

# Thornhill PS Newsletter



## THORNHILL PS

7554 Yonge St.

Thornhill, ON

L4J 1V8

(905) 889-1566

Email:

thornhill.ps@yrdsb.ca

### PRINCIPAL

Julia Waiser

### OFFICE STAFF

Elham Ebrahimi

Nancy Alla

Stacey Beliak

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Steven Gardner

### TRUSTEE

Estelle Cohen



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Happy 2023 to our entire TPS family.

Throughout this month students have been busy engaging in rich and meaningful classroom activities and lessons, and have had a variety of opportunities to demonstrate school spirit, the power of collaboration, and the importance of celebrating our diverse backgrounds.

This month saw us celebrating Lunar New Year. Our student leadership team took initiative to teach the school about the traditions and meaning behind events associated with Lunar New Year, and did a tremendous job decorating the front foyer with artifacts from the year of the Rabbit. To all of our TPS community that celebrate, we wish you all a wonderful New Year.

In addition, our Lego Wall was installed in our Learning Commons/Library. With the poster above it that reads, "Working Together Is A Work Of Art", we have proven at TPS that we are better when we work in collaboration and as a team. It has been incredible to see the structures that are being built, the art that is being created, and the display of comradery amongst our student body.

Looking ahead we anticipate continued team work, deep-learning and meaningful dialogue around a variety of topics, including Black History Month and Pink Day,

*Ms. Waiser* - Your proud Principal

---

#### UPCOMING DATES:

- January 20—ongoing: Kindergarten registration continues
- February 3: PA Day (no school for students)
- February 6—Last day to enroll current SK students in French Immersion
- February 7—Grade 8 Grad photos and class photos
- February 13—Terra Cotta Cookie Fundraiser Distribution
- February 20—Family Day (no school for staff/students)
- Week of February 21—Report cards distributed electronically
- February 22—Pink Shirt Day
- February 22—School Council meeting



### Lunar New Year:

On January 23rd, TPS honoured and celebrated Lunar New Year. Students participated in classroom discussions regarding the meaning of the holiday and learned about the traditions of those who celebrate.

We thank all students and staff for their collective efforts.



### Lego Wall:

Our Lego wall has been a tremendous hit amongst our students. Since its installation a week ago, our students have been busy building and creating pieces that represent parts of their identity. Each month, students will get inspiration from a Lego Wall Challenge. We look forward to seeing what works of art get created each month.





### **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

[estelle.cohen@yrdsb.ca](mailto:estelle.cohen@yrdsb.ca)