

# Allenby Junior Public School

**ADDRESS:** 391 St Clements Ave, Toronto, ON  
M5N 1M2

**PHONE NUMBER:** (416) 393-9115

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [Allenby@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Allenby@tdsb.on.ca)

**WEBSITE:** <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/allenby>

**GRADE RANGE:** JK to 6

## Interesting Feature

### Facts!

The school has an annual enrolment of nearly 800 students. The vast majority come from English-speaking homes. It is a dual-track school (K - Gr.6) and was the first school in Toronto to offer a French Immersion program. There are about 130 more students in the English stream than in the French Immersion stream. Also, the school has its own pool and a childcare centre on site.

Allenby is situated in the Lawrence Park community. Its documented history dates back to the 1400's when a tribe of Huron Iroquois erected a longhouse village on the site. Modern-day development in the area led to the Toronto Board of Education deciding in 1926 to build a school. The school was named for Lord Edmund Allenby, one of Britain's foremost soldiers. Opened in 1931, Allenby was renovated and enlarged in 1972 and again in 1994. A graduation award in his honour, the Allenby Cup, is presented to two students each year who have demonstrated academic achievement, good character and leadership and active participation in school life.

### Our School

Allenby aims to create a collaborative, positive learning environment in which all members achieve their potential and take responsibility for themselves, and others in and beyond the school.

Beyond the classroom, students have varied opportunities to engage in Primary and Junior Choirs, and in sports activities, both in House League and School Teams. Older students participate in leadership opportunities in Community and Global Awareness and Outreach. We are active participants in the Free the Children Foundation. We are an Ecoschool with Gold Certification, a result of staff and student action and leadership from across the grades.





## This Year...

Allenby continues to enhance implementation of the revised Ontario Curriculum policy documents. We work in collaborative grade and division teams working on common goals and assessments, participating in regular discussions about criteria for success and strategies for giving students the feedback and support they need to meet their potential.



## Literacy

In reading and writing, we will continue to focus on developing higher order thinking skills and work with Staff Learning Teams. We continue to enhance the collections in both English and French Literacy Resource Rooms. We have extended our definition of literacy to include technology. We now have 20 interactive whiteboards in the school and 2 rolling computer carts.



## Mathematics

We have continued to work on developing problem solving skills with our students. We aim to enhance student mathematical thinking and communication skills through this increased focus on problem solving approaches to teaching the curriculum. Teacher learning teams plan together and share and strategies and resources to achieve common goals.



## Safe and Caring Schools

We continue to work with our schools' Code of Conduct in the context of a whole school plan, and making connections to the TDSB Character Education Values. We work on school wide approaches to provide common messages, routines and responses to support a safe and respectful school environment.



## Additional Features

- Early Literacy Programs (Sk - Gr 1)
- Library book talks
- Bilingual Computer Programs
- Parent Reading Program, 1-3
- Opportunities for staff development



## Student Life - Where You Belong

**Arts:** Students can sign up for music activities, including Band, Strings for Students in Grades 5 and 6 that take place during the school day, and the Primary and Junior Choirs that practice at lunch hours.

We have at least 2 performances per year, as well as other kinds of presentations. This year, performances include an antibullying presentation, a presentation by Luke Anderson, who has started the Stop Gap charity, an African drumming and dance workshop for 9 classes, a First Nations Dance troupe for the whole school and another dance performance, Ache Brasil, in the Spring for the whole school.

**Sports:** Our very active House League program is open to all students, and includes: basketball, flag football, floor hockey and soccer. In addition, we have a very successful Sports Team program, with our teams participating in tournaments beyond the school in cross country, baseball, basketball, softball, football, ice hockey, soccer, swimming, volleyball and track and field.

**Other:** We also have Eco clubs, Garden Club and Grade 6 leadership Teams (Free the Children, Eco-leaders, Peer Helpers, Morning Announcers and the School Spirit Day Leaders, among others).



## What Sets Us Apart

Allenby is a very busy and actively engaged community at all levels, students, teachers, parents and the larger community.

Visiting Artists and Scientists come to the classrooms to enhance programs and teacher capacity in these areas.

Our Grade 6 leadership program gives Grade 6 students opportunities in several areas and is an integral part of our Character Education focus in the school. Student empowerment in community awareness and outreach is supported by the Project Giveback program and by student planned fundraising activities through the Free the Children Foundation. In the past we have raised money to build schools and pay for teacher salaries, educational supplies, and alternative income programs, in Kenya, and India. This year we participated in Free the Children's Pennies for Change drive for clean water and are raising money for Health and Clean water in Sierra Leone. Local initiatives have included a food drive for the Daily Bread Food bank, a boot drive for another school community and a fundraiser for the Stop Gap program.



## Parent and Community Engagement

The Allenby parent community is active in the life of the school in a variety of ways. There is significant and organized involvement in the Allenby Parents' Association, discussing school issues in general and raising money to enrich programs at the school at community building events. Some of these are the annual **Lip Sync** for students, the **Spring Fun Fair** for families and the community and "**Big Night Out**" for parents and teachers,. In addition, parents volunteer their time reading to students, working in the library, helping with Attendance Verification and working in classrooms. Recent collaborations include the joint funding for Character education programs, Project Giveback and Roots of Empathy and the enhancement of technology in the school.



## 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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