



## Administrator's Message

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*"I am convinced that attitude is the key to success or failure in almost any of life's endeavors. Your attitude – your perspective, your outlook, how you feel about yourself, how you feel about other people – determines your priorities, your actions, your values. Your attitude determines how you interact with other people and how you interact with yourself."*

-Carolyn Warner-

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a love of reading. A person who enjoys reading is never bored and is filled with the joys that the written word has to offer. Reading provides our children with a wealth of knowledge and understanding about their world. Children who are well read usually do well in school. Literate children have an advantage in math problem solving too. Silent reading enhances a child's fluency in thinking, listening, speaking and writing and improves reading fluency.

Family reading, excluding children's homework assignments and parent's reading work from the office, has important positive social and emotional benefits. The togetherness and common enjoyment of the printed word are all part of the experience of quality time spent with your child. Parents can bolster a child's self esteem as you give him/her the responsibility of choosing their own material. Sharing a newspaper article and then discussing it is just one of the many ways families can read together. Picking out familiar words on cereal boxes or advertisements are wonderful early reading experiences.

As part of my focus on improving literacy at Thornhill Public School, I shall be asking the School Council to support the cost of bringing in some wonderful authors to do workshops with our students. Every grade will benefit from our author visits. Our librarian, Heather Ann Lowry, is planning a special evening event for our kindergarten students. Our first author, Elizabeth MacLeod will be here this week on Thursday to visit with our Grade 4 and 5 classes.

A further literacy event this year is our plan to have a Book Fair Night at Indigo Books on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Our school will receive a percentage of all the takings that night which we shall use to stock our library with even more wonderful books. Please save your holiday shopping for that date as we shall benefit from books and gifts that you purchase. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks. As I make my visits to the classes, I hope to share some of my favourite books with our students!

### TRAFFIC SAFETY

I appeal to all parents and guardians to respect our traffic rules to provide the safest possible drop-off for our students. Cars are NOT permitted to drive through the driveway when the buses are parked there or are dropping off students in the morning. Furthermore, cars are not permitted to park in the fire route at any time day or night. Police and by-law enforcement officers monitor our traffic and will issue tickets to offenders. Our two early morning traffic controllers require your cooperation and respect. They are there to ensure the safety of your children. We have provided a kiss and ride option for those parents who are in a hurry. Teachers are on duty from 8:10 am and students do not enter the building until the bell rings at 8:20 am. If you must enter the school with your child, please find parking off school property and walk your child into the school building. When entering the school building, all parents must report to the school office via the front doors, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. When dropping students off on Arnold Avenue, please drop them off on the South side of the street to avoid them having to cross the road. They must then walk through the yard to where they line up and enter the doors.

I do hope you will help us to ensure the safety of all our students. Many thanks!

On the issue of safety, last week was Safety Week for the York Region District School Board. All schools took part in various safety drills. I am proud of the way in which our students responded to our Fire Drill and our Code Red Drill. We shall have further fire drills this fall to ensure that we are well prepared in the event of a fire. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 had School Bus Safety drills last week.

### REMINDER

- **TOMORROW IS WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!**
- **School Council meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7:00pm**
- **Return outstanding, unpaid Entertainment Books**
- **Hep B shots - Nov. 22**

## Administrator's Message Continued

### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

This week was Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, the most solemn of the Jewish Holy Days. Jews ask for forgiveness of their sins and forgive others for theirs. Jews refrain from all eating and drinking on this day. We wish all our Jewish families a Happy New Year for the year 5764.

October 25<sup>th</sup> is the Diwali, the festival of lights and the most widely celebrated Hindu festival. The diwas (clay pots filled with oil and a wick) will herald the start of the year 2060 and symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. For many Hindus, October 26<sup>th</sup>, New Year's Day, is also very important. Happy New Year to our Hindu families.

### THANKSGIVING

Many cultures have a time to celebrate the end of the growing season when all crops have been harvested for winter. The ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians all celebrated at harvest time and thanked their gods and goddesses. Today, throughout the world, we still celebrate at this time.

Thanksgiving is a day when people get together with their families to express gratitude for all the good things that have happened during the year: for health, family, friends and, of course, food of the harvest.

We often think of European settlers as having started the celebration in North America. However, harvest feasts were held long before that. Aboriginal peoples throughout the continent harvested and preserved food to be stored for the long winter ahead and gave thanks.

