



Crescent Town November 2017 Newsletter

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Principal's Message



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for taking some time to read and learn of the many great things happening at Crescent Town! Firstly, we want to congratulate the students who were recognized at this month's school assembly for demonstrating Empathy. You were selected by your teacher and/or peers for being leaders and Ms. Myrvold and I are extremely proud of you.

The daily supervision and safety of students is of paramount importance to us and thus we were extremely pleased to receive additional staff allocation for the Grade 1 to 4 Lunch Program. With a large volume of students both in the lunchroom and outside, this is welcomed news. With four staff now in place for our Grade 1 to 4 program, as well as our

teaching staff on duty, we are hopeful this will limit incidents/injuries on the school yard and promote enhanced safety for all.

Our teachers have been hard at work collaborating with one another through job embedded professional learning in Mathematics. With the leadership of our Teaching and Learning Coach, Denise Colby, staff have been Co-Teaching various math lessons and exploring student voice. This is an opportunity for staff to learn from one another with the students at the center of each lesson.

Mrs. Myrvold and I want to commend our staff on their commitment to students as we continuously refine our practices of effective instruction of Mathematics.

With many key school board and community partners on site, we were able to conduct a thorough walk through of the site recently to address ongoing construction work. This enabled us to review work at the site as well as explore options in addressing safety concerns raised by various members of school staff and the parent community. We also put forth some concerns directly from our students in regards to issues of play on the school yard. Some concerns brought forth by the various stakeholders included: large gaps between stone steps, risk of injury on hill and forest area, lack of sightlines for supervision in forest area, long standing work orders to remove dead trees, lack of shade in FDK yard and enhanced play opportunities for students (e.g. age appropriate slide for FDK, climbing apparatus, basketball nets for Gr. 1-4 students).

In the recent weeks, you may have noticed the removal of dead trees making the forest area visible and open for outdoor play. This will be closed during winter weather conditions. The stone steps on the hill have been fenced off for safety reasons and in response to concerns from various stakeholders. Portions of the hill will also be closed off during winter weather conditions. We are in the process of finalizing a partnership with Access Alliance which will enable us to utilize \$16,000 for further planting/greening initiatives on the hill, upper and lower pavement areas. A basketball nets will be placed on the lower pavement in response to our Junior Students' requests.

The Kindergarten yard was designed as it is to ensure our school becomes an accessible site. As a result this limits large structures/slides/climbing apparatus from being installed. Cost, maintenance and work order backlog was also taken into account by the school board in exploring more naturalized play opportunities as well as our current partnership with Earth Day. We greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions to our ongoing efforts both inside and outside the building and we will continue collaborating with you as our partners.

Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend the School Council Meeting on November 23rd. The council this year is full of renewed energy and a new executive team including Chair Beth Gebreab, Co-Chair Rejwan Karim and Treasurer Rashida Ibrahim. I look forward to collaborating with the council as we try to further enhance the learning experiences for our students. To support ongoing communication, we will be sharing with the Council Chair, updated parent emails on file from student registrations. This will

enable our Council Chair to contact you directly for important news, updates and information for parents/guardians. If you do not wish for us to share your email address with the parent council please let us know by email (harpreet.ghuman@tdsb.on.ca).

Thank you everyone for your continued commitment to collaborate in partnership.

It is an honour to serve the students, staff and parents of Crescent Town.

Sincerely,

Harpreet Ghuman

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



We are Crescent Town!

by **Ms. Hart**

The students in grades two and three have been very busy in the Art Room. They have been learning how to create self portraits and letters in the style of Toronto artist, Barbara Reid. We were even fortunate enough to have Barbara come in and talk to the students in Ms. Stoyanova's class this month. Our student's art work will be permanently on display in the library later this month. Come in and take a look!

