

# The Northlea News

## Principal:

Kathy Ribeiro

## Vice-Principals:

Jeff Little

Ashley Waltman (Acting VP)

## Office Administrator:

Judy Keith

## Office Secretary:

Helen Saroglou

## Superintendent:

Rauda Dickinson

## Home & School President &

## School Council Chair:

Wilmar Kortleever

## Trustee:

Gerri Gershon

## Administrators' Message

Empathy is essential to the deep connection with others that we achieve by putting ourselves in another's place to better understand that person. Empathy is also the Character Trait that is focused on at all TDSB schools during the month of November.

On November 11, schools across the system held various events and/or activities to acknowledge the courage and gallantry of these who served their country and those who protect it now. At Northlea, a variety of activities took place at all grades, including two very powerful Remembrance Day Assemblies for students in grades 1-8. At Northlea, this is a

very traditional assembly including a bagpiper, the laying of wreaths in memory of those who have died in war, The Last Post and a Minute of Silence. Although there was also music, the Choir singing and student presentations, the atmosphere was somber and the children were asked not talk, laugh or

whisper for the duration.

Thank you to the many family members who joined us, and to the teachers and students involved. A special thank you to the following key teachers: Mrs. Robson, Mr. Bondy, M. Larose, Ms. Shearer, Mlle Duliunas, Mlle Larocque, Mlle Ross, Mlle Woolner and Mlle Yoon.



## What's New in the Library . . .

One thing I've learned so far as Northlea's new Teacher Librarian is that there is always something happening in the library! We are off to a wonderful start with lots of eager browsers and readers visiting the library everyday. Our huge team of library monitors is bustling about

during recess, keeping the library tidy and organized and looking inviting. I'm partnering with teachers to support student learning, starting off with research and technology-based projects in the Junior division and writing-in-role units with Grade 3 classes.

Some new initiatives at the library include monthly themes featuring book displays that offer students choices in all genres. This month, the theme is "Walking in Someone Else's Shoes," with books focusing on understanding other people's experiences, including stories (continued on p. 2)



## Library News (Continued)

about peace and conflict. It took no time at all for students to discover the Student Book Request forms by the checkout desk, where they can write down a particular title (or two, or three) that they would like to see added to the library collection sometime in the future. It's exciting to meet so many avid readers and talk about our favourite books.

In December, we have an author visit scheduled for the Junior Division. Kevin Sylvester, CBC host / award-winning author / illustrator extraordinaire, will be coming to share his creative experiences with students in grades 4, 5, and 6. More special presentations are in the works for kindergarten, primary and intermediate students in the New Year!

## Inclement Weather

With winter fast approaching it is important for all parents and/or guardians to know that occasionally severe weather conditions may require the Toronto District School Board to cancel transportation and/or close schools.

The safety and welfare of students is a shared responsibility with the school and parents/guardians. To ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff during school hours, the Board's Severe Weather and operational procedures will guide decisions and operations. This may occur before the beginning of the school day or, if conditions become severe, during the school.

The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education. Should schools close during the school day, or transportation schedules change, announcements will be broadcast on the radio stations listed by 12 noon

Another exciting event is just around the corner. Northlea will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

All classes will have opportunities to visit the fair with their teachers, and the fair will be open every day from 8:00 am, to 4:00 pm, including recesses.

More details will follow in a letter to be sent to parents and families, the week before the fair. I am looking for some parent volunteers to help with managing class visits to the fair. If you are interested, contact me by phone or



and posted on the TDSB website. If there are no announcements, and no posting about school closing before 12 noon, schools will remain open for the day.

Should schools close early or if transportation schedules are advanced, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up their child, or make arrangements for the pick-up of their child.

Information regarding school closures or cancellation to transportation services will be announcements from 6:30 a.m. onward on the following stations:

**AM Radio:**  
FAN 590, AM 640, CFTR 680, CFRB 1010, CHUM 1050.

email ([kerry.millar@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:kerry.millar@tdsb.on.ca)). Your help would be much appreciated.

Stay tuned for more library news in the months ahead.

Ms. Millar  
Teacher-Librarian

### FM Radio:

JACK 92.5, CHFI 98.1, CBC 99.1, VIRGIN 99.9, CFNY 102.1, CHUM 104.5, Q107, Z103.5, EZ ROCK 97.3, FLOW 93.5

**For students in grades 6-8, parents are required to designate in writing if the student is to be dismissed early or to remain at school to be picked up. This form will be coming home in hardcopy before the end of November.**

### TV Stations:

The Weather Network, CP24, CTV, CITY-TV, GLOBAL TV, OMNI TV, ROGERS TV.

