

Aberdeen Public School
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Message from the Principal



It's hard to believe that December is just around the corner. Only 20 more school days until the holiday break! We have been very busy around the school with several special events and activities taking place! December will also continue to be a very busy month in our building. We hope that you will join us for our next monthly assembly on Friday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m. Parents and community members are also invited to attend our Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 14 at 12:00 p.m. in our school gym. We are looking forward to having our students perform some musical pieces.

There are also many special spirit days at the end of the month. Students are encouraged to dress up if they can!

Monday, Dec. 19- Red and Green Day

Tuesday, Dec. 20- Snowman/Snowflake Day

Wednesday, Dec. 21- Glitter and Gold Day

Thursday, Dec. 22- Elf Day

Friday, Dec. 23- PJ Day

We want to welcome back Ms. Rivas to our Virtual Grade 4/5 class. Ms. Rivas is returning from her leave. We want to thank Ms. Collins for teaching this class for the first part of the school year. Also, welcome to Mrs. Pollard who is working in our kindergarten program with Mrs. Tucker!

Cough and cold season are once again upon us and we

have a number of students who have been experiencing illness recently. If your child wakes up ill, please complete the screening tool found at: <https://www.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. We know that many of these illnesses may not be COVID-related, but the screener advises anyone who is feeling sick or has symptoms of illness to remain home and to seek an assessment from a medical professional. Students are also encouraged to wear a mask at school if they are not feeling well to help reduce the spread of germs. If your child needs a mask, we have them available in the main office. Also, if you require any rapid COVID tests, please let us know as we have them available too. Don't forget to enter your child's absence in the portal!

We hope that everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the staff at Aberdeen!

Mrs. Squire

Progress Reports

Progress reports were sent home with students a couple of weeks ago. These reports provide parents with a brief snapshot of their child's progress to date. If you have any questions about your child's progress at school, please reach out to their homeroom teacher. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend one of our parent/teacher conference sessions. It was great to see so many of you back in the building again! Regular and ongoing communication between home and school is very important for your child's success at school!

Stream of Dreams

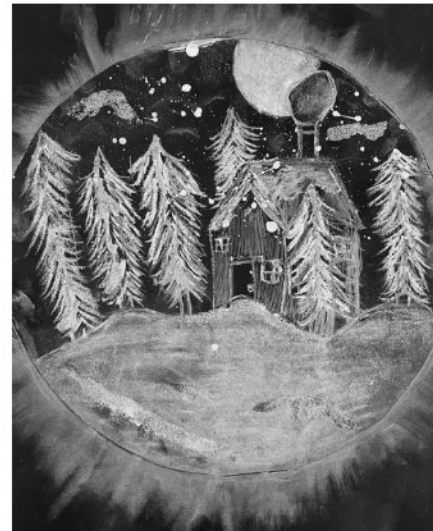
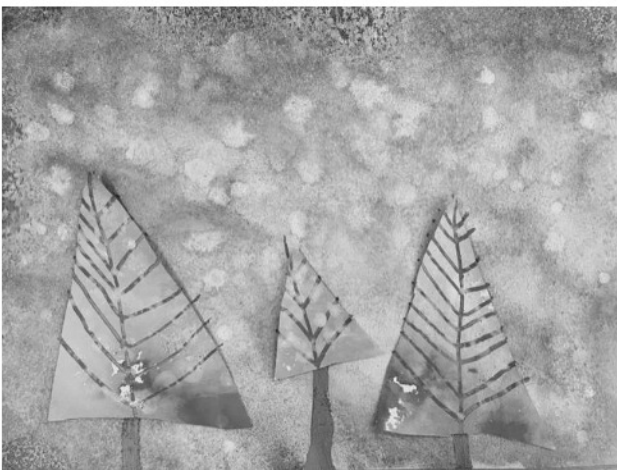


We were fortunate to be able to provide the Stream of Dreams opportunity to our students. During this program, they learned about the water system and then were able to paint a fish that contributed to a whole school art exhibit which is now displayed along the fence on Hamilton Road.

Thank you to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and TVDSB for sponsoring the learning for our students. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came out to assist with the painting and installation of the fish project.

Greeting Card Contest

Thank you to Ms. Deans for helping our students complete a variety of different art tasks for the TVDSB's annual Greeting Card Contest. Congratulations to the following students who were selected to have their artwork entered in the contest to represent Aberdeen: Bronwyn for the Primary Division, Caitlyn for the Junior Division, and Taleigha for the Intermediate Division. Please see their winning entries below. Honourable mentions also go out to these students who did an exceptional job on their greeting card artwork: Amaya and Jemma in Kindergarten; Wyler, Aurora, Caleb, and Anita in the Primary Division; Chloe and Roanin in the Junior Division; and Izzy, Twila, Iris, Kayden, and Quinton for the Intermediate Division.



Girls Volleyball



It is so awesome to have sports back in our school again. Over the past several weeks, many of our grade 7 and 8 girls have been practising and competing against teams from other schools. It was a wonderful season that saw our girls develop a strong sense of self, leadership skills, and teamwork. Lots of confidence was shown on the court which is reflected in their willingness to take risks in the classroom. We are very proud of how they represented Aberdeen at all the schools this year.

