can be a role model in action as well as in discussion.

Highlight that persistence leads to success: We've heard it before. It doesn't matter how many times you fall but rather, how many times you get up. Let them know that perseverance is more important than getting it right the first few times.

Encourage them in the areas in which they excel: Focus on the children when they are doing something right and when they can be a positive example to others. Nothing breeds confidence like feeling successful.

Let them know it's safe to make mistakes: Everyone makes mistakes. Many children are afraid to try because they're afraid to make mistakes. Make sure that your children know that they will never be judged negatively when they do their best and try their hardest—even if it doesn't lead to success right away. Encourage them to "try, try again!"

Praise appropriately: If children do not succeed, don't tell them they did well. They know what empty praise is by now. Help them to figure out what they can do to improve. Let them know that you believe in them and with persistence, they will be successful.

Help them to balance their goals with realistic expectations: Goals may take a while to achieve. We need to help children understand that they move forward in benchmarks, not leaps and bounds. By assisting them in mapping out their benchmarks, they will see that they are making progress.

Don't compare them with other children: Each child is an individual and when comparing, you are not honouring your child's individual needs.

Celebrate successes before moving on: Often, when a goal is achieved, we're already onto the next goal before celebrating the success of the current one. Let your child take credit for those successes and talk about the qualities in your child that lead to that success. "You were courageous and persistent—you did it! Congratulations for sticking it out!"

Accept your child unconditionally: Some children are shy or nervous while others are outgoing. Your child needs to know that whatever way they are, you accept them and you're not trying to change them.

~Adapted from Dr. Robyn Silverman

Excellence Awards 2014

We all care about the well-being of our students and community; it is what makes us strive for excellence in our classrooms and schools every day. Each year, the TDSB hosts the Excellence Awards which is a way to recognize outstanding staff or members of a team across the system.

Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to nominate an individual or group of staff who have created a program, project, partnership or event that has exceeded expectations on fulfilling any of the five Strategic Directions of the TDSB which are:

1. Make every school an effective school;
2. Build leadership within a culture of adaptability, openness and resilience;
3. Form strong and effective relationships and partnerships;
4. Build environmentally sustainable schools that inspire teaching and learning; and
5. Identify disadvantage and intervene effectively.

To access the online submission system, you can visit www.tdsb.on.ca/excellence.

March Break Fun at McGregor Library!

Tuesday, March 11th – Family Film Fun

Join us for an afternoon at the movies. All ages welcome for this program.

Wednesday, March 12th – Super Sarah

Join us for a magic show with our special guest Super Sarah, a high energy female magician who will present a funny and interactive show. Ages 4 and up.

Thursday, March 13th – Library BINGO

Come and join us in this very unique game of BINGO with book titles, characters, and authors instead of numbers.

Ages 6 and up.

Friday, March 14th – Craft Fun

Come and join in the fun as we create lovely crafts together. Ages 6 and up

All programs begin at 2 pm.

No registration is required for these programs.

Space is limited.

Tickets for all programs will be handed out 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

**McGregor Park Branch
2219 Lawrence Avenue East
Toronto, ON M1P 2P5
416-396-8935**

Improving Punctuality at Warden Avenue P.S.



At Warden P.S., one focus for our students is teaching them important life skills. One such skill is punctuality. Our expectation is that when the bell rings, students are in the back play area, ready to line up and move into classrooms. We have a fast-paced day at Warden Avenue PS, and teachers count on students being on time and ready to learn so that we can move forward with our lessons. When a student arrives late to school, their lateness disrupts the entire class, interrupts valuable teaching time, and their own learning is hindered by what they will have missed.

The key to being on time, every day, is time management skills. If your child is continually late for school, here are some ideas to help:

- Try setting the alarm clock 5 or 10 minutes earlier. If a child is consistently late by a few minutes, the simple action of waking up just a few minutes early should nip the lateness in the bud.
- Make sure your child gets enough sleep! If your child has trouble waking up in the morning, s/he must go to bed earlier. Most experts agree that, depending on your child's age, children need between 8 and 11 hours of sleep a night. Check with your family doctor if you're not sure that your child is getting the rest s/he needs to be refreshed and ready for the next day.
- Make sure that what your child needs for the next day is already organized - homework and agendas should be in the back pack already. There should be a central spot where your child places their hat, mitts, scarf, snowpants, etc., so your family isn't hindered in the morning by frantic searching for that lost Ou
- Consider laying out your child's clothing the night before. Nothing wastes time more than standing in front of a closet, trying to decide what to wear!
- If making lunch slows you down in the morning, put it together the night before and keep it in the fridge until the morning.
- If you drive your child to school, consider walking. Increased traffic congestion in the school area means that frequently, driving is actually slower than walking. And walking is better for the environment, and better for our children's health!

As in life and work, there are consequences for lateness. At the end of each month, a letter is sent home to students who have had a significant number of lates that month. If necessary, students who are frequently late will pay back time to the principal.

Please help your child prepare for the future by developing the important habit of punctuality!

Change Race!

In March, we look forward to our annual fundraising change race! Please support your child's classroom with your loose change - classes can win prizes of a pizza party or a cupcake party! Our race begins after the March Break.

French at Warden

EN FRANÇAIS

Pendant les mois de janvier et février, les élèves de la quatrième année ont beaucoup appris sur les animaux de compagnie et les clowns. Voici ci-dessous deux exemples portant sur ce que les enfants ont fait durant la classe de français.

During the months of January and February, the grade 4 students learned about pets and clowns during French classes. Here are two work samples of two students from Ms. Roulston's class.

Sabrina

Chère Kavisha,
Je m'appelle Sabrina. J'ai neuf ans.
J'adore les animaux! J'ai un chat.
Il s'appelle Star. Il est petit et il est
comique! voici une photo de mon ami
Star.

Amitiés,
Sabrina



Rania



Le clown est content.	Le nez est orange.
Le front est jaune.	Les joues sont vertes.
Les sourcils sont bruns.	La bouche est rouge.
Les yeux sont bleus.	Les cheveux sont bruns.



Student of the Month



The following students have been recognized by their teachers for demonstrating February's character attribute: **fairness**.

Mrs. Nick	Kenya Ashley, Andreko Robinson
Mrs. Chapman	Amanah Sarwar, Zedekiah Joseph
Mrs. Reyes	Aria Ratcliffe, Zoha Ahmed, Meilka Wubie
Mrs. Orfao	Hooriya Ali, Siyam Shahab
Ms. Violot	Shakib Batun, Jermaine Millette
Ms. McCalla	Abdulfatah Mohamed, Kaidah Hussain
Ms. Su	Naliyah Harrison-Shaw, Mahad Hussain, Aiyanna Logan
Mr. McDonald	Jihan Chowdhury, Sabrianna Solomon
Ms. Dew	Zuhra Mohammad Ali, Rehan Muhommad
Ms. Jayaraj	Sophie Lopez, Tannei Sarker
Ms. Roulston	Hafsa Moallim, Tommy Chou
Ms. Lieu	Ibhsam Mohamed, Amina Ahman
Mr. Bennett	Ehab Elmamoun, Ruchira Dalta
Mr. Stamatopolous	Olivia Myers, Ihsan Sayd, Shameil Roberts, Saida Ahmaq
Mr. Bigioni	Divine Bailey, Eklil Abdul Wakil
Mr. Clabassi	Samatar Mohamed, Nuzhat Tabassum
Mr. Makki	Aisa Lee-Cunningham
Ms. Gavas	Prince Douse
Mr. Maharaj	Jewel Merry-Robbins

In the month of March, we will be recognizing students who demonstrate the character attribute of **honesty**. Your child can show honesty by sharing his or her feelings and being truthful, telling the truth, even though s/he knows there may be consequences, and by being reliable and responsible in completing a job. Questions to discuss with your child might include: What does it mean to be honest? What should you do if you need to tell the truth, but you know there will be consequences? Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? To encourage honesty in your child, give your child opportunities to tell the truth. Make sure you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though s/he may be afraid that you might be angry. Encourage and praise your child when s/he is honest.