



# Mini-Hoot

Instagram: @TDSB\_McMurrich

J. Whitfield, Principal  
L. Scott, Vice Principal  
13 September 2024

## Mid-Month Updates and Reminders

It's been a great start to the school year and we're excited to see our students beginning to settle into this new school year! Here are a few things to look forward to and some reminders:

### Curriculum Night

We can wait to welcome you to McMurrich and show off our classrooms! Curriculum Night this year is September 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Teachers will outline their program for the year and you will get a sense of what a day in the life of a McMurrich student is like.

### Drop Off and Lates

Thank you for the quick drop offs in the morning – it makes for a much smoother transition to the school day, especially for those young people who find goodbyes hard!

As we move into the third week of school we want to remind Kindergarten parents to drop your young people off at the gate, please don't enter the kinder playground. If your young person is having a challenge separating, please ask the teacher or ECE for help – they are very skilled!

Parents who are dropping off for grade 1-6, if you are staying to chat with other parents please do so on the grass or on the other side of the fence – the pavement is crowded and it can be difficult for our younger students to navigate through the adults as they follow their teacher inside!

If your young person's class has gone inside by the time you arrive they need to head to the office for a late slip. Thank you!

### Safe Arrival

If your young person won't be attending school you can call the Safe Arrival line at 1-833-250-2290 – you can call this number at any time, you don't need to wait for the office to open at 8:00 am. You can also download the SchoolMessenger app available for free in the App Store for Apple or Android devices. The app allows you to note absences as well and avoid the call out from the school.

### Lice Check

We will be having a whole school lice check on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our School Council for funding!

### Lunch Form

If you haven't completed the [Lunch Form](#) please do so. Complete one form per student, this form helps us to plan lunch time supervision throughout the year.

### **McMurrich's Terry Fox Run**

McMurrich has a long history of supporting the Terry Fox Foundation through the Terry Fox Run every year. In 2024 our Terry Fox Run is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. Our fundraising goal this year is \$3,500.00. You can donate to our [Fundraising Page here](#).

### **Pizza Lunch**

Pizza Lunches are back. Our first Pizza lunch is Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Last day to place orders in Monday, September 23, 2024.

<https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### **Extra Ed**

Extra Ed will be offering after school program again beginning the week of September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyer attached for registration.

### **PA Day**

Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Activity Day, there is NO school for students. Staff will be engaged in learning that includes Literacy, Math, Early Reading Screeners and Special Education processes and procedures.

## **Reminder: Boomerang Lunch**

This year we will be adopting a "Boomerang Lunch" program for all students eating lunch at school.

Boomerang Lunch means that students will bring back all waste generated by their lunch, including wrappers, cores, pits, peels and any food not eaten. This has a number of advantages;

- you can see what your young person is eating and modify their lunch accordingly,
- organic waste can be disposed of in your municipal organics collection (we don't have organics collection at McMurrich),
- can help prevent insects and rodents in the classrooms.

Please make sure that there is a container to place organic waste in inside your young person's lunch bag so that it doesn't make a mess!

Water is always the preferred drink at school. A reusable water bottle can be refilled at our bottle filling station throughout the day.

Please note that we are unable to accept lunch deliveries from delivery services such as Uber Eats and Door Dash.



**Session 1 starts September 24**

See below for session 2 clubs

**Register online:  
ExtraEd.ca**



## Chess

**Grades K-3 and Grades 4-8**

We welcome participants of all levels. Clubs are grouped by like-skilled players so that instructors can deliver lessons appropriate to each and every player—from the newbie to the experienced competitor.

### **Tuesday After School**

Sep-24 to Oct-29 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$196.50 +HST

## Minecraft - Time Traveler

**Grades 1-4**

Using the Minecraft Edu program, Minecraft club leaders pose challenges and lead projects that inspire thoughtful, imaginative and innovative ways of using the virtual tools at hand.