Thanks so much to Coach Gardiner and Coach Jansseune for providing this opportunity to our students.

Badminton Presentation



We recently hosted a special presentation by Charmaine Reid, a Canadian Olympian in the area of Badminton. Many students had the opportunity to try badminton skills, learn about how Charmaine reached her goal of attending the Olympic Games, and learn that hard work is the key to doing something you love, regardless of talent and ability. This presentation was sponsored by S’Cool Fund and the Jump Start Program where we were provided with a class set of badminton equipment for our students to use during gym times.

Grade 6/7 Leadership Conference

In November, four of our students, Twila, Allissa, Miguel, and Jaxson represented Aberdeen at the Investing in Children’s, “Kids Power Leadership Conference” held downtown at the Wolf Theater. The students participated in small group sessions and large group presentations where they learned about important issues affecting students today. The students did a fantastic job of being role models for our school.



Grade 8 Information

It’s almost time for our grade 8 students to select a high school for next year. Please keep an eye on the website for open house details and stay tuned for a January information session about registering your student for Grade 9.

Pearson Trip



Recently, our Grade 3-6 students had the opportunity to attend a musical presentation at Lester B. Pearson’s School of the Arts. Our students enjoyed the performances and also represented Aberdeen very well as audience members. Thank you to Pearson for inviting us to this special event.

Aberdeen Holiday Concert

We will be hosting our own musical event on December 14 at 12:00 p.m. in the gym. Our students are busy rehearsing and practising for this concert. Parents and community members are invited to attend.

This year we will be collecting canned food at the concert to donate to a local organization that supports families in our community. If you are in a position to be able to donate, please consider bringing a canned food item to the concert. We will have boxes available at the door to collect these donations.

Remembrance Day



Thank you to the students, staff, and parents who were able to join us on November 11 for our annual Remembrance Day service. Students recited poems, sang songs, and reflected on memories and stories from those who fought for our freedom. We are forever grateful for their sacrifices and continue to ensure that our young people are aware of the meaning behind Remembrance Day and the importance of paying tribute to those who were brave. Thank you to Ms. Short for organizing a lovely service at the school.



Picture Retake Day



Picture retake day will take place this Friday, December 2 in the morning. If your child was absent on our original picture day or requires a retake done on this day, please let your child’s teacher know so that we can ensure he/she is photographed on Friday. We would like to have all students photographed so that we have pictures for our records. Proofs will be sent home for parents to order their own pictures if they wish!

Grade 7 Vaccinations

Our grade 7 vaccination clinic needed to be rescheduled due to the recent strike action that occurred at the beginning of November. Our new vaccination date is Monday, December 5 in the afternoon. Please ensure that your child has returned the necessary paperwork for these vaccinations to occur. This is **not** a COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

Soaring Eagle Winners

Each month, classes select Soaring Eagles to be recognized at our monthly assembly. Congratulations to the students who were selected for this honour in October:

Carson, Sah’hara, Kikolarina, Joshua, Zachry, Kieran, Jordan, Iris, Miyah, Emmett, Jenna, Charlee, Alivia, Tyson, Izzy, Clara, Jace, Tenessa, Carlin, Allison, David, Gohan, Annabelle.

We will be recognizing the Soaring Eagle winners for November at the assembly on December 2 at 2:30. December winners will be recognized in the new year. Here are the tentative dates for all upcoming monthly assemblies (times TBA):

Date	Class in Charge
January 13	Maharaj
February 3	Zylstra
March 3	Fradgley
April 14	Lozon
May 5	Butler
June 9	Tucker/Jackman Walne/Fraser
June 29	Eaton/Pyka

Caring Cupboard

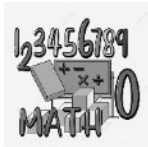
We realize that costs are rising and we know that many of our families are experiencing some challenging times right now. In order to respond to this need, we are creating a “Caring Cupboard” at our school where we can offer clothing and personal care items to families who may be in need. We are hoping to have this service up and running before Christmas break. Since we are just getting started, we are currently looking for donations of new/gently used items that can be distributed to our families. If you know of any businesses that are looking for a cause to support over the holiday season, please have them reach out to us at the school. We are looking for shampoo, soap, deodorant, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, snow pants, boots, running shoes, clothing, etc... Once we are set up and ready, we will let families know in case they require some of these items.

Tutoring Program

For the past several weeks, we have been offering a special tutoring program for students in grades 4-8 to help them with their math and literacy skills. Our program will wrap up over the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to our tutors, Ms. Dodds, Ms. Short, Mrs. Eaton, Mr. Gardiner, and Ms. Jansseune, who have given up their time after school to support our students with their learning.

EQAO



Last spring, our grade 3 and 6 students participated in the annual EQAO testing put out by the Ministry of Education. The format of the test was very different from previous years as the assessment was completed entirely online. Students who are now in grades 4 and 7 recently received their individual results on how they performed on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics skills on the EQAO assessment. Students are aiming to achieve a level 3 or higher to meet the criteria for working at the provincial standard for their grade level.

