

School Address

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*

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*

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Director of Education

Gerry Connolly

OUR SCHOOL

John Fisher Public School was founded in 1816 as the second school in the City of Toronto, and was named for the first Mayor of North Toronto. The current building is listed as a historic site as it dates from 1887 and is the oldest elementary school in the TDSB. Today, it is a French Immersion centre serving families within a large area of North Toronto. The Immersion program begins in Senior Kindergarten, and all instruction is in French until the end of grade 3. English language instruction is introduced in Grade 4. The school is committed to providing an excellent bilingual academic program supported by a wide variety of extra-curricular activities in athletics, the arts, technology and other student interests.

- ✦ The school serves 525 students, the majority of whom (83%) come from homes where English is the primary language, and the others from homes where another language is primary.
- ✦ Many of our students use bussing services provided for the French Immersion Program.
- ✦ The French Connection Daycare provides bilingual before and after school care for children in Grades JK to 6.
- ✦ The school has undertaken extensive indoor (office, washrooms and windows) and outdoor (playground) renovations in the past two years.

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ Commitment to the value of bilingualism in French and English for Canadian children.
- ✦ Commitment to a balanced and challenging program in languages, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the arts, and physical and health education.
- ✦ Continued success in EQAO provincial tests in Language and Math.
- ✦ Implementation of a staff/parent/student developed *Bullying Prevention Policy and Procedures*
- ✦ Integration of Information Technology in all areas of the curriculum
- ✦ Participation in *Toronto Schools on the Move* initiative to enhance levels of fitness and participation in physical activities.
- ✦ Continued commitment to Arts education: choral and instrumental music, visual arts, drama and dance.
- ✦ New participation in an Integration Project with Park Lane Public School.
- ✦ Continued commitment to an active John Fisher School Council.
- ✦ Commitment to positive recognition of student achievement.
- ✦ Enhanced communications within the school community through school website, Parent Handbook, Telephone Directory, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Welcome booklets, newsletters.
- ✦ Increased energy conservation and waste minimization - the school received a Gold Seal as an Eco School in 2005.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2006)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	515	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	361	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	154	
✦ Gender:		
Female	267	52%
Male	248	48%
✦ Primary language other than English:	97	19%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	2	0%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	10	2%

* 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)
- ✦ Borrow-a-book Program
- ✦ Daily independent reading
- ✦ First Steps: Reading, Writing
- ✦ Reading Buddies (with students from other grades)
- ✦ Visiting authors
- ✦ Concours d'Art Oratoire
- ✦ Library Partners in Action

Other Languages and Cultural Studies

- ✦ Bilingual co-op students
- ✦ French monitor
- ✦ Heritage Month for February
- ✦ Dicterie Paul Gerin-Lavoix

Mathematics, Science and Technology

- ✦ Math / Science Investigations
- ✦ Environmental committee
- ✦ School recycling program
- ✦ School Yard Naturalization Project
- ✦ Science kits
- ✦ Science resource centre
- ✦ Scientists in School
- ✦ Computers in classrooms
- ✦ School website
- ✦ Class visits/field trips: Island Natural Science School, Kortright Centre, the Ontario Science Centre

Arts Programs/Activities

- ✦ Folk dancing: Folkfest (folkdancing)
- ✦ Choral music projects
- ✦ Concerts and Performances: dance, drama, music
- ✦ Music: Instrumental music, Kiwanis Festival, Orff, choir(s)
- ✦ Trips to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thomson Hall
- ✦ Specialist teacher(s): music
- ✦ Visual and performing Artists in the School

Social Skills and Leadership Programs/Activities

- ✦ Anti-bullying program
- ✦ Awards: awards assemblies
- ✦ Second Step (conflict resolution)
- ✦ Student Ambassadors

Equity Initiatives

- ✦ Anti-racist education
- ✦ Diversity celebrations
- ✦ Equity committee
- ✦ Inclusive curriculum/resources

Safe School Programs

- ✦ Buddy system
- ✦ Code of Behaviour
- ✦ Safe Arrival Program
- ✦ Safety Committee
- ✦ School Safety Plan

Food and Nutrition Programs /Lunchtime Activities

- ✦ Lunch activities program: arts and crafts, board games, chess, school yard games, sports
- ✦ Milk program

Community Activities/Supports

- ✦ Community Service Opportunities
- ✦ Faculty of Education students
- ✦ Fundraising

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

- ✦ Chess club
- ✦ After-4 Program(s)
- ✦ Leadership program
- ✦ Sports house league(s)
- ✦ Sports team(s)
- ✦ Student Council

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

We have two curriculum priorities for the year: literacy and numeracy. In both these areas, we will foster a climate of high expectations with maximum support and encouragement for every student. Through a Blanced Literacy Program in French and, beginning in grade 4, in English, we will develop our students' abilities to use language to communicate effectively, to analyze and solve problems fairly and collaboratively, and to become enthusiastic learners for life.

In addition, we have significant initiatives in Science and Technology, in the Arts and in Physical and Health Education. through an active choral and instrumental music program, visual arts, drama and dance, all students have the opportunity to develop their skills, to perform and to listen to or view artistic works of others. Computers in the building are being upgraded following a long-term plan in Information Technology. All aspects of the Physical and Health Education Program as well as a full range of athletic opportunities - both competitive and houseleague - are offered to students. Fitness, playground games, sportsmanship and good nutrition are emphasized in every season.

