



Zion Biweekly Newsletter – May 8, 2026

KINDNESS * RESPECT * PRIDE

School Contact Information: 5900 Leslie St, North York ON M2H 1J9

Phone: 416-395-3120 Email: zion@tdsb.on.ca

[Zion Website](#)



E-Scooters

At our school, the safety of our students is our top priority - both inside the classroom and during their commute. We have noticed an increasing number of students arriving on electric kick scooters (e-scooters), and we would like to remind our parent community of the current legal regulations in the City of Toronto.

While e-scooters are popular, they are not permitted to be ridden anywhere in the City of Toronto. This includes: sidewalks, playgrounds, parking lots, public streets, cycle tracks, and park trails.

Under **Municipal Code Chapters 950, 886, and 608**, operating an e-scooter in these areas is illegal. We ask that students leave these devices at home to avoid potential fines or safety hazards. Additionally, please be aware that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to operate an e-scooter or an e-bike. To ensure the well-being of our students and the pedestrians walking near our school, we strictly enforce a "no motorized vehicles" policy on school grounds.

Resources for Families - If you have questions about which micro-mobility vehicles are allowed (such as traditional bicycles or specific e-bikes), please refer to these City of Toronto resources:

- [City of Toronto: E-Scooter & E-Bike Policy](#)
- [Quick Guide: Where Can I Ride? \(PDF\)](#)

Zion Noiz

Please take some time to access the latest edition of the [Zion Noiz](#). Thank you Mr. Dafos and the crew for the time and dedication they've put into it.

Grade 7 Speech Arts

We are thrilled to announce that Cameron Fan took home 1st Place for this year's competition. Cameron's winning speech resonated with everyone as he spoke candidly about his personal journey of overcoming shyness. It was a powerful reminder that the loudest messages often come from those who once found it the hardest to speak up.

Parent/Guardian Event to Build Awareness of Human Trafficking

Please access this [flyer](#) for information about a collaborative Professional Support Services (PSS) event, alongside valued community partners, aimed at supporting parents, caregivers, and guardians in building awareness around human trafficking.

8B Drama

Last week students from 8B were tasked with creating a drama presentation where they incorporated the slang and the vibe from different eras (70s, 90s, etc.) into a comedic skit. Students dressed in their best neon leg warmers (80s) and baggy jeans (90s) to deliver some memorable performances! It was so rad!

8B and 8E Reference Library Visit

Students from 8B & 8D toured the heart of downtown Toronto, taking a sightseeing tour of historic Yonge St., University of Toronto, Yorkville, and other sites along the way. In the afternoon, they toured the famed Toronto Reference Library and its exhibition on the history of written information and the value of cursive writing. This included seeing artifacts from a 4000 year old cuneiform tablet from Mesopotamia to copies of the Chinese calligraphy to notes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the writer of Sherlock Holmes. The students loved being together and learning about what this great city has to offer.

8E and 8F Visit the Legislative Assembly

As part of the Civix Youth Voices unit, classes 8E and 8F visited the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. There they were able to meet MPP Jonathan Tsau and ask him questions about youth priorities and how the government is addressing these

issues. They also met Rob Benzie, Queen's Park Bureau Chief, who spoke about the importance of providing the public with information regarding government policies, discussions and priorities. The students were engaging and showcased the power of youth.

Asian Heritage Month – Special Interactive Cooking Class with Chef Nuit Regular

On Thursday after school, 23 of our students participated in our first cooking class with Chef Nuit Regular. She introduced them to staple ingredients in cooking Thai cuisine and walked them through preparing Mango Sticky Rice dessert. Everyone got to taste their cooking and were able to take some home to their parents as well! We thank Chef Nuit Regular and her team for this opportunity and look very forward to session # 2 next Thursday!

We still have space in our class next Thursday. If your child is interested in participating, please email Ms. O at Monica.O@tdsb.on.ca. A full payment of \$50 would be required before the class.

Speed Racing Championship

Congratulations to Arnav Bhegade for securing 3rd place in the 2026 K1 Speed World Junior Championship. Competing against a field of 82 elite racers to earn a spot on the podium is an incredible feat. We are just as proud of the sportsmanship he displayed as we are of his performance on the track. Well done!

Youth Empowerment Day Event

Do you have questions about careers, education and your future? Join several of our community partners to learn about volunteer, service, career and educational pathways. The Youth Empowerment Day will be a youth-led gathering designed to create a space where young people can come together, share their experiences, and explore questions about their future. Please access this [LINK](#) for more information and to register.

Etobicoke Outdoor Education Session 1 and 2

Our first two sessions of the Etobicoke Outdoor Education trip have officially wrapped up, and what a success they were! Four of our classes recently returned from the wilderness, trading their desks for the great outdoors. Throughout the sessions, the groups participated in a variety of team-building challenges and environmental workshops that sparked both curiosity and camaraderie. Whether they were navigating trails or identifying local flora and fauna, the energy was high and the smiles were everywhere.

