

School Address

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Susanne Fata

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Cumanda Espin
Beau Ma
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*

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Mike Ellis

*

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James Pasternak
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Superintendent

Jeffrey Hainbuch
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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Pierre Laporte Middle School is located on Wilson Avenue between Keele and Jane Streets. The school was built in 1973 in memory of Pierre Laporte, a former cabinet minister of the Quebec government.

Pierre Laporte currently serves almost 350 students in a multiracial, multicultural environment. We are a regional centre for students in Gifted and Behavioural programs. As well, we welcome approximately 25 students a year into our English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

At Pierre Laporte, teachers focus on ensuring that each student reaches his or her maximum potential. We work to produce confident students with strong academic and social skills programs. Our school was selected by the Ministry of Education Secretariat for Literacy and Numeracy as a LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL: *School on the Move*, for its ability to improve student achievement over three years in all three areas of the EQAO. Our programs and teaching strategies emphasize critical-thinking, equitable school practices, collaborative and inquiry learning. We are a PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY where the goal of all school personnel is to be continuous learners in order to become better educators. Teachers also provide many opportunities for student leadership and risk-taking within a safe environment.

An active cadre of volunteers, co-operative education students, and student teachers help in our classrooms. Our parents, students, and staff work together to promote student successes through activities such as Peer Mediators, Ambassadors, Science competitions, Career Day, trips to Quebec and Ottawa, major productions, Artists-in-the-Schools, motivational speakers, Boys' Book Clubs, field trips and outdoor education.

School Focus For This School Year

Our *School Improvement Plan* includes three goals which were chosen using extensive data collected over the year. Our teachers are continually analyzing and interpreting data from many sources in the school: surveys, focus groups, assessments, report cards, attendance records, EQAO, CASI and parent contacts. The school goals are 1) to improve literacy skills 2) to develop mathematic skills and 3) to promote the school as a safe and caring environment. Teachers are involved in professional development throughout the year that allows them to: refine strategies for teaching independent reading (our focus this year is on making inferences); develop a school-wide safe and caring initiatives (through school safety and anti-bullying programs along with community partnerships such as the Police and the Board's guidance department); implement the use of Student Portfolios; maintain *First Steps Writing* methods (our focus this year is on main ideas); teach literacy skills in all subjects of the curriculum; implement a school-wide equity theme; increase refinement of the *Revised Mathematics* curriculum and use of manipulatives (our focus this year is on measurement and order of operations).

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	No.	Percent
✦ Total number of students:	382	
✦ Gender:		
Female	177	46%
Male	205	54%
✦ Primary language other than English:	247	65%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	19	5%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	23	6%

* 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; in Grades 7-8: History and Geography, Family Studies and Guidance

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:
Concert & Performances
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Artists in the School, Live Production/Play
- ✦ Integrated Programs:
Talent Show
- ✦ Music:
Excursions
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Prologue to the Performing Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Artists in the School

Intramurals

- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Board Games
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Cooking Club
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Library
- ✦ Student Newspaper Club/Yearbook Club
- ✦ Yearbook

Leadership

- ✦ School Safety Patrol Program

Competitions

- ✦ Mathematics Competitions:
Pythagoras, Euler, Gauss
- ✦ Skills Canada

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:
Black Creek Health Centre, Kids.now Educational Leadership Program, Toronto Police Services - School Liaison Officer
- ✦ School Based:
Peer Mentoring

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Caring:
Boys to Men, Crime Stoppers & Operaton Springboard, Food Drives, Free The Children, Youth Advocates
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Adopt a Village, Brick by Brick, Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run, Unicef
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Snack Program
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
BRASS Program, Bully Prevention Program, ESP: Empowered Student Partnerships, Let#s Stop the Bullying: Bully Prevention Program, Me to We, Recognition Assemblies, Recognition Awards Program, Safe Arrival Program

Equity

- ✦ Equity Committee

Student Success

Pathways Programs

- ✦ Schools to Future:
Career Fair

Remedial Activities

Programs and Services

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

- ♦ Remedial Literacy Program
- ♦ Remedial Numeracy Programs

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ♦ ESL



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

Pierre Laporte Middle School is a professional learning community. We strive to maximize student potential using exemplary practices. Our themes over the last five years have been: **KEEP YOUR EYES on the PRIZE**, **IMAGINE the POSSIBILITIES**, **MAKE EXCELLENCE a HABIT**, **TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE**, **TAKE PRIDE IN EVERY STRIDE**, **BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD** and **ME to WE**.

Where We Start: Data Collection and

Goal-Setting: Laporte teachers value a culture of learning in which students are engaged in high quality, collaborative and real-world learning tasks. Every year, teachers analyze data collected from school EQAO results and CASI, parent and student surveys, budget spending, attendance records, student performance tasks and informal assessments. From this information, we select the school goals. We then make decisions about resources, purchase materials and new textbooks in order to implement the necessary programs to deliver the curriculum. Teachers are provided with many opportunities to learn new techniques and strategies by attending professional development sessions. New ideas are tried and practiced by teachers in their own classrooms and they observe each other and share ideas.

Implementing the Plan: School procedures, rules, routines and culture are based on the positive belief that all students deserve the right to learn in a safe, respectful and caring environment. Student conduct is improved when programming is relevant to student interests and meets the needs of all learners. Behaviour also improves when staff are consistent, fair and friendly when consequencing students through our *CODE OF CONDUCT*.

