

School Address

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Principal

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Administrative Office Staff

Elizabeth Wrigley

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School Council Chair(s)

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Deanna Sairoglou
Anne Wildfong

*

Ward 13 Trustee

Gerri Gershon
(416) 397-2428

Superintendent

Johanne Messner
(416) 396-9182

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Harrison Public School is located in the Bayview/York Mills community. The school is a gracious building situated on the north side of the street and surrounded by tall trees.

- ✦ The school is so well established that there are children of past Harrison graduates currently attending Harrison.
- ✦ The school serves over 230 children representing 15 language groups. Eighty-three percent of the students were born in Canada.
- ✦ Harrison is a community and neighbourhood school and is proudly and accurately known as the "small school with the big heart".
- ✦ Harrison is a Specialized School within the Toronto District School Board. We are an authorized International Baccalaureate World School. Harrison delivers the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) to all our students from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 6. We are the first public elementary school in Toronto authorized to offer the I.B. Programme to primary and junior division students.

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ Continue the successful implementation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme
- ✦ Design and deliver curricular units for exploration and study based on a framework of 6 organizing themes: *Who are we? Where are we in place and time? How do we express ourselves? How does the world work? How do we organize ourselves? How should we share our planet?*
- ✦ Enhance existing Character Education and Bully Prevention initiatives through staff development, parental engagement, and school wide opportunities
- ✦ Continue to develop and enhance Balanced Literacy programs in both the primary and junior divisions
- ✦ Participate in Professional Learning Communities at the school and FOS levels to engage in the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway process
- ✦ Develop and implement Borrow-a-Book programs at the primary level to support early literacy skills
- ✦ Enhance assessment and devaluation practices through teacher moderated marking, administering and analyzing data from the DRA and CASI assessments, student portfolios, and student-led conferencing
- ✦ Focus on Problem Solving in Mathematics as well as Applied Mathematics teaching with more "hands on" learning

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	233	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	149	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	84	
✦ Gender:		
Female	107	46%
Male	126	54%
✦ Primary language other than English:	101	46%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	12	6%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	7	3%

* 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:
Dance Workshops
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Drama Workshops, Live Production/Play
- ✦ Integrated Programs:
Talent Show
- ✦ Music:
Choral Project, Music Workshops, Orff Program, Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
In-School Performances By Professional Artists
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Artists in the School, Computer/Graphic Arts, Visual Arts Workshops

Intramurals

- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Slo-Pitch

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Softball
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Arts and Crafts

- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Science

Leadership

- ✦ Kindergarten Assistants
- ✦ Lunch Monitors
- ✦ Prefects:
Peace Builders
- ✦ Student Announcers

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Balanced Literacy Program:
Lucy Caulkins
- ✦ Borrow a Book Program
- ✦ Developmental Reading Assessment
- ✦ Metropolitan Toronto Police
- ✦ Scientists in the School

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

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

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Caring:
Early Intervention Services, Earth Day Activities, Food Drives
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Book Fair, Jump Rope for Heart, M.S. Read-a-thon, Terry Fox Run

Programs and Services

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

- † Safe & Caring Schools:
Bully Prevention Program, ECO Schools, Safe Arrival Program
- † Social Skills:
Character Development Program, Peer Mediation/Helpers, Who is NOBODY? Program

Equity

- † Diversity Celebrations
- † Inclusive Curriculum and Resources
- † International Heritage/Languages Program

Specializations and Other Programs

Specialized Programs - Board Sanctioned

- † Specialized Program:
International Baccalaureate



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

Harrison is a dynamic school that is recognized and admired across the city. It is a place where staff, parents and students are bonded together by a strongly shared set of beliefs and values. Beyond high academic standards, strong emphasis is placed on the ideals of responsible citizenship, to the end that students may become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs.

All our staff has participated in formal training and teach an inquiry-based curriculum based on:

The Primary Years Programme (International Baccalaureate Organization)

- ✦ We are the first public elementary school in Toronto to offer the I.B. Programme to children in the Primary and Junior Divisions. The IBPYP offers an inquiry-based programme that promotes active, hands-on learning. It develops flexible and adaptive thinkers and helps students "learn how to learn". We cover all the elements of the Ontario curriculum but with an international focus.
- ✦ Our staff receives ongoing professional development through school-based collaborative planning, networking with other I.B. PYP schools in the province and participating in national I.B. training.

