

Avondale Alternative Secondary School

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GRADE RANGE: 9 to 12

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 drips with possibility)

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



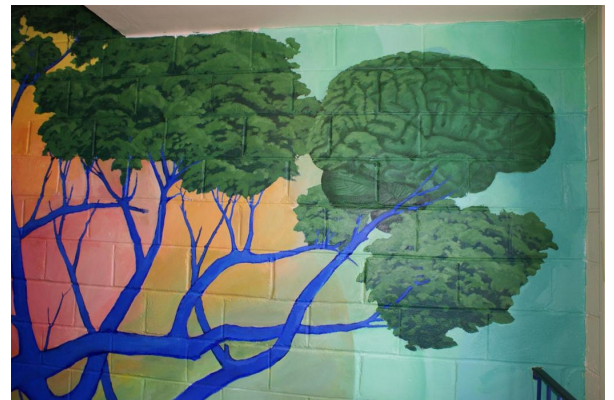
Student Life - Where You Belong

You cannot be anonymous at Avondale Secondary Alternative School. We are a safe, respectful and nurturing school: we are a family. We celebrate differences and encourage authentic dialogue. We believe that an effective school is a place where people work effectively together. In such an empowering environment, a community of learners is fostered. Students have the opportunity to share in pedagogical practices based on current educational and developmental research. Avondale's curricula and teaching methods provide both windows into others' experiences and mirrors of each student's own reality and validity. Our inclusive curriculum reflects a sense of what schooling can be: less isolating, anxiety-ridden, and dull; more welcoming, engaging and inclusive with respect for all the embodied humanity of the actual people involved. We extend our classrooms out into the world, and invite the world into our classrooms. This explicit recognition of our global community leads us to be dedicated and committed to making the world a better place. Come and join us in this endeavour.



What Sets Us Apart

Our goal is for the whole school to become a community of learners. The following constructivist strategies support this role: assimilation of new knowledge into existing cognitive structures; using students' prior knowledge and experience to guide, focus and create lessons; recognizing that all students assimilate and accommodate differently; encouraging students to elaborate on questions and answers; searching for many and various solutions to questions and problems; multiple modes of instruction, assessment and evaluation; practising self and peer evaluation; requesting reasons and evidence; employing open-ended questions; fostering an environment where answers can be challenged and expanded; fostering student initiation of ideas; promoting students as teachers as well as learners; facilitating use of all environmental factors as sources of information (not just the teacher); encouraging students to test hypotheses; providing adequate time for each student; encouraging metacognition; and, assisting students in making the connections between existing and newly acquired knowledge .





Parent and Community Engagement

Avondale traditionally works with a variety of local and city-wide community partners. We have been a thriving part of the growing Willowdale community for thirty years, and we welcome new families and businesses to the area: let's get together! Avondale's academic programs extend into the community, for e.g. full use of YMCA facilities for physical education and the use of Charles Street Video for film/video class. We have an agreement with Earl Haig Secondary School whereby our students can compete for placement on their co-curricular sports teams or in their theatrical performances. - - - - - Parents and community members are always welcome at Avondale Schools! We invite the community to share their wealth of experience and skills, both as a supplement to our programming and to help build the Avondale 'vibe'. - - - - -



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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Please visit us at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/Schools.aspx?schno=3409&schoolId=409>