

### School Address

14 Pine Ave.  
Toronto, M4E1L6  
Tel: (416) 393-1565  
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### Principal

Annemarie McKee

### Administrative Office Staff

Susan Arbour  
Kelly Leahy

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### School Council Chair(s)

Kris Klajnerman  
Cooper Watt

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### Ward 16 Trustee

Sheila Cary-Meagher  
(416) 395-8413

### Superintendent

Anne Kerr  
(416) 396-9194

### Director of Education

Chris Spence

## OUR SCHOOL

Balmy Beach is a community school in the Beaches area, just minutes from Lake Ontario. The original school on this site, Pine Avenue School, was built in 1906. The school had 4 rooms on 2 floors and opened with 3 teachers and a principal in 1907. Over the years, many additions were built, creating a total of 18 rooms for 827 students. The new building was completed in September 1975. Unlike many of the traditional schools of the time Balmy Beach was a true community school, open from early morning to late in the evening servicing the needs of preschoolers, school-age children, adults and senior citizens.

Balmy Beach serves just under 400 students in a JK to 6 setting. The majority of our students are from English as first language homes. We have 5 JK/SK combined classes and classes from Grade 1 to Grade 6. The school houses a Day Care and Community Centre. The school shares several rooms including the gym with the Parks and Recreation Community Centre.

### School Mission Statement

"Learners are valued and respected in a caring and safe environment. Academic excellence, co-operation and responsibility are fostered and expected in preparation for meaningful participation in society". This statement drives every initiative we undertake and serves as the foundation of our school program. A competent, caring staff work in partnership with parents to ensure that the individual needs of the children are addressed.

## School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ to enhance our already excellent Physical Education program by continued upgrades to outdoor play equipment and daily physical activity
- ✦ to continue to promote social responsibility and good citizenship through the implementation of Second Step, Values Assemblies and other social skills and leadership programming
- ✦ to continue improving Literacy through monthly writing assignments (topics based on different genres) and to upgrade our resources in literacy
- ✦ to continue to create a safe and welcoming learning environment
- ✦ to provide enrichment experiences at the classroom level through Music, Drama and a school wide focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Learning Through the Arts
- ✦ to further enrich the Information Technology component of the curriculum through the use of the computer lab and provide enriching media experiences through a student led Media Club
- ✦ continue our link with Free the Children to build a school in Kenya
- ✦ as a Gold level Eco School continue our focus on environmental issues

## OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	<b>398</b>	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	237	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	161	
✦ Gender:		
Female	192	48%
Male	206	52%
✦ Primary language other than English:	29	7%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	11	3%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	13	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:  
Folk Dancing, Hip-Hop Dance, Integrated Arts visiting theatre troupes at the school, attendance at Young People's Theatre and the Toronto Symphony
- ✦ Dramatic Arts:  
Artists in the School, Live Production/Play, Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People
- ✦ Integrated Programs:  
Learning through the Arts
- ✦ Music:  
Band, Choir, Excursions, Itinerant Music Teachers, Music Concerts / Performances, Orff Program, Strings
- ✦ Visiting Artists:  
Dance, Drama, In-School Performances By Professional Artists, Music, Prologue to the Performing Arts, Visual Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:  
Animation, Artists in the School, Film/Video Workshops, Photography

#### Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Ice hockey
- ✦ Kilometre Club
- ✦ Skiing
- ✦ Slo-Pitch
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

#### Clubs

- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Environmental

- ✦ Sound, Light and Stage Crew

### Leadership

- ✦ Student Leadership:  
Kindergarten Tour Guides Grade 6 Students, Playground Pals, Active Living Committee

### Community, Culture and Caring

#### Community - Mentoring

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

#### Community - Tutoring

- ✦ Community Based:  
After School Program
- ✦ School Based:  
After Four Program, Homework Clubs

### Culture/Caring

- ✦ Fundraisers:  
Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:  
Nutrition Program
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:  
Buddy System
- ✦ Social Skills:  
Character Development Program, Second Step

### Equity

- ✦ Assemblies
- ✦ Workshops

### Student Success

#### Transitions

- ✦ Parent Information Nights

### Specializations and Other Programs

#### Special Education Programs

- ✦ LD - Learning Disability

# Programs and Services

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

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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

### Continuous Improvement of the Learning Process

To increase student achievement and enjoyment in the area of Literacy

- ♦ use DRA / CASI to assess reading levels
- ♦ encourage cross-age reading and sharing of written work
- ♦ continue acquisition of levelled books for all grades
- ♦ organize the Literacy resource room based on DRA standardized levels
- ♦ apply principles of First Steps in Reading and Writing
- ♦ participation in Silverbirch / Bluespruce Reading Program
- ♦ promote school wide writing assignments based on different genres

To increase student achievement and enjoyment in the area of Mathematics

- ♦ use math journals, problem of the day, manipulatives and calculators
- ♦ purchase support texts and teacher resources
- ♦ purchase Math Science Investigation resources
- ♦ maintain a Resource / Manipulative room

To increase student achievement and enjoyment in the area of Science

- ♦ acquire resources / storage kits for each strand
- ♦ use the Science Kit program, begin to develop our own kits
- ♦ each class is provided one Scientist in the School program
- ♦ develop a Science Resource Lending Library to support the Ontario curriculum

