



KNIGHTLY NEWS

May 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Although I understand completely why Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, decided to close Ontario schools for at least another month, it was a hard pill to swallow. I know you echo my feelings of disappointment realizing that we can't be together —just yet. Believe me, this certainly isn't how I pictured my last few months before retiring after 35 years in education! But absolutely, and as always, the safety and students and staff is paramount!

Although there is never a time that administrators, educators and support staff are not busy, May is usually a very busy month. This year will be no exception! Classroom assignments and hiring will be completed virtually this month. Teachers' timetables and the organizations of class lists for next year will also be determined. I assure you that our school team takes class placements very seriously. Although we are growing, in our small school it is sometimes more challenging to create balanced classes, especially when dealing with combined grades. Where combined grade classes are necessary, I assure you the classes are not organized based on the stronger students of a lower grade and the weaker students of the higher grade. Factors such as academic ability, leadership strengths, maturity, learning styles, interests, needs, behaviour concerns, gender and social skills are considered when designing each homeroom class. The goal is to establish balanced classes.

If we were attending school in person, we would be focusing on the "skill of the month". Although we won't be able to celebrate at an assembly, for the month of May, I would like families to engage in discussions about how their children can develop and demonstrate the skills of Perseverance and Responsibility. When we created our yearly plan last June, little did we know how important this skill would be for the month of May this year! Please share with your teachers examples and/or pictures of how you are demonstrating this skill at home. A selected student from each class will receive a surprise in the mail! Our staff is setting the bar high for demonstrations of "Responsibility". They have volunteered to do some gardening at our school to be sure it maintains its curb appeal. Thank you staff! I am so lucky to be the leader of such an excellent, enthusiastic and energetic group! Your willingness and cooperativeness is so appreciated!

Staff and students alike were also looking forward to our Talent Show and Art Show before the end of the year! We don't want the students to miss out on these favourite events. To that end, I am asking children who would like to participate, to send in a video of their talents to Mr. Phipps at tv38825/MatthewPhipps and/or snapshots of their Artwork to Mrs. Vaughan (in addition to their homeroom teacher) at tv10311/JuliaVaughan. Please send your submissions to your homeroom or subject specific teacher (for grade 7 and 8) as well. The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 25th. Please note, videos must be no longer than 3 minutes. The title of the piece, your name and homeroom teacher's name must be clearly labelled. We look forward to sharing our students' accomplishments with you in June!



Some good news! Our new playground equipment has been constructed. As soon as construction businesses are allowed to re-open we can begin the process of delivery and installation. If we keep in the habit of maintaining appropriate physical distances now, we will be able to use our new playground sooner—optimistically, before summer! For safety reasons, the large tree in our Reading Garden has had to be removed. I feared it would follow the same fate as our other large maple which toppled unexpectedly a few years ago. The adored seating bench around the stump remains. On a similar dim note, our maintenance projects have halted due to government regulations during the COVID-19, and therefore my plan to have all the corridors in our school freshly painted a lovely grey colour has also been halted. With any luck, you will have a lovely surprise in September!

In order to continue to foster the importance of education being a partnership with parents and our community members, please take a moment to view a message from our staff. It can be found at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Qp_afQpOuDVgBD0JeaMHYMsLsxwi7sk

Sincerely,

Nancy Justin,

Principal





Supports for Parents & Guardians

Online Sessions

Brightspace and Google Classroom

2 Sessions to choose from:
April 30 at 7:30pm and May 7 at 9:00am



Details and access at:
www.tvdsb.ca > Parents > Parent Engagement

Sessions will include a live question and answer,
will be recorded and posted online following the live session

Home Connections in Mathematics

Stress-Free Math At Home

Teaching your children math at home can be stressful for parents/guardians and children. We want math to be engaging for all involved. There are many easy activities you can try to play with math ideas at home. You might be surprised at how much fun math can be with some of these ideas.

Oodles of Objects

Find objects or use a collection and organize them into columns and rows to make arrays to see multiplication and division.

The array of donuts shows:

$$4 \times 3 = 12 \quad 12 \div 4 = 3$$

$$3 \times 4 = 12 \quad 12 \div 3 = 4$$

What multiplication and division do you see in the cars?

Can you create a pattern using the objects?

Magnificent Money

Gather all of your spare change & put it into a cup.

Try something like this with your child:

Consider using your spare change to create a store at home. Make a store by pricing some objects and allow your child to find the total and to pay with change, or you can pay with a bill and allow your child to make the change. You can print pretend money off of the internet or make some yourself. You can even add tax for a challenge.

Wonderful Walks

While on your walk, gather natural objects that have symmetry (one side is the same as the other). When you get home, cut the object in half, tape it onto a piece of paper and draw the other half.

Treasure Time

Pick a favourite item, hide it somewhere in the house. Make/draw a treasure map for someone else to find it. Then switch roles!

Spectacular Skip Counting

While outside count your steps/hops/skips by 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s. Can you make up a skip-counting song to share with another person? Challenge yourself with counting by 25s. Is there a pattern?

Maze Mania

The object of the game is to get to the heart in as few moves as possible. Start on the number one in the bottom centre square. Your child can then move one jump up, down, left, or right. If they move left, they can then make two moves; up, down, left, or right. Continue on until you reach the heart, then try again. Can you reduce the number of moves made?

Funky Fractions

Why cut your sandwich into halves? What happens when you half your halves? Can you cut it into thirds? fifths? What is the smallest number of fractional pieces you can cut it into?

Parents and children are enduring a great deal of stress during these difficult times. Learning mathematics can be fun and engaging! Math doesn't have to happen with a pencil and a paper; it can be found everywhere. Remember, mathematics should be a participation sport, not a spectator sport.