



**Ledbury Park Elementary & Middle School**  
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 Principal: Mr. P. Friberg  
 Vice Principal: Mr. T. Gentile



# Ledbury Link

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Issue 7



*"We could never learn to be brave & patient if there were only joy in the world."*

*Helen Keller*

## Principal's Message

**Mr. Friberg**

April has been a very challenging month for us all. The tragedies in Saskatchewan and on Yonge Street were moments in time that have dealt us with unbelievable shock and such overwhelming sadness that it becomes more imperative to be grateful for our loved ones and at the same time heartening to see that our links with our fellow citizens are so strong. There were so many stories of complete strangers coming together to support each other. Our own grade 4 students fundraised in a bake sale for the Broncos. It makes one pause and take a reality check on what really is important.



It did take me by surprise to find out that the **police constable, PC Lam**, who made the incredible arrest of the driver on Yonge Street, was the officer that I have been working with at Ledbury to make our area streets safer! I look forward to seeing him shortly to pass on my gratitude for his duty on Monday.

His ideas have begun to transform here. We began the **pilot project** after March Break turning the **front school bus loop** into a parent Kiss and Ride and for the most part this has been quite successful. It reduces the amount of traffic jams on St. Germain and in the school parking lot, and eliminates the unsafe drop off on Falkirk. It also quickens the

drop off of children in a safe way where students can quickly access the yard without encountering traffic. Please do not park and stay in this loop area as it does slow the flow. It is a drop your children off and go.



We are considering at some point, **closing the back parking lot** and leaving it open only for staff after 8:30 a.m. and reopening again at 9:00 a.m. There are still some parents who are ignoring the parking signs, parking in the kiss and ride ignoring the staff supervisor, and driving quite quickly in the lot. Parents are also parking in spots leaving staff members having to park on neighbouring streets. We will continue to monitor in the coming month if this is something that will be needed to happen.

If you do need to park I encourage you to use any of the nearby side streets that allow street parking and to not block private driveways. We are still waiting for the assignment of the crossing guard and I do hope to see this happen soon as Carol, Mr. Gentile and I see many near accidents daily with the vehicles not coming to complete stops and coming down St. Germain in a hurry almost hitting students.

## Parking Lot closure due to flooding

A few weeks ago the parking lot was flooded which necessitated the closure of the lot & St. Germain. Thank you to the parents who adapted to parking on nearby streets and respected the adults who were directing traffic.



## Highlights in April

This month there have been numerous times that our students have come together to celebrate, share, and learn:

- A play for Gr. 4 – 8s on belonging & acceptance of differences
- A hockey opportunity for Gr. 4 – 6s
- Autism assembly & Walk A Thon
- Day of Pink & Day of Empowerment assemblies organized and run by our Grade 7/8s and Parliament – performed twice – once for gr. 4 – 8 and again to gr. 1 – 3 – very powerful and moving
- Various fieldtrips and guest speakers in different classes
- Eco Club involved the whole school in Earth Week activities (lava, predator/prey, and park clean ups)
- Our Badminton & Co-Ed Volleyball teams performed at high calibre in their divisions
- Musical performance by Cadence Four Men Four Mics No Instruments for our Gr. 4 – 8s
- Rhythm Works Drumming presentation and workshops for our Gr. 3 – 8s – they are the official drummers of the Raptors!
- Lip Sync – what a great performance by our students! (and parents and staff)

**Baycrest BBQ & Fun Fair –tonight April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Sponsored by Fortinos Fuel for Kids Program. All proceeds to Baycrest Public School. Ledbury families are welcome to attend an evening of fun for the whole family – food, treats, games, music, and more. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. 700 Lawrence Ave. W – in Fortinos Lot.

## Stairways from back of school yard

With the shifting temperatures and the salt on the cement stairs, there has been crumbling and chipping away of the stairs. Please use caution when going up and down the stairs. We have placed the work orders for the stairs to be repaired but in order to do this type of work, temperatures need to be consistently higher in order for the concrete to set.



**The Wiz Musical– May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**  
**Tickets go on sale this week. \$9 in advance \$10 at the door.**

I couldn't be prouder of the hard working students and staff (multiples of both respectively) who are spending countless hours rehearsing and getting ready for their performances. We will be performing for the school students, Glen Park, Baycrest, and to the Ledbury community at 4 different shows. Even if you do not have a child in *The Wiz*, consider an evening out to watch our grade 6 – 8 students wow you as they "ease on down the road," to the magical world of Oz.

This is the beginning of many adventures in theatre at Ledbury.



## Occasional Teachers

You may have heard in the news the shortage of occasional teachers (supply teachers) and the need for schools to collapse classes, close programs, etc. when there is not enough occasional teachers to cover absent teachers. These two options are not beneficial to program. It is far better to keep a class together. Fortunately, principals have access to an emergency supply list when these unfortunate situations arise. I personally have vetted and the TDSB has also trained and vetted two of the personnel on that list who happen to be Ledbury parents. Carol, Mr. Gentile, the students, and I are most grateful when these two known emergency supply workers are available to cover when we need them to. I have heard that some parents in the community have made disparaging comments about this, and unfortunately, also to those Ledbury moms, and I strongly encourage those parents to stop doing this. I fully support these two parents who are helping us out and providing continual programming when teachers are absent and OTs are not available.

