

Monarch Park Collegiate

Good afternoon Students and Families,

We hope that everyone has been enjoying the first weeks of fall. "Shanah Tovah" to our families who celebrated Rosh Hashanah, and who are observing Yom Kippur this week.

Last week was the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation as well Orange Shirt Day. Our classes engaged in learning throughout the week, including participation in activities from the Urban Indigenous Education Centre.

Students also participated in the Terry Fox Run. A huge thank you to our students and staff, and to our student leaders in the ILP program who provided snacks and tote bags to all students after their participation in the event.

There have been a few date changes which are identified in this newsletter, related to Grade 9 Curriculum Night and School Council. We apologize for the change and look forward to seeing you on the new days.

Our nutrition program is up and running. This week, you would have received a Cash Online Notification for donations. This is completely optional. A tax receipt cannot be provided for donations made through Cash Online, but are available if donations are made directly through TFSS (Toronto Foundation for Student Success). You are also able to send cash or cheque to the school, [using this form](#). Forms can also be picked up at that main office.

This week celebrates both National Custodians Day as well as World Teacher's Day. We want to thank our amazing staff to the contributions they make to student learning every day!

The Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes Somali Heritage Month in October. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since June 2016, and we continue to expand on the selected theme **Educate. Elevate. Excel.**

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month during the month of October since our Board of Trustee passed their motion on June 22, 2016. Our main theme for the month continues to be: **Reflect. Celebrate. Learn.**



Principal:

Amalia Pallas
amalia.pallas@tdsb.on.ca

Vice-Principals:

Sonam Matho (A-L)
sonam.matho@tdsb.on.ca
Tim Seabrook (M-Z)
timothy.seabrook@tdsb.on.ca

Superintendent:
Dr. Belinda Longe

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monarchparkcollegiate.ca

UPCOMING DATES

October 4—Grade 9 Rep
Assembly and Voting

October 7—PA Day (No
School for students)

October 10—
Thanksgiving Day (No
School)

October 12—School
Council *DATE CHANGE

October 13—Grade 9
Curriculum Night *DATE
CHANGE

October 27—Parent/
Guardian-Teacher Inter-
views

MPC START OF YEAR UPDATES

The Start of Year forms have been delivered digitally through Permission Click. Please complete these forms as soon as possible. These forms also include walking excursion forms that are necessary for community walks with classes. We have *many* outstanding forms

Excursion Management Application

The school is busy with excursions, and team. Permission forms are sent through EMA. Please use [this reference guide](#) for parents and guardians to create an account. There is also a resources for [FAQs](#) for you to access.

Verification forms will be distributed this week, please be sure to review and correct/update information, sign off and return to the school ASAP, even if there are no changes.

Early Dismissal or Absences a reminder to parents/guardians/caregivers to call in to 416-393-0190, press 1 for safe arrival. Please do not email the general Monarch Park mailbox as messages are not always checked in time for safe arrival.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:

Mental Health and Well-Being

Resources and tools are available for parents/guardians and students on the TDSB [public website](#).

The site includes a system calendar which highlights upcoming events to support our community including webinars, [virtual drop-in hours](#) and more. [Culturally responsive and relevant resources](#), [mental health toolkits](#), [grief and loss resources](#) and [virtual heritage and culturally responsive lounges](#) are also available.

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference
Save the Day Oct 22/23 (hybrid)
parentsaspartners.ca

LATE START DATES

Please note the following dates for Late Starts for the year. There are two late starts per month that accommodate staff meetings and professional learning for staff.

PLCs and Staff Meetings Late Opening	
PLC Dates	Staff Meeting Dates
September 21, 2022	September 28, 2022
October 19, 2022	October 26, 2022
November 23, 2022	November 30, 2022
December 14, 2022	December 21, 2022
January 11, 2023	January 18, 2023
February 15, 2023	February 22, 2023
March 22, 2023	March 29, 2023
April 19, 2023	April 26, 2023
May 24, 2023	May 31, 2023

Opportunities For Students

From the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement:

We are happy to welcome you back to the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

In June, we opened our doors to a newly renovated and designed wing within Winston Churchill CI. We celebrated this momentous occasion with a Grand Opening event. You can view a [virtual tour](#) of the space, video and pictures of the event on our [website](#).

