

School Address

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Principal

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*

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Ward 16 Trustee

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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Beaches Alternative school (BAS) was opened in 1976 and currently shares space with Kimberley School. While following provincial curriculum guidelines, BAS is a community-based school which places a strong emphasis on family involvement and experiential learning. The philosophy "It takes a village to raise a child" is lived in our school community and the network of BAS families is the village in which all our children grow, learn and thrive. We strive to create an environment that fosters curiosity, connectedness, progressive skill building and critical thinking. We foster good citizenship through global education activities, multi-age activities and through cooperative rather than competitive approaches to learning. Our values of community building, justice, equity and respect for self, others and the world around us are as important as academic achievement. We value learning that matters - that connects hearts, minds, families and communities.

Please call the school to be placed on the waiting list. An information night will be held in January 2009 and a lottery for available spots will occur in March 2009. Call the Beaches Office for more information at (416) 393-1451.

- ✦ Our school has an enrolment of about 80 students from JK to Grade 6 in four classrooms: JK/SK, Grades 1 / 2, Grades 3 / 4, and Grades 5 / 6.
- ✦ Classes are held on the first floor at Kimberley. The JS/SK morning class shares space with an afternoon Kimberley kindergarten.
- ✦ Our library, gymnasium and Playground Learning Environment are for all to enjoy.

School Focus For This School Year

- ✦ Building on the school's literature base for the library
- ✦ Continuing the focus on children's exposure to arts and artists
- ✦ Early Literacy strategies
- ✦ Early Math strategies
- ✦ This year's Social Justice focus in on "water and gardening". Numerous events have been planned around this theme.
- ✦ Beaches values the contribution of all stakeholders: parents, students and teachers. We encourage active participation in all aspects of school life. The parents hold monthly meetings during which time they discuss matters pertaining to the ongoing activities of the school.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

| | <u>No.</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|---|------------|----------------|
| ✦ Total number of students: | 83 | |
| Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3 | 49 | |
| Grade 4 - Grade 6 | 34 | |
| ✦ Gender: | | |
| Female | 41 | 49% |
| Male | 42 | 51% |
| ✦ Primary language other than English: | 3 | 4%* |
| ✦ Students born outside of Canada: | | |
| Students living in Canada for 2 years or less | 0 | 0% |
| Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years | 1 | 1% |

* 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

- ✦ Music:
Band, Choir, Guitar, Itinerant Music Teachers, Orff Program, Strings
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
Dance, Drama, Music, Prologue to the Performing Arts, Visual Arts

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Slo-Pitch
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Chess
- ✦ Comics Club

Competitions

- ✦ FIRST Robotics

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Science Fair

Community, Culture and Caring

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Fundraisers:
Dance-A-Thon, Jump Rope for Heart, Terry Fox Run, Toy Raffle
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:

Let's Stop the Bullying: Bully Prevention Program, Safe Arrival Program

- ✦ Social Skills:
Character Development Program, Steps to Respect: Respect in Schools

Student Success

Transitions

- ✦ Parent Information Nights

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

Throughout the year we will continue to implement the Ontario curriculum using any new documents that are developed. Field trips will continue to be a vital and integral part of the program.

Reading

- ✦ increase reading of non-narrative texts
- ✦ work on specific reading skills such as comprehension, oral reading, reading for research purposes (information)
- ✦ improve our selection of non-fiction books in the library
- ✦ monitor and direct the children to read many different types of text
- ✦ make better use of sharing time to focus on shared reading activities
- ✦ increase use of benchmark activities and portfolios, cloze activities, etc.
- ✦ expose students to a variety of forms for reading
- ✦ encourage projects for research to emphasize note-taking skills and presentation of learning exemplars
- ✦ use of the Smart Board in the Grade 5/6 classroom
- ✦ use of DRA and CASI