## Help Prevent the Spread of Illness at School

Teachers spend time in classes reminding students of effective ways to prevent the spread of illness – washing hands with soap, covering mouth when coughing, coughing into a sleeve, etc. [adapted from York Region] “Parents play a big role in ensuring that germs that are causing the illness at school are not passed onto family members and potentially other students that attend the school. Proper hand hygiene and proper cleaning and disinfecting at home will help to protect your family and prevent further spread at school.”

We ask that when your child is sick with flu like symptoms that they are kept home. And, that the specific nature of this sickness is told to the office and/or teacher so that we can track the potential spread in a classroom.



## News from the Library

We officially welcomed parents to the remodeled and completed Library at the SAC meeting this month. From Ms. Lowe: “The staff and students of Ledbury Park wish to extend a heartfelt thank you the SAC and parents of our community who have generously contributed to the remodeling of our Library Learning Commons.”



## School Staffing & Organization 2018/19

The school staffing committee which includes staff and parent representatives submitted the school model for 2018/19. Our model was presented at the SAC meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> and is now shown below. Please always treat the organization as tentative and could change due to factors in September that we have no control over. Class configurations were created using the projected numbers of students for September 2018.

The staffing process will not be completed for a few months as interviewing for new teachers is occurring and some staff may also choose to apply to move to other schools. For these reasons we do not disclose assignments at this time as changes do often occur between now and September. In line with neighbouring schools, and also with my prior practice, requests for specific teachers and classes will not be accepted.

Classroom placements will be the responsibility of classroom teachers and administration. It is a process that we work through very carefully. We place students based on what we feel is best for them as we also build balanced learning environments across all the grades. Mr. Gentile and I will not be meeting individually with parents to discuss classroom placements. There is simply not enough time to do so and not a productive use of the learning day.

## Tentative Model for 2018/19

JK / SK – 5 classes	Grade 1 – 2 classes
Grade 1/2 – 2 classes	Grade 2 – 1 class
Grade 2/3 – 1 class	Grade 3 – 2 classes
Grade 3/4 – 1 class	Grade 4/5 – 2 classes
Grade 6 – 1 class	Grade 7 – 3 classes
Grade 8 – 3 classes	

Our additional staff is used to deliver other programs around the school. Vocal Music, French, Health & Physical Education, Library, Technology, Special Education, ESL, and Drama. We will continue to host a program for students with autism. I have also allocated a half time instrumental teacher who I am currently interviewing for. Special Education will be following the TDSB model of integration where special education teachers and support staff will be in classes co-teaching with the core teachers.

## Incident at Avenue Rd. & Lawrence Ave.

Last week students from a local high school were mugged at lunch. They were fortunately not injured but of course they were shaken by the incident. I sent a letter to grade 6 – 8 parents about this which also reviewed tips for



street proofing. This is a good time for all parents to remind their children of tips to be safe when not with their parents and out in the neighbourhood.

### **Move A Thon this Friday**

[below is taken from the cover of the envelope sent home from school on Friday]

Many schools have “moved” to a DJ for a number of years now to raise funds for many worthwhile endeavours. In a one hour fun and active period this Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>, students will have dances taught from an instructor and then have free dance time to a variety of music selections.

Funds raised go to three areas where Ledbury is raising funds in 2018: the school *Parliament fundraising group* where the students are raising money for *Make A Wish Canada*, a charity that helps kids with life threatening conditions be granted wishes; the grade 8 end of year trip, an annual event that our graduating students have before leaving us that all Ledbury students eventually will benefit from; and, for continuing our technology & STEM purchases to enhance our classrooms where the technology is put directly in the hands of our students (more robotics, engineering & building materials, iPads and chromebooks).

The top 3 students from each class that raises the most money and the participants from the class that raises the most money will have a sundae party hosted by Mr. Friberg & Parliament.

A mission statement for Ledbury Park is that “we all belong” and many of our assemblies recently have stressed this mission. We would like May 4<sup>th</sup> to be where our staff and students stand out in their most uniqueness. Many will have some very interesting hair and clothing costumes. Prizes awarded for the most unique and creative.

We can accept cash or cheques (made out to *Ledbury Park School*) Contributions over \$25

can receive a tax receipt from the TDSB. If the donor would like the tax receipt, please put the address on form. Sorry we are not using the cashless system for this event. Envelopes due May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Upcoming Dates to Know**

- Baycrest BBQ & Fun Fair at Fortinos Parking Lot Mon. April 30<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:30
- Move A Thon & Be Unique Day at Ledbury Fri. May 4<sup>th</sup>
- *The Wiz* Musical at Ledbury Thurs. & Fri. 7:00 p.m. May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>
- Track & Field Meet Thurs. May 10<sup>th</sup>
- SAC meeting 7:00 p.m. Tues. May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Victoria Day – no school Mon. May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Suitcase Theatre Gr.1-4s days in May TBD
- Ledbury Marketplace Thurs. May 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m.
- EQAO testing Gr. 3s & 6s May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

### **School Advisory Council (SAC)**

I continue to be incredibly appreciative of all the work our SAC parent volunteers do to enrich the school life of Ledbury. From attending monthly meetings (all are welcome to attend), to planning and executing wonderful events for the students, to raising funds to enhance the learning environment, the small army of dedicated parents do so much and so effectively. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Lip Sync was another huge success. Next up is Ledbury Marketplace, a vendor event that promises items of interest for anyone. If you haven't already I encourage you to sign up to receive the SAC communications. If you can offer some time to help at an event, participate in a meeting, or join a SAC committee, we all appreciate it.

