

School Address

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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Built in 1952, Parkside Public School is located on Cedarvale Avenue. Its name comes from its location on the edge of Taylor Creek Park which gives the school a quiet park-like setting in the middle of the city.

Parkside offers classes from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 and includes a Home School Special Education program. Our population is about 166 children. A Metro Daycare is located on site offering programs to children 2 1/2 to 9 years of age.

Parkside as a school has two priorities that include improvement in literacy achievement and the encouragement of more socially responsible behaviour.

Through our involvement as an OFIP Level 1 school (Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership) we have with the assistance of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and our Family of Schools Literacy Coach implemented measures to improve literacy achievement for all our students. These measures have involved embedded intensive professional development to use well researched and evidenced based literacy teaching strategies.

Our efforts to encourage socially responsible behaviour has included the recognition and celebration of positive behaviour. We have utilized a number of approaches that include Tribes programming, opportunities for student leadership, peer mediation and the work of Ron Morrish who places an emphasis on establishing expectations and explicitly teaching corrective behaviour.

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ School-wide implementation of the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway in literacy through the Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP Level 1)
- ✦ Continuing our growth as a staff through Professional Learning Communities
- ✦ To continue to build the library collection and enhance the library partnership program
- ✦ Improving skills in literacy and numeracy through intentional and high yield teaching strategies
- ✦ Collecting Data EQAO, DRA, CASI to improve classroom instruction in Literacy & Numeracy
- ✦ Positive and preventative strategies to encourage socially responsible behaviour. Tribes, With All Due Respect - Ron Morrish, Bully Prevention Education, Peer mediation, Peace by Peace, Parkside Stars
- ✦ Implementing Character Education school-wide and infusing the traits of good character into the curriculum.
- ✦ Parkside school offers a range of co-curricular programs before school, at lunch time and after school.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	160	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	127	
Grade 4 - Grade 5	33	
✦ Gender:		
Female	69	43%
Male	91	57%
✦ Primary language other than English:	57	36%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	2	1%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	6	4%

* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- ✦ **Relevant Curriculum**
- ✦ **Equity**
- ✦ **Accountability**

Regular Instructional Programs

- ✦ Languages - English, English as a Second Language, and French
- ✦ Mathematics, Science and Technology
- ✦ Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance
- ✦ Social Studies, Health and Physical Education

Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

Co-Curricular

Arts Programs

- ✦ Dance:
Folk - folkfest, Folk Dancing
- ✦ Integrated Programs:
Learning through the Arts
- ✦ Music:
Recorder, Vocal, Choir (s), School Concerts, Vocal
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Prologue to the Performing Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Crafts

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Board Games
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Robotics

Leadership

- ✦ Student Leadership:
Student Council, Office Helpers, Parkside Stars

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ School Based:
Kindergarten Nutrition Program, Peer Mentoring

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ School Based:
Homework Clubs, Tutors in the Classroom (Elementary)

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Fundraisers:
Book Fair, Campbell Soup Labels, Dance-A-Thon, Jump Rope for Heart, M.S. Read-a-thon, Pizza Days, Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Apple program, Milk Program, Nutrition Program, Pizza Lunches
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
Buddy System, Let's Stop the Bullying: Bully Prevention Program, Peace Circles, Peace by Peace
- ✦ Social Skills:
Character Development Program, Tribes

Equity

- ✦ Assemblies

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ✦ OFIP

Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

Parkside School will continue to implement improvement strategies to foster critical thinking skills. We will support critical thinking skills by emphasizing the importance of the Literacy, Numeracy, the Arts and Physical Education to develop well-rounded, healthy students. We will implement a wide variety of teaching strategies and programs to support our students academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Our school plans programs are based on the needs and assessment results of our students at the school, system and provincial levels. We will continue to refine our development of a school-based site plan that reflects input from the staff, parents and the community.

STAFF

Our major focus for this year will be:

- ♦ to enhance our Literacy Instruction
- ♦ to identify and acquire further resources to assist in the provision of a balanced literacy program
- ♦ to develop a professional learning community with the focus on improving classroom instruction through conversation, dialogue and professional development that will ensure consistency in planning, programming, assessing and evaluating data literacy - using data and evidence based approaches to instruction and assessment
- ♦ to implement positive, and proactive approaches to support socially responsible behaviour

Literacy

- ♦ to implement well-researched and up-to-date classroom instruction that improves reading comprehension (Reading with Meaning - Debbie Miller)
- ♦ Reading Buddies across the grades
- ♦ to organize and consolidate resources in our Literacy Resource Room.
- ♦ to purchase Early Literacy and Later Literacy resources to support our programs
- ♦ to encourage staff to attend mathematics and language arts courses, workshops, conferences

- ♦ Provide parents with strategies to support literacy learning in the home

Mathematics and Technology

- ♦ communicate grade expectations to parents and continue to encourage home support involvement through curriculum nights
- ♦ to review, update and acquire resources for our shared Math and Science Room
- ♦ to communicate to our parents the importance of literacy and numeracy for overall student achievement
- ♦ Scheduled use of Computer Lab and Library Resource Room

