



Something To Hoot About!

Instagram: @TDSB_McMurrich

J. Whitfield, Principal
L. Scott, Vice Principal
26 January 2024

Upcoming Dates

Term 1 Reports go home
Monday, February 12

PA Day
Friday, February 16

Family Day
Monday, February 19

Pizza Lunch
Friday, February 23

Pancake Treat Day
Friday, March 1

March Break
March 11-15

Grade 6 Grad Photos
Wednesday, March 27

Lice Check
Thursday, March 28

Early Pick-up?

No problem.... however, try to avoid pick up during recess times – you will be waiting while we locate your young person and they go back to their rooms to get their belongings!

Recess times:

10:10 – 10:25
11:55 – 12:35
1:55 – 2:05

Land Acknowledgement

As a school community we want to show respect for the Land Acknowledgement each day. The Land Acknowledgement is the very first part of the morning announcements, please take the time to stop and listen. Our Differencemakers have written a short introduction to the Land Acknowledgement to provide a little bit of background information about the importance of stopping and listening as the first step in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. If you are in the building during the morning announcements our expectation is that you stop in the halls just as our students and staff will!

Introduction to the Land Acknowledgement:

To everyone currently in this building please stop and listen.

We recognize that as settlers we are on Indigenous land.

As the community of McMurrich we are working to understand that the Land Acknowledgement is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we live and learn on.

Now please stand if you are able and listen to the Land Acknowledgement as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING

Our McMurrich Owls are GREAT at playing. That may sound strange because you would think that this would be true for all young people, but our students have been given the opportunity to develop their play through all-weather play with loose parts such as tires, milk crates, wheelbarrows, rugs, wood, buckets and more. They have the freedom to climb trees, throw snow, slide on ice and stomp in mud puddles. It can be messy and sometimes they may get a bump or bruise but they are developing incredible physical, emotional and psychological skills through play.

It's always a good idea to send an extra pair of socks and pants along with your young person in case they decide to play in a way that results in getting wet!

We are looking to replenish our stock of loose parts especially:

- Milk crates (real ones)
- Wooden planks
- Chairs
- Things with wheels (old strollers, wagons, shopping carts)

Please leave your donations by the OPAL shed any weekday morning!

News from the Library

A belated Happy New Year to all of our McMurrich Families! I hope that this email finds you well and that everyone enjoyed the Winter Break - hopefully with a good book or two! With the late return to school in January, there are not too many updates, but there is some news to report.

We have received the bulk of new books ordered last November at the GTA Resource Fair. I have enjoyed watching students peruse and select new titles. Their enthusiasm for reading and exploring new titles, authors and genres is contagious! We have lots of great new picture pics on the shelves, a ton of new graphic novels, nonfiction resources for teachers to use in the classroom in areas of Science and Social Studies, as well as some new novels for our older students. We are also waiting (somewhat impatiently) for another shipment of books to arrive from the Circulation Department of the TDSB. These books were purchased in December when we held the Scholastic Book Fair. There are a variety of genres, authors, and age levels in this shipment, and I look forward to getting them out onto the shelves and into the hands of our eager readers!

In addition to all of the new titles mentioned above, we are also excited to share our new Forest of Reading titles with students in the coming weeks. McMurrich will be running the Forest of Reading Program beginning the first full week of February. The goals of the Forest of Reading are:

- **Love of reading:** Create a meaningful experience for readers and give exciting opportunities for reluctant readers to become lifelong readers.
- **A proven head start:** The results are in! Children who read for fun have higher literacy scores, have more success in science and math, and are more socially and civically engaged
- **Libraries at centre stage:** With fun activities, prizes and more, the Forest of Reading puts libraries at the heart of the action!
- **Reading Canadian:** Help support and celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators by taking advantage of the Forest's curated, all-Canadian reading lists for all ages and levels.

