

**School Address**

271 Gledhill Avenue  
East York, M4C4L2  
Tel: (416) 396-2400  
Fax: (416) 396-2405

**Principal**

Pat Foreman

**Vice Principal(s)**

Marianne Scott

**Administrative Office Staff**

Catherine Chamberlian  
Brendon Campbell  
Dawn Russell

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**School Council Chair(s)**

Lorie Fairburn

\*

**Ward 16 Trustee**

Sheila Cary-Meagher  
(416) 395-8413

**Superintendent**

Kathleen Cowan  
(416) 396-9196

**Director of Education**

Chris Spence

**OUR SCHOOL**

D.A. Morrison combines fifty years as a traditional neighbourhood school with a strong commitment to change, new technologies and a sound education for all learners. This means that all students enjoy a solid education in the basics with a wide variety of options and opportunities for personal and academic growth.

Our facilities include a full-size pool, excellent gym facilities, an up to date library and computer labs, making the school a centre for community activities as well as a place of educational excellence.

Enriched by diversity and committed to equity, we offer programs to meet the needs, goals, and interests of our students. In addition to strong academics, D.A.Morrison offers outstanding programs in Music, Visual Art, and Dance.

Our commitment to athletics underscores our belief in a well-rounded set of experiences and a healthy lifestyle for students. Extra-curricular clubs and service opportunities add a great deal to the tone and life of the school.

Our staff combine subject expertise with a unique understanding of the needs of the young adolescent learner. Our small size ensures that all students are valued; our strong focus ensures a smooth transition between the middle and secondary years.

High expectations and a strong commitment to individual success in a safe and welcoming atmosphere make D.A.Morrison a proud community learning environment. We welcome all parents, caregivers and young learners to our school.

**School Focus For This School Year**

1. Effectively implement the Revised Ontario Curriculum with particular emphasis on higher order and critical thinking skills.
2. Improve student achievement in literacy by expanding our range of instructional strategies; critically evaluate sources of data to guide professional development (EQAO results, CASI & DRA Assessments, Report Card Information).
3. Promote a caring and safe school environment by integrating programs such as "SMILE", "Empowered Student Partnerships", "Me To We", "Peer Assisted Learning", and Student Prefects.
4. Involve parents in the education of their children by expanding the School Council membership, hosting parent evenings and providing opportunities for parents to participate in school based activities .

**OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
✦ Total number of students:	<b>560</b>	
✦ Gender:		
Female	261	47%
Male	299	53%
✦ Primary language other than English:	360	65%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	46	8%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	78	14%

\* 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

### 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:  
Film Club
- ✦ Music:  
Band, Choir, Music Concerts / Performances,  
Music Festivals
- ✦ Visual Arts:  
Ceramics, Crafts, Photography, Stage design

#### Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cricket
- ✦ Flag Football
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Swimming
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball
- ✦ Water Polo

#### Clubs

- ✦ Art
- ✦ Board Games
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ French Club
- ✦ Jewellery Club
- ✦ Knitting Club
- ✦ Lego Robotics

- ✦ Library
- ✦ Red Maple Reading Club
- ✦ Yearbook

#### Leadership

- ✦ Prefects:  
D.A. Prefects
- ✦ Student Activity Council:  
Student Government
- ✦ Student Leadership:  
Smile, Empowered Student Partnerships, Peer Assisted Learning

#### Competitions

- ✦ First Lego League
- ✦ Gauss Contest

#### Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ JUMP Math Program
- ✦ MI Lead
- ✦ Metropolitan Toronto Police

#### Community, Culture and Caring

##### Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:  
Go Girls!
- ✦ School Based:  
Peer Mentoring

##### Community - Tutoring

- ✦ Community Based:  
Licensed to Learn (L2L) - Hit a Higher Mark!
- ✦ School Based:  
Homework Clubs, Literacy & Numeracy Tutoring (Cont. Ed)

#### Culture/Caring

## THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:



- ♦ Camps:  
Outdoor Education, SMILE
- ♦ Caring:  
Food Drives, Free The Children, Settlement Education Partnership Toronto (SEPT)
- ♦ Fundraisers:  
Adopt a Village, Terry Fox Run, Toronto Foundation For Student Success
- ♦ Nutrition Programs:  
Lunch Program
- ♦ Safe & Caring Schools:  
BRASS Program, ESP: Empowered Student Partnerships, Me to We, P.E.A.C.E. Program, Respect In Schools Everywhere (RISE), Safe Arrival Program
- ♦ Social Skills:  
Character Development Program

### **Specializations and Other Programs**

#### **Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)**

- ♦ ESL
- ♦ OFIP

#### **Special Education Programs**

- ♦ Behaviour
- ♦ DD - Developmental Disability
- ♦ HSP
- ♦ LD - Learning Disability
- ♦ MID - Mild Intellectual Disability

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

Our objectives for this year follow the TDSB's commitments to excellence, diversity, equity and opportunity for all learners.