Harrison Public School is proud of our students' assessment results from the Canadian Achievement Tests, Math Benchmarks, writing evaluations and the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

In addition to the successful implementation of the International Baccalaureate Programme, this year we will:

- ✦ provide a caring educational environment where teachers and students are committed to the development of self-esteem and a sense of personal responsibility
- ✦ provide opportunities for all students to develop

knowledge and skills in the areas outlined in the Ontario curriculum

- ✦ continue to use a variety of assessment strategies such as observations, performance assessments, process-focused assessments, selected responses, open-ended tasks and portfolios to provide a balanced view of the child
- ✦ introduce information technology in Junior Kindergarten with the goal to have students immersed in this technology by the end of Grade 6 and incorporate technology throughout all curriculum areas
- ✦ introduce French at the Kindergarten level and provide opportunities for oral French in the primary grades
- ✦ continue with school-wide literacy and numeracy initiatives such as Learning Buddies, M.S. Read-a-Thon and D.E.A.R.
- ✦ provide enrichment activities in the classroom and on a school-wide basis, ie. Prime Mentors
- ✦ offer a school-wide music program which encourages participation from all grades in the Primary and Junior Divisions

Our community has demonstrated a very strong interest and commitment to Harrison. We would like to build and expand on this strength in the following ways:

- ✦ sustain parent support and understanding of the PYP through our School Council meetings
- ✦ continue to establish close links with the community in order to foster consistency of expectations and a better understanding of each child's learning environment
- ✦ provide interactive family nights to explore the I.B. Programme and issues of interest
- ✦ continue to communicate on a regular basis with the community through electronic newsletters, The Harrison Heartbeat, Information and Curriculum Nights
- ✦ continue to provide an effective homework policy in partnership with our parents, staff and students

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

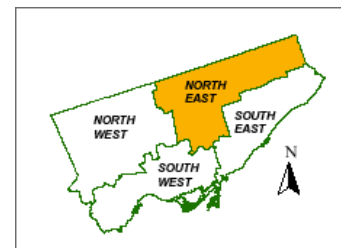
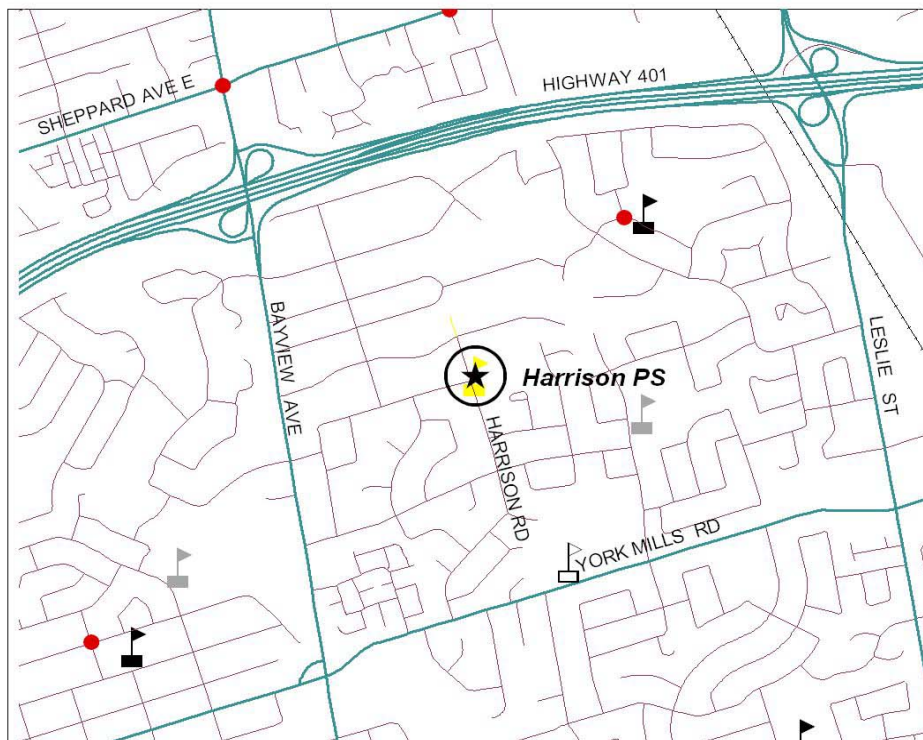
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ Harrison is fortunate to have a knowledgeable and supportive School Council. All parents are welcome to take part in our meetings which are held regularly. We discuss information about curriculum, school safety and special events at our school.
- ✦ Parent volunteers assist with school programs offering enrichment and cultural activities.
- ✦ Co-operative parent/teacher evenings offer opportunities to explore the new curriculum incentives and Ministry mandates.
- ✦ Parent organization and involvement in safe arrival program helps us ensure children arrive at school safely.
- ✦ Parent involvement is extensive and diverse in accordance with our community.

Community Links:

- ✦ International/Heritage Language Programs offered by the TDSB include Mandarin and Spanish
- ✦ Link between Windfields Junior High School and York Mills Collegiate providing co-op students and after-school supervisors
- ✦ We provide placements and professional training for students at Faculties of Education in Ontario, the United States, and internationally
- ✦ Link with 33 Division of Toronto Police Service - Community Liaison Officer

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▣ TDSB Elementary School
- ▣ TDSB Junior High 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.