Regardless of the country or culture, the story is similar. People gave thanks for a successful harvest in a new land. Since then many other people have immigrated to Canada and the United States and brought the customs of giving thanks too.

On this day of celebration and gratitude, we wish the students, staff and parents who observe Thanksgiving a happy and restful holiday.

### PRINCIPAL ENTRY PLAN

Over the past few months, I have had feedback from teachers, parents and older students to a list of questions to assist me in getting an idea of the culture, background, strengths and needs of Thornhill Public School. I am planning to interview some of the current students in all grades to acquire further information. If there are any parents/guardians who would like to respond to my questionnaire for parents, I would appreciate your views. Copies of my questionnaire are available in the office or can be emailed to you.

### PUNCTUALITY

Students are expected to be at school on time. As soon as the bell goes at 8:20 am students go to their lockers and MUST be in their classes by 8:30 am when "O Canada" begins. Students who enter the class after 8:30 am are late and will have this recorded on their report cards. This applies to students who come back to school late after lunch when classes begin at 1:15 pm. Coming to school late results in disruption of classes and students miss the important instructions at the beginning of the class. Your support in ensuring punctuality is important to our teaching staff. Thank you.

We shall be updating our Student Hand Book which we hope to have sent out before the end of term.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Gilinsky



**Thornhill Public School Staff for 2003-2004  
(Revised)**

Grade	Teacher
JK/SK	Bryna Cassen
JK/SK	Gety Kazerouni
JK/SK	Leanne Lieberman
Grade 1	Sandra Park
Grade 1/2	Rhonda Friedman
Grade 2	Lisa Kerzner
Grade 3	Sue Prestwich
Grade 4	Elli Mandel
Grade 4	Jackie Stone
Grade 5	Andy Reiner
Grade 5	Cheryl Rudolph
Grade 6	Sumona Sanyal
Grade 6	Chrissie O'Brien
Grade 7	David Summerfeldt
Grade 7/8	Steve Millar
Grade 8	Ventura Wu
Grade 8	Scott Chin
Intermediate French	Laura Akey
Music	Michelle Fremont
SERT	Rose Steinberg
SERT	Robyn Weinberg
Jr. Comm	Heather Halpert
Reading Rec	Barb Nudelman
ESL	Anna Marie Lombardo
ESL	Cynthia Goldfarb
Junior French	Joanne Pearson
Librarian	Heather Ann Lowery
CYW	Melissa Griffith
CYW	Matthew McClean
Education Assistant	Susan Deluca
Education Assistant	Melissa Topp
Education Assistant	Randi Newman
Principal	Yvonne Gilinsky
Head Secretary	Joan Harvey
Secretary	Stacey McIndless
Lead Custodian	Peter Williamson
Custodian	George McCalman
Custodian	Jim Daley

**Fall Happenings At Your Library**

Autumn is here and traditionally a time for celebrating the harvest. We have a harvest of activities to promote **literacy** happening in the TPS library this fall! We are looking forward to author visits from **Elizabeth MacLeod, Eric Walters** and **Freida Wishinsky**. All three Canadian authors are book award recipients!

**Ms. MacLeod** is a non-fiction writer and editor with Kids Can Press. She will be visiting with our Grade 4 and 5 classes on **October 9th**.

**Mr. Walter's** is a popular author with the Intermediate division. On **November 17th**, he will be meeting with the Grades 6, 7 and 8 students.

**Ms. Wishinsky** will be sharing her books with our primary classes on **November 25th**.

A special event is planned for our Junior and Senior Kindergarten students on the evening of **October 16th**. They are invited to a pajama party (with their parent!) to have milk and cookies, and a bedtime story too!

Please watch for future notices about all these events!

Mrs. Lowry

## Welcome Message from the TPS School Council

Hello everyone! I am honoured to have been elected as your TPS Council Chair for 2003-2004. The School Council's primary role is to form a bridge between the parent community and the school. This means that it plays a vital liaison role, as well as acting as a key partner with the teachers and the administration in helping them to provide the best educational environment possible for our children.

Currently, Council is comprised of six parent representatives (elected at the meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>), namely, Michael Deverett, Chuck Magerman, Carolyn Novick, Marie Sirdevan, Shannon Weigel, and myself, together with our new Principal, Yvonne Gilinsky, the teacher representative, Heather Halpert, and the staff representative, Melissa Topp. Council may also add one or more members from the community at large, to help provide it with greater diversity and a wider perspective.

