

School Address

935 Dundas St. E.
Toronto, M4M1R4
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Principal

Wayne Kodje

Administrative Office Staff

Celeste Mayers

*

School Council Chair(s)

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Michelle MacFarlane

*

Ward 15 Trustee

Cathy Dandy
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Superintendent

Andrea Alimi
(416) 394-2050

Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

First Nations School of Toronto is located at 935 Dundas Street, East, near Broadview Avenue. In 1977, the school was called Wandering Spirit Survival School, and was designated as an alternative school. In 1983, the school was recognized by the Toronto Board of Education as a Cultural Survival School, instead of an alternative school. In 1989, the school was renamed First Nations School of Toronto (FNST). Today the school is a complete elementary school, offering education from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

- ✦ The school has an enrollment of approximately 80 students.
- ✦ The school has an all day Senior Kindergarten program.
- