



23 Mar, 2018

Dear Parent and Guardians,

We hope you enjoyed your March break and that your children have returned to school refreshed and with a renewed feeling for success. The break correlates with the celebration of Naw Ruz for our Persian families who are welcoming the renewal of the world after winter. Our spring concert was well attended and our youngest performers did a fabulous job expressing themselves in French while entertaining a large group of parents and younger siblings.

This year, [Earth Hour](#) (link below) will take place on Saturday, March 24 from 8:30- 9:30 p.m. Please see the link for additional information regarding this day; we hope you will consider participating as a family. The Board's Eco theme for the month of March is "turn off monitors and computers". If you're not using your monitor or computer for a period of time, why not join in and be Eco friendly? It can show your children that you're supporting the school's efforts at home as well! Next week Grade 5 and 6 student leaders will be hosting a Waste Audit throughout the morning on Tuesday, March 27. During this presentation, they will be showing how much waste is being produced at school in an effort to reduce it as best as possible. A review of how to properly separate waste for recycling will also be reviewed in brief class presentations. Parents are welcome to attend any of the 20 minute information sessions.

This week we had a meeting to discuss Safe Routes to School and especially pedestrian traffic near the roundabout located at the intersection of Selwyn Road and Tower Hill. The meeting was attended by personnel from the Town of Richmond Hill, School Council, our school and Board. The town has hired a traffic consultant to review all roundabouts and whether this particular one should remain as is, or if it should be transformed into a 4-way stop. The traffic survey of the area will take place within the next month or so. There was some discussion about the need for signage at the intersection at the corner of Jefferson and Selwyn Road to reduce speed at that corner as well. Thank you to our parents who have provided input into ensuring that we have only Safe Routes to School. To reduce car traffic and promote a healthy lifestyle, we continue to promote "Walking Wednesdays", especially since the weather is becoming more conducive to walking. Bike week is coming soon too on May 28-June 1, 2018. We hope to see many shiny bikes in our bike racks!

Grade 5 students were treated to a specially planned lesson on our First Nations communities that forced them to think critically about the access that they may have to social services provided by our Provincial and Federal governments. For example, Ontarians show their Provincial OHIP card to receive medical attention, whereas First Nations people show their Federal Certificate of Indian Status card. Who do you suppose foots the bill? Are First Nations people afforded the same access to social services when different levels of government cannot agree on their level of support?

As they head to Ottawa next week, we'd like to wish our Grade 8 students "Bon Voyage!" We are looking forward to hearing what they've learned and shared together while in our Nation's capital.

Lastly, Thursday, March 29 is Blue Jays Day so we encourage all students to wear Blue Jays clothing, or any blue attire to show school spirit.

Attached to this eblast please find:

- The PDF version of this link to how to [walk and bike within a roundabout](#)
- The link for Earth Hour: <https://www.earthhour.org/what-is-earth-hour>
- Bike To School Week information poster

Have a wonderful, warm weekend!