This summer, we **also** hosted over 100 students in our new space as part of our Black Student Summer Leadership Program. You can read some of our most recent news [here](#).

Calling all Students and Staff: Seeking Video Performances for the Launch of Hindu Heritage Month!

We will celebrate Hindu Heritage Month in November, so we are inviting video submissions for our launch event at the start of the month. We are looking for a variety of representation - across age groups, across schools, across the performing arts – dance, music, spoken word, etc. If you are interested, here are the criteria and the submission format:

1. High quality/clear video (mp3) format sent by Tuesday, October 11th at 4:00 pm
2. The mp3 should be sent to Janice.kent@tdsb.on.ca with the Subject line: "HHM Launch Video from Your-SchoolName"
3. No more than 1-2 minutes in length. Group or Individual video presentations welcome.
4. Include in your email submission the school(s), student name(s), grade(s), and a brief description of the video. If it is a group submission indicate the name of the lead contact for your entry.
5. Once the selections are made, contributors will be contacted.

Somali Heritage Month: Creative Writing Submission Challenge

The TDSB proudly recognizes Somali Heritage Month during the month of October. The TDSB has been recognizing Somali Heritage Month since June 2016. This year we continue to expand on the selected theme of Educate. Elevate. Excel.

Toronto has a large population outside of the Somali subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members identified as Somali. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong identity, and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Somali Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee.

The Somali Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee members are excited to share that TDSB students from Grades 4 - 12 are invited to submit a creative piece (poem, short story, essay) to the Somali Heritage Month Creative Writing challenge.

Deadline: All entries must be received by Friday, October 21, 2022, by 4:00 pm to Shukri.Farah@tdsb.on.ca or Hotho.Farah@tdsb.on.ca

Please see the [attached](#) for details.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation— SEPTEMBER 30

Orange Shirt Day – Friday, September 30th

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism

and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.



Above Image: Community Installation from our students in the ILP program.

This Year's Student Council

Student Council Roles:

Grade 9 Reps: TBD

Grade 10 Reps: Jaime Singh-Yuz, Sahrish Patil

Grade 11 Reps: Reayah Lakhi, Rachel Sommer

Grade 12 Reps: Simona Williams, Sakif Khandaker

Secretary: Malak Abdrabo

Treasurer: Shreya Vishwanarayan

PR Chair: Marin Stille

Accessibility Chair: Eswar Nerella

ELL Rep: TBD

Vice President: Justine Tabone

President: Nico Birch

GET INVOLVED AT MPC

Grade 9 Rep Elections

On October 4, 2022 we will be holding a grade 9 assembly and voting for this year's grade 9 rep.

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

Thank you to our student leaders who have created this Instagram page where MPC students can find volunteer opportunities at their fingertips! We would really love to especially advertise volunteer opportunities that are within the school Instagram handle is: @volunteeringatmpc.

If you have any questions/opportunities you can email us at:

volunteeringatmpc@gmail.com

Club Fair

This Thursday is our annual Club Fair. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about all that is going on at MPC.

Seeking Nominations for School Council Parent/Guardian Members

School Councils work to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system.

Membership consists of:

- elected parents,
- teacher(s),
- Principal/Vice Principal,
- support staff,
- community representative(s),
- secondary school students, (elementary where appropriate); and

The School Council advises the Principal and the Board on a variety of issues and activities relating to student achievement, curriculum goals and priorities, school budget priorities, school safety, renovation plans, after school activities, and criteria for selection of new principals.

ELECTIONS

Every single parent/guardian of children attending Monarch Park Collegiate can always attend School Council meetings and can always volunteer for various things at the school.

Members of council must make a commitment to attend monthly meetings to vote on various council matters, like fundraising or planning events.

The election of all council members will be held at the first official meeting of the year. Once all the members of council are elected, they will elect the Executive Members of Council which are the Co-Chairs, the Secretary/Co-Secretaries and the Treasurer/Co-Treasurers. If there are not enough interested candidates, the nominees will be acclaimed.

DATE CHANGE: This will be an in-person meeting on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm in the library.

If you would like to self-nominate or nominate another parent (who has consented), please complete [this link](#) by October 6, 2022.

The School Council invites parents/guardians to join their [facebook page](#) should they choose.