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Gerry Connolly

OUR SCHOOL

Cliffwood Public School is located in the Seneca Heights community of the Toronto District School Board near the intersection of Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue. The school opened over 30 years ago and was one of the first to pioneer the open classroom concept.

- ✦ The school serves students representing 24 different language groups. More than half of our students speak English as their second language.
- ✦ Cliffwood is a dual track school offering both English Track (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6) and French Immersion Track (Senior Kindergarten to Grade 6) programs.
- ✦ This year we have initiated an Extended French program beginning in Grade 4.
- ✦ Cliffwood Community Child Care is a non-profit community-based child care located within the school. It offers full and part-time Nursery/Preschool, Kindergarten, and before- and after-school school-age programs.
- ✦ Our School Improvement Plan covers a three year period and addresses curricular issues in Language, Mathematics, The Arts, Technology and Safe Schools.

Many of our students speak English, Cantonese, or Mandarin at home. Other geographic areas represented at Cliffwood include Korea, Japan, the Middle East, and Turkey. We work closely with the community as we communicate our policies and expectations, curriculum, assessment practices, and reporting procedures.

Student safety is a top priority. Our Code of Behavior is supported by a set of School Rules which is posted in all classrooms. We have high expectations for student behaviour and work collaboratively with parents to take advantage of the 'teachable moment'. All guests to the school are expected to sign in at the office and wear a badge to identify themselves as visitors. Our nut-free policy addresses the needs of students with nut allergies.

We provide supervision of students at lunchtime through our lunchroom supervisors. Children eat seated in the gym and then go outside for the lunch recess. Expectations for student behaviour are posted in each classroom and within the student planner (Grades 1 - 6).

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2006)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	294	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	177	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	117	
✦ Gender:		
Female	152	52%
Male	142	48%
✦ Primary language other than English:	196	68%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	6	2%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	30	10%

* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- ✦ **Relevant Curriculum**
- ✦ **Equity**
- ✦ **Accountability**

Regular Instructional Programs

- ✦ Languages - English, English as a Second Language, and French
- ✦ Mathematics, Science and Technology
- ✦ Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance
- ✦ Social Studies, Health and Physical Education

Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

Language/Literacy

- ✦ Balanced Literacy Program (includes all necessary language components)
- ✦ Daily independent reading
- ✦ Developmental Reading Assessment
- ✦ Drop Everything And Read Program (D.E.A.R.)
- ✦ First Steps: Writing
- ✦ Guided Reading
- ✦ Literacy resource (remedial support from Resource Teachers)
- ✦ Newsletters
- ✦ Reading Buddies (with students from other grades)
- ✦ Remedial support from Resource Teachers
- ✦ Silver Birch Reading Program
- ✦ Class visits/field trips
- ✦ Concours d'Art Oratoire

English as a Second Language (ESL) / English Literacy Development (ELD)

- ✦ Adult volunteers
- ✦ Buddy system
- ✦ Remedial support from Resource Teachers

Other Languages and Cultural Studies

- ✦ Extended French program
- ✦ French Early Immersion
- ✦ International Language classes

Mathematics, Science and Technology

- ✦ Internet access
- ✦ Math / Science Investigations
- ✦ Outdoor Education program
- ✦ Science kits
- ✦ Scientists in School
- ✦ Computer lab
- ✦ Computers in classrooms
- ✦ Interest groups/clubs: chess
- ✦ In-service
- ✦ Remedial support from Resource Teachers
- ✦ Logimots

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

Arts Programs/Activities

- ✦ Drama/Dance projects
- ✦ Choral music projects
- ✦ Music
- ✦ Class visits/field trips: art galleries/studios

Social Studies, Programs/Activities

- ✦ Class visits/field trips: Pioneer Village, museums

Social Skills and Leadership Programs/Activities

- ✦ Anti-bullying program
- ✦ Second Step (conflict resolution)

Equity Initiatives

- ✦ Anti-racist education
- ✦ Inclusive curriculum/resources

Safe School Programs

- ✦ Buddy system
- ✦ Code of Behaviour
- ✦ Safe Arrival Program

Food and Nutrition Programs /Lunchtime Activities

- ✦ Lunch program: pizza days

Before/After School and Co-/Extra-Curricular Activities

- ✦ Drama/Dance projects: choir(s)
- ✦ Interest groups/clubs: Junior choir, arts and crafts, chess, cross country running, primary choir, soccer
- ✦ Community activities: Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Fundraising: Jump Rope for Heart
- ✦ Kilometre Club
- ✦ Sports team(s): track and field

Staff Development

- ✦ Topics: Math, literacy



Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

Cliffwood Public School is committed to continuous school improvement. In response to feedback from standardized tests, a wide variety of teacher-initiated assessment strategies, and parent and staff input, we have developed a plan of action. This School Plan covers initiatives in Language, Mathematics, The Arts, Information Technology and Safe Schools.

We are very proud of our students' performance in the areas of language. Our Grades 3 and 6 EQAO writing scores indicate that overall our students are performing at or above the expected level for their grade and stage of development. French Immersion Grade 6 students participate in the province-wide EQAO assessment in language and mathematics.