There are several divisions within the Forest of Reading. McMurrich is participating in the following categories: Blue Spruce (suggested age group JK - Grade 2, picture books), Silver Birch Express (Grades 3 - 4, fiction and nonfiction). Silver Birch (Grades 5 -6, novels), Yellow Cedar (Grades 5 - 6, non fiction) and the Red Maple (recommended for more mature readers). Students interested in Reading the Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar and Red Maple titles will be invited to learn more about the program next week. Students who participate will have the chance to discuss the books with our Forest of Reading Experts (a huge thank you to all teachers and support staff who have pre read the titles - this wouldn't work without their time and efforts, thank you!) and have their Forest of Reading Passport stamped. Students will then have the opportunity to vote on their favourite titles and I will share our results in the Spring with the Forest of Reading to help determine the winner in each category! For more information please visit [Forest of Reading](#). Happy Reading Everyone!

Athletics Update

Mr. Perretta

ATHLETICS UPDATE

The start of 2024 has been exciting with the commencement of Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Basketball and All Gender Ball Hockey. All team members continue to develop their individual and team skills in preparation for tournaments taking place in February. It's been especially nice watching the kids passing to one another and appreciating the importance of team play. We wish all of the teams good luck in their upcoming season! Go Owls!

Tournament Dates

February 9th - Grade 6 Boys Basketball Tournament at Carlton Village Academy

February 12th - Grade 5 Boys Basketball Tournament at McMurrich PS

February 13th - Grade 5 Girls Volleyball Tournament at Chester

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Coed Ball hockey Tournament, Morse Street Junior School

Tuesday February 27 2024, Coed Ball Hockey Semi-finals and Finals, Gledhill Junior Public School

All Gender Volleyball and All Gender Badminton Tryouts

If your child is interested in trying out for ALL GENDER VOLLEYBALL or ALL GENDER BADMINTON, please take note that team tryouts will be taking place in the latter part of February. All parents are reminded to complete the permission forms on the EMA portal once they become available. An additional email will be sent out in the coming weeks with additional information on tryout dates. All students in grade 4 to 6 are welcome to try out.

Intramural Floor Hockey Update

Our primary intramural floor hockey program has been a huge success. We have over 70 students playing friendly games of ball hockey during the lunch hour. At the conclusion of every game, we award one fair play award to one person from each team. It's especially rewarding watching the kids making efforts to pass to one another and cheer in a respectful manner during the games. Special thanks to our group of junior students who volunteer as coaches and referees for the games.

Intramural European Handball Signup (grades 4 to 6)

We will be starting an intramural program catered to students in grades 4 to 6 which will commence in February. Our sport focus for this round of intramurals is European Handball which encourages a lot of passing and team play. If your child is interested, please click on the link below and **complete the google form no later than Friday, February 2nd**. All games take place during the lunch hour. Students will be placed on teams and schedules will be distributed in the coming weeks. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

[Link to Intramural Handball Sign Up](#)

If you have any questions regarding All Gender Volleyball, All Gender Badminton and/or Intramural Handball, please feel free to contact Mr. Perretta at frank.perretta@tdsb.on.ca.

January 25, 2024

Dear Principals,

Re: Important Update on ISPA Vaccinations and Suspension Process

We are writing to give you crucial updates on Toronto Public Health (TPH) assessments of routine childhood vaccinations and the resumption of the associated school suspension process. As you are aware, the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires students up to age 17 to be vaccinated against certain diseases or have a valid exemption.

Immunization Assessment and Enforcement of the ISPA for 7 year old Students in TDSB (2016 Cohort)

In Spring 2024, Toronto Public Health (TPH) will initiate the enforcement process by sending letters to parents of 7 year old children (2016 cohort) who are outstanding for vaccines under the ISPA. In the fall of 2024 (2024/2025 school year), suspension orders will be issued for students in this cohort who are not in compliance with their ISPA vaccines.

Parents will be provided with a minimum of 15 school days from the suspension order to fulfill vaccination requirements or submit a valid exemption. If a student is not in compliance with the ISPA on the first day of the active suspension period, the principal will be required to enforce the suspension from school. TPH will send suspension orders directly to parents via mail and to principals by email from immunization@toronto.ca.