### Internet:

[www.globaltv.com](http://www.globaltv.com)  
[www.cp24.com](http://www.cp24.com)  
[www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

## Rugby Triumphs

On November 15th, even the weather seemed to be on Northlea's side, with sunny skies and temperatures hitting 12.8 °C. The 10 member co-ed Knights Flag Rugby team worked well throughout the six-hour tournament that fortunately ended with victory!

For the eighth straight year, the Northlea Knights Rugby team have won the TDSB East Conference Flag Rugby Championships. On November 15, the Northlea squad

went all the way to the finals where we beat Milne Valley, 5-0.

The Knights Head Coach Mr. Benedict was happy about the victory and proud of his team.

"Northlea's best qualities in the game were that they stayed calm, talked and played all of their positions to the best of their abilities. I have coached Northlea rugby for 8 years and in this time we have never lost a tournament. Of all the tournaments I have coached each

of them is special in their own sense and this one was unique because of the high skill level of all the players", said Coach Benedict.

Congratulations to the Flag Rugby team and their coaches, Mr. Benedict and Mlle Ross. The banners they received will be proudly displayed in the North Gym.

Nick Popiel (Gr. 8)  
Rugby Team Member

## Building Resiliency

Being resilient is an important part of a person's mental health as it contributes to how well they balance different parts in their lives including the: physical, emotional, social and intellectual aspects.

Students who are resilient learn how to develop coping skills during difficult or challenging times and can draw on those positive attributes for problem solving. The ability to move easily through life's ups and downs and to cope well under stressful situations relates to one's level of resiliency.

Resiliency cannot be defined as one specific thing but rather it is a combination of skills, strengths, assets and positive attributes, or protective factors, that people gain from experiences and relationships throughout their lives. Overall, resiliency includes having: a sense of belonging, the ability to deal with emotions, problem solving skills, a positive and hopeful attitude, positive relationships and the ability to reach out for support.

Young children need support to develop these skills and parents can

help. When children have relationships with responsive adults who model a calm, flexible approach to handling life's challenges, they learn by example how to face their own frustrations and setbacks. In addition, there are a number of other specific strategies for parents to use to help their children develop resiliency.

For more information about promoting children's resiliency, visit:

[www.reachinginreachingout.com](http://www.reachinginreachingout.com)

## Sports at Northlea

We've had lots of exciting team sports in the last month at Northlea. Our rugby teams, coached by Mr. Benedict and Mlle. Ross had some excellent results at their tournaments. The Grade 5 and Grade 7 team finished third, the Grade 6 finished second, and the Grade 8 team were champions!

Our Grade 5 and Grade 6 Basketball teams coached by Mr. Albrecht and Ms. Cioban are currently playing their seasons. The Grade 7 team and Grade 8 teams coached by Mr. Ellis are also in the middle of their seasons as are Northlea's Volleyball teams. The Grade 4/5 and 6 team are being coached by Ms. Borden and Mr.

Hum (parent volunteer). The Grade 7 and Grade 8 teams are being coached by Mlle Ross and Ms. Robbins.

Best of luck to all our teams. Go Knights Go!

Mr. Little  
Vice-Principal

## Guidance Update

- I continue my “Five Minute Interviews” with all the Gr 7 & 8 students to get to know them and assist with any questions they may have regarding high schools. Although the process takes time I am enjoying getting to meet the students individually and connecting with them.
- All Gr 8 classes have had their Transitions presentations. We covered important information in relation to preparing for high school, optional attendance and specialty schools.
- All Grade 8’s should have brought home their “Choices” pamphlets. It contains the Open House schedules of all the high schools in TDSB and other pertinent information that was covered at the “Gr 8 to 9 Transitions Evening” that I presented on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. For your convenience I have attached the Open House schedule which was made available a number of times earlier this year.
- Don Mills CI’s CyberARTs program gave an inspiring presentation to the intermediate students on October 18, 2011. CyberARTs is a multi-disciplinary, integrated program that com-

bines the arts and technology.

