



KIMBERLEY-BEACHES NEWS

April 2015

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PRINCIPAL'S NOTES:



Spring is here!!!

We have already seen our days getting longer and we are now looking forward to warmer days, when we will start working on our school grounds including an exciting new vegetable garden.

Term 1 has gone by in a flash and the next three months will be very busy for the Kimberley and Beaches Alternative community. Please be sure to check the list on the last page and mark your calendars! We will continue to count on your support with the many upcoming initiatives.

With the warmer weather, we ask parents to make arrangements to drop off and pick up their children outside, preferably at the back of the school or Kindergarten yard. All parents are asked to report to the main office when entering the school during school hours.

Planning for September 2015

We have already begun planning for the next school year. A proposed staffing model is being created based on the staffing allocation we received from the TDSB. (More details to come)

EQAO...planning ahead...

This year our **Grade 3 and 6** students are scheduled to complete EQAO testing from **May 25th to June 4th**. EQAO provides us with meaningful data by measuring our students' achievement in reading, writing and math in relation to Ontario Curriculum expectations. The objective and reliable assessment results are evidence that adds to the current knowledge about student learning and serves as an important tool for improvement at the individual, school, school board and provincial levels. EQAO helps build capacity for the appropriate use of data by providing resources that educators, parents, policy-makers and others in the education community can use to improve learning and teaching.

Please avoid booking appointments; trips; etc during these 2 weeks of EQAO testing.

As a parent, you can help your child prepare for EQAO testing by logging into www.EQAO.com and searching under the Parent Resources section. Being involved at home is a proven way to help ensure that your child is engaged in their learning!

Day of Pink - April 8th

The Toronto District School Board is encouraging students and staff to take part in the international Day of Pink to stop bullying.

"Show your support against bullying and for tolerance."



At Kimberley and Beaches we certainly hope to have strong participation and show that we care. Wearing something pink on the second Wednesday of April has been an annual event that started when students from Nova Scotia witnessed a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied at their school. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, gender-bullying and homophobia. We invite everyone (schools, businesses and community organizations) to make a difference and participate.

The goal of DayofPink.org is to bring this message across the world, through an international day of action that anyone can take part in. We encourage groups to not only wear pink in support of diversity, but to also hold events and activities that will engage their community and challenge gender stereotypes.

We count on our school community to wear pink on April 8th.

To All Parents/Guardians:

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for an exciting Adult Learning Session that will focus on supporting children by

Fostering a Strong Sense of Self

Goals for the evening include: Expanding our ideas about gender roles

...how exactly do we do this?

- Explore one's own biases with respect to gender stereotypes
- Validating and accepting one's own child exactly as they are
- Projecting stereotypes limits our children: ways to avoid this
- Creating dialogue with our children on what makes a "strong sense of self"

Please RSVP by Friday April 10th via e-mail to penny.tsouluh@tdsb.on.ca

Scholastic Book Fair



Mon. April 13 3:30 – 4:30

Tue. April 14 8:30 – 4:30

Wed. April 15 8:30 – 5:30

Thu. April 16 8:30 – 6:30

We invite you to participate in this amazing literary event by purchasing the latest and greatest in new children's books. At the fair you will find hundreds of quality books with a wide variety of titles for all reading levels. This is a great opportunity to get books for Spring and Summer reading while helping the school raise funds to obtain new resources.

Parents, while you're at the fair enter our Family Event Draw to win \$50 worth of books \$25 for your family and \$25 for your child's classroom. The draw will be held on Friday morning.

****If you are able to help as a volunteer please contact Mr. GlynWilliams at the school****

Kimberley/Beaches Choir at the TDSB Non-Competitive Choral Festival



On Friday morning, March 6, fifty-five of our school choir's fifty-nine members piled on to a school bus en route to Winston Churchill Collegiate High School. We had been working hard on two songs since the beginning of January to perform at the festival. Two other schools were in our festival class. An adjudicator listened to our performances and then worked with us on the songs.

All three choirs sang a song chosen by the festival called Doraji. We were very proud of ourselves for singing this entire song in Korean. What a challenge that was! Our second song, which we chose, was an old folk song from Northern Ontario called, The Blackfly Song. It was great fun to sing! Just a week before festival, Lyra stepped in as conductor for this song and did a super job. Some comments on Doraji from the adjudicator included, "pleasant sound...loved your last note....careful preparation of words, melody, and rhythm. Comments for The Blackfly Song included "lots of words-good for you!...a very good sense of ensemble...I loved your ending...What a lovely choir!" For many of our singers, this was their very first experience performing on stage in a large auditorium. Bits of nervousness were quickly replaced with the joy of singing together and great pride in a job well done. Congratulations to all our choir members from Mrs. Comeau and Mrs. Cullen!