I want to take this opportunity to invite each of you to take an active role in this year's Council, whether new to Council or a "seasoned" Council participant. All Council and committee meetings are open to all parents/guardians of children in TPS. Anyone attending a meeting is welcome to be part of the process, have input and be heard. We rely on your participation to provide us with guidance. Our first working meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Your opinions, experience and ideas are essential to making the TPS Council effective in performing its work for our school community.

There is a lot to be accomplished and we need your help! We have already had great parent involvement in running the Annual BBQ and the Welcome Coffee for returning and new parents. The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) will be having an information meeting on Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm to let you know about other great ways to be involved and help connect interested parents with the resources at the school. Please plan to attend.

We plan to make communicating with parents/guardians easier (and more environmentally and cost friendly) by taking advantage of technology. We will be making changes to the TPS Website to provide accurate and up-to-date information including notices and upcoming events and meetings. For those who prefer to receive notices by email, we will be making that available shortly. We are also planning to have notices available in languages that reflect the school's diversity. This will make the TPS Council more accessible and inclusive for everyone. (Anyone who is interested in translating notices please contact the office.) Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to leave a message for me or any of the Council members at the office.

I look forward to working with the entire school community to make our great school an even better place for our children to learn and grow!

Sincerely,

David Rubin  
TPS Council Chair



### **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting October 14, 2003 7:30pm School Library**

The "Parent Involvement Committee" will hold its first meeting October 14<sup>th</sup> 2003 in the school library from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

The purpose of the first meeting is to:

- Allow everyone a chance to meet each other
- Orientate everyone to what is involved in the various ways to help out.
  - Fund raising
  - Pizza lunches
  - Translating
  - Parent Liaison
  - Website
  - Spirit events
  - Library assistance
  - Updating school bulletin boards with parent and Council information
- Sign up volunteers for committees
- Discuss first school "literacy event" and what type of help is needed to make it a success.

There are over 45 parents who signed up to get involved in their child's school. I look forward to meeting all of you on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

If you have any questions in the meantime please leave a message for me with the school office.

Carolyn Novick  
Parent Involvement Committee

The Y.R.D.S.B. Vaughan Family of  
Schools Presents

An Evening With

## **DICK O'BRIEN**

**Counsellor & Speaker**

### **RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN**

“A discussion of parental skills and attitudes for raising children resilient to pressure, resistant to chemical abuse and responding to life”

Date: **Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

Time: **7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Location: **Vaughn Secondary School  
1401 Clark Avenue West  
Thornhill**

Note: There is no cost and pre-registration is not required. All parents are welcome to attend.

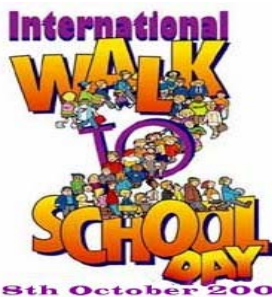
### **ANAPHYLAXIS**

Anaphylactic shock is an allergic reaction that may be fatal. It occurs when a susceptible individual eats foods to which he/she is allergic (i.e. peanuts, nuts, shellfish, milk, eggs, or other foods), is stung by an insect (i.e. bee, wasp, hornet), or is given medication (i.e. penicillin, aspirin, etc.)



Anaphylaxis affects multiple systems in the body. The most dangerous symptoms are breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure or shock. If your child has life threatening allergies it is essential that we are made aware of the allergy and have an Epi-Pen available. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns about your child's well being.

We have some students in our school this year that are extremely allergic to peanut and nut products. It would be greatly appreciated by families and staff at Thornhill P.S. if these food products were not sent to school.



### **WALK TO SCHOOL DAY (IWALK 2003)**

This year's International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 8, 2003. The event promotes getting together with children and going for a walk to school at least one day a year. We are encouraging our students to walk to school where possible.

For students who are bussed, we are asking bus drivers to drop the students off at the corner of Brooke St. and Arnold Ave., where teachers will meet the buses and walk the children the rest of the way. In the event of rain, students will be dropped at school as usual. We look forward to your participation in this event.