A huge thank you to our dedicated teachers for making these first two sessions so memorable. We are thrilled that everyone had such a wonderful time!

We'd like to wish a happy Ascension Day, Jerusalem Day, Victoria Day, and Pentecost to all our families who will be observing these events.

To the mothers and mother figures who serve as a constant source of comfort: we wish you a day as beautiful and supportive as the love you give.

Be sure to stay connected by accessing our [school calendar](#) for the latest events and dates.

Thank you for staying connected with Zion Heights. As always, we appreciate your partnership in your child's learning journey.

Warm regards,

Nazleah Khan
Principal

Monica O
Vice-Principal

IN THE DAYS AHEAD:

- May 14 - AHM Cooking Event With Chef Nuit Regular (registered students only): 3:15 - 4:35
- May 15 - Music Night: 5:30 - 8:30
- May 18 - Victoria Day (NO SCHOOL)
- May 19 - 22 - ZHMS Gr 6 EQAO
- May 22 - Grade 8 Penny Arcade Carnival
- May 25 - 29 - Gr 6 EQAO (Make-up Days)
- May 26 - Grade 8 Visit to AYJ (AM)
- May 26 - Gr 7 Frisbee Tournament
- May 25 - 27 - Classes 6B & 6/7A (Gr 6s only) to Outdoor Education Centre
- May 28 - Toronto Police Student Presentations
- May 28 - TPS Parent Workshop (6:00 - 7:00 PM)
- May 29 - Gr 7 Arcadia Earth Toronto
- June 1 - 2 - Gr 7 Dental Screening
- June 1 - Gr 7 Frisbee Conference Tournament
- June 2 - Track & Field Conference Championships
- June 3 - Gr 8 Frisbee Conference Tournament
- June 5 - PA Day (NO SCHOOL)

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS:

ENTRY/EXIT PROCEDURES:

To ensure a safe and organized start and end to the day, we ask that all students use their designated entry/exit doors. Using the correct doors helps our staff manage the flow of traffic and ensures everyone gets to and from class efficiently.

- **Active Supervision:** Doors 3, 4, and 7 are supervised by staff members to greet students and ensure a secure entry/exit.
- **Avoid the Main Office Bottleneck:** Door 1 (the main entrance) has limited supervision and is intended for visitors and deliveries. Our grade-level doors are open during the designated drop-off window. By arriving on time, students can enter through their assigned doors with their peers rather than having to navigate the already busy office.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Please click this [link](#) for the SNP newsletter.

LUNCHBOX

[How to Order](#)

PUNCTUALITY:

Everyone experiences mornings when personal items are misplaced or assignments are forgotten. Although occasional challenges may arise, consistently arriving at school on time is one of the most valuable habits a student can develop. Arriving at school on time sets the tone for a successful day and benefits our entire school community.

- **Preserving Instructional Time**
- **Supporting Our School Staff**
- **Promoting a Calm and Positive Start**
- **Building Lifelong Skills**
- **Planning for Success**

LOCKS

We've noticed an increasing number of Dollar Store locks breaking, easily snapping or opening when pulled on. This can cause frustration for students trying to access their lockers and/or protect their property. To avoid these issues, we strongly recommend not purchasing Dollar Store locks and instead sticking with Dudley-brand locks, which are much more durable and reliable for everyday use.

LOCKERS

All students have been assigned a locker for the school year. Families purchasing locks are asked to buy a combination (e.g., Dudley) and not a key lock. Lock combinations are collected by homeroom teachers and stored in the office as we often need to help students open their lockers. Students have been told not to share lockers or locker combinations with other students.

Kindly be reminded that students are discouraged from bringing in any valuables to school and that the school is not responsible for any lost or stolen personal items.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If you're dropping off forgotten lunches, water bottles, assignments, or personal items, please note that we will not be calling into classrooms to notify students. These types of drop-offs happen frequently and can cause disruptions to learning when calls are made into classrooms and students leave their lessons to collect items. In addition, managing these drop-offs takes office staff away from their essential duties, which impacts the smooth operation of the school.

To minimize interruptions, we kindly ask that you remind your child to check their designated drop-off area if they are expecting something during the day.

To ensure items are picked up promptly:

- Clearly label all items with your child's full name, homeroom, and teacher.

- For Grade 6 Students: Please place items on your child's assigned cubby near the main hallway.
- For Grade 7 & 8 Students: Leave items on the designated front table inside the main doors (door 1).
- Remind your child to check their designated area if they are expecting an item.
- Remind your child to pack everything they need for the day before departing for school.

Thank you for helping us maintain a focused and interruption-free learning environment.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not to be used, accessed or on during instructional hours while in the building. Please be reminded that the TDSB policy applies to all members of the school community including staff and parents visiting the school.