Math Night

On March 5th Kimberley and Beaches hosted a Family Math night and we had a huge turnout of parents and students.



It was an amazing night of fun and learning, providing hands on activities that parents could do with their kids to reinforce the math concepts being taught at school.



Many staff volunteered to set up stations with math activities. The School Council helped to support the event by providing a pizza dinner and snacks. Thank you to all of the staff and parents who helped to make this a great success.



Earth Hour

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Ecoclub members for their hard work and dedication in making our Earth Hour assembly and community walk a huge success. Thank you to all of those who took part in our block walk and who made posters to inform our community about this wonderful event! Our endangered species button fundraiser was a big success. Thank you to all of you who supported this very important cause. Money raised will be given to the World Wildlife Fund to protect the Giant Panda, Australian River Dolphin and Polar Bear. Way to take action and make a positive change Kimberley/Beaches!

New Gardens

This spring, watch for a new larger vegetable garden to emerge at the front of our school as well as a new native shrub garden at the back of the school. As well, take a look inside and watch our new indoor growing system at work in the next few weeks, getting vegetables ready to be planted outside. These projects were funded by a grant from **Live Green Toronto**, a program of the City of Toronto. All students will be invited to help in planting and maintaining our gardens. Throughout the spring and fall months, students will have an opportunity to learn how to grow their own vegetables and hopefully sample some very unusual heirloom varieties (seeds provided by Cubits Organics). **If you are available to help water/tend to the garden during a week in the summer, please contact Susanna Vree at susanna.vree@tdsb.on.ca or 416-393-1450.** No gardening experience necessary and all tools/equipment will be provided.



The Live Green Toronto Grant program provides partial funding in support of community and neighbourhood inspired projects that will reduce greenhouse gases, smog causing emissions and help us adapt to the changes that will occur as a result of climate change. The goal is to empower Torontonians to take action and implement solutions that make Toronto a greener and healthier city. For more information about Live Green Toronto, visit: livegreentoronto.ca.



EARTH WEEK

Starting April 20th, Kimberley/Beaches will be celebrating Earth Week. Each day we will show our support with a little friendly competition. Students will be asked to wear a specific colour to show their support. The class who wears each colour the most will get to keep the Kimberley/Beaches Cup (made out of recycled material) in their room for the day. Following is a list of Earth Week events and day specific colours:

Monday, April 20th: Clean Air Day – White!

Walk to school day. Please make every effort to have your child walk, bike or skateboard to school on this day.

Tuesday, April 21st: Save a Tree Day - Red!

Annual used book exchange in foyer. **If you have any children's books that are no longer being read, please consider donating them** to our school book exchange so that every child has a chance to take home a new book (for them). Drop offs can be made any time in the school foyer.

Wednesday, April 22nd: Earth Day – Green!

Litterless lunch picnic, with lemonade stand, outside followed by a yard clean up. Please bring your own cup and \$1 to purchase lemonade in support of our gardening initiatives.

Thursday, April 23rd: Clean Water Day – Blue!

Possibility of planting seeds for our new school garden.

Friday, April 24th: Clean Soil Day – Brown!

Taking our classrooms outside. Teachers will be invited to take their classes outside for some outdoor teaching.

So starting April 20th, let's show the planet we care by showing our colours!

Bulb Fundraiser coming....

Please watch for a wonderful opportunity to purchase spring bulbs for your garden. This fundraising event will help to raise money to maintain our new gardens and to purchase new tools for students to help maintain them. More information coming home soon! Please also consider donating spring bulbs for our school gardens. A donation box will be set up in the foyer this week.

Dates To Remember

Beaches/Kimberley Café	Thursday, April 2
Good Friday (Holiday)	Friday, April 3
Easter Monday (Holiday)	Monday, April 6
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday April 13 - Thursday April 16
K-6 Performance Infinitus Music	Thursday, April 16 (1:00)
Session for Parents Fostering A Strong Sense Of Self	Thursday, April 16 (6:30-8:00)
Earth Day	Thursday, April 24
BAS Pizza Lunch	Wednesday, April 29
Kimberley School Council	Monday, April 27
BAS General Meeting	Tuesday, April 28
Victoria Day (Holiday)	Monday, May 18
P A Day (No School)	Friday, June 5
BAS Gr 6 Grad	Tuesday, June 23
Kimberley Gr 6 Grad	Wednesday, June 24
Last Day of School	Thursday, June 25



OUR NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

To reduce paper consumption as part of our eco school plan and to improve access to school information we place the monthly newsletters online at the school website.

Beaches Alternative P.S. <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/beachesalternative>

Kimberley Jr. P.S. <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/kimberley>

If you would prefer to receive a paper copy please return this completed portion to your child's teacher.

We would like to **continue receiving paper copies** of the monthly newsletter

Student's Name: _____ Rm. _____