

School Address

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Principal

Penny Kanellos-Mavraganis

Administrative Office Staff

Marguerite Marquand
Jane Angus

*

School Council Chair(s)

Penny Scott
Patty Jarvis

Chair of Home & School Assoc.

Kelly Hatch

*

Ward 18 Trustee

Gary Crawford
(416) 393-8815

Superintendent

Anne Kerr
(416) 396-9194

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

In 1922 the local community petitioned for and was given its own school named Birch Cliff Heights. Additions were built in 1924 and 1954. The parents have had and still do take great interest and pride in their school. One very long standing tradition has been the involvement of the community in the life of the school through its Home & School Association.

At Birch Cliff Heights Public School, we are committed to providing our students with the knowledge and skills to ensure success in their future lives. We also work hard to promote the values necessary for becoming responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

Our school motto is "Soar to New Heights".

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ to continue to build strong programs in Literacy and Numeracy
- ✦ to continue partnership with the Literacy Secretariat through the OFIP initiative and use data driven teaching practices to achieve student success
- ✦ to provide ongoing professional development to staff related to teaching and learning strategies aligned to school-wide and OFIP initiatives
- ✦ to work towards cross grade consistency in teaching and assessment practices
- ✦ strong emphasis on student assessment and reporting procedures
- ✦ to effectively use technology as a tool to enhance learning with all students
- ✦ provide technology resources to support students and teachers across the curriculum
- ✦ to continue our character recognition student assemblies
- ✦ to continue to involve the School Council in the life of the school
- ✦ to continue with the safety initiatives and promote the use of effective conflict resolution strategies
- ✦ to continue to build on the Second Step Conflict Resolution and Social Skills program
- ✦ to continue our school wide Peer Mediation program to provide students with opportunities to expand on leadership and conflict resolution skills

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	285	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	128	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	93	
Grade 7 - Grade 8	64	
✦ Gender:		
Female	147	52%
Male	138	48%
✦ Primary language other than English:	103	36%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	6	2%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	5	2%

* 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, Folk Dancing
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People
- ✦ Music:
Band, Choir, Excursions
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Drama, Visual Arts

Intramurals

- ✦ Cross Country Running
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Kilometre Club
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Arts and Crafts
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Green Club

Leadership

- ✦ Student Leadership:
Peer Mediation Program

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:
Go Girls!, Toronto Police Services - School Liaison Officer
- ✦ School Based:
Peer Mentoring

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ School Based:
Homework Clubs, Literacy & Numeracy Tutoring (Cont. Ed), Peer Tutoring

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Camps:
Outdoor Education
- ✦ Caring:
Food Drives
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Book Fair, Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run, Toy Drives, United Way
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
Crime Stoppers, ECO Schools, Let's Stop the Bullying: Bully Prevention Program, Safe Arrival Program
- ✦ Social Skills:
Character Development Program, Conflict Management Program, Peer Mediation/Helpers, Second Step

Student Success

Pathways Programs

- ✦ Schools to Future:
Career Fair

Transitions

- ✦ Welcome to Kindergarten

Remedial Activities

- ✦ Remedial Literacy Program

Programs and Services

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

- † Remedial Numeracy Programs

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- † 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

Our school is working on improving our students' assessment results for reading, writing and mathematics. We will implement the following strategies:

Curriculum

- ♦ use early literacy programs such as Letterland (Kindergarten), Take-A-Book-Home, a primary reading support program and reading buddies (all grades)
- ♦ provide balanced literacy programs
- ♦ continue using literacy blocks of time in our daily classroom timetables
- ♦ increase the use of manipulatives in the classroom to support the mathematics program
- ♦ teach all mathematics strands with more emphasis on problem solving
- ♦ support and encourage greater participation in our music program
- ♦ integrate student literacy skills with computer technology
- ♦ use technology where appropriate to enhance learning
- ♦ connect excursions to sites that support the Ontario curriculum

Assisting Students

- ♦ promote the completion by each student of the agenda and encourage parental signature daily
- ♦ assist students in determining their own learning goals
- ♦ provide remedial support to students as necessary before and after school
- ♦ ensure expanded opportunities for students to develop various skills and address their needs

Safety

- ♦ update and promote students' learning of our Code of Conduct via classroom lessons, special assemblies, and parent meetings
- ♦ continue to implement the Second Step program focusing on social skills development
- ♦ continue with the Peer Mediation program and