Writing

- ✦ emphasize the completion of the writing process, i.e., publishing
- ✦ emphasize and focus more often on language conventions of grammar, spelling, etc.
- ✦ celebrate children's finished product more often
- ✦ encourage involvement in the publishing centre and display more completed work
- ✦ have children submit writing for school newsletter as a celebration of their learning
- ✦ increase teacher demonstration and mini-lessons to emphasize specific skills on conventions
- ✦ be aware of and give students opportunities to use a variety of forms for writing, e.g., poetry, narrative, expositions
- ✦ use of the Smart Board in the Grade 5/6 classroom

Mathematics

- ✦ inform ourselves of the expectations in the Ontario curriculum
- ✦ increase daily use of problem-solving strategies
- ✦ increase use of calculators as a mathematical tool
- ✦ purchase more hands-on manipulatives for mastery of numeracy facts from memory
- ✦ provide for professional development for the Ontario curriculum policy documents and expectations
- ✦ provide learning and use of computers for math in all classrooms

Social Skills

- ✦ a school-wide emphasis on community values

Information Technology and Media Literacy

- ✦ continue to pursue the use of technology to access the students' understanding of media
- ✦ emphasis on information gathering and research skill development

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

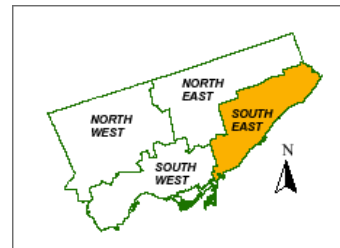
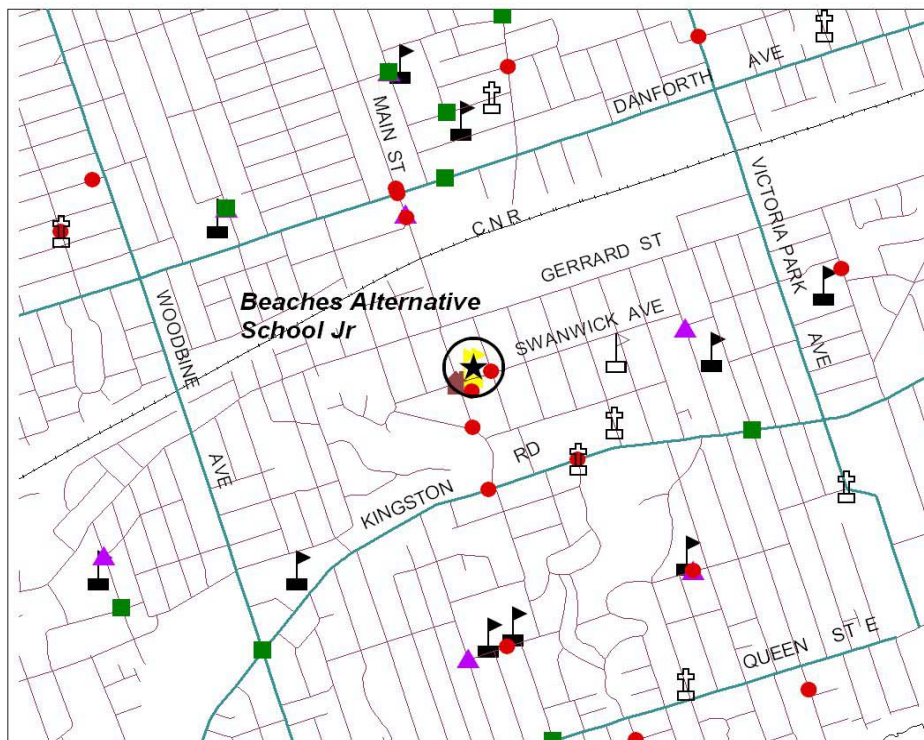
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Community Council with about 80 parent members
- ✦ Regular parent volunteers who assist in various aspects of school life.

Community Links:

- ✦ Public library class visits at Main Street Public Library (JK-Gr.6)
- ✦ Community volunteers
- ✦ Collaboration with community/social agencies: Centre 55, East Toronto Village, COTA
- ✦ Ted Reeve Arena
- ✦ Winter Feast
- ✦ Winter and Summer Camp

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.