For several years, we have been committed to improving our academic standards at every level, and preparing our students to meet the challenges of a demanding curriculum. We have introduced summative tests for all students in Grade 6, 7 and 8. This year again, one of our main objectives will continue to be Literacy Across the Curriculum, especially in the area of reading comprehension for every grade. We are extremely proud of our students' abilities and achievements in all areas, especially in light of the many students here who are new to Canada and/or new to the language. However, we believe we can and must continue our strategies for improving reading and writing. Thus, we offer a wide variety of learning opportunities for all our students. In partnership with our feeder schools, we offer students who need focussed reading skills a guided program that will allow them to improve their skills significantly. Reading, vocabulary and correct usage is stressed in every subject and grade. Across the school, a number of activities support and encourage reading, and provide more opportunities for students to improve and solidify their skills.

Our second objective this year will be the Numeracy Initiative. The Numeracy Initiative includes the standardization of three math-rich activities per term for each Grade level. In addition, every student at D. A. Morrison is exposed to the use and application of graphing calculators.

D. A. Morrison students are active in the annual Gauss Waterloo Math Contest as well as the Canadian Mathematics League Contests. There are math clubs for enrichment as well as remediation for all grade levels.

In addition to curriculum, the school supports the Teacher Advisor Program, ensuring that all students are connected to a caring teacher who will guide them through Annual Education Plans, problem-solving and planning for the future.

Assessment skills for staff will be a major focus, as staff share best practices for the many types of evaluation and assessment. Our goal remains to ensure success for each student in a clear, achievable and understandable way.

Our third focus for this year will be School Tone. An exciting new Leadership Training initiative is underway this year involving our

class representatives, student council and prefects. In cooperation with our local police division, we will expand our program on anti-bullying and anti-violence. We will continue our commitment to ensuring the right of each student to learn and play in our school in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respectful.

Our proud history of success in Music and the Arts continues. D. A. Morrison music students have achieved the highest success at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival, winning the Colonel George W. Peacock Memorial Trophy four years in a row. Our proud history of musical performance will continue with the intermediate band competing in the 2009 Kiwanis Festival!

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Parent And Community Involvement

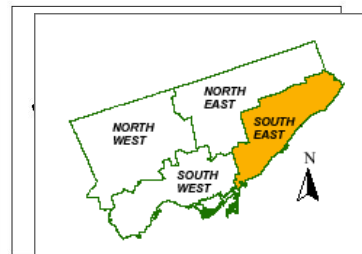
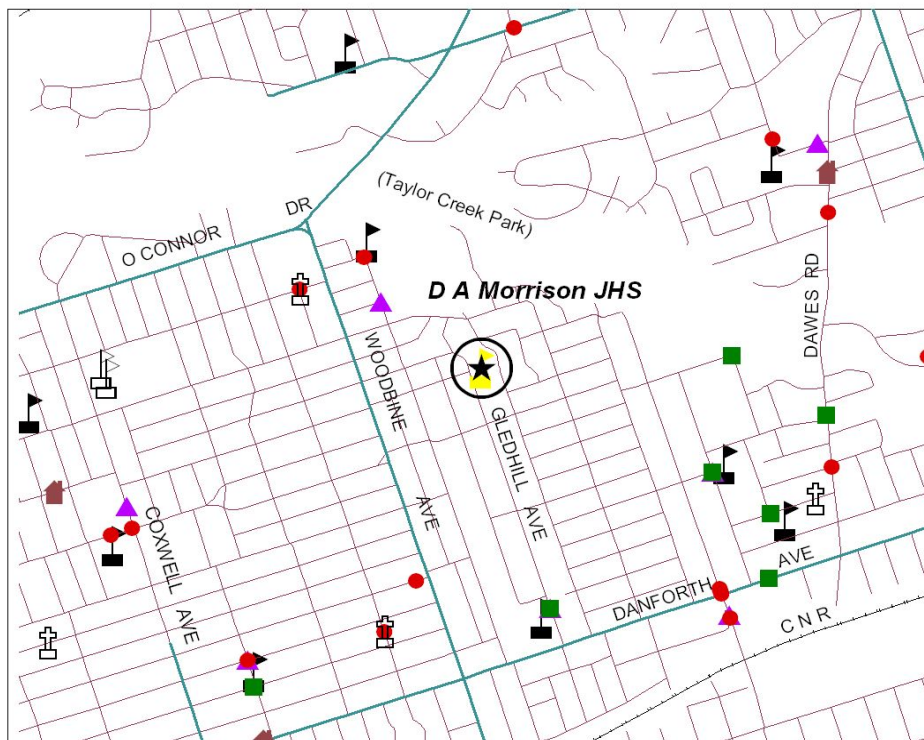
#### Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School used as a community centre for swimming and other recreational activities and clubs.
- ✦ Strong links to local feeder schools.
- ✦ Our School Council plays an active role in the life of the school.

#### Community Links:

- ✦ 54 Division Police Department offers an Afterschool Sports and Leadership Program
- ✦ Kids Up Front
- ✦ Neighbourhood Link
- ✦ Toronto Public Health
- ✦ Access Alliance

### 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.



The mission of the Toronto District School Board is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.