

School Address

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Agincourt, M1V4E7
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Principal

Esther Lubek

Vice Principal(s)

Jyoti Sehgal

Administrative Office Staff

Gail Gray
Lyn Thiffault

*

School Council Chair(s)

Yoga Arulnanby

*

Ward 21 Trustee

Shaun Chen
(416) 397-3077

Superintendent

Uton Robinson
(416) 396-9178

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Banting and Best Public School is one of the most northern schools in the Toronto District School Board, located near the intersection of McCowan Road and Steeles Avenue. The school opened at its current site in June 1989 with a population of 358 students. The school is named after two very famous Canadians, Dr. Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best, who discovered insulin in 1921.

At Banting and Best P.S., we enable students to become productive, contributing members of Canadian society by providing a balanced curriculum in a supportive environment.

Approximately 75% of our students have a primary language other than English, with Cantonese being spoken by the majority.

- ✦ Banting and Best P.S. is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, with regular grade programming, ESL classes and a variety of special education programs.
- ✦ The Banting and Best Child Care Centre is housed in the school building.
- ✦ Our school offers the International Languages Elementary Program. This program is designed to give students the opportunity to learn additional languages, other than English and French, and to learn about and appreciate other traditions, customs and cultures.

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ to enhance the literacy and numeracy skills of all our students by using high-yield instructional strategies in program delivery
- ✦ to continue to integrate computer technology as an important and effective support to our literacy and numeracy programs
- ✦ to continue to provide a safe, secure and supportive learning environment
- ✦ to develop and implement a Professional Learning Community for all staff to engage in professional dialogue and share instructional strategies
- ✦ to enable boys to be more reflective readers; to access and enjoy fiction and non-fiction
- ✦ to promote environmental awareness by following TDSB guidelines
- ✦ to implement the Early Years Numeracy Project for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students
- ✦ to increase parental and community involvement in total school life
- ✦ to highlight TDSB's Build Character, Build Success character traits through monthly announcements and assemblies

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	453	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	216	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	132	
Grade 7 - Grade 8	105	
✦ Gender:		
Female	226	50%
Male	227	50%
✦ Primary language other than English:	384	85%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	31	7%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	53	12%

* 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: Dance Club, Dance Workshops, Folk Dancing, Grade 5 "Dancing Classrooms" Program
- ✦ Dramatic Arts: Drama Workshops, Live Production/Play
- ✦ Music: Band, Choir, Itinerant Music Teachers, Music Concerts / Performances
- ✦ Visiting Artists: Music, Prologue to the Performing Arts, Visual Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts: Excursions

Intramurals

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Borden Ball
- ✦ Cross Country Running
- ✦ House League
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Borden Ball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Dance Club
- ✦ Kilometre Club

- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Arts and Crafts
- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Blue Spruce Reading Club
- ✦ Boy's Reading
- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Fitness Club
- ✦ Games
- ✦ Intermediate Girls Club
- ✦ Junior Girls' Club
- ✦ Junior Scrabble Club
- ✦ Library Helpers
- ✦ Math
- ✦ Puzzle/Thinking Club
- ✦ Recycling
- ✦ Red Maple Reading Club
- ✦ Sewing/Knitting Club
- ✦ Silver Birch Book Club
- ✦ Storytelling
- ✦ Walking Club

Leadership

- ✦ Office Helpers
- ✦ School Safety Patrol Program

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

- ✦ Student Activity Council:
Student Council
- ✦ Toronto Schools On The Move Leaders

Competitions

- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Great Canadian Geography Challenge
- ✦ Skills Canada
- ✦ Speech Arts

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Book Bags
- ✦ Developmental Reading Assessment
- ✦ Family Literacy Night
- ✦ Family Math Night
- ✦ JUMP Math Program
- ✦ Junior Achievement
- ✦ Royal Ontario Museum
- ✦ Science Kits
- ✦ Teaming Up for Our Kids
- ✦ Toronto Schools on the Move

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:
Kids.now Educational Leadership Program, Parks and Recreation After school program

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ Community Based:
After School Program

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Caring:
Acts of Kindness Program, Food Drives, Free The Children
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Adopt a Village, Book Fair, Dance-A-Thon, Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
ECO Schools, Me to We, Recognition Assemblies, Safe Arrival Program, Safety Education Lessons
- ✦ Social Skills:
Character Development Program, Future Aces, Girls' Group

Equity

- ✦ African Heritage Month Activities
- ✦ Asian Heritage Month Activities
- ✦ Assemblies
- ✦ Chinese New Year Celebration

- ✦ International Heritage/Languages Program
- ✦ Recognition Awards Program
- ✦ Winter Concert

Student Success

Pathways Programs

- ✦ Schools to Future:
Pathways to Success

Remedial Activities

- ✦ Remedial Literacy Program
- ✦ Remedial Numeracy Programs

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ✦ Early Years Numeracy Project (EYNP)
- ✦ 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

We have developed the following plans for this year based on the feedback received from a number of recent student assessments as well as feedback from parents and staff.