Our playground naturalization project took a significant step forward this year with the building of a new Junior playground, an outdoor classroom and the planting of native trees and shrubs. These will continue in the next few years.

In 2005-2006, the school's *Bullying Prevention Policy and Procedures* were updated and refined with all adults and students in the building becoming aware of creating a climate of trust and respect, and confidence in addressing bullying situations. The *Second Step* guidance program continues to be the basis for building positive social relations..

Teachers participate in regular divisional and curriculum team meetings where they work collaboratively to plan appropriate activities. In addition, professional development is encouraged

through on-site in-service, workshops, conferences, professional reading and personal interests. We strive to increase sharing and collaboration through team planning. This year these efforts will centre on our curriculum priorities: literacy and numeracy.

The EQAO assessment results at the Grades 3 and 6 levels form the basis of our School Literacy Plan with consideration given to strengths and areas for improvement. Strategies for growth are discussed and implemented through staff, division and curriculum team meetings and by individual teachers. We strive to maintain our excellent EQAO results.

In addition to a challenging and balanced academic curriculum, student development is fostered through student clubs, athletic, artistic and varied activities. These include Student Council, Grade 6 Student Ambassadors, Athletic Council, Conflict Resolution Team, musical choirs, a student newspaper, stage crew, media arts club and a full slate of intra-mural and competitive sports.

A strong School Support Team, composed of teachers and administration, works with a Board psychologist, social worker, speech-language pathologist and special education consultant in order to ensure that every child's special learning needs are identified and addressed.

All initiatives are fully discussed with School Council. Parents and community members are full partners in setting the direction of the school, supporting programs and extra-curricular activities, and participating in a variety of school improvement initiatives.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

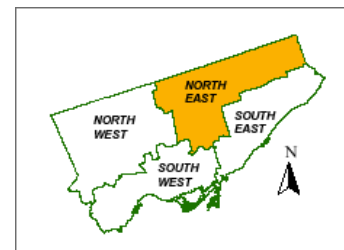
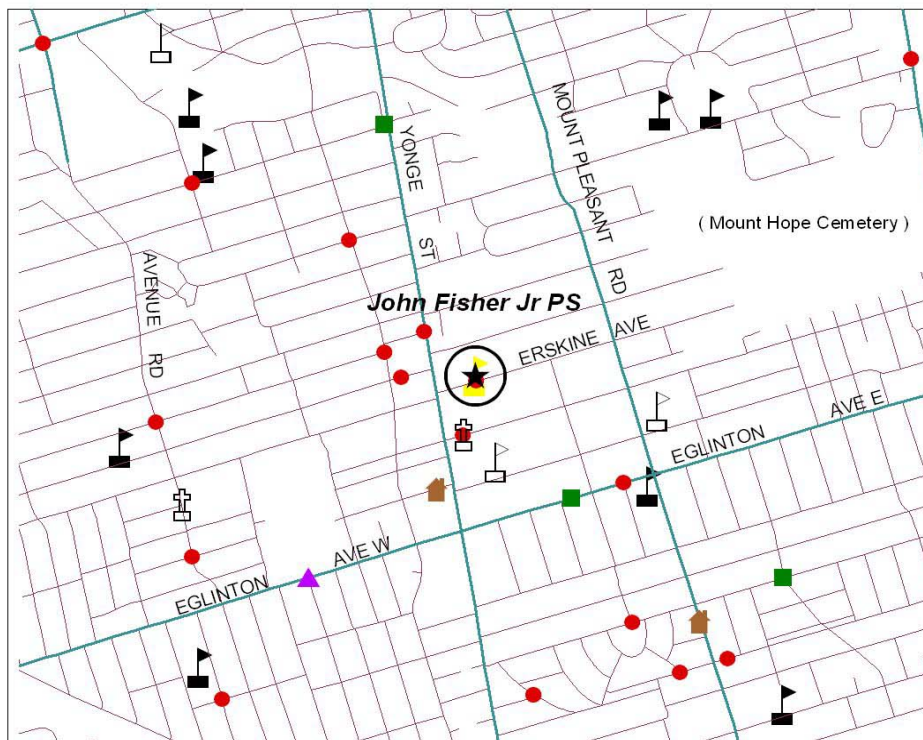
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ The John Fisher School Council meets monthly, and has many active sub-committees such as Safety, Educational Issues, Staffing, Fund-raising, Athletics, Arts and Cultural Enrichment and others.
- ✦ Over 200 parent volunteers assist in a wide range of school programs including library, classrooms, field trips, special events, sports clinics and teams, spirit activities and environmental issues.
- ✦ School Council advocates actively with Board and provincial decision-makers to ensure quality public education for all children
- ✦ Recent initiatives in renovating the interior of the building, greening the school yard, improving traffic safety and enhancing the school's Information Technology capabilities have involved significant parent involvement.

Community Links:

- ✦ French Connection Day Care and other day care centres
- ✦ High school co-op programs and language programs
- ✦ Partnerships with Police Department and other agencies concerned with neighbourhood safety
- ✦ Local business community and neighbourhood social services
- ✦ Community field trips
- ✦ Faculties of education and other University faculties
- ✦ Glendon College, bilingual college of York University
- ✦ Volunteers: adults and youth in the community

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▲ TDSB Elementary School
- TDSB Secondary School
- ⊕ Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/Parenting Centre
- ▲ Community/Recreation Centre
- 🏠 Public Library

0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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.