School Safety

Signing-In At The Office
At Fern, we ask all parents and guardians to sign in at the office when visiting our school. Parents and guardians are not permitted to walk up to classrooms without notifying the office. Teachers will inform the office when visitors have not advised the office of their visit. As always, our staff is committed to ensuring that our school is safe at all times of the school day.

Be Scent Aware
The TDSB community, including Fern Avenue Public School is encouraged to reduce the use of fragrances and scented products in our school. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.
Fragrances are found in a wide range of products, including perfume, cologne, deodorant, soap, fabric softeners and laundry detergents.
It is a personal choice to use fragrances, however fragrance chemicals by their very nature, are shared. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us.
Individuals with chemical sensitivities can experience a variety of symptoms, including headache, sore throat, runny nose, sinus congestion, wheezing, shortness of breath, dizziness, anxiety, anger, nausea, fatigue, mental confusion and an inability to concentrate, resulting in great difficulty in work and study activities.
The TDSB and Fern Avenue Public School is asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. Staff, students and visitors are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives.
This is a request to voluntarily refrain from chemical-based scented products, and not a ban on scented products.
**Special Education**

Teachers at Fern are dedicated to ensuring that the needs of all learners are met through sound programming and individualized instruction. On Tuesday October 14, 2008, Individual Education Plans were handed out to parents for students with accommodated or modified programs. Further information regarding times to meet and discuss the Individual Education Plan was also sent home.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES**

We encourage our Fern community to join the meetings for our school council. The following are the school council dates for the 2008-2009 school year. We hope that you will be able to join our meetings.

- OCTOBER 16, 2008
- NOVEMBER 20, 2008
- JANUARY 15, 2009
- FEBRUARY 19, 2009
- MARCH 26, 2009
- APRIL 16, 2009
- MAY 21, 2009
- JUNE 11, 2009
An Update: Premier Agenda

Premier Agenda regrets to inform that their Character Canada junior agenda was printed with an error on page 136 of the resource section. The heading “Grammar/Punctuation” is misspelled on that page. They sincerely apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Premier Agenda met with the board and arrived at an agreement for those agendas affected. Correction stickers that could be affixed to the affected page were distributed to junior students.

Premier Agenda is committed to ensuring that this type of error will not be repeated. Providing educational tools and impacting education in a positive fashion is their mission and assure 100% accuracy in all details of their products in the future.

Fern Ave. Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

We invite families with young children to come and visit our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre. This free program is located in Room 105 and is for parents and caregivers with children from infants to 6 years of age.

Daily activities include story and music time, art, sand and water play, gym time and nutritious snack. Please visit the centre whenever you can and participate in an enjoyable play based program where your child will learn school skills that will help prepare them for kindergarten. A great place for parents to make connections, discuss issues relating to children and learn about other resources in the community.

Families are welcome to join at any time during program hours and participate in the many wonderful activities offered in the centre. For more information please call 416-394-2104.

Program hours are:
9:00 am – 12:45 pm
- Story and Music Time
- Arts Activities
- Sand and Water Play
- Learning Materials
- Snack
- Book Lending Library
Design and Technology Program Needs Your Help

Do you have any left over or unused wood lying around at home? If so, please donate it to the Design and Technology Program.  
Do you have any clean planks, used or new, that need a new lease on life?  If so, please bring them to the Design and Technology Program.  
Wood is very expensive.  Your contribution by donating left over or unused wood helps our Fern Avenue students create and discover the many possibilities’ of design and technology. 
Your support and interest are always welcome!

From the Library

Fern’s annual Book Fair was held from September 22nd to 25th.  Once again, parent volunteers, library assistants and the hundreds of students and parents who visited the fair and bought books made this annual event a terrific success!  
Library assistants stapled letters to book fair flyers, and delivered them to classrooms. They put up signs asking for parent volunteers, and posted book fair signs in stairwells and hallways around the school. Two students offered to take around a sign-up sheet for classes to visit the book fair, and paid return visits to teachers who had been away from their classrooms on their first pass. They also gave up recesses and lunch hours to set up for the fair, straighten books, direct children and their parents, and carry out any other task that was asked of them. Five parents and one high school student volunteered their time to help out during school hours. They sold books, directed traffic, and advised prospective buyers about good books.

