

School Address

50 Essex St.
Toronto, M6G1T3
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Principal

Marc Green

Vice Principal(s)

Sonia Antunes

Administrative Office Staff

Nancy Cosentino-Amato

*

School Council Chair(s)

Patty Parashos
Ana Mainolfi

*

Ward 10 Trustee

Chris Bolton
(416) 397-3100

Superintendent

Andrea Alimi
(416) 394-2050

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

In 1989 Essex Senior School and Christie Junior School were twinned and became Essex Jr. and Sr. Public School. The school was built in 1964. Essex is located north of Bloor Street and west of Christie Street.

- ✦ It is a JK to Grade 8 school with partial rotary in Grades 7 and 8.
- ✦ The number of students currently attending is 334.
- ✦ Community groups make use of the facilities during evenings
- ✦ The Essex Community is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for everyone involved in the school community. A clearly defined behaviour code and consistency of implementation help to ensure that this is achieved.
- ✦ The Parenting Centre runs a very active program for about 90 families.

At Essex we believe everyone has the right:

- ✦ to learn
- ✦ to be listened to
- ✦ to be valued and be treated equally
- ✦ to be respected
- ✦ to a clean, safe, caring environment

Some of the features of Essex School include:

- ✦ Character Education
- ✦ Science and computer labs
- ✦ Integrated Design and Technology and Science for Senior students
- ✦ Dance, drama and movement classes (Gr. 5-8)
- ✦ Media Literacy
- ✦ Language Resource - Learning Centre Programs
- ✦ Integrated and self-contained special education classes at the Primary, Junior and Intermediate levels
- ✦ Many extracurricular activities including drama, dance, sports, school yearbook
- ✦ An active school choir
- ✦ Co-ordination of Daycare, Parent Centre and Kindergarten programs through PIECES (Partners In Early Childhood Education Success)

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	328	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	116	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	97	
Grade 7 - Grade 8	115	
✦ Gender:		
Female	151	46%
Male	177	54%
✦ Primary language other than English:	115	48%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	8	3%
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; 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

Dance

- ✦ Concert & Performances
- ✦ Dance Club
- ✦ Modern

Dramatic Arts

- ✦ Artists in the School
- ✦ Drama Club

Music

- ✦ Band
- ✦ Choir
- ✦ Steel Pan/Band
- ✦ Vocal

Visiting Artists

- ✦ Drama
- ✦ Music
- ✦ Visual Arts

Visual Arts

- ✦ Ceramics/Pottery
- ✦ Excursions
- ✦ Film/Video Workshops

Athletics

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton Team
- ✦ Baseball Team
- ✦ Basketball Team
- ✦ Co ed Volleyball Team

- ✦ Cross Country Team
- ✦ Floor Hockey Team
- ✦ Ice Hockey Team
- ✦ Skating Team
- ✦ Soccer Team
- ✦ Track and Field Team
- ✦ Volleyball Team

Intramurals

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Ball Hockey
- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

Arts and Culture

- ✦ Announcement Club

Literacy

- ✦ Reading Club - Silver Birch

Recreation and Leisure

- ✦ Badminton Club
- ✦ Gardening Club
- ✦ Knitting Club

Social and Global Issues

- ✦ Environmental Club
- ✦ Recycling Club

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

Curricular Enhancement

English/Literacy

- ✦ Daily Independent Reading
- ✦ Developmental Reading Assessment

Mathematics/Numeracy

- ✦ JUMP Math Program

Physical and Health Education

- ✦ Toronto Schools on the Move

Science

- ✦ Scientists in the School

Leadership

Appointed/Elected Councils

- ✦ Student Activity Council:
Essex Leaders

Leadership Development

- ✦ Door Monitors
- ✦ Lunch Monitors
- ✦ Office Helpers
- ✦ Student Announcers
- ✦ Yearbook Club

Community, Culture and Caring

Culture/Caring

Caring

- ✦ School Based Children's Mental Health Programs
- ✦ TDSB Student GuluWalk
- ✦ Youth to Youth - Horizons

Safe & Caring Schools

- ✦ Future Aces

Mentoring

Community Based

- ✦ Big Brothers/Big Sisters - In School Mentoring Program

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs

English Language Learner

- ✦ English as a Second Dialect (ESD)
- ✦ English as a Second Language (ESL)

System Initiative

- ✦ Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP)
- ✦ Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

Special Education Programs

Intensive Support Program

- ✦ Developmental Disability (DD)
- ✦ Mild Intellectual Disability (MID)

Resource

- ✦ Home School Program (HSP)
- ✦ Resource (Res)

Student Success

Remedial Activities

Literacy/Numeracy

- ✦ Early Reading Intervention Program

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 continue to implement the Ontario curriculum documents from K - 8: Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, The Arts, Personal and Social Studies, Health and Physical Education and Core French.

Three committees lead and focus our school planning. Literacy, Numeracy and Special Education. One staff from each division sit on these committees and participate in regular divisional meetings to share all information with staff. The staff work together to plan appropriate activities connected to the curriculum documents. Staff is encouraged to attend the TDSB workshops, conferences and in-services.

LANGUAGE

As a result of EQAO assessments and results, a greater emphasis is placed on the reading components of language in English, mathematics and science.

