Principal's Message
It hasn’t been very long since the last Update, but it’s clear that winter is coming to a close and spring is on the way. Despite it being a short time, it’s been busy at Selwyn. Students have been engaged in a range of activities including: Silver Birch, Little Selwyn Singers, and extra-curricular sports.

Our Character Development initiatives continue. In February, the character trait was Fairness. Our Eco-team gave us regular announcements reminding us how we can be “fair” to the environment. The month ended with a games day at lunch where students played board games and focussed on fairness in game-playing. Thank you to Ms. Belvedere and her students for their efforts to help us learn about Fairness. The focus for March is Honesty and so far we’ve had daily announcements by Ms. Remisch’s students. We’re looking forward to more on Honesty after the break.

Shortly after we return, students will be receiving their second term report cards. This term, teachers are using a new program to create the reports. While the format is the same, you may notice a slightly different look. I want to thank the staff for their work in learning this new system.

I’m pleased to report that the move back to the classrooms went smoothly. Our classes have all returned to their original classrooms. The rooms which were tiled have just received new blue area rugs and underpadding for their teaching areas. It is with great thanks to all of Selwyn’s staff as well as TDSB’s Design & Construction and Occasional teachers that many of our students have returned to classrooms which are freshly painted with brand new tile floors. Thank you to all of you for your support during this period.

Grad Photos
The due date on the photos is incorrect. Please note that they are due in the school office by end of day – **Tuesday, March 24** to be shipped off without a late penalty.

Greenbelt Awards
The Province has established the Greenbelt Awards to recognize those who have made important contributions to a strong and viable Greenbelt. To launch these awards they want students to get involved by helping design the new awards. To enter or learn more about the Greenbelt and the I Love Art Contest, visit: [www.Ontario.ca/iheartgreenbelt](http://www.Ontario.ca/iheartgreenbelt) and send your artwork by email to: iheartgreenbelt@ontario.ca by March 30.

Crossing Guard
Toronto crossing guards help students to cross busy streets safely. Miss Julie is the crossing guard at the corner of St. Clair and Selwyn. We ask for your help in obeying the signals and following directions from the crossing guard. Let’s keep everyone safe!

Topham Park
This is a reminder to parents/guardians and students that while at school, students are expected to stay within the Selwyn school boundaries which are outlined in the student agendas. Topham Park is out-of-bounds unless students are with a teacher. We are working together with G. A. Brown and the Topham Park Advisory Committee to help remind students to be respectful of community property such as the Topham Park Clubhouse and playground when they are away from school.

Eco-Log by Dimitri
Hello, everybody! It's me, Dimitri. Do you know what time it is? Time to save the earth! My eco-goal this week is to turn off the lights when I'm not using them. Actually, I didn't turn on the lights even once (except during my piano lesson on Thursday). You're probably wondering where the light was coming from during my other house activities. The light came from the sun of course. I mean, who wants to waste energy if they have the sun to light up the place. So when I'm reading a book I have nice light from the lamp, right? WRONG! I have nice light from the sun. I mean, it's...
easy. Just turn off the light switch, and open the blinds and there it is: LIGHT! Like I said, I'm not using the lights this week unless it's dark or cloudy outside. What's your eco-goal this week?

What is a bully?   by William
A bully is a person that hurts you mentally and physically. I think that the bully is upset and is mean because he is afraid of people being mean to him so he is mean to them first. A bully makes others afraid that he is going to hurt them if they disobey him. I was a bully when I bullied my brother for taking my lego, action figure and I hit him. I was never bullied. When you are angry the best possible thing you can do is to just take a deep breath and try to stay calm and focused. My personal mantra is “You’re perfect no matter what.”

Bullying   by Emily
I have never been a bully and I never want to be because bullies are sad and probably feel like no one in their family loves them. But I don’t feel that because I know that my whole family loves me. I have been bullied before. It was when I was in grade two and I felt sad and like I had no use in the world. My personal mantra is “I’m perfect the way I am.

Working Together
Free workshops will be presented on Saturday, April 25th at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Topics include: How to better understand your teen, Engaging the Principal and Is your child a bully? To view the flyer and register online, please visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/spc

Riverdale School Council Workshop
“What parents need to know about the Video Games Kids Play” will be presented on April 7/09 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Riverdale C. I. in the Auditorium. Many parents struggle with issues like appropriate game play, game systems and titles. What is a parent’s role in managing the video-gaming habits of their kids? Featured speakers will be Marc Saltman, host of “Plugged in with Marc Salzman” and Jesse Wente, gaming and film critic. Admission free to all students, parents, guardians and TDSB staff.

