

# Thornhill PS Newsletter



## THORNHILL PS

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### PRINCIPAL

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### TRUSTEE

Estelle Cohen



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

February may be the shortest month of the year, but at TPS we were able to fill the month with many meaningful opportunities to learn, come together as one, and to engage in activities that further our collective goal of being equitable and inclusive to all.

TPS was honoured to host Matthew “Testament” Jones, from P.E.A.C.E (People Everywhere Actually Coexisting Equally) who helped spread the message of acceptance, inclusion and Black Excellence, through two assemblies and workshops. TPS looks forward to continuing this important work and partnership beyond Black History Month.

This month our Student Leadership Team, supported by dedicated teachers, spread the message about the impact of Kindness. On February 17th, TPS participated in Random Acts of Kindness Day, and on February 22, we came together in solidarity against bullying, and wore pink for Pink Shirt Day.

*Ms. Waiser* - Your proud Principal

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### UPCOMING DATES:

March 1: School Council event MOVIE NIGHT

March 13—17: March Break

April 7: Good Friday (no school for staff and students)

April 10: Easter Monday (no school for staff and students)



### **Black History Month:**

Each morning on our announcements throughout the month of February, students and staff heard about influential people who have made a difference in all aspects of life, including, but not limited to politics, the arts, education, sports, music, and entertainment.

In addition, students from our Student Leadership Team went around to each of our classrooms to read picture books, focused on Black Excellence.

TPS looks forward to continuing to learn about, and focus on Black Excellence



At TPS, we know that "Kindness Matters". During our Random Acts of Kindness Day, students captured what kindness means to them, and how they show kindness to others' without the expectation that their actions are returned.



### **Is your child sick/not feeling well?**

A reminder to all families that as we try to mitigate the spread of illness, children are to stay home from school if they are unwell. Children may return to school once their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours.

### **Dressing for the weather:**

Students will be going outside each and every day to get fresh air. Please make sure that each day your child/children are dressed for the weather and that they have the appropriate clothing to keep them warm as the weather gets cooler. Students are reminded to bring their outerwear to school, such as a jacket, hat, warm sweater, gloves, mittens, etc.

### **Kiss-N-Ride Procedures REMINDER:**

For all parents/guardians accessing our Kiss-N-Ride, please ensure that you review our drop-off and pick-up procedures, which have been implemented in order to increase efficiency and to ensure the safety of all.

#### **Drop-Off:**

Vehicles dropping students off are to pull up to the middle lane of the loop.

When unloading, students are to only get out when their car is the first car in the line-up \*a staff member will be there to watch them as they safely exit the vehicle.

Parents are not to park their car in the Kiss-N-Ride and get out of their cars. Vehicles cannot be left unattended.

Students are to be ready to get out when their car is the first car in the line-up in order to be able to move cars through as quickly and safely as possible.

#### **Pick-Up:**

As has been past practice, during pick up time, parents/guardians are asked not to enter the bus loop/ Kiss-N-Ride. Vehicles are asked to park alongside Arnold Avenue and to have your child/children meet you in a designated parking spot. This will ensure the safe loading of our students onto the bus. We thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe.



# Message from Our Trustee

2023

I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is **communicating with the public**. I hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate my role as trustee and how I can support you, and to answer some of the questions I am often asked as a trustee.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families, but also ensuring I am available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. I am happy to assist you.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of 12 trustees elected during the municipal election process, and one Indigenous trustee appointed through a separate process. Eight of the 12 elected trustees are new this term, and we are all looking forward to connecting with families and fulfilling our roles to support student achievement and well-being.

## What do Trustees Do?

In addition to communicating with the public, we are also responsible for:

**Establishing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan.** This [plan](#) sets out our priorities as a school board and guides our direction and decision making as a system.

**Setting policy.** [Policies](#) govern the operation of our schools and organization, including field trips, school transportation, homework, caring and safe schools and much more. You can find out which policies are up for review in our [meeting agendas](#), or which [policies are out for comment](#) on the website. Your participation in this process is important to ensuring our policies are serving our communities and align with our priorities.

**Setting an annual budget.** I look forward to sharing more information about this process with you in the coming months as we engage in [budget](#) consultations.

**Participating on Board and Advisory Committees.** You can find the dates and agendas for these meetings on the Board website. You are welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory and Board Committee meetings](#).

**Hiring the Director of Education.** This process is governed by the [Director of Education Selection Policy](#), and we will keep you updated as this process progresses. In the meantime, I am deeply grateful to Interim Director of Education Scott Yake for his commitment and service.

**Advocating for quality public education.** I became a school board trustee because I believe in public education. I believe in the potential of each and every one of our students and our



responsibility to nurture their learning, growth and achievement. Our decisions as a board are centred on our commitment to deliver the best for our students.

## What's Happening in YRDSB

[Kindergarten](#) registration opened January 20 for families with children who will start Kindergarten in September 2023.

[French Immersion registration](#) is open from January 20-February 6 for students entering Grade 1 in September 2023.

[Student trustee elections](#) are currently underway. All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the student trustees who will represent them next school year.

In February, we recognize Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black people to the fabric of our society. I encourage you to visit the Board's [Centre for Black Student Excellence webpage](#) and [newsletter](#) to learn more about upcoming events during Black History Month and what's happening in the Board to celebrate Black excellence.

Family Day and the March Break are also approaching and we hope everyone enjoys the break.

There are a number of other events for families coming up and I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#).

## New Schools

One of the other questions I am asked, particularly in growing communities is about new schools or capital projects. I can let you know that in our municipality the following [capital projects](#) have received approval:

Blue Willow Public School Kindergarten Addition, proposed to open January 2025.

[Kleinburg/Nashville Elementary School](#), proposed to open September 2024.

[E.J. Sand Public School](#) replacement, proposed to open September 2023.

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in our school board. Visit the [news-room](#) or website homepage at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow the Board on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#). Read your school newsletters and emails. I look forward to staying connected with you.

Best regards,

Estelle Cohen,

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 4 and 5

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