Crystal Rasa organized a Library Wish List, and encouraged parents and students to buy books for the library collection. Seven individuals and families purchased a total of thirteen wonderful books, ranging from M is for Mounties, a Canadian alphabet book of the RCMP, to wonderful new picture storybooks such as David Shannon’s Too Many Toys.  
Ms. Micallef moved out of her classroom for the week, and allowed us to take over her space. A truly generous gesture! Once again, this year, Paul Stones volunteered his services and ran the book fair for a week. He came in and set it up, carting tables from the auditorium for displays, arranged for the cash float, and faxed orders to the book distributor. He was there early on the Friday morning to organize leftover books for pick up.
The book fair made it possible to purchase nearly $500 of information texts, easy readers, picture storybooks and novels, in both French and English. It will also help to underwrite the cost of running the Boys’ Book Club, the Girls’ Book Club, the Intermediate Book Club, and the Get Caught Reading Program, as well as make it possible to buy new resources to support the curriculum.

Thank you to each and every one of you who made this event such a great success!

UNICEF

Thank you to every student, parent, staff member and to the Fern community at large for their efforts on behalf of UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund. Once again this year UNICEF and the Nelson Mandela Foundation have teamed up to address the right of every African child to an education through the Schools for Africa program. Funds raised during the last month will support UNICEF’s efforts in Rwanda and Malawi.

The overall goals of the Schools for Africa program this year include:

• Repairing schools
• Constructing 4,000 new schools
• Supplying 1,800 schools with safe water
• Providing blackboards, books, exercise books and pencils
• Training 35,000 teachers
• Enabling 2 million children to return to school

Over the past eleven years, children at Fern School have raised over $13,000 for UNICEF. Thank you, once again, for your generous contributions. Together we are making a difference for children in Rwanda and Malawi!
Book Clubs!

Fern’s three Book Clubs, the Boys’ Book Club, for boys in Grade 4, 5 and 6, the Girls’ Book Club, for girls in Grades 4, 5 and 6, and the Intermediate Book Club, for students in Grades 7 and 8, have begun a new school year.

The boys will be meeting every second Monday at lunch. Though numbers are small, we have started on a strong note, and hope that more boys will join us! We are going to start the year with Cornelia Funke’s The Thief Lord, a mysterious tale about two brothers, Prospero and Bo, on the run from a weathly and unpleasant aunt who wants to adopt the younger child and put his older brother in a boarding school.

The Girls’ Book Club, which will be meeting alternative Mondays to the Boys’ Book Club, has started with 46 members! Fortunately, given the large numbers, a couple of Grade 7 and 8 girls came out to help. On the recommendation of one of my most trusty library assistants, the Girls’ Book Club is going to read Inkheart, by Cornelia Funke, in anticipation of the movie’s release this January. It is the story of a young girl, Meggie, and her bookbinder father, Mo, who share a remarkable and dangerous gift, one that makes them the focus of an evil villain’s nefarious plans.

The Intermediate Book Club, which will meet every second Thursday, has attracted fourteen students, both girls and boys, who love reading and who, among them, have a wide and deep knowledge of Canadian and international fiction for adolescents. Students have presented titles for the Book Club’s consideration, and seem to be leaning toward The Amulet of Samarkand. New this year, students will all be invited to participate in a wiki so that they can have an online forum to share their thoughts about the books they are reading.

We look forward to another interesting year of reading and talking with readers!
Ferncliff Daycare and After School Group Update

We would like to remind the Fern Avenue community that the daycare has the potential to expand our Kindergarten Program which in turn will offer up a few more Preschool spaces. If you have not already submitted an application for care, please speak with Tracy in the daycare office (103) or call her at 416-588-1463.

We would just like to remind parents of non-daycare children, although we may be outside in the playground after school hours, our staff are responsible to supervise only those children registered in our program. If your child remains in the schoolyard, they remain unsupervised.

We are continuing our efforts with our Early Years Team, combining Kindergarten/Primary teachers, the Parenting Centre and Childcare and continuing to work with the Parent Council and School Administration to ensure a continuity of service.

FERN AVENUE SENIOR STUDENTS AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY/NUMERACY PROGRAM

Some of our senior students have been recommended to participate in the Grade 7 & 8 After School Literacy & Numeracy Program. The program will focus on developing skills in literacy and numeracy that will help to ensure success in the regular day school program.

Based on teacher recommendation students will take part in either Literacy or Numeracy, not both. The programs will take place for 1 hour afterschool on either Monday or Wednesday. Snacks will be provided. Grade 7 Literacy and Numeracy began on Monday, October 13. Grade 8 Literacy and Numeracy began on Wednesday, October 15. The program will run for the whole year in 10 week blocks. The first block ends the week of December 15th. Megan Ramsay will be teaching Literacy and Joyet Chakungal will be teaching Numeracy.