The best interests of our students is the criterion on which all decisions are made. Leaders, Grade Teams and Committees meet regularly to review student work, share common challenges, mentor and guide new teachers and align their practices with the

school, Board and Ministry goals. We conduct professional development on-site as we have many staff experts. Our teachers are continuous learners. The results of our successes are measured using assessment tools, observational tools and feedback provided by the principal, TDSB and the Ministry of Education.

Measuring Our Success: Many assessments are used in the fall to identify the needs of individual students as well as groups within our school. We collate the data using an electronic CLASS PROFILE, and refine programs and instruction to ensure that students meet the curriculum expectations and fill gaps that they may have in current skills. This year we are focusing on Student Success in MATHEMATICS and in LANGUAGE. Our library supplements the balanced literacy programs in core subjects by focusing on teaching INDEPENDENT READING skills. We want to increase the library circulation as well as the number of resources. Teachers are aware that students must be taught specific reading strategies across curriculum subjects. *THINK LITERACY*, a Ministry series of documents, is used for this reason. We want to promote Pierre Laporte MS as a Safe and Caring School through student PRIDE in being successful at school. We have many plans to increase student leadership opportunities, provide more recognition assemblies and provide a mentor for each student who needs extra support. This links a staff member with a student for tutoring, guiding and advocacy. In the spring, we reassess students to see if our instruction and special programs have paid off in increased student achievement. We have made connections with community agencies such as the Toronto Police Services and the school Board guidance department to address our varying needs. Part of building a safe and caring school involves empowering our students towards positive student leadership.

Our School Plan



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

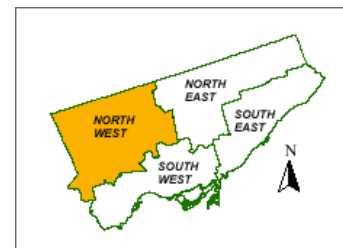
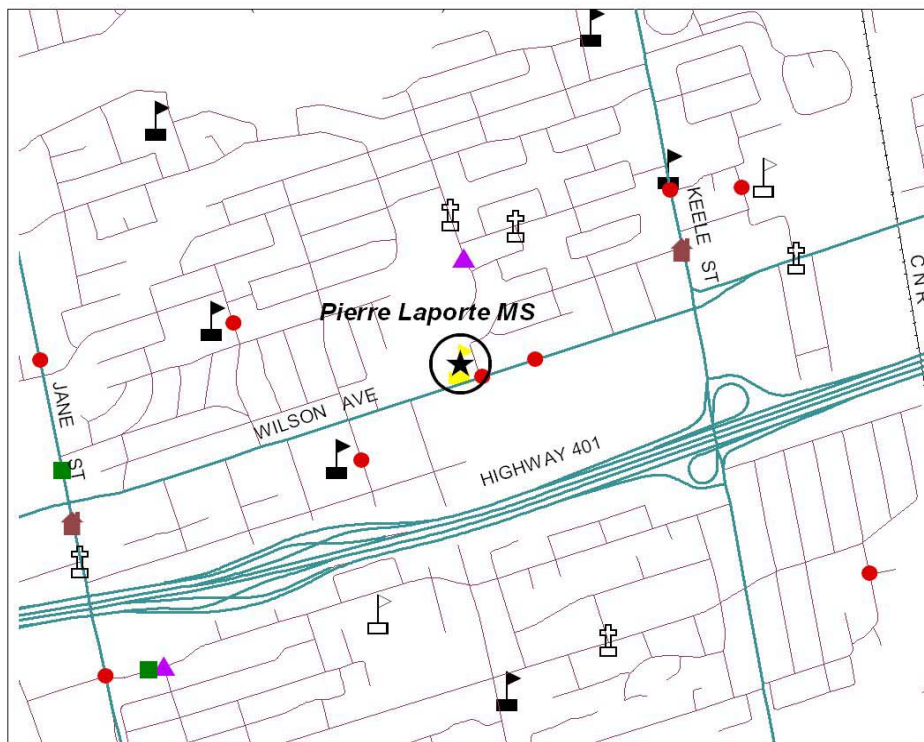
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ check Student Planners and communicate with teachers
- ✦ raise funds for special programs and materials
- ✦ contribute to decisions and advise staff through the School Council
- ✦ participate in Career Day
- ✦ volunteer in our library and office
- ✦ arrange speakers to address the needs of parents raising adolescents
- ✦ Math and Literacy Nights

Community Links:

- ✦ Volunteers, Master of Teaching, O.I.S.E./ U of T Student Teachers, Trails Youth Initiative, Jamaican Canadian Association, Black Creek Health Centre
- ✦ Partnerships with Humber College provide Child and Youth Worker trainees to work within the Behavioural program.
- ✦ On Career Days, we involve business and educational communities which provide workshops to our students on diverse careers such as engineering, graphics design, animation, law, and construction trades.
- ✦ The school also works actively and regularly with community agencies such as The Hincks/Dellcrest Centre and the J.D. Griffen Centre who then work with students and their families.
- ✦ Students take part in fundraising for many community agencies, including the Heart & Stroke Foundation, an annual food drive, Free the Children Campaign and Terry Fox Run.

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.