

School Address

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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Presteign Heights Public School is located on St. Clair Avenue East in the Parkview Hills community. The school first opened in 1951. With its new large playground and well-groomed soccer fields the school has become an important meeting place for our community, friends and neighbours. In all seasons of the year the community enjoys the vast area for recreational activities such as soccer, baseball and community barbecues. There is a very strong focus on parent and community involvement within the school through fundraising and program enhancement.

- ✦ Presteign Heights offers programs from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 that serves the local community. The school has a present population of approximately 200 students.
- ✦ Working in collaboration with our community, parents and educational partners, the staff of Presteign Heights supports and motivates students as they strive to achieve their intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and moral potential.
- ✦ We deliver excellent educational programmes characterized by relevancy and accountability in a safe, peaceful and nurturing environment where individuals are respected, valued and expected to make a contribution.
- ✦ Presteign Heights is a peanut/nut safe school.

School Focus For This School Year

Our identified initiatives this year are a focus in the areas of literacy (balanced literacy emphasis), Numeracy, social skills development, parent volunteers, increased collaboration with fellow staff and continued strengthening of the parent-teacher partnership. All classes will focus on the components of balanced literacy programming and timetabling. Staff development and program implementation will continue with this initiative in all classrooms through an emphasis on appropriate resource materials.

There will also be a focus on promoting healthy relationships through a school-wide initiative of social skills development, conflict resolution programming and a peaceful playground. The school has established a positive culture for learning and human development throughout our school community. We wish to continue to promote a caring environment and provide structure for positive interactions and character development.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	206	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	154	
Grade 4 - Grade 5	52	
✦ Gender:		
Female	109	53%
Male	97	47%
✦ Primary language other than English:	17	8%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	2	1%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	3	1%

* 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

- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People
- ✦ Music:
Choir, Music Concerts / Performances, Recorder
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
In-School Performances By Professional Artists,
Prologue to the Performing Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Art Appreciation, Excursions

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Softball

Clubs

- ✦ Book Club
- ✦ Silver Birch Book Club

Leadership

- ✦ Office Helpers

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Developmental Reading Assessment
- ✦ JUMP Math Program
- ✦ Junior Achievement
- ✦ Science Kits
- ✦ Scientists in the School

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:
Toronto Police Services - School Liaison Officer

Community - Tutoring

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

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Caring:
Earth Day Activities
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Book Fair, Dance-A-Thon, Pizza Days, Terry Fox Run, Toy Drives, Unicef
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Pizza Lunches
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
Safe Arrival Program

Equity

- ✦ Assemblies

Student Success

Transitions

- ✦ Welcome to Kindergarten

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

Presteyn Heights' site-based plan focuses on the areas of literacy (balanced literacy emphasis), Numeracy, social skills development, effective utilization of parent volunteers, increasing collaboration with fellow staff members and strengthening the parent-teacher partnership. Student achievement continues to be a priority with a clear understanding of learning expectations and program development through the Ministry of Education and Training and the Toronto District School Board. All teachers are involved in regular, ongoing professional development to improve their skills and to develop the most effective classroom strategies. Staff members encourage learning and sharing together through a staff mentorship program and teaching partnerships and are becoming more knowledgeable about the implementation of accommodations and modifications.

Staff continue to develop programs which address the grade level expectations of the Language and Mathematics curricula. They actively use division meetings to discuss/share best practices and common concerns to optimizing student learning. To support the implementation process the following strategies will be used throughout the school year:

Reading

- ♦ develop balanced literacy programs in primary grades
- ♦ provide resources and planning materials for balanced literacy programs in grades 4 and 5
- ♦ implement the Developmental Reading Assessment and Observation Survey, Kindergarten to grade 3, DIBELS and CASI
- ♦ match books to reading levels for accurate assessment and evaluation purposes, Kindergarten to grade 5
- ♦ continue Reading Buddies and Book Bag programs which encourage parents to read with their children at home
- ♦ increase all types of software

Writing

- ♦ ensure that writing is an integral part of the balanced literacy program in all grades
- ♦ continue to focus on the writing process as a means to develop published works
- ♦ connect writing to reading and oral language activities
- ♦ encourage the use of student writing portfolios which show students' writing growth over time