### **Wednesday After School**

Sep-25 to Oct-30 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$196.50 +HST

## Drawing from Nature

**Grades 2-8**

We always have ample paper on hand because our students draw non-stop. By program's end they will each have a folder of their work, brimming with art to feel proud of.

### **Wednesday After School**

Sep-25 to Oct-30 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$196.50 +HST

## Art Club - Crafting

**Kindergarten**

Our program focuses on projects that engage the playful and tactile aspects of creativity. Students hone their fine motor skills as they mix colours, glue materials and build with their hands.

### **Thursday After School**

Sep-26 to Oct-31 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$196.50 +HST



## Robotics - Races

**Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-8**

Our LEGO program fosters a cooperative building environment where children learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and work together towards a common goal.

### **Thursday After School**

Sep-26 to Oct-31 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$196.50 +HST

## Coding

**Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-8**

Students are introduced to the basic logic and principles of programming. They build familiarity with these concepts through fun and simple exercises following ordered sets of commands.

### **Friday After School**

Oct-4 to Dec-13 (full term) - 3:15- 4:15  
\$262.00 +HST



Session 2 starts November 5

Register online:  
**ExtraEd.ca**

## Chess

Grades K-3 and Grades 4-8

We welcome participants of all levels. Clubs are grouped by like-skilled players so that instructors can deliver lessons appropriate to each and every player—from the newbie to the experienced competitor.

### **Tuesday After School**

Nov-5 to Dec-17 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$229.25 +HST

## Minecraft - Adventurer

Grades 1-4

Using the Minecraft Edu program, Minecraft club leaders pose challenges and lead projects that inspire thoughtful, imaginative and innovative ways of using the virtual tools at hand.

### **Tuesday After School**

Nov-5 to Dec-17 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$229.25 +HST



## Drawing Comics

Grades 2-8

We always have ample paper on hand because our students draw non-stop. By program's end they will each have a folder of their work, brimming with art to feel proud of.

### **Wednesday After School**

Nov-6 to Dec-18 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$229.25 +HST

## Art Club - Mixing Mediums

Kindergarten

Our program focuses on projects that engage the playful and tactile aspects of creativity. Students hone their fine motor skills as they mix colours, glue materials and build with their hands.

### **Wednesday After School**

Nov-6 to Dec-18 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$229.25 +HST

## Robotics - Lightshow

Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-8

Our LEGO program fosters a cooperative building environment where children learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and work together towards a common goal.

### **Thursday After School**

Nov-7 to Dec-19 -- 3:15 to 4:15  
\$229.25 +HST

## **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Every child is able to participate in our programs, regardless of a family's economic circumstances. If cost is a barrier, parents may register their children and pay less, or even nothing, with no questions asked. Details available at registration.



**ExtraEd.ca**  
**info@extraed.ca**  
**(416) 953-1955**

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**Dr. Eileen de Villa**  
Medical Officer of Health

Toronto Public Health  
Dental and Oral Health Services

Toronto, ON.

Tel:

Email:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

School Year 2024-2025

To identify children with oral health problems, a screening program is offered by Toronto Public Health (TPH) to students in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health requirements for mandatory health programs. The screening is an assessment by an oral health staff member using a separate sterilized mouth mirror for each child. The oral health staff member will assess the need for topical fluoride, scaling, sealant and any other obvious dental needs.

As a follow up to the screening, only parents whose children were screened will be notified and a note to that effect will be sent home with their child for your information and action. You may also receive a phone call from TPH dental staff to assist you in accessing care.

Please be advised that this screening assessment does not replace the dental examination done by a dentist.

**The screening date for your child/ren's school has been scheduled for:**

**If you do not wish your child/ren to be screened, please inform the school staff and the classroom teacher.**

For additional information, please visit us at [http://www.toronto.ca/health/dental/children\\_youth.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/health/dental/children_youth.htm) or contact the oral health staff member on the phone number/email listed above.

Please note that all personal health information (PHI) collected during the screening process will be protected under the provincial Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA).