Language

We will continue to implement the following strategies in all areas of the language curriculum:

- ♦ maintaining a commitment to provide high-quality, dedicated teachers who have the expertise to deliver curriculum in English and French
- ♦ encouraging professional development opportunities for staff to build their repertoire of teaching/ learning skills
- ♦ purchasing additional resources (texts, software and multimedia) to support language learning for all students
- ♦ building our multicultural collection of materials in French, English, and Chinese in the library
- ♦ ensuring that every student has direct instruction and daily opportunities to read and write
- ♦ communicating student achievement to parents in a timely and appropriate manner
- ♦ facilitating information sessions for parents on assessment/reporting procedures and curriculum issues

Mathematics

Our Grades 3 and 6 EQAO scores in mathematics indicate that Cliffwood students perform at a consistently high level. Grade 3 French Immersion students participate in the mathematics assessment in French.

We will build on our successes using the following strategies:

- ♦ providing daily instruction to students in mathematics in all grades
- ♦ updating the mathematics resources (including manipulatives) in the school
- ♦ emphasizing a problem-solving approach that stresses real-world applications of principles
- ♦ an emphasis on the child's ability to communicate the thinking process
- ♦ scheduling time for all students in the mini-computer lab in the Resource Centre
- ♦ integrating technology into classroom activities through classroom access for students/teachers to the Internet
- ♦ maintaining the delivery of a balanced program which addresses all strands of the curriculum
- ♦ using available data to modify and enhance programming to meet the needs of students

Other Issues

We have identified the need to focus on:

- ♦ building the membership and activities of our School Council to provide a forum for parental input
- ♦ implementing and communicating a three-year plan to include all areas of the Ontario curriculum
- ♦ upgrading our computer hardware and software acquisitions in the classrooms and library
- ♦ supporting student achievement through partnerships with local community agencies

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

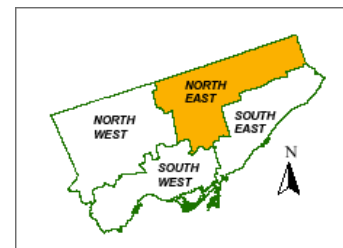
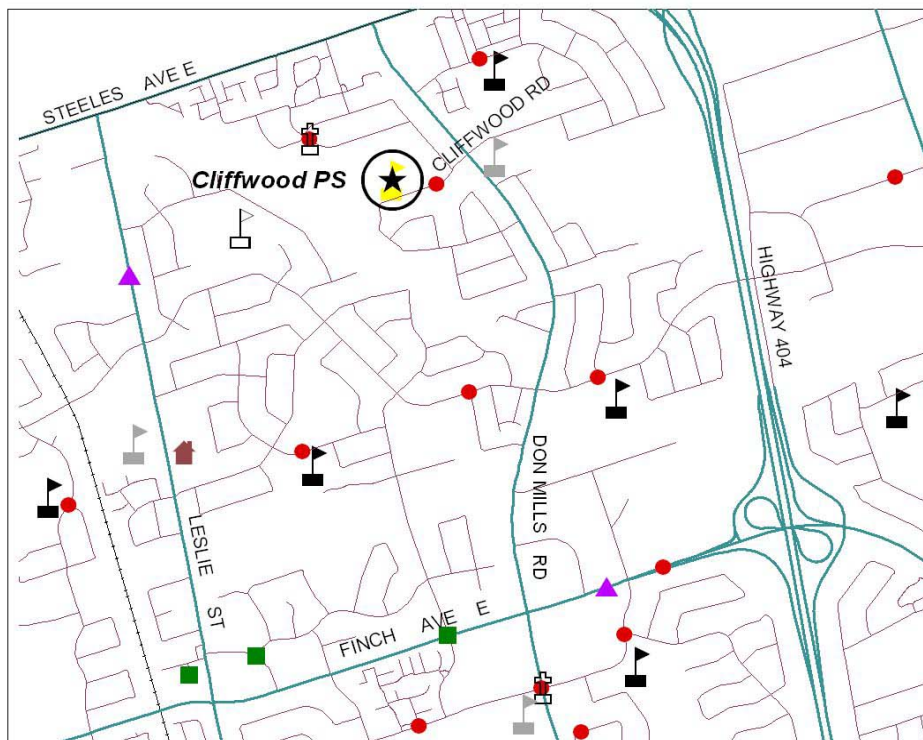
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ The School Council meets regularly. The Council provides workshops for parents delivered by local professionals on topics of interest. School-wide events are organized with the Council.
- ✦ Parent volunteers are welcomed in classrooms and our resource centre.
- ✦ We use a School Planner to provide regular communication between the home and school.

Community Links:

- ✦ Cantonese and Mandarin classes are offered weekly to students in the community.
- ✦ Local organizations and summer camp often use school facilities.
- ✦ We work closely with the staff of the Cliffwood Community Child Care.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- (★) OUR SCHOOL
- 🏠 TDSB Elementary School
- 🏠 TDSB Junior High School
- 🏠 TDSB Secondary School
- 🏠 Separate School
- 🏠 Daycare/Nursery School
- 🟩 Family Resource/ Parenting Centre
- 🟪 Community/ Recreation Centre
- 🏠 Public Library

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.