#### **IWALK'S goals address the following issues:**

- Encourage physical activity while providing an opportunity to teach children skills to walk safely to school
- Raise concern for the environment, reduce traffic congestion and pollution near schools
- Raise awareness of how walkable a community is and where improvements can be made to improve safety
- Put more eyes on the street - there is safety in numbers
- Share valuable time with local community leaders, parents, and children

# Thank You!!

I have been teaching at Thornhill Public School for just over three years now and I have had a wonderful time learning and growing as a teacher alongside your children. Two years ago, the grade seven class returned from our Scanlon Creek trip with a bucket full of pond life. Little did I know that this bucket would become the humble beginnings of an extra-curricular activity that at times has taken on a life of its own!

When we returned from our trip, one of our parents offered an old 10 gallon fish tank that was sitting in their basement collecting dust. In the weeks that followed, the students who attended my classroom were always drawn to the back of the room, because of the constant growth shown by the tadpoles, water beetles and dragonfly nymphs. Soon, another student offered their unused tank for the classroom and we filled it with feeder guppies due to their inexpensiveness. Given the fact that guppies are prolific breeders, the tank quickly filled with babies and again the students were fascinated and wanted more.

Over the course of the next two years, fish, aquarium supplies and fish tanks were donated to the program. I asked for donations from every local aquarium store and along with the community the program was off to a positive start. At the end of last summer, my classroom had ten tanks with a total of over 650 gallons of water.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of our most recent summer vacation, one of the old tanks cracked. To add insult to injury, it also was the biggest tank at 140 gallons, housing our tropical community fish. Due to how the tank cracked, all of the fish died. After facing the task of cleaning up the aftermath of this accident, I ended up with a clean reorganized classroom. While the loss of the large tank and all of the fish inside was daunting, I believed that a bake sale or an 'adopt a fish' fund raiser would stock one of the smaller tanks, so we would have some community tropical fish back in the classroom soon enough.

When I returned from lunch on Friday, September 26th, I was astounded by what I found waiting for me in my classroom. There was a brand new, still in the box, 140 gallon tank sitting on the floor, in front of my blackboard. This six foot tank was the same in dimensions and capacity as the one that broke, with the only difference being that it had a steel reinforced frame (which was why the last tank broke). This tank is extremely expensive on its own, but in combination to this was a \$100 gift certificate to CNC Aquarium Shop that opened just two weeks earlier at the corner of Yonge and Centre. I had shaken hands with the manager a week earlier and I thought that this tank was a promotional gift from his organization. After going to his store and thanking him, he told me that it was an anonymous individual from the community that came in and wanted to donate this to my classroom because they liked the hard work I had been doing. Regardless of all the begging, pleading and downright threatening that I did, the manager still refused to even give me a description, let alone the name of the individual that did this.

I was blown away! I could not believe the generosity of this person; although, I should not be surprised given the fact that from day one, this program has run mostly thanks to the generosity of our community. From parents donating old tanks and supplies, parent council donating much needed funds to pay for the not so glamorous day to day supplies, and finally students realizing that this is fun for me too and giving me a gift certificate to an aquarium store instead of a mug for Christmas. I am always happily surprised when I receive the support from the community that keeps this program alive.

So the point of taking a full page in the school newsletter to explain the simple two word title of this letter/monologue is two-fold. Firstly, to whoever donated the tank to my classroom I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, your generosity is staggering. Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent community on the whole for supporting this activity with private donations of cash and supplies. Without you I would still have a bucket full of smelly pond water.

Please, whether you have a child in my classroom or not, drop by when you are in the school and take a look at what we have done together.

Sincerely

Steven Millar  
Grade 7 and 8 Science and Geography Teacher

## October, 2003

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Yom Kippur (Jewish)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Area Cross country meet	<b>9</b> Author visit Gr.'s 4 & 5 Gr.6's to Toronto Aerospace Museum	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>14</b> Dental Screening	<b>15</b> Dental Screening	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Hep B Gr. 7's	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Diwali (Hindu)
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Gr. 4S to Borc	<b>30</b> Gr. 4M to Borc	<b>31</b> Halloween	

## November, 2003

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Remembrance Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Eric Walter Author visit Gr. 6, 7 & 8	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Eid-ul-Fitr (Muslim) Freida Wishinsky Author visit Gr. 1, 2 & 3	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> PA Day Elementary	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						