TPH can rescind a suspension order for a student to return to school once a valid exemption is provided to TPH or the required vaccines are completed. If a student comes into compliance with the ISPA during the initial 20-school-day suspension, they will not have to complete the full suspension period. If a student remains non-compliant after the initial 20 school days, TPH can issue another order to the principal for an additional 20-day suspension period.

Immunization Assessment for 17 year old Students in TDSB (2006 cohort)

TPH will send notification letters to families and 17 year old students (2006 cohort) to stay up-to-date with their routine (ISPA) vaccines. Families and students will receive a letter if they have not submitted vaccination records or a valid exemption indicating that they are compliant with the ISPA. Assurance of ISPA compliance before students complete high school is important for the effective prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases. If there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease in a school, such as measles, students who are not up-to-date may be excluded from school during the outbreak to reduce disease spread.

TPH Actions to Promote ISPA Compliance

Since the summer of 2022, TPH has communicated a city-wide public education and outreach campaign to help children catch-up on their routine vaccinations. On January 19, TPH launched community vaccination clinics that offer childhood immunizations under the ISPA and youth immunizations in the [Student Immunization Program](#) (SIP). These appointment-based clinics are at Etobicoke Civic Centre, Scarborough Civic Centre, and North York Civic Centre. The clinics operate three days a week with occasional Saturday clinics. Clinics on designated school PA days and catch-up clinics at high schools are planned. More information will be communicated to local school boards, principals and parents as in-school clinic details are confirmed, and information is also available at our website at [Report Student Vaccination \(ISPA\)](#).

The vaccines offered at the community clinics include Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal Disease, Pertussis, Varicella, Human Papillomavirus, Hepatitis B, and others specified in Ontario's Immunization Schedule. Families can [book an appointment](#) to receive any missing doses at these community clinics at [TPHBookings.ca](#).

We appreciate your assistance in spreading awareness about these community vaccination clinics and the importance of routine childhood vaccinations for school health. TPH is committed to supporting schools and families to meet ISPA requirements and reduce school suspensions.

Sincerely,

Toronto Public Health

ANTI-BLACK RACISM WORKSHOP

Organized by Hillcrest, McMurrich, and Earl Grey School Councils



**JANUARY 30, 2024
7:00-8:30PM**



**PRESENTED BY
THE GET REAL MOVEMENT**



This workshop is an effective look at racism – a combination of practical advice, statistics, historical context, and interactive activities to help unpack biases and promote allyship for all. You will leave with:

- increased knowledge on identifying, unlearning, and combatting anti-Black racial bias and discrimination
- education on language, statistics, and history as they relate to anti-Black racism
- a better understanding of racial bias and microaggressions
- the opportunity to ask questions and get advice from the Get REAL speakers

RSVP by completing the form [at this link](#) or by scanning this QR code →

** SPACE IS LIMITED **



Inviting all **tdsb** K-Gr.8
parents and caregivers to

BUILDING MATHEMATICAL MINDS (PART 1)

Supporting Your Child in Acquiring
Math Skills For Success

**Wednesday, February 7
6:30-8:00pm (on Zoom)**

Session Overview:

Come join us as we discuss strategies to improve your child's math grades by understanding how they are learning math and how to better help them with their homework.

Presenters:

Lisa Dilworth (Systems Superintendent Mathematics),
Jason To (Coordinator, Secondary Mathematics and Academic Pathways), Onika Brown (Principal),
Simon Mgaya (Vice-Principal), Jamile Lewis (Math Learning Partner), Gail Bedeau, Uloma Onyido,
Mubarak Baker (School Improvement Process Coach), Laurel Mouland (French Teacher)



3 Ways to Register

1. CLICK HERE TO REGISTER


2. VISIT bit.ly/buildmathminds2024

3. Scan QR Code



For more information:

Contact Donna Cardoza
TDSB LC3 Community Support Worker

 647-403-5821

 donna.cardoza@tdsb.on.ca