CHESS

Please assess this [link](#) for more information.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS:

Please review the following updated Policies and Procedures from the TDSB:

- [PR697 - Promoting a Positive School Climate](#)
- [Board Code of Conduct](#)

PICKUP AND DROPOFF:

- We remind parents that students are expected to be in school by 8:45am and should be arriving at school a few minutes before that.
- Please continue to exercise caution when dropping students off as we want to ensure we are all putting student safety first.

PAYING SCHOOL FEES / SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online has been set up for parents to pay for school fees/supplies, agendas, Gym uniforms, locks and upcoming trips and events. Please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Cash-Online> or use this [link](#).

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Our school nutrition program provides a daily snack to over 470 students at ZHMS. Please donate towards supporting the snack program at Zion Heights MS. Donations can be made on [Cash Online](#). Contact Ms. Barlas at toula.barlas@tdsb.on.ca on how to register for Cash Online as well as how to

access the Tax Receipt Donation Form. Tax receipts will be issued for any donation of \$25 or more.

ATTENTION PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSS) by Toronto Police Services is now online Toronto Police Services has moved its Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSS) application online. If you wish to volunteer at our school, this will expedite the process of approving school volunteers! The TDSB has been given a unique code that applicants will be required to use when filling out their application. All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply [online](#). If you require any additional information, please email the Police Reference Check Office at PoliceReferenceCheckOffice@tdsb.on.ca

TDSB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

TDSB Policies and Procedures	Ministry of Education Policies and Procedures
<u>Caring and Safe Schools</u>	<u>Promoting a Positive School Climate</u>
<u>Bullying Prevention and Intervention</u>	<u>Ontario's Safe School Strategy</u>
<u>Gender Based Violence</u>	<u>Shaping a Culture of Respect in Our Schools:</u> Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships
<u>Suspension and Expulsion</u>	<u>Ontario's Code of Conduct</u>
<u>Progressive Discipline</u>	<u>Progressive Discipline</u>
<u>Board Code of Conduct</u>	<u>Caring and Safe Schools [PDF]:</u> Supporting students with Special Education Needs, Through Progressive Discipline K-12
<u>Human Rights Policy 31 and Procedure 657</u>	<u>Promoting a Positive School Climate</u>

ZION ATHLETICS AND EXCURSIONS (EMA)

All parents must register on the Excursion Management Application (EMA) if they want their child to participate in any athletics or school trips. Please access the following links to help with navigating EMA set up. All forms for trips and athletics must be done through EMA.

- [EMA Parent/Guardian Account Creation & Login Reference Guide](#)
- [EMA for Parents/Guardians Login Guide](#) (PDF)
- [Parent/Guardian Account Creation and Login Video](#) (Training Video)
- [EMA Parent/Guardian Permission for Excursion Form Reference Guide](#)
- [EMA Medical Information Form Reference Guide](#)
- [Excursion Management Application \(EMA\) Parent/Guardian FAQs](#)

TDSB COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Concern Protocol](#)
- [Personal Safety Plan](#)
- [Need Immediate Help?](#)
- [Mental Health and Well Being Professional Support Staff \(PSS\)](#)
(tdsb.on.ca)
- [TDSB SOCIAL WORK & SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES](#)
- [Telehealth Ontario](#) at 1-866-797-0000
- [Kids Help Phone](#) at 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868
- [Mental Health TO](#)
- [211](#) – community supports such as food banks, housing and more.
- [Newcomer Information](#)
- [Toronto Public Health](#)

**PHOTOS:
8B Drama**



Grade 7 Speech Arts



6A, 6C, 6D, 6E Outdoor Education Trip





8B and 8D Library Trip

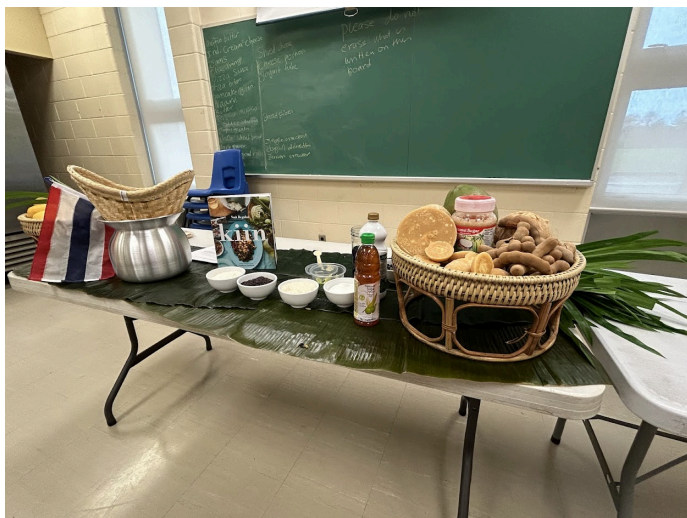


8E and 8F Visit the Legislative Assembly





Interactive Cooking Class





Youth Empowerment Day Event