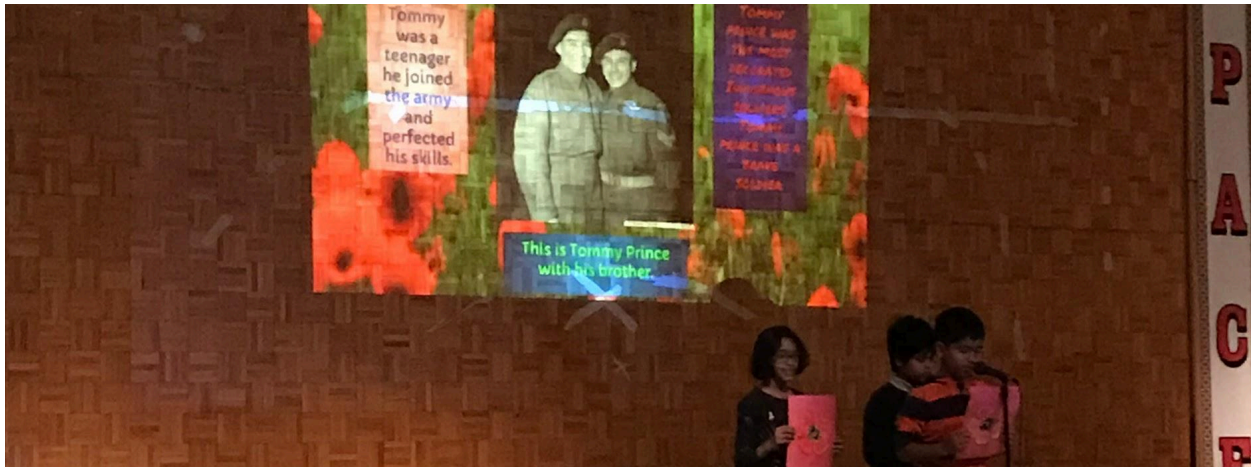


Hoop Dancing

by Ms. Myrvold and Ms. Soane's Grade 2 students

As part of Indigenous Education Month, a very special visitor came to Crescent Town. On November 13, Teddy Anderson performed a variety of hoop dances for our whole school, and danced with up to 30 hoops at a time. He even invited students and staff to participate in a hoop dance with him. After the performance, Ms. Soane and her Grade 2 students reflected on what they learned from the hoop dance performance. Here are some of the students' thoughts:

- ❖ I learned that the Medicine Wheel represents being kind.
- ❖ One thing I learned about the hoop dance is that if you are mean you will break the world. If you are kind, you can make the world a better place. It will be better, kinder, and much more beautiful.
- ❖ He taught us to be responsible for the environment.
- ❖ Be respectful to everyone.
- ❖ I learned the hoop dance is about nature.
- ❖ What I learned from Teddy is to be kind.



Remembrance Day Assembly

by **Nabiha Alam (Grade 4 Student)**

The Grade 3 and 4 students have been busy learning about Indigenous people, specifically soldiers, who have been part of Canada’s history. Many of them have been forgotten and we should honor them because they were very brave. We have been learning about Indigenous people in the war because Indigenous people were the first people here and even though life was unfair for them, they stood up to save their country. We created posters using Google Draw to teach others about these courageous people and their contributions toward Canada.



November is Indigenous Education Month

by **Ms. Hughes’ class**

The grade one classes learned about Gookum (Cree word for “Grandmother”) and her mischievous grandddaughter, Beulah in a First Nations story called The Granddaughter who

was Eaten by a Big Fish. The students learned that to many First Nations people, storytelling was the primary teaching aid. In this story, we learned that we should always listen to our elders. Through research and storytelling, students compared the responsibilities of children and adults, and when and why these responsibilities might change.

Family Math is back at CT!

Do you want to get involved in a math activity? Well, read on. Every month at CT we will post a new math question that students can solve at home with their families. Any student from Grade K to 4 can join in. **Simply answer the question on a piece of paper, write your name, grade and room number on it and drop it off in the marked bin in the Library.** Your name will

Family Math @ CT - December Questions

by **Ms. Dietz, Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Thompson**

K-2: About how many small cups of water would it take to fill a water bottle? First, record your prediction then test it. Explain what you discovered and draw a picture!

Gr. 3-4: Find a 1 Liter container at your house. What kinds of food come in containers that hold about the same amount? What kinds of food come in containers that hold more than this much? Use words and pictures to explain your findings!



Pizza Lunch

by [Ms. Myrvold](#)

On November 14 we had another successful Pizza Lunch for our Kindergarten to Grade 4 students. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative. Our next Pizza Lunch will be December 12. If you would like volunteer with Pizza Lunch, please contact Ms. Myrvold.



Incredible Work!

by [Almaan Chowdury Grade 3](#)

I always tried to do something special that will make my family and me feel amazing. On Wednesday, November 8th it was hometime from school and my mom picked me up and we went home. We went to the elevator and went up the floors. The elevator stopped at the 10th floor and shut down. Everyone was scared. The grown-ups were nervous, but I wasn't. I called the security guard and told him our situation. He asked if I pressed the open

button. I said we did then the security guard said to press it over and over again and I did then the doors finally opened. I saved everyone's lives! I was really proud of myself that I was a hero!



Coffee, Tea and Conversation: Writing Workshop for Parents

by [Ms. Hart](#), [Ms. Kurita](#) and [Ms. Myrvold](#)

Thanks to all the parents who came to our second Coffee, Tea and Conversation to support your child's writing at home. During the workshop we shared ideas and strategies about writing. We believe families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. Families love their children and want the best for them. Families are experts on their children. They are the most powerful influence on children's learning, development, health and well-being. (*The Kindergarten Program 2016*)

Some key strategies we discussed are:

- Writing your World View: Students need opportunities to discuss how their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives influence the texts they compose.
- Students need time to share and discuss their experiences before, during, and after writing.
- Students need authentic purposes, audiences, and forms for writing. Some examples include: writing letters to each other, grocery lists, lists of games to play together, writing reminders together, creating a family calendar, or creating alphabet books.

Please join us for our next workshop about supporting your child's oral language development on Thursday December 7 at 8:45-9:45am in Room 218.

Upcoming Events

December 1 - P.A. Day

December 4-8 Hour of Code

December 13 - Grade 2 Concert

December 21 - Character Assembly

December 22 - last day of school before Winter Break)

December 24-January 5 Winter Break (school resumes January 8, 2018)

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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