As a staff, we are committed to providing additional literacy and/or numeracy support for our students and we hope that we can count on your support to ensure that your child attends all of the classes for this program.
A Visit From Rosedale Heights:  
Held On Monday October 27, 2008

As part of their transitions work, Rosedale Heights visited Fern Avenue Public School to perform an exciting assembly for our senior and junior students. They made our students aware that Rosedale Heights is a centre for performing and visual arts.

The assembly consisted of performances by Rosedale Heights’ student dancers, musicians, vocalists and improv team members. The assembly was approximately 1 hour.

ECO-SCHOOLS NEWS

Instead of an award ceremony this year……...  
Eco-Schools had their KICK-OFF day on

Tuesday October 28th, 2008

The Eco-Team (parents, leaders and principal) participated in making this event a huge success! Thank you to Joanne’s leadership. We are as good as Gold again.....And striving for more….litter-less lunches…..better use of paper…..more green bin usage…… and much more!
ECO-SCHOOLS: Upcoming Events

BULB PLANTING AND GARDEN CLEAN UP DAY.
Tuesday November 11, 2008 on REMEMBRANCE DAY.
4pm - 6.30pm
Gardening tools and more bulbs welcome!
No gardening experience necessary

POOL Program Description

Our swim instructors are back and ready to work with our Fern students. They are working toward:

- Familiarizing themselves with all participating students
- Ensuring that students know and understand all Pool Rules and Change Room Rules
- Focus their evaluation on student’s current skills including front/back crawl, breast-stroke, pool knowledge and safety

Students will be graded based on skill level and be divided into groups according to ability.

Swim instructors will be following the Lifesaving Society Swim Program Curriculum and will modify programming according to student ability. Activities such as water polo, water basketball, relay races and other games will also be incorporated.

A Swim Team will be formed for Junior and Intermediate students.

We strongly believe in full participation in order to successfully complete the swim program. Parents will be notified if 3 swim classes are missed in a term without a note.

Terms 2 and 3 swim program outlines will be completed and communicated closer to those terms.

If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss them with us.

Swim Instructors,
Canute
And
Jeff
A BIO: New Teacher at Fern Avenue P.S.

My name is Ousmane Sy I will be teaching extended French (grade 5/6), core French (grade 4/5 & 6) and gym (grade 4/5). I was born in Nouackchott, Mauritania a country located in West Africa.

In 1994 I graduated with a Masters degree in Diplomacy: Techniques of International Negotiations from the L’ecole Nationale Administration Publique in Morocco. In 1999 I moved to Maryland, USA to learn English. I immigrated to Canada in August 1999, living in Montreal for 2 years before moving to Ontario. I attended Algoma University and College in 2003 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in French as a second degree. I attended Laurentian University- Teacher's College in Sudbury to obtain my degree in education in Junior and Intermediate divisions. I was employed by Algoma District School Board from 2005-2006, I moved to Peterborough and taught with the Peterborough-Victoria-Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. Through my employment with these school boards I have had the opportunity to teach from grade 1 to grade 8. I have taught French immersion and core French in various grades.

I have a passion for education and sport. I enjoy reading political science materials and issues pertaining to human rights. As a youth I was a very active soccer player and played in the national league in Mauritania. Since arriving in Canada, I have participated and coached in soccer as well as track and field.

I am excited to work with the staff and students at Fern Avenue. I love to teach, and look forward to the school year with you.
## Intramural Sports Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teams</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Junior Girls</th>
<th>Senior Boys</th>
<th>Senior Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Sept.-Nov.</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>D. Foti</td>
<td>D. Foti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Oct.- Nov.</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>B. Shreve</td>
<td>M. Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>Oct.- Nov.</td>
<td>J. Kearns</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Nov.- Dec.</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>B. Shreve</td>
<td>B. Shreve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Jan. - Feb.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Chakungal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>Jan. - March</td>
<td>M. Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td>M. Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>March- April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M. Davis</td>
<td>M. Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swim</td>
<td>March - April</td>
<td>G. Canute</td>
<td>G. Canute</td>
<td>G. Canute</td>
<td>G. Canute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>May - June</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; field</td>
<td>May - June</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## House League Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>Sept.-Oct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Nov.-Dec.</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
<td>B. Nikolajevic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Hockey</td>
<td>Jan.-Feb.</td>
<td>S. Katsihtis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Name</td>
<td>Date and Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Muir Gladstone</td>
<td>Dec.11 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha II</td>
<td>Jan.14 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington MS</td>
<td>Feb.5 7:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>City View Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.22 6:30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer Park Sr. PS</td>
<td>Jan.20 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delta Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.20 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Grey Senior PS</td>
<td>Jan.28 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EAST Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.22 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essex P.S.</td>
<td>Feb.5 6:30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Hill Sr. PS</td>
<td>Feb.3 6:30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawthorne II Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.23 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizon Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.16 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hodgson</td>
<td>Jan.27 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humbercrest PS</td>
<td>April 1 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse Ketchum PS</td>
<td>Dec.10 7:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Sr. PS</td>
<td>Jan.13 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Edward</td>
<td>Jan.13 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord Lansdowne P.S.</td>
<td>Jan.21 7:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quest Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.27 6:45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryerson PS</td>
<td>Jan.20 5:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spectrum Alt.</td>
<td>Jan.14 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westwood MS</td>
<td>May 21 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winona Sr. P.S.</td>
<td>Jan.22 6:30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Queen Alexandra Middle School will be having the Grade 6 to Grade 7 Transition Open House on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 @ 6:00pm
**PRIMARY CHOIR**

