

School Address

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Bill Litner

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*

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Dimpy Kaur
Sanjeev Manocha

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Ward 1 Trustee

John Hastings
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Superintendent

Annie Appleby
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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Highfield Junior School is located in the North Albion community in west Toronto. At the top of the school crest burns the lamp of learning that has lit the way for young children for over 160 years. The three bells on the crest represent the three locations for the school since 1845 when the first log schoolhouse was erected in the village of Highfield. The black iron school bell from the brick 1874 schoolhouse hangs at the end of the new student forum, part of the extensive addition completed in 1997. In September 2006 Highfield earned the National Quality Institute's Blue Leaf Award for excellence in education.

Highfield is a large, single storey, wheelchair accessible facility for students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5.

The school has 32 regular classrooms, 7 kindergarten rooms, Home School programs, and 12 portable classrooms as well as a Media Resource Centre, 3 general purpose rooms, a computer lab, 4 kitchens and a community room that provides space for school and community activities.

Highfield has 57 teachers, including Reading Recovery, English as a second language, French and a teacher librarian.

School Policies:

The school motto on the crest urges all to "Excel".
Highfield has five expectations for student behaviour:

- Be Safe.
- Show respect.
- Be responsible.
- Solve conflicts peacefully.
- Keep your hands to yourself and your feet on the ground.

School Focus For This School Year

Our mission at Highfield Junior School, home of the Better Beginnings, Better Futures project, is to enable all our learners to become literate, creative and responsible participants in our diverse society, by ensuring a stimulating, supportive and stabilizing environment which integrates the efforts of school, family and community.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
♦ Total number of students:	968	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	708	
Grade 4 - Grade 5	260	
♦ Gender:		
Female	444	46%
Male	524	54%
♦ Primary language other than English:	814	84%*
♦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	122	13%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	234	24%

* 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

- ✦ Music:
Itinerant Music Teachers, Orff Program
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
In-School Performances By Professional Artists,
Prologue to the Performing Arts

Intramurals

- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cooperative Games
- ✦ Dodgeball
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ House League
- ✦ Soccer

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Art
- ✦ Blue Spruce Reading Club
- ✦ Breakfast Club
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Library
- ✦ Library Helpers
- ✦ Scrapbook Club

Leadership

- ✦ Athletic Council
- ✦ Door Monitors
- ✦ Lunch Monitors

Competitions

- ✦ First Lego League

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Healthy Learning Communities (Ryerson)

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

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

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ School Based:
Homework Clubs

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Caring:
Better Beginnings Better Futures Program,
Settlement Education Partnership Toronto (SEPT)
- ✦ Fundraisers:
CN Tower Climb, Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Breakfast Program, Lunch Program, Nutrition Program
- ✦ Social Skills:
Future Aces

Equity

- ✦ International Heritage/Languages Program

Student Success

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

Transitions

- ✦ Welcome to Kindergarten

Remedial Activities

- ✦ Early Reading Intervention
- ✦ Kindergarten Early Language Intervention (KELI) Program
- ✦ Reading Recovery
- ✦ Remedial Literacy Program
- ✦ Remedial Numeracy Programs

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ✦ ESL
- ✦ Early Reading Intervention Program
- ✦ LEAP
- ✦ 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

Highfield has developed the following plans for this year based on the feedback received from several recent student assessments, as well as feedback from staff, parents, Better Beginnings, and our local community.

We believe that all children can learn to read and write effectively.

The steady improvement in student reading and writing is directly related to the implementation of several of our strategic goals:

Our learners will become more effective communicators

We will continue to develop meaningful, relevant and innovative literacy approaches

We will:

- utilize CLIPs--Critical Learning Instruction Pathways
- extend 3-3 program in all Grade 1 classes
- provide Reading Recovery TM as the primary intervention strategy with the lowest and hardest to serve six year olds
- provide balanced classroom literacy programs
- use levelled texts for guided reading groups and independent reading
- provide a two-hour literacy block in all grades
- implement First Steps Writing strategies
- provide opportunities for students to engage in authentic writing by integrating expectations throughout the content areas
- engage in ongoing professional development
- train volunteers in sound literacy support strategies
- develop a precise understanding of the levels of reading and writing performance in the Ontario curriculum
- provide workshops to help parents to support their child's literacy learning at home
- provide resources for the STAR (Sit Together and Read) home reading program in primary

utilize the Early Development Instrument from the Readiness to Learn Project

We will assess each grade student twice a year with the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) in primary and CASI in junior grades. Senior kindergarten students will be assessed using the Observation Survey and DRA at the end of the year. With regular running records, we will measure the growth for each learner to ensure consistently appropriate levels of instruction.

