



# APPLE SEEDS

March 2016

Principal, Maria Pantalone

416-393-0710

[www.myooops.com](http://www.myooops.com)



## PLANNING FOR THE 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR

In consultation with staff and School Council, I will begin the process of creating next year's staffing model. Below is a brief breakdown of what occurs during this process.

- Based on statistics received from the Planning Department of the TDSB, each school receives student enrolment projections for next year.
- Based on these numbers, the school is allocated a number of teachers.
- The staffing Committee at Ossington then uses these projections to devise a staffing model for our school, taking into account Ministry of Education and TDSB Guidelines and collective agreements as well as timetable structure.
- Members of the School Council also contribute in a consulting role on the school organization.
- When the staffing model is complete, it is sent to the Superintendent for approval.
- When the model is approved, I determine each teacher's assignment, based on a blend of experience, preference of the teacher, qualifications and school needs.

The staffing model for 2016/2017 is based on projected student enrolment. At the end of September, when actual student numbers are confirmed, it may be necessary to re-organize.

CLASSROOM COMPOSITION Making up the class composition is a task that requires much thought, care, time and teamwork. The teachers and I consider many areas in order to create the most ideal learning and teaching environment for our students. We take into consideration:

- academic ability
- learning styles of our students
- gender
- learning needs
- social groupings
- friendships

**If you have any further information to add, please let me know in writing.** We will NOT consider requests for specific combined grades nor for specific teachers. Because there are often families that move over the summer and because of the Ministry caps on primary class sizes, we often find that we need to make some minor adjustments to the number of students in the primary classes in September. At times, there are also staff changes (retirements, leaves, transfers). To avoid

disappointment and to ensure that each classroom is the best it can be for our students, we will finalize the classes just before the school year starts. **\*In order to assist us with actual figures, if you know that your child will not be returning to OOOPS in September (ie: moving, French Immersion, etc.), please let us know as soon as possible.**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Council meeting will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Childcare and pizza will be available. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Kira at [kira@myooops.com](mailto:kira@myooops.com) or Abigail at [abi@myooops.com](mailto:abi@myooops.com)

## DAY OF PINK – April 13

Students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear **PINK** on April 13 to celebrate diversity and fight bullying. We will also be holding a **PINK BAKE SALE**, so be sure to bring your spare change. If you'd like to bake or help sell, please email Kelly at [kayzettel@gmail.com](mailto:kayzettel@gmail.com)

## HEAD LICE SCREENING DAY

Our next head lice screening day will place on April 18<sup>th</sup>. A reminder to parents to check your child often. If your check reveals the presence of lice or nits, do not send your child to school. Please inform the school right away and we will send a letter to the children in your child's classroom. Students with head lice will not be identified in order to maintain confidentiality. Thank you to the Lice Squad and parent volunteers who will be working diligently and to School Council for covering the cost.

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS – PARENT CONFERENCE

Parents as Partners Conference 2016 is a FREE conference. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closet to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians and caregivers of students of all ages and all stages of education. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Marie Wilson (Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada) and Dr. Ian Manion (Child and Youth Mental Health Expert). The conference takes place on Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Allstream Centre (105 Princes' Blvd.). For more information and to register, visit [www.ParentsAsPartners.ca](http://www.ParentsAsPartners.ca)

## STUDENT ILLNESS

Over the past few weeks, we've noticed that students have been sent to school sick (with colds, fever, stomach flu, etc.) because parents have been unable to make alternate arrangements. As a courtesy to other students and staff, please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. Please also review with your child the importance of hand-washing and coughing/sneezing into a sleeve and not the hand. Hopefully, these steps will help prevent the spread of sickness to other students and staff.

## EQAO

The Primary and Junior EQAO testing will take place between May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about the assessments, parents can access student booklets containing actual questions from the assessments and scoring guides containing examples of student answers taken from past years' assessments using the following website:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/Elementary/036/036.aspx?Lang=E&gr=036>

Students are also practicing former EQAO questions, problem solving and test taking strategies on an ongoing basis in the classroom. It is always beneficial for parents to familiarize themselves with various types of assessments the children encounter to ensure that they are on the right track. Please continue to reinforce with the children that they must always do their best on every test.

## EXTRA CLOTHING

If your child has outgrown his/her pants, please consider donating them to the office (sweat pants and leggings work especially well). These come in handy to lend to students when accidents occur. With the wet weather upon us, extra socks would be appreciated too!

## LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS

As we plan for next year, please consider working as a temporary lunchroom supervisor in our school. If interested, please contact me at [maria.pantalone@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:maria.pantalone@tdsb.on.ca)

## PIZZA DAYS

Our last Pizza Day for the second term took place on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A new form for the third term was sent home on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The third term will cover 6 pizza days which will take place on April 7, 21, May 5, 19 and June 2, 16. As always, if your child is not interested in ordering pizza, please choose option 3 and we will no longer send forms home.

## DENTAL SCREENING

Toronto Public Health's Dental Team (dental hygienists) visited OOOPS on March 2, 3 and 4 to screen and identify students with oral health problems.

The hygienists used sterilized instruments and assessed 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 identified as requiring dental services were notified.

## IMMUNIZATIONS – TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

You may have received letters from TPH advising that your child's vaccination record is incomplete. Please note that if information is not received by the date listed on the letter, your child will not be allowed to attend school. For your child to remain in school, please provide proof that your child has received the vaccine(s) listed on the letter by using one of the following methods:

- Give a copy of your child's immunization record to the office, who will forward the information to T.P.H.
- Report Online: [www.toronto.ca/immunization](http://www.toronto.ca/immunization)
- Call: 416-392-1250
- Fax: 416-338-2487
- Mail: Toronto Public Health  
Immunization Information Centre  
235 Danforth Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4K 1N2

## OUT OF DISTRICT REGISTRATION – OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE FORMS

We held a lottery before March Break and have offered placement to families who live out-of-district for Junior Kindergarten in September 2016. We will be registering out-of-district families on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Required documentation for registration is your child's birth certificate, health card and immunization record. **The deadline for acceptance of placement is Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.** Please note that failure to accept placement via Optional Attendance by April 8<sup>th</sup> will result in your child's spot being given to someone on our waiting list.

## COMING EVENTS (subject to change)

Please mark these dates in your calendar:

April 5	Mindfulness Workshop #2 for students
April 6	Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.
April 7	Pizza Day
April 8	Last day for out-of-district families to accept placement under Optional Attendance
April 13	<b>DAY OF PINK and PINK BAKE SALE</b>
April 13	Out-of-district registration – by appointment
April 14	Out-of-district registration – by appointment
April 15	P.A. Day – no school
April 18	Head-lice screening by Lice Squad
April 20	Island School for Grades 5 and 6
April 21	Pizza Day Island School for Grades 5 and 6
April 22	Island School for Grades 5 and 6 Earth Day
April 29	Distribution of April's Apple Seeds
May 5	Pizza Day
May 10	Mindfulness Workshop #3 for students
May 18	Spring Concert/Musical for Gr. 1-4 at 6:30
May 19	Pizza Day
May 23	Victoria Day – no school
May 25	Spring Concert/Musical for JK/SK, Gr. 5-6 at 6:30