Primary Choir for all students in grades 1 - 3 will be starting this Friday Oct. 31st at noon with Ms. Micallef.

Ms. Micallef will also be supervising a student teacher (Mr. Garrett Lewis) who will be trying out a **Boys’ Music Club** for interested boys in grades 2-5.

Student’s will be reminded of meeting times within the next few days.

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**HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS: At Fern Avenue**

Please leave costume weapons at home.
Ensure all costume masks allow for easy breathing.

**Senior Students**
Our Senior students will be having a Halloween Dance the afternoon of Wednesday October 29th in the Auditorium. There will be a DJ, great music and lots of cool dancing. Although costumes are optional, student’s wearing costumes enter the dance for a $1.00, and students not wearing costumes are asked to pay $3.00. The Senior staff will be supervising this dance fundraiser.

**Junior Students**
Our junior students will be participating in our community parade. They will be walking along Wright Avenue, onto Roncesvalles and then back onto Fern Avenue. The parade will take place at 1:15pm on Friday October 31st. The junior students will also have a talent show and have a dance in the auditorium until 2:30pm. For the remainder of the afternoon, the juniors will be playing games/activities and eating snacks in their classrooms.
**Primary Students**
Our primary students will conduct a community parade walk at approximately 10:00am. They will showcase their costumes as they walk along Wright Avenue to Roncesvalles, and back onto Fern Avenue. In the afternoon, several of our primary classes will be engaged in activities as they have Visiting Artists in their classrooms. Other primary classes will remain in their classes and participate in activities with their classmates.

**Kindergarten Students**
Our morning kindergarten students will be visiting our primary, junior and senior classrooms displaying their Halloween costumes. Students will participate in classroom activities with their classmates in their classrooms for the rest of the morning.

Our afternoon kindergarten students will be participating in our community parade at 1:15pm. Students will walk along Wright Avenue to Roncesvalles, back onto Fern Avenue wearing their costumes. For the remainder of the afternoon, students will participate in activities with their classmates and classroom teachers.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE A NUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT DURING THIS FUN TIME OF TREAT-SHARING.**

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**Scooter Girl Toys: Fundraising Weekend**

Saturday November 29, 2008 & Sunday November 30, 2008
Get your holiday shopping done early and raise money for the school.
Located at Roncesvalles and Fern Avenue.
A portion of all sales goes directly to Fern Ave P.S.
Grade 8 Parent Information Night 2008

Tuesday, November 18 – Focus on Performing Arts and Community Program
or Wednesday, November 19 – Focus on Visual Arts and Community Program. There will be a course information carousel starting at 6:30 pm followed by presentations in the auditorium at 7:00 pm.

Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts is located on Pharmacy Avenue just north of Lawrence Avenue. As well as being a community school, we offer specialized programs in both Performing Arts and Visual Arts. Admission to specialized programs is gained through an application and audition process.

### Specialized Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performing Arts Programs</th>
<th>Visual Arts Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musical Theatre – 2 credits per year</td>
<td>Grade 9 and 10 – Students take 2 specialized Art credits per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Focus – 2 credits per year</td>
<td>Grade 11 and 12 – Students generally take 4 Art credits per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students take 1 Drama Focus credit plus a choice of Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance or Technical Theatre</td>
<td>• Courses include Printmaking, Life Drawing, Illustration, Drawing and Painting, Information Design, Graphics and Sculpture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audition packages will be available at the Information Evenings and on our school website [http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/wexfordci/](http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/wexfordci/) starting November 20. Parents and students should plan to attend only one session – either November 18 or November 19.

Please note that parking is extremely limited.

Application packages must be submitted to the Wexford Guidance Department no later than 4:00 pm, Wednesday, December 10, 2008. **Faxed applications will not be accepted.**

#### Audition Dates
- **Visual Arts** – Wednesday, January 14, 2009
- **Performing Arts** – Friday, January 9, Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13, 2009