We will continue existing language supports, including:

- ✦ Borrow-A-Book, book buddies
- ✦ Integrated Pathways
- ✦ Literacy and Numeracy common skills sets from K-8
- ✦ Visiting artists, speakers and performing groups, storytellers
- ✦ Reading Circle for younger students
- ✦ In-school tutoring by volunteers

Other language initiatives will include:

- ✦ Expansion of in-school publishing through the library and computer lab
- ✦ Increased links of literacy with information technology

Strategies, Approaches and Class Organization:

- ✦ Increased focus on the elements of balanced literacy

- ✦ Increased focus of the development of reading comprehension
- ✦ In planning, teaching, assessing and evaluating, attention must always be given to differences in learning styles and approaches as well as to individual student needs
- ✦ As well, teachers at each grade and division level analyze literacy assessment results, develop and amend their literacy plan as these results change over time

Specifically the following strategies will be implemented or continued:

- ✦ Infusion of equity across all areas of the curriculum
- ✦ Student involvement in planning
- ✦ Integration of special education students for subjects or segments of the day when appropriate
- ✦ Co-operative learning
- ✦ Program modification when necessary in consultation with School Support Team
- ✦ Flexible groupings
- ✦ Peer teaching/buddy programs
- ✦ Team-teaching when appropriate (i.e. , Partners in Action, teaching partners)
- ✦ Division and school-wide targets and teaching strategies

ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION

Continuous evaluation and review of program are necessary aspects of school improvement. As a community of learners, we must frequently refine and enhance our program in the interest of our students. We will evaluate our teaching practices, structures, school policies, reporting process and communication strategies. Accountability is a professional responsibility and will require the commitment of staff to positive change and continuous professional growth. EQAO results at Grades 3 and 6, the Developmental Reading Assessment and Comprehension Strategies

Attitudes and Interest survey form the basis for our School Literacy Plan. Plans reflect the strengths and areas for improvement. Staff, by division and on an individual basis, discusses plan and implement strategies for growth for all students.

Our School Plan

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

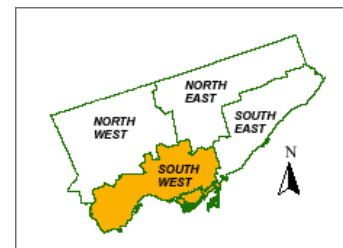
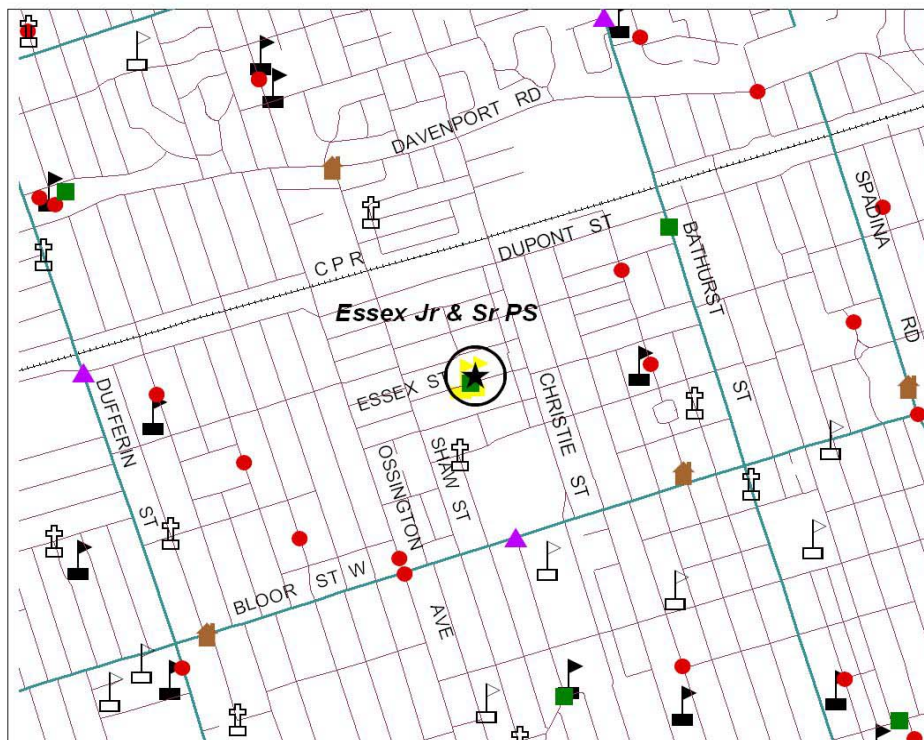
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ Essex School Council Steering Committee that meets regularly to plan school events such as: workshops of interest to parents, winter picnic, skating party, year end barbecue and other school related events. The School Council also advises administration concerning curriculum, school improvement planning and safe schools issues.
- ✦ Parent volunteers who assist in classrooms and with special events
- ✦ Parenting Centre serving about 90 families

Community Links:

- ✦ Public library class visits (Gr.1-3)
- ✦ Intergenerational connections
- ✦ Community volunteers including qualified teachers, providing classroom support
- ✦ Co-op students from local high schools support classroom programs
- ✦ Toronto Schools on the Move
- ✦ York teacher candidates
- ✦ Collaboration with community/social agencies: Christie-Ossington Centre, St. Albans Centre for special events and outreach of Student Council and School Council
- ✦ School-base for World Vision Refugee Centre for grades 7 and 8
- ✦ Youth to Youth Partnership with Maybin School

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



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.