

Avondale Alternative Elementary School

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GRADE RANGE: JK to 8

Interesting Feature

2010-2011 Features

We offer an exciting range of non-semestered academic classes; we offer personal, collaborative working relationships between staff and students who are all on a first name basis; we offer multi-media courses taught by working professional artists; students can participate in Earl Haig Secondary School co-curricular theatrical performances and sports teams; we offer an extended physical education program at the Bayview YMCA (including squash, fitness training, basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer); and, we offer a strong orientation towards social justice and activism

Educare Momentum (Each Moment Oozes with Possibilities)

Welcome to **Avondale Secondary Alternative School** ! For almost 40 years *Avondale* has offered an alternative vision of secondary education in the public system to students throughout Toronto. Located in a tree-lined, established community, just a ten-minute walk from the Sheppard Subway Station and a five-minute walk from local bus routes, *Avondale* is a small, safe, family-like school with an intimate and personal feel. At *Avondale*, students learn in a small, rigorous academic setting where close working relationships with staff and students are valued and celebrated. Our vision is to create a safe and nurturing learning and teaching environment that supports optimal development and excellence across all domains.

The Ideas Exchange: Raise Your Voice Conference

The Ideas Exchange: Student Education - Student Action is a free city-wide student conference organized by Avondale's student group, *Raise Your Voice*, and hosted by the students of the school. The conference is unique in that it empowers students to educate themselves. The entire student body is involved in the project from selecting speakers, registration, hosting and ushering. The goal of the conference is for students to engage in meaningful dialogue with peers and authentic voices regarding a wide array of humanitarian and social justice issues within our communities and around the world.





Town Hall

Like Margaret Meade, we never doubt what can be accomplished by a small group of committed people. The whole school is invited to meet for an hour, weekly, to participate in democratic discussions that affect our school, our communities and our lives. Learn to practice and hone your democratic and leadership skills!



Promoting Meta-cognition & Self-reflection

We believe that reality is constructed through a dialogic, that what we say reflects our beliefs. We'll help you refine and articulate your thoughts through mind-expanding courses. You'll be encouraged to take control of your learning through independent projects and research tasks across the curriculum. We embrace the notion that we are ALL learners AND teachers.



Outstanding Arts and Phys. Ed. Programs

Our arts programs are taught by professional artists and our Physical Education classes utilize the Bayview YMCA. Take advantage of the extensive facilities offered including squash, swimming, basketball and volleyball. Reciprocal agreements with Earl Haig Secondary School allows our students to try out for Haig sports teams and theatrical productions.



Coffee Houses

If the only place you ever sing is in the shower, then this is the place for you to expand your audience!!! Students, teachers and parents are regularly invited to join us for an evening of entertainment and good company.



Additional Features

- E-courses Available
- Hot Docs Festival
- Fall Fair
- Whole School Scavenger Hunt
- Flexible Timetables
- Coffee Houses
- Mental Health Partnership with NYGH
- Lots of Excursions



Student Life - Where You Belong

Students are engaged in literacy and numeracy learning across the curricula, building concrete connections and links between subjects and areas/topics, and drawing original conclusions as they apply new understandings. Students are exposed to the Arts in an ongoing theme at Avondale: our students observe, create and animate musical productions, dances, visual and performance-arts pieces, dramatic exercises, and more! Avondale students experience the world up-close! Out-of-classroom experiences and classroom guest experts bring relevance and concreteness to the Ontario Curriculum. Student process is valued at Avondale. Students take risks, bravely experience unfamiliar territory, estimate and plan, problem-solve, and trouble-shoot, and reflect on their new understandings.

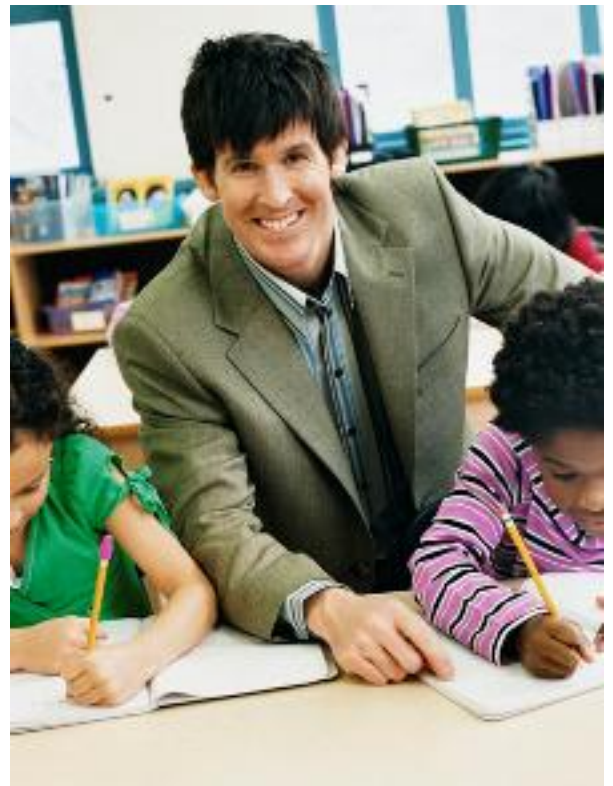
Avondale is a family: safe, supportive, there when we need each other.

Avondale is what we all though school could be.



What Sets Us Apart

Here at Avondale Alternative Elementary School, students and adults acknowledge one another by first name as partners in the learning adventure! The hallways are filled with laughter as older students read with younger "brothers and sisters", talk them through problem-solving, perhaps throw an arm around a shoulder for comfort. One teacher may be working with a small group, while another is counselling a pre-teen about life in all of its intensity. Mathematics comes to life through authentic, real-life activities and projects, as does Science and the Arts. Language fills the air at Avondale, language about polygons and thesis construction and Louis Riel and trips to Mars. Paint is accidentally spilled accompanied by more laughter. Student circles process a bad choice made in the playground, the ramifications to our school culture are played out and a range of responses are considered. Teachers plan together, share resources and experiences, support one another...grow together.





Parent and Community Engagement

Avondale Schools is proud to serve the needs of children and parents in both our local Yonge-Sheppard community (Avondale Public School), and our extended Toronto-wide community (Avondale Alternative Elementary and Secondary Schools). - Avondale Schools is home, as are all TDSB schools, to a host of international languages. We offer Korean, Farsi and Mandarin language classes to support our local community. We invite the community to teach us, to learn from us, to help support us through fundraising, and to embrace your school by visiting frequently and becoming meaningfully involved.



Avondale parents are the lifeblood of our educational venture: we encourage wide-ranging involvement of all community members. The Avondale Schools School Council has many active parent members. representing both the elementary and secondary panels.



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.



Contact Information

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