**Dr. Manisha Mehta, DDS**  
Manager  
Dental and Oral Health Services

**Dr. Eileen De Villa**  
Medical Officer of Health

**Toronto Public Health**  
277 Victoria Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W2

**Tel:** 416-338-7600  
publichealth@toronto.ca  
toronto.ca/health

September 09, 2024

## Re: Toronto Public Health Back-to-School Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you prepare your child for a healthy and successful 2024-2025 school year, here is some important information from Toronto Public Health (TPH) to help support you.

### Reducing the Spread of Communicable Diseases

To help protect our school communities, staff, students, and visitors are reminded to:

- Stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of illness.
- [Wash or sanitize their hands](#) often.
- [Cover their cough or sneeze with their elbow or a tissue.](#)
- Stay up to date on vaccinations:
  - Your child needs to be up to date with vaccinations, as outlined in Ontario's [Immunization of School Pupils Act \(ISPA\)](#), or have a valid exemption.
    - This includes vaccinations for measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis (whooping cough), meningococcal and varicella (chicken pox).
    - Toronto is seeing an increase in [pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#), similar to what is being reported across Ontario and Canada. Infection from this vaccine preventable disease starts like a common cold, with mild fever, runny nose, red watery eyes and a mild cough. It can then turn into coughing fits that last weeks or even months.
    - Vaccines are available through your primary care provider or at a [TPH vaccination clinic](#). Appointments can be made at [tphbookings.ca](#).
    - Vaccinations need to be reported to TPH using [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#).
  - Students in grade 7 and 8 will be offered the hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccines in school through TPH's [School Immunization Program \(SIP\)](#).
    - Students in grades 9 to 12 who have missed these vaccines can still get them for free at a [TPH vaccination clinic](#).
  - Updated COVID-19 and influenza (flu) vaccines will be available this fall.
    - Both vaccines will be important to prevent serious illness from these viruses during peak [respiratory illness season](#).

### Dental Screening Program

TPH's [Dental & Oral Health Services](#) staff will be conducting dental screening in elementary schools. For children with identified dental care needs, TPH will assist families with finding a dental provider and will provide information about good oral health habits.

## Heat Safety Tips

Hot weather can put your child's health at risk. Infants and young children are at greater risk for heat related illnesses. Some tips to beat the heat when outside include:

- Drink plenty of water, even before you feel thirsty.
- Wear loose, light-coloured, breathable clothing and when outdoors wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Avoid the sun and stay in the shade or use an umbrella.
- Reschedule or plan outdoor exercise (e.g., run, walk, bike) during the cooler parts of the day (morning or evening).

Spending time in a cool space can help protect against the effects of hot weather. To find a place to stay cool, visit [toronto.ca/KeepCool](https://toronto.ca/KeepCool). Visit the [Staying Healthy in Hot Weather](#) webpage for more information.

## School Health Services

TPH's team of health professionals work to serve school communities using the Healthy Schools approach, based on the Ontario Ministry of Education's [Foundations for a Healthy School](#). Our School Liaison Public Health Nurses (SLPHNs) provide consultation, resources, referrals and other supports to Toronto schools.

## More Information

Stay tuned for more information via your child's school principal or visit [toronto.ca/health](https://toronto.ca/health) to learn more about:

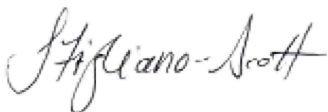
- [Healthy Schools](#)
- [Health Information for School Age Parents & Caregivers](#)
- [Immunizations](#)
- [Mental health resources](#)
- [Respiratory viruses](#)
- [Sexual health promotion resources to support parents and caregivers](#)
- [Vaping](#)

## Questions?

Contact TPH at [publichealth@toronto.ca](mailto:publichealth@toronto.ca) or 416-338-7600, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service is available in multiple languages.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy school year ahead.

Sincerely,



Joanne Figliano-Scott  
Acting Chief Nursing Officer  
Acting Director of Community Health and Well-being