

A Message from Administration...

Dear families,

June is finally upon us, and our school will continue to be busy. We would like to thank you again for your continuing support. Last month we came up with some workshops and activities, which will engage and motivate the students. Going forward, we will do more of these activities in order to create a student learning environment which is fun and happy for everyone.

Monarch Crusader Workshop

Recently, our Kindergarten students and Grade 1 students attended the Butterfly Interactive Presentation at our school. The students were excited to enter the gym on Wednesday, May 25 as the gym was turned into a butterfly learning exhibit. The Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers welcomed the presenter (Carol from the Monarch Crusader) as she spoke about the butterflies. Volunteers from the audience were involved in the presentation, which made the presentation very engaging and interesting. Carol showed the students how the butterflies siphon nectar and juice for food. The students were engaged and had a great time!

Grade 8 Graduation Trip

On Friday, May 27 our Grade 8 classes went to Bruce's Mill Conservation Area for some Tree Top Trekking. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and the rain held off. The students enjoyed getting outside, having the chance to try something new and spend some quality time with each other. Afterwards, they went to the Mandarin Restaurant in Markham for a delicious buffet lunch. June will go quickly for our graduates as they look ahead to their formal graduation on June 28th and beyond to high school.

Discover Kindergarten Event

On May 31, our school had a Discover Kindergarten event where we welcome our new Kindergarten students and families to Silver Pines. As we know, starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for everyone. The staff at Silver Pines P.S. welcomed the families as part of our support in their children's transition to Kindergarten. During this in-person event, the families and their children had an opportunity to engage in inquiry-based learning opportunities and be introduced to the areas of the school, such as the Kindergarten play area, gym, and front office; they also visited a Kindergarten hallway to see what their future classrooms may look like! They also received a picture book entitled *Playful Learning in Kindergarten* to support their transition. We are looking forward to welcoming our new students to the Silver Pines PS community!

Walk & Roll Wednesdays/Bike to School Week

We are continuing with our active travel initiative at our school called "Walk & Roll Wednesdays". The purpose of this initiative is to encourage active modes of transportation to and from school. This initiative is designed to promote a healthier lifestyle choice, and hopefully to reduce the vehicle traffic around the school at drop-off and pick-up time. On the first day of this initiative (May 18) we handed out prizes to our

students who walked or rode their bikes to school. Every Wednesday, for the rest of the school year, we will be promoting different outdoor travel methods to school. These methods of travel could include walking, running, biking, scootering, rollerblading and so on. We are also encouraging students to take the bus to and from school.

This initiative partly coincides with Bike to School Week (May 30-June 3). Bike to School Week encourages kids to ride their bikes to school. We are working on some special events during the week including bike safety checks and tune ups. Look out for more information. Please help us keep the momentum of Walk and Roll Wednesdays going and celebrate Bike to School Week by having your child choose an active mode of transport to school.

EQAO Assessments (Grade 3 & Grade 6)

Our EQAO testing started on June 3rd and the testing will continue until June 10th. During EQAO testing your child will be taking part in the provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 3) and Junior Division (Grade 6). These assessments are given to all Grade 3 and Grade 6 students by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). These assessments include a language and mathematics component. There is also a student questionnaire and an introductory session for the students. EQAO assessment questions are directly based on *The Ontario Curriculum*. This curriculum is what teachers use to teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will do the assessment in their regular classrooms with their current teachers. The students are simply encouraged to do their best and show what they know.

Grade 8 Graduation

Our Graduation Ceremony will take place on the evening of **Tuesday, June 28th at The Avenue, 1600 Steeles Ave W in Thornhill**. The evening will begin with a formal ceremony at **the Avenue starting from 5:15 pm**. The graduation ceremony is being organized by Silver Pines staff and the Parent Graduation Committee. A final graduation ceremony rehearsal for the students has been scheduled for the afternoon of June 27th at Silver Pines P.S. It is recommended that students who will be wearing alternative footwear to the ceremony to bring this footwear to the rehearsal as they will be required to climb stairs to the stage to receive their diploma. This will be good practice! We look forward to sharing this special evening with you as we reflect and celebrate the many accomplishments of our 2021-2022 graduates.

Looking ahead and planning for the 2022-23 School Year

We have started planning for the next school year. Kindly advise the office if your family is planning to move out of the area so we can best predict our school enrolment for next school year. We will be working through the summer to assign class placements and finalize our staffing. More information will be shared with families at the end of August with their final class placement and their homeroom teacher.

Thank you again and have a great week!

Principal: Jeff Laughlin
Superintendent: Erik Khilji

Vice Principal: Afrouz Sarmadi
Trustee : Simon Cui



Diversity Is Our Strength!

Happy Pride Month!

June is Pride Month around the globe. It's a time to formally recognize and support the 2SLGBTQI+ community (two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and additional identities) and its history and leaders in activism. On June 1st our Gay Straight Alliance Club (GSA) helped raise the Pride flag which will hang on our flag pole for the month of June.



Happy Indigenous Heritage Month!

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada. In June, we celebrate National Indigenous History Month to celebrate the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

June 21 was declared National Indigenous Peoples Day in 1996 by then Governor General Romeo Leblanc. The day was chosen in consultation with some national organizations for Indigenous Peoples including the Assembly of First Nations, and coincides with the summer solstice which is significant for some First Nations.