Highfield students will develop competence in mathematical reasoning.

We will:

- coach students to express their mathematical understanding in words, pictures, charts and numbers
- develop higher level critical-thinking skills
- introduce math journal writing in all grades
- acquire high quality, shared, concrete teaching/learning materials
- develop curriculum leadership through the math team

As an ethnoculturally diverse community, we

- ensure that each child sees her/himself reflected in the curriculum and in learning materials
- provide a variety of exciting learning materials which reflect our diverse community

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

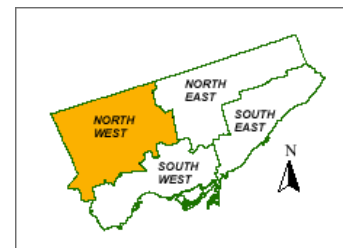
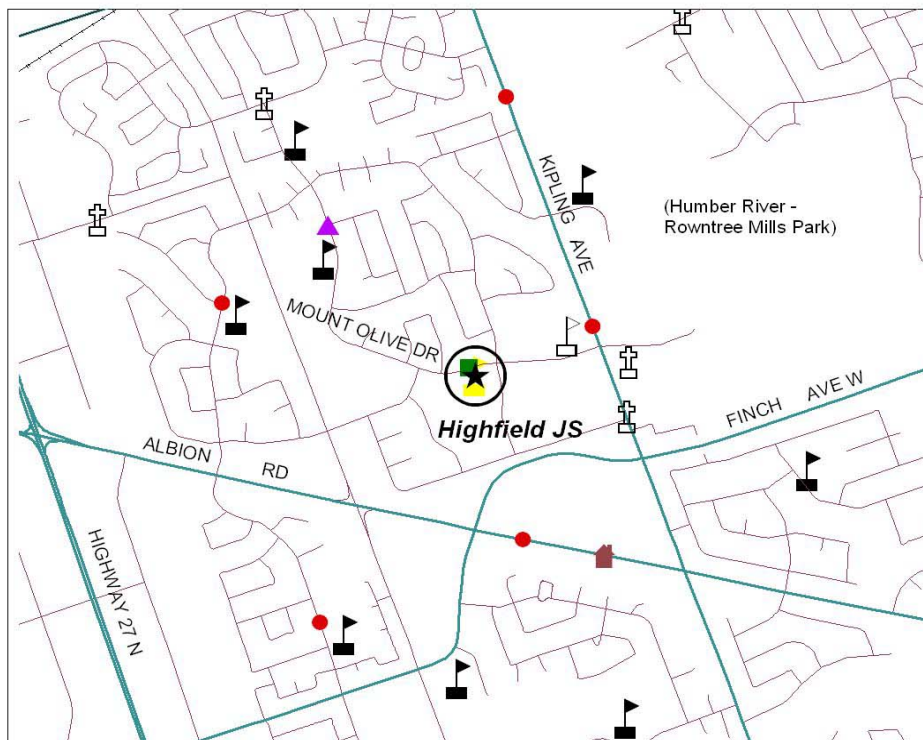
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ Over 100 volunteers who assist in classroom and project programs and excursions
- ✦ Active School Council
- ✦ Active participant in the Parent Leadership Training Program
- ✦ Parent involvement at Literacy Nights, EQAO information evening, Math Nights
- ✦ Celebrate our community with the Highfield Community Breakfasts
- ✦ Monthly parent workshops by the Settlement Worker
- ✦ Kindergarten Orientation for parents new to Kindergarten

Community Links:

- ✦ Partner with Better Beginnings, Better Futures, a primary prevention, early intervention initiative
- ✦ Participant in ongoing research and data collection with Queen's University
- ✦ Participant in twenty-five year longitudinal study for Better Beginnings, Better Futures initiative
- ✦ Host for Albion Boys' and Girls' Club programs for 6 to 10 year olds
- ✦ Partner with West Humber Collegiate and Martingrove Collegiate in the Exploring Childhood co-op program
- ✦ Pilot site for SEPT project to provide settlement services at the school to newcomer families
- ✦ Host for Humber College nursing students, Early Childhood Education students and Child and Youth workers
- ✦ Host for York University student teachers Host for University of Toronto's 3 to 3 program
- ✦ Host for George Brown CYW--Child Youth Worker students

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



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.