

# Chester Elementary School

**ADDRESS:** 115 Gowan Ave, East York, ON  
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**GRADE RANGE:** JK to 5

## *Interesting Feature*

### **Enrich Our Lives!**

At Chester we focus on enriching the curriculum with activities that bring the classroom program to life. This year, some of the activities our students will take part in are: Dance activities, snowshoeing, workshops with visiting artists and Scientists in the Schools. Chester also provides programming in Music, Library, and Health and Physical Education by specialist teachers.

The original Chester School was built in 1890 and was situated on Broadview Avenue near Pottery Road. It was called Don Mills Rd. School until 1927 when the name was changed to Chester. The present school (at least the old wing) was built in 1959. The new wing was built in 1972. Chester is a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 school located near Pape and Cosburn Avenues, not far from the bustling Danforth.

In addition to our regular Kindergarten to Grade 5 program, Chester offers a Grade 4 and 5 Gifted Education program and a Mild Intellectual Disability program.

### **Student Diversity**

Chester's students come from over 35 different countries. A very large number of our students speak a first language other than English at home. We provide a dynamic ELL (English Language Learners) program. In addition, we have a Settlement Worker in the school several days a week. As a team, we work to facilitate a smoother transition for students and their families into the school and community. The International Languages-Elementary Program is hosted at Chester. This after school program supports student learning in first languages of Albanian, Bulgarian, Greek and Serbian.





## Arts Alive

Chester staff engage students in many rich and exciting artistic activities throughout the year. In addition to integrating Drama, Dance and Visual Arts into other areas of the curriculum, Chester dedicates the month of May as 'Arts' month, culminating in our "Arts Alive" Open House. We also have a full time Music Teacher who works with every class in the school.



## Keeping Active

Chester offers a wide range of in class, co-curricular and house-league activities that engage both students and staff in healthy living. We are proud to be a Toronto School on the Move. We have full time specialist teachers teaching Health and Physical Education. Many of our teachers also participate in coaching our sports teams and intra-murals.



## Going for Gold!

Chester has earned the status of being a Gold Level Eco-School. Our Eco Team, comprised of students, staff, and parents, takes part in developing and monitoring activities such as our 'lights off' project and various recycling initiatives. Students participate in litterless lunches and the greening of our schoolyard.



## Library

Chester offers a full, vibrant library program. Students and staff have access to current, quality, high interest books and other resources. We work hard to develop the essential literacy skills of reading, writing and oral language, and promote an appreciation of good literature with the goal of creating life-long readers.



## Additional Features

- Early Reading and Tutoring Programs
- Student Leadership - 'Prefects'
- Intergenerational Program
- Student Nurses - PALS program
- Focus on Equity
- Character Education Program
- Safe and Caring School



## Student Life - Where You Belong

Chester offers numerous opportunities for our students to participate in school life outside of the classroom. Staff provide extra -curricular activities for students through a variety of sports, athletic teams, clubs, art activities, folk dancing, choir and student leadership. Classroom programs are also enhanced in a variety of ways. Some examples are: field trips, in-school performances, book bags, Borrow a Book, Scientist in the School and volunteers in the classrooms.



## What Sets Us Apart

Chester is a vibrant school where parents, staff and students work together to provide a learning environment that is safe, supportive and stimulating. Visitors to our school often comment on how welcoming the school feels. Chester staff participate in a variety of professional development opportunities that provide our students with a rigorous and relevant program.



## Parent and Community Engagement

Chester appreciates the large number of volunteers who assist children in a variety of academic & social pursuits. Our Grade 5 classes work with the Inter-Generational (ITLC) Program for Seniors. Every classroom benefits from at least one visit per year from the 'Scientists in School' program. Chester maintains ongoing collaboration with the Faculty of Educations at OISE/University of Toronto, Medaille and Canisius College. We also collaborate with Ryerson: Faculty of Nursing and ECE programs, and the University of Toronto Medical students. Chester has a very active and involved School Advisory Council. The parents and community support our school fundraising initiatives and volunteer to help in the classroom and at special events. Our parents also organize and run our monthly pizza days, the Chester Reading Challenge and movie nights.



## TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.

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