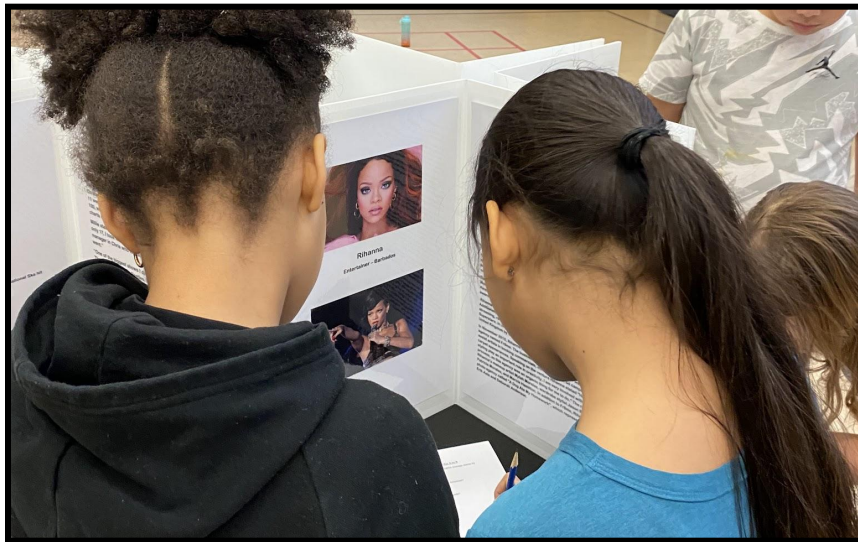




Parkside ES February 2024 Newsletter

Principal's Message



Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it was full of celebrations and special events at Parkside. Did you know there are more than 20 different languages spoken at home by Parkside students and families? With International Mother Language Day on February 21, we featured Parkside's home languages on our morning announcements! It was excellent to hear so many students and staff use this platform as a way to share their language with the whole school. This month, student learning was also centred in TDSB's two Heritage months for February - African Heritage Month and Chinese Heritage Month. These were also featured at today's assembly. Ms. Mollemann's and Ms. James' students led the whole school in singing "Waving Flag" by Somali-Canadian artist, K'naan. Mr. Bonomo's and Ms. Mitakidis' classes worked together to celebrate Lunar New Year. Thank you to all the families and caregivers who joined us!

Thank you to the School Council for facilitating so many events this month for families to learn, connect and celebrate together. These included Parkside Diversity Celebration Days, the Camp Fair and Buskerfest! The School Council was also a partner in organizing the Caribbean Inventors and Icons Museum Exhibit and class trips to the Aga Khan Museum. Thank you for your continued support to provide these opportunities for students.

Student Voice Crew - Ramadan Food Drive

February's Student Voice meeting was held on February 21. The Student Voice Crew will be holding a Ramadan Food Drive to support the Daily Bread Food Bank. They will be collecting non-perishable food items from **March 18-April 5, 2024**. Families may also donate online at: <https://dailybread.donorsupport.co/-/NBLRULKA>

Monday, March 11, 2024, marks the first week of Ramadan, one of the holiest months in the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 or 30 consecutive days--as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar.

During Ramadan, Muslims engage in acts of kindness in order to promote peace and caring in the community. The Food Drive is one way that Parkside is engaging in acts of kindness and social action during this time.

Here is a summary of the discussion students had about what's going well and what we can improve:

What's going well	What we can improve
• Garbages are getting filled and no garbage on the ground • Snack - Patty and Pancake Day • Bibliotechies- get to know the library collection - get rewards and cut the snack line!	• Teams are only Grade 4/5 • Yoga Mats and gym floor are dirty • Keep soccer on the field • Be quieter in the library • Call 311 with your parent/caregiver to let the City of Toronto know there is a lot of garbage in the valley beside Parkside • Class pets - can we have them?

Nutrition Program

The Parkside Nutrition Program continues to serve all students with a morning snack containing three items: a fruit/vegetable, dairy product, and a grain product. **Parent donations of \$25 per term per child to support this program are requested.** To donate, please go to [School Cash Online](#). Thank you for your support.

Dental Screening

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 Parkside has been scheduled for March 25, March 27, March 28.

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

http://www.toronto.ca/health/dental/children_youth.htm

X/Twitter

Parkside is on X/Twitter. Please follow us [@TDSB_ParksideES](#) for all the latest updates.

It is an honour to serve the Parkside community.

Sincerely,

Heather Myrvold

Library Update

by: Ms. Budden

Family Time in the Parkside Library

Family Time in the Library is making a comeback!

Families are welcome to come hang out in the library **Thursday March 7th from 3:20 - 4:00pm**. We will have a read aloud from the Forest of Reading and talk about our current favourites! The next Family Time in the Library will be **Thursday April 4th**. We hope to see you there!

Spring Book Fair

Many students have been asking when our next book fair will be.

Ella Minnow Independent Children's bookstore is booked for the week of **May 6-9, 2024**.

EcoSchools Green Team

Green Team Valley walks will be happening the first Wednesdays of the month at lunch for any interested students grades 1-5. Parents are welcome to join us and asked to sign in at the office before noon. Parkside is a Platinum EcoSchool - come join the fun!

The dates are: March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st.

Parkside Community Gardens Survey

Last year we added 4 raised bed boxes to our school grounds for growing vegetables. Many Parkside families helped maintain and water the plants over the summer. Thank you so much!

This year we are reaching out to see what vegetables you'd like to plant!

Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) or contact Ms.Budden directly to share your ideas.

Welcome to Kindergarten

Registration opens in February

Kindergarten Registration is underway!

by Parkside Office

Registration for English Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to school in September!

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31. For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Please call the school office at 416-396-2425 with any questions about Kindergarten registration.

Upcoming Events

March 4 - School Council Meeting 6:30pm - Virtual

March 5 - Grade 1-5 Skating #5 - AM

March 5 - Popcorn Recess PM

March 7 - Pizza Lunch

March 7 - Family Time in the Library 3:20-4:00pm

March 8 - Indigenous Winter Games - PM

March 11-15 - March Break - School Closed

March 18 - Ramadan Food Drive begins

March 18 - Student Voice Crew Meeting

March 25 - Dental Screening begins

March 28 - Assembly - PM

March 29 - Good Friday - school closed

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Parkside Elementary School
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Twitter: @TDSB_ParksideES