To increase student achievement and enjoyment in the area of music

- ♦ staff members are being trained in ORFF
- ♦ continue to provide itinerant support for band and strings

- ♦ continue to promote enrichment through choir

### Personal Fitness and Social Responsibility

- ♦ promote a balanced lifestyle through good nutrition and a wide range of physical activities
- ♦ promote responsibility in junior students through opportunities to provide leadership in Playground Pals (activities at recess) and participation in the Active Living Committee
- ♦ delivery of the program by a full time specialist teacher
- ♦ develop a sense of citizenship in students through activities that support charitable organizations such as Centre 55
- ♦ part of phase 4 of the "Toronto Schools on the Move" initiative

### Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment

- ♦ continue to use Second Step Program
- ♦ expect and reinforce high expectations of student behaviour
- ♦ promote respectful behaviour and a values laden recognition system to encourage good citizenship in all school areas through weekly assemblies and monthly Recognition Assemblies

### Partnership with Parents and Wider Community

- ♦ publish monthly Newsletter
- ♦ continue executive and general meetings of the School Council. The council is composed of representatives of parents (making a majority), teachers, support staff, administration, Daycare, Parks and Recreation, and a community representative
- ♦ provide a work area in the school for parents
- ♦ continue to enhance a parent resource area
- ♦ continue to promote volunteers and monitoring through sign-in and ID badges
- ♦ assist librarian and teachers in the library

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Parent And Community Involvement

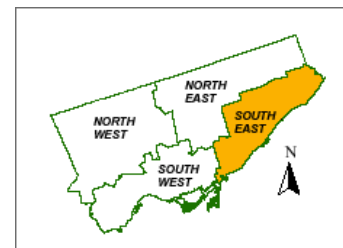
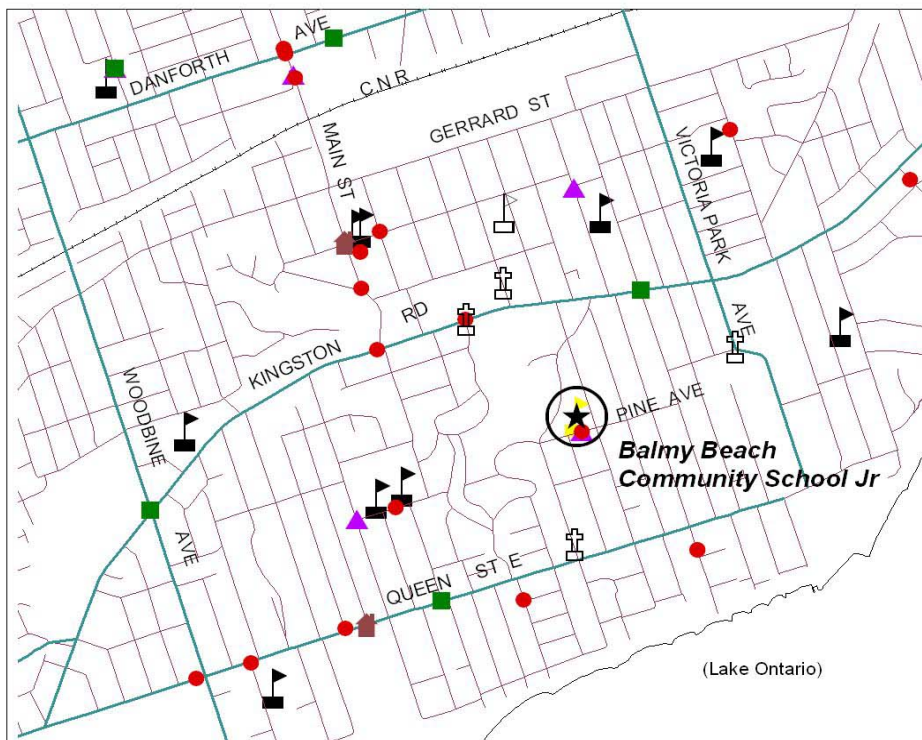
#### Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council representing all partners and communities, as well as, event and program co-ordinators who work to improve pupil learning. School Council sponsored events. (e.g., Welcome Dinner, Fall Fair, Pancake Breakfast, Teacher's Luncheon, Curriculum Information Evening, Silent Auction, Family B.B.Q., Cupcake Days, and Meal Deal lunches)
- ✦ Regular parent volunteers assist in many ways including: reading with students, assisting in the computer lab, supervising on field trips, in classrooms, and in the library.
- ✦ School Council sponsors numerous curriculum programs such as Learning Through The Arts and Scientists in the School.
- ✦ Our Environment Committee is working with the school board to continue our school yard enhancement project, which involves redesigning our school yard. Parents are very involved in the environmental concerns of the school and work in partnership to educate the students on issues re recycling, green bin composting, and vermiculture.

#### Community Links:

- ✦ donations to Community Centre 55 Hamper Campaign, Terry Fox Walkathon to raise funds for Cancer research
- ✦ collaboration with community / social agencies: Parks and Recreation, scouting and guiding organizations
- ✦ partnership with Roots of Empathy program
- ✦ partnership with Faculty of Education Teacher training programs
- ✦ partnership with Free the Children

### OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



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.



The mission of the Toronto District School Board is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.