- Our local high school, Leaside’s Open House is on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Touring of the school begins at 6:30 p.m. and information at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium.
- On Thursday, November 24, 2011 I gave a presentation to all the Gr 7 & 8 students on “The Intermediate Years”. I covered topics such as expectations, differences between the Junior years and the Intermediate years, friendships, high schools, and challenges students may face.
- I am usually at Northlea on Mondays and Thursdays. However it does fluctuate based on meetings and needs of the various schools. The best way to contact me is via email.

Mrs. Kurkjian  
NE6 Teacher-Counsellor

Educational researchers use the term *engagement* to refer to the extent to which students’ identify with and value schooling outcomes and participate in academic and non-academic school activities. Its definition usually comprises a psychological component pertaining to students’ sense of belonging at school, being accepted or valued by their peers and others in the school and acceptance of school values. Research has shown that students who are engaged identify as being part of the school and experience more success in all aspects of

**Thank you so much to all the parents/guardians who put so much time, effort and energy into creating a truly spectacular Staff Appreciation Luncheon on November 17th. They just seem to be getting bigger and better!**

**The Northlea parents/guardians are truly an impressive group and we greatly appreciate your ongoing support in so many, many ways.**

the school program.

As you are aware, at Northlea, there are a myriad of teams, musical groups, clubs and activities that increase our students’ engagement. We encourage you to join us in encouraging your children to get involved. This involvement will not only be enjoyable, but will help them succeed both academically and socially.

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## Empathy Quotes:

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” (Bonnie Jean Wasmund)

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” (Leo Buscaglia)

“Only your compassion and your loving kindness are invincible, and without limit.” (Thich Nhat Hanh)

“Be nice and smile at everyone you meet. You don't know what they are going through, and they may need that smile, and treasure it.” (Christine M. Huppert)

## Staff Appreciation Lunch . . . a Great Success!!!

Once again, the Northlea community showed the staff of Northlea School how much they appreciate all of their efforts by providing a wonderful lunch on Thursday, November 17th. The staff enjoyed some true home cooking, and many dishes with a cultural flair. A selection of recipes for some of these dishes will be available on the school website: northlea-school.ca, so they can be enjoyed again and again.

The Northlea staff and the Home and School Association would like to say a huge thank you to all parents who contributed, the many parent volunteers, and of course the Home and School organizers, Cathy Sturdee and Laura Piccinin.

## Parent Updates

Within and around the Toronto District School Board, there are numerous occasions and events to learn about the environment within which Northlea EMS functions in. You can learn about which issues, challenges and opportunities our school shares with others, and how do Principals learn from each other in dealing with them.

During the month of November there were several opportunities for this including:

✓ On November 5 and 6, Northlea was represented by its School Council Chair at the Annual Conference of **People for Education**. Its title, **Making Connections**, was very appropriate. It was enlightening and inspiring to touch base with parents and educators from around the province. The passion for Public Education is enormous, even if one does not always agree (...). From one day at such a Conference, one

comes away with a ‘to do’ list that will last you an entire school year to accomplish: ideas to improve the working of our School Council, concrete committees to form, and many events and occasions one can organize to support school staff and provided them with useful, constructive feedback. It provides extra motivation to present positive challenges to our really great (count ones’ blessings...), but also large and often unnecessarily bureaucratic School Board.

✓ On November 12, the Board-wide Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (in some ways, a ‘parent council for the entire School Board’) organized its own TDSB Conference. Its message was **Parents Make a Difference** and much was done to facilitate and accomplish just that: with very practical workshops, information sessions, and inspiring speakers. Some (and always too few!) North-

lea Parents attended this very informative event, and attended workshops like ‘Restorative Practices’ (dealing with students’ behaviour), ‘Making School Councils Work’, ‘Fundraising’, and others.

✓ Finally, **TDSB Superintendent Dickinson** (who this year succeeded Johanne Messner) very regularly informs parents about it in **Ward Forums** and **Coffee Mornings** that are organized by **Trustee Gerri Gershon**. Events like these are open to *everybody*, and Ms. Gershon herself gives updates, lets people share concerns and provides opportunity for parents to learn from each other. At the next **Ward Forum**, Northlea will even take part in the ‘best practices’ section of the meeting - explaining about our successful Parent Safety Program. This will be at Gateway PS on December 6<sup>th</sup> —everybody welcome!

Wilmar Kortleever  
President/Chair H&S / Council