We will continue to implement the following strategies:

- ♦ use student mentoring methods such as Reading Buddies in the early grades
- ♦ use student portfolios, along with ample opportunities for self-evaluation
- ♦ involve parents in the language program through student portfolios shared with them and reviewed during parent-teacher-student conferences
- ♦ ensure that the Learning Resource Centre is available to all students on a regular basis for research, writing and reading support
- ♦ encourage parents to read to students at home, to listen to their reading, and use book bags to encourage them to bring books home
- ♦ encourage our teachers to attend staff development workshops in reading, writing, mathematics and science
- ♦ increase and improve the language and reading resources available for classroom
- ♦ plan and implement balanced literacy programs in our classrooms
- ♦ enable all in-school classrooms, as well as our library resource centre and computer lab to be wired for Internet access
- ♦ continue the EcoSchools program that is designed to help schools maximize environmental awareness and action
- ♦ reduce waste in the school by following the Board's Standards of Waste Minimization guidelines
- ♦ continue promoting litterless lunches
- ♦ continue teaching and encouraging healthy living practices, including walking to school and eating nutritious snacks/meals

Our staff has met to discuss ways to maintain and improve our students' performance in reading, writing, mathematics and science. We will focus on

the following strategies:

- ♦ continue to implement the Early Years Numeracy Project for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students
- ♦ continue to monitor the math resources at our school by purchasing more mathematics manipulatives and resources as needed
- ♦ utilize the computer lab in the Library Information Centre for desktop publishing and expanded information technology services
- ♦ allocate additional school funding to improve and/or increase mathematics and language resources, particularly in kindergarten
- ♦ develop structures that enable staff to work collaboratively such as team planning, team teaching, a division and/or same grades planning, partners in action, and sharing of exemplary practices and resources (PLC's)
- ♦ begin using SMART boards in 2 classrooms

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

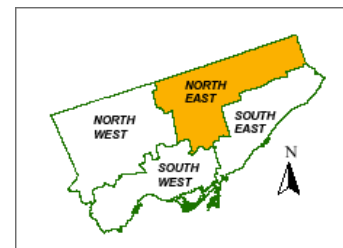
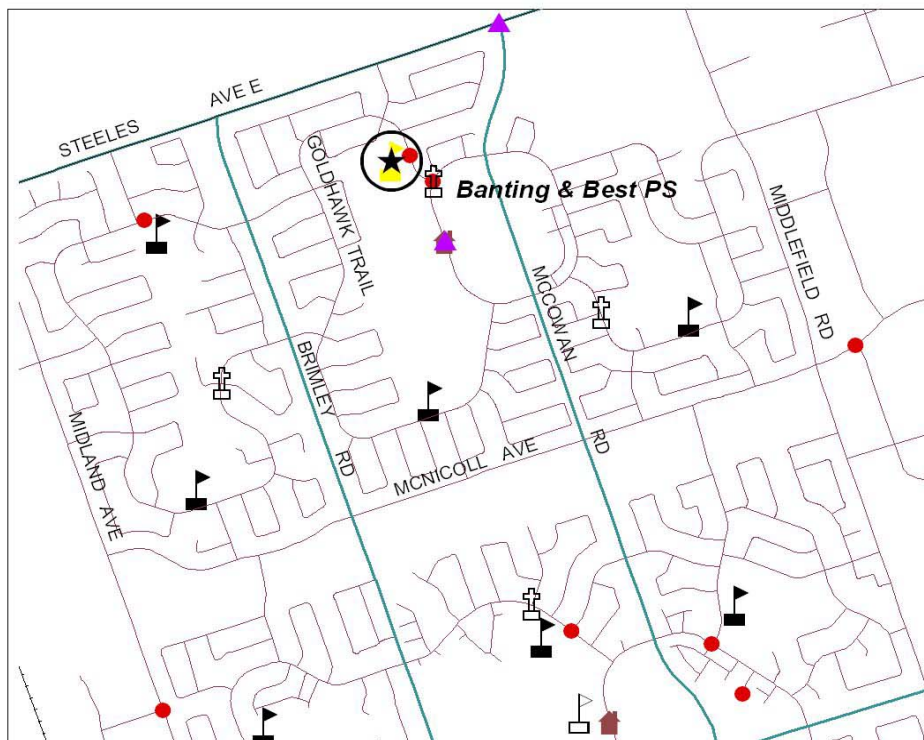
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council with an executive and a number of active members
- ✦ Parent volunteers who assist on excursions, in classrooms and in the library resource centre
- ✦ Exploring the continuation of parenting programs offered by Board personnel and outside support agencies
- ✦ Ontario Early Years Centres: Free Services for Families, Caregivers and Children 0 to 6 years

Community Links:

- ✦ Community members who assist with the school lunch program
- ✦ Co-op students from neighbouring collegiates
- ✦ Seamless day program which involves the partnership of school and child care centre staff

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.