The overall results for our school were as follows:

Reading

Grade 3- 50% at Level 3, 4
Grade 6- 47% at Level 3, 4

Writing

Grade 3- 25% at Level 3, 4
Grade 6- 33% at Level 3, 4

Mathematics

Grade 3- 45% at Level 3, 4
Grade 6- 20% at Level 3, 4

We will continue to work on reducing the learning loss that occurred as a result of the pandemic. We are focusing on both literacy and numeracy as part of our school improvement plan for Aberdeen. We have noticed that high rates of absenteeism have contributed to the scores being lower at our school. Inconsistent attendance impacts learning and the retention of concepts that are taught at school. We are aiming to improve our attendance rates so that our students can experience more success with their learning. Please ensure that your child is attending school daily!

TVDSB Guidelines for Student Dress

TVDSB has launched a new dress code for students that is board-wide. The purpose of this dress code is to reduce inconsistencies from school to school and to provide students the opportunity to express themselves through their individual choices of clothing. The new dress code prioritizes safety while affirming and respecting students' identities. The guidelines reflect a human rights and equity-driven approach that ensures that dress codes are free of bias, discrimination, and the potential for the inequitable treatment of students from diverse and marginalized backgrounds. The guidelines will help to maintain school environments that are positive, anti-oppressive, and inclusive of diverse identities. Highlights of the new dress code include:

1. Footwear must be worn, with consideration for health and safety in the choice of footwear.
2. Specific courses and activities may require student dress that complies with health and safety considerations for that course or activity.
3. Student dress may not symbolize, suggest, display, promote, or incite **drug or alcohol use, criminal activity, profanity, pornography, violence**, or any form of **identity-based hatred or discrimination**. (It is important to note that clothing that has the playboy bunny image on it will no longer be allowed at school due to the historic roots of the Playboy brand. The bunny image has an association with negative female stereotypes and bias. Please refrain from wearing this logo at school).
4. Dress must include a top and a bottom layer made from an opaque material. Bottom layers will cover the groin and buttocks. Top layers will cover the nipples.
5. Undergarments worn as the only layer of clothing, and swimwear worn other than as required for an activity with the permission of the principal are not suitable for a K-12 education environment.
6. Students may wear clothing that exposes straps and waistbands of undergarments.
7. Students may wear clothing that exposes their shoulders, abdomens, cleavage, legs, thighs, and hips.
8. Headwear may be worn, except where it fully obstructs a student's face (although there are

exceptions for dress that accommodates a student under the Human Rights Code).

9. Students' dress must not appropriate a culture that is not their own.

We do appreciate your support in ensuring that these new guidelines are followed at our school. We know that the majority of our students are already in compliance with them. For more information, please see:

https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/students/resources/Documents/FINAL_single-pages-student-dress-guidelines-3.pdf

Parent Volunteers

We are continuing to recruit parent/grandparent volunteers for our school. All volunteers require a current (within the last 6 months) police check for volunteering with the vulnerable sector. Volunteers can be used to assist in classrooms, on field trips, or during special occasions. Once you have completed your police check, please contact Mrs. DeVooght to be added to our approved volunteer list. You only need to complete the police check once and then can sign a declaration each school year to keep your status active.

We are currently looking for more volunteers who might be interested in helping some of our primary students with their reading through a program called, Strong Start. Please reach out to our Learning Support Teacher, Mrs. Eaton, if you would like to be a Strong Start Volunteer. All training is provided for the program and is flexible around your personal schedule.

Before and After School Program

This year at Aberdeen we are hosting a Before and After school program through London Children's Connection for families who require child care in the mornings and/or at the end of the school day. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, please contact Leslie Burke at leslie@lcc.on.ca. There is a fee for this program, but subsidies are available for many of our families.

School Council

We will be hosting our next school council meeting this Friday, December 2 at 9:15. All parents are welcome to attend. If you are not able to attend in person and would like to join in virtually, please email Mrs. DeVooght (emma.devooght@tvdsb.ca) for a link. During this meeting, we discuss updates and concerns related to our school.

No Nuts Please!



This is just a reminder that students should not be bringing products to school that may contain nuts. We have students and staff with serious, life-threatening conditions and we cannot have these products in our building. Products that resemble nut products (e.g., wow butter) are also not allowed at the school.

Permission to Leave Property at Lunch

If students wish to leave the property for the nutrition break, then they need to have a form signed and on file at the office indicating that a parent has provided this consent. Students should leave the building at the beginning of the break and return just before the bell at the end of the break (either 11:30 or 2:10). Permission can be given for one or both break times. Students must check in at the office before leaving the building and must check in again when they return at the end of the break. This opportunity is intended for students who wish to go home for lunch. If they are going home for lunch, then students should not be on school property at all during the break time and should not be roaming around the neighbourhood unsupervised. We are receiving reports from neighbours in the community that some of our students are hanging out in the community, walking down the middle of the roads, or causing disruption in the neighbourhood. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children are properly supervised if they are leaving property over the lunch breaks.