Social and Personal Responsibility

In addition to the strong emphasis placed on the basic skills, the staff supports programs that emphasize building a strong self-concept and self-esteem, conflict resolution strategies, and a peaceful, healthy and safe school environment. Since these areas directly relate to improved academic performance, we have added, improved or continued with the following programs:

- ♦ Peace by Peace program and Student Council
- ♦ CORE Programs (Partnership with Community Police)
- ♦ Student co-op partnerships
- ♦ Regular physical education classes to encourage a healthy body/healthy mind
- ♦ Fundraising campaigns to support the arts, field trips and guest artists
- ♦ Development of a Safe Schools Plan with input from staff, parents, students and the community
- ♦ Establishing and communicating consistent norms and expectations for socially responsible behaviour for all members of our Parkside E. S. Community (Code of Behaviour)
- ♦ Parkside Stars - Student assemblies to celebrate and acknowledge positive behaviour
- ♦ Linking Character Education traits to Parkside Stars Assembly.

Our School Plan



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

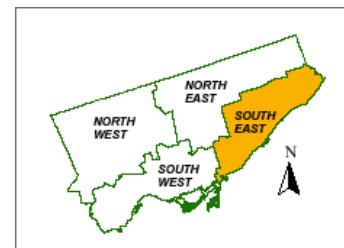
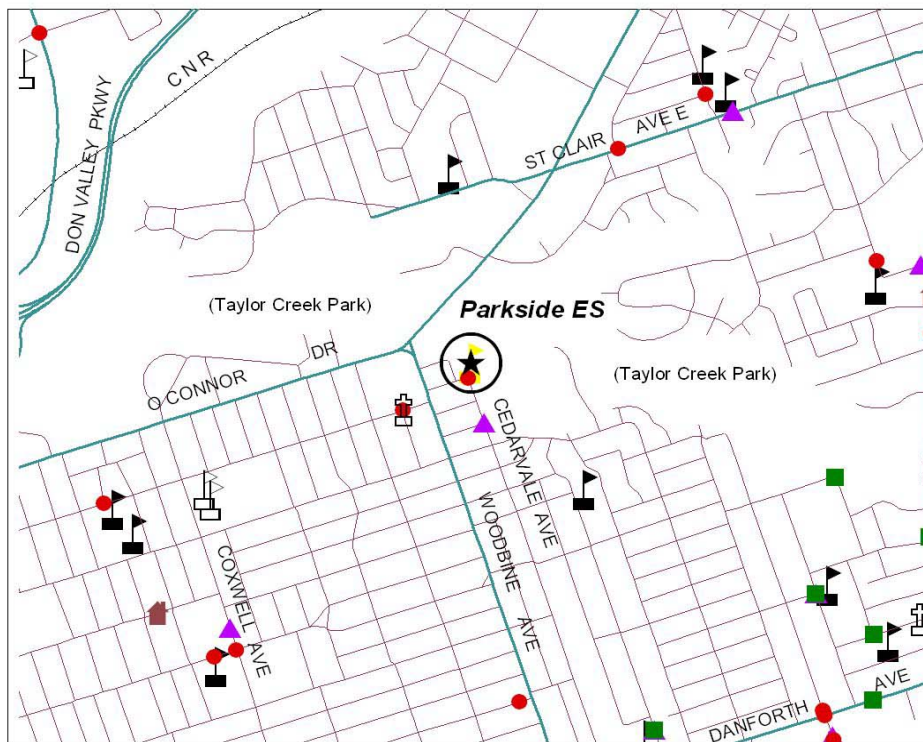
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council with parent, teaching staff, support staff, Community Involvement
- ✦ Volunteer program with involvement from a wide variety of sources
- ✦ Parent and school organized pizza lunches and communications
- ✦ Participation in curriculum activities that include Curriculum Night, Literacy Family night, "Walk to School Day"
- ✦ Participation in our school-wide Skating program and Kindergarten Nutrition Program
- ✦ Participation in fundraising for our "Parkside Shuffle" to provide resources for excursions and in-school presentations.
- ✦ Fundraising to support our Grade 5 graduation activities

Community Links:

- ✦ Intergenerational Program involving seniors working with Grades 4 and 5 students
- ✦ School support of the Food Bank at Woodbine Height's Baptist Church
- ✦ Partnerships with the Metro Police in our Values, Influences, Peers (V.I.P.) Program and anti-bullying programs as well as emphasizing safety in the primary grades
- ✦ Communication with Social service organizations that serve our students and families
- ✦ Public Health Nurse as a Resource to staff and parents and Community based childcare program
- ✦ Terry Fox Run, UNICEF Halloween Fund Raising, MS Readathon, Jump Rope for Heart
- ✦ Use of Community Resources: East York Memorial Arena People from Community as guest speakers for special events and School Council

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▣ TDSB Elementary School
- ▣ TDSB Secondary School
- ⊕ Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/ Parenting Centre
- ▲ Community/ Recreation Centre
- 🏠 Public Library

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.