Selwyn Library Website!!   Mrs. Mills-Fields
Just a reminder that our school has a library website. This website is a terrific resource for on-line encyclopedias, databases, links to the public libraries, research guides and our library catalogue (collection). You can access the library website anytime at: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/links.asp?schoolNo=1178  Happy surfing!!

Lost & Found
Our lost and found is overflowing with wonderful clothing items that must belong to someone!! We have hats and mitts and scarves, but more than anything, we have lots and lots of tops! We have sweatshirts and jackets and hoodies in all sizes. Please encourage your child to look through the lost and found. After March Break, we’ll be bagging it up and sending it to a charitable organization.

JK Registration for Children Born in 2005
Kindergarten registration has begun. If you have a child born in 2005, please call the school to make an appointment to register your Junior Kindergarten student for September 2009. You will need to bring the following pieces of identification and information:
- Child’s Birth Certificate, Statement of Live Birth, or child’s Passport/Immigration Papers
- Immunization record (yellow card)
- Health Card
- Parent’s Work Telephone Numbers
- Emergency contact Name and Number
- Proof of Address – 2 pieces

Please call the school office at (416) 396-2455 to make an appointment to register.

Home & School/School Council News
Next Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2009
Our next Home & School / School Council General Meeting is on Monday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting will be available.

School Council
School Council Communications to Parents
At times there is information which School Council would like to email to parents/guardians directly (rather than through the school email). If you would like to receive emails from School Council directly, please contact the office to let us know if they can share your email address with the School Council Chair in order to be able to send you emails directly. Thank you to those of you who have already done so.

Parent Resources
This is a reminder that thanks to a Ministry of Education Parents Reaching Out Grant, Selwyn was able to develop a collection of parent resources in our library. There are books about a wide range of topics. The list of books can be found on the school’s website. Books can be signed out on your child’s library card.

Scarborough Parent Council Conference
Since 2006 a small group of Scarborough parents have organized an informative and engaging conference to equip parents with knowledge about the school system and other life factors that affect student achievement and development. This is a collaborative event between the trustees of the TDSB, TCDSB and parent volunteers of both boards. The conference was made possible through a Parents Reaching out grant from the Ministry of Education. Registration is free.
During this 4th conference the theme is Building a Promising future for our Youth in a Complex Society. The expertise available will cover a range of topics that cover psychological, emotional, and educational challenges parents and educators face with young and older children. We have attached the flyer which includes workshop details and the exceptional line up of presenters. The keynote speaker Michael Furdyk will address “Digital Kids are Changing the World”.

**Ward 16 Council**

At Ward Council on Tuesday night, a plan was discussed the plan for each school to come up with a marketing brochure. We will need volunteers to help design one to represent Selwyn. If you are interested, please contact Melanie. As well, there was a presentation by Live Green Toronto. For more information, see [http://www.livegreentoronto.ca](http://www.livegreentoronto.ca) for tips, tools, resources and rebates to help residents live green.

Upcoming Ward Council meetings are May 11th and June 9th.

**Home & School**

**Selwyn Home & School 2009/10**

Elections for next year’s Home & School will take place at the May General Meeting. All positions will be open for election. Being a part of the Home & School is a lot of hard work, but the benefits far outweigh the effort. It is extremely enjoyable, very rewarding and you get to know the Selwyn staff and students, all of whom are truly a terrific group of people! For more information, please contact Donna at (416) 285-6847.

**Wacky Hair Dance-a-thon**

We would like to thank all of the students and their families for the pledges we have received to date. As soon as we have a total we will let you know. If you have not yet returned your pledge-lope, we ask that you please return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Elections**

We are now accepting nominations for next year’s Home & School. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and members at large are open for nominations. Nomination forms will be available at the office or on the Home & School bulletin board in the main hall. Nominations forms must be received at the office on or before Monday, April 6th at 4:00 p.m. The election will take place on Monday, May 4th. For more information, please contact Donna at (416) 285-6847.

**Next Meeting**

Please note we have had to change the date of our next Home & School / School Council General Meeting from Tuesday, April 7th to Monday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting will be available. We look forward to seeing you on the evening of Monday, April 6th.

We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable March Break!

**The next Update comes out on Thursday, April 16, 2009.**

**Principal** Carina van Heyst
**Office Administrator** Deborah Davidson
**Head Caretaker** Rick Blagdon
**School Council** Dr. Melanie Locke
**Home & School** Donna Terry
**Superintendent** Kathy Cowan
**Trustee** Sheila Cary-Meagher

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