- ♦ provide leadership opportunities for students
- ♦ continue to work with the Safe Schools committee to address safety in the school and community

Staff Development

- ♦ implement in-school staff development programs to increase awareness of resources and programs available
- ♦ encourage our teachers to attend staff development workshops on literacy, numeracy, student assessment and evaluation
- ♦ maintain mentoring program for staff

In conjunction with our School Council and Home and School Association, we have developed a number of plans to be implemented over the next three years. We will continue to:

- ♦ support a welcoming program for Kindergarten parents, guardians, grandparents, and caregivers
- ♦ initiate and create a parent handbook
- ♦ increase the use of parent and community volunteers in our school
- ♦ support and encourage community involvement
- ♦ provide opportunities for students to help enhance school spirit
- ♦ support the use of Student Agendas for Gr. 1- 8

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

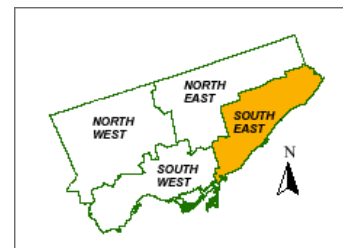
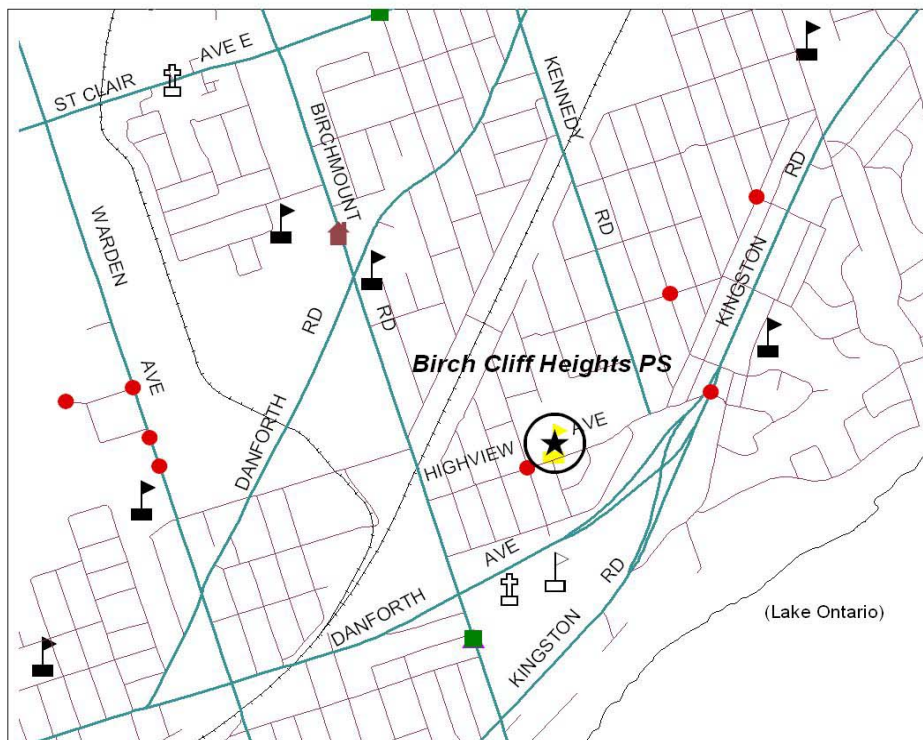
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council
- ✦ Home and School Association
- ✦ Regular parent/community volunteers in the library and classrooms
- ✦ Parent/staff/student/community BBQ's and information meetings
- ✦ Family workshops in Numeracy, Literacy, Safety in the school community
- ✦ Attend parent/student/teacher conferences
- ✦ Fundraising activities in support of agencies such as: the Terry Fox Foundation, United Way, Daily Bread Food Bank and the Heart and Stroke Foundation

Community Links:

- ✦ Work with Toronto Public Health to implement a variety of programs available
- ✦ Teacher Training program - Faculties of Education
- ✦ Local businesses who donate items for special fundraising events
- ✦ Collaboration with Secondary schools to provide placement(s) for co-op students
- ✦ Work with Metropolitan Toronto Police to implement safety programs such as street proofing, Internet safety and VIP (Values, Influences & Peers)

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▣ TDSB Elementary 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.