Mathematics

- ♦ focus on the language of mathematics to allow students to better understand and explain concepts using the Nelson Math series
- ♦ make problem-solving an integral part of the learning in all strands of the curriculum
- ♦ encourage the application of mathematical concepts in everyday opportunities
- ♦ continue to update our mathematics resources by purchasing more manipulative materials

Social Skills

Social Skills Development will become a stronger focus at Presteyn Heights School. The entire staff has become trained in Tribes as a process or a way to establish a positive culture for learning and human development throughout our school community. Students, staff and parents will become familiar with common problem solving strategies to ensure a safe and co-operative environment in which everyone is able to work, learn and play.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

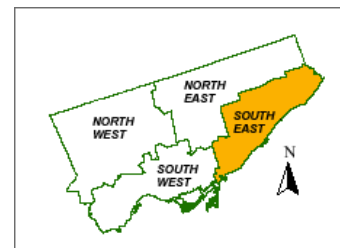
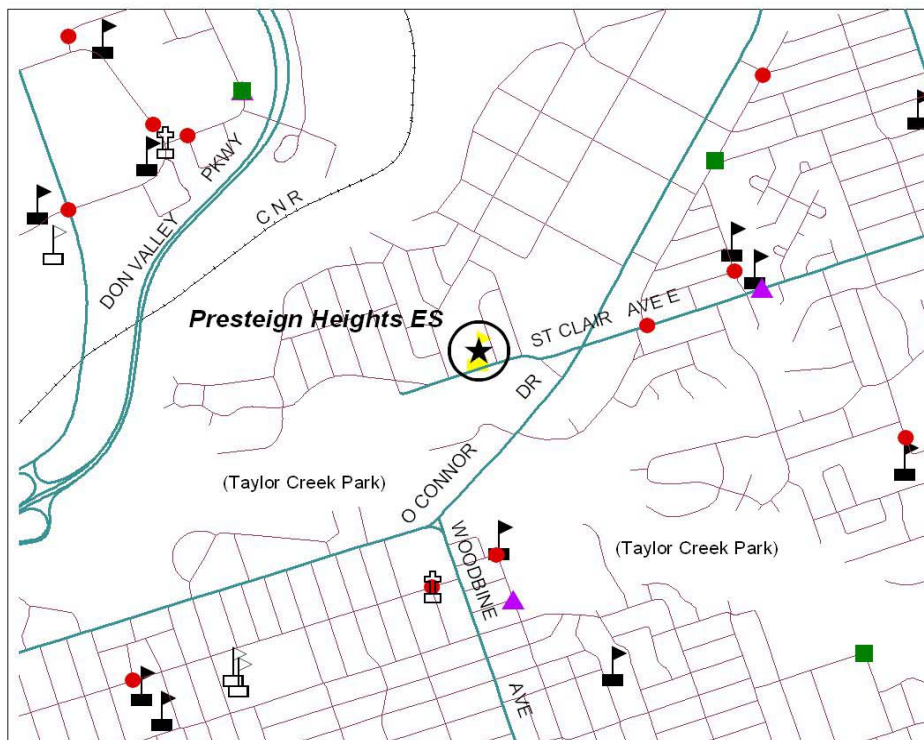
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ The Presteign Heights Home and School/SAC Association continues as a merged group. The Curriculum SAC subcommittee continues to work collaboratively with the Principal in an advisory capacity providing input on the Staffing Model, the Budget, the School Improvement Plan or any ad hoc issues that may arise. With our many active parent members together they plan, organize and fundraise for our students so that the students can participate in activities that
- ✦ include the Arts such as going to the McMichael Gallery or attending the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Field Trips, Scientists in the School, Famous People Players. They have supported the students with extras like the Art Exhibition, the Writing Contest, Earth Day and materials for the classroom.
- ✦ Regular parent volunteers assist in the classrooms, the library and in the office with Safe Arrival. They are also there for monthly Pizza Lunches, Welcome Back BBQ, Turkey Lunch, Danceathon, Kindergarten Orientation and the Year End BBQ.
- ✦ Together the then School Advisory Council and the Home and School held its Official Playground Opening on October 22, 2003 after much fundraising and community involvement.

Community Links:

- ✦ ITLC - Intergenerational Program - crafts with seniors
- ✦ Junior Achievement - business skills for our Grade 5 students
- ✦ Terry Fox Run, UNICEF - Halloween Drive, Toy and Food Drive, Out of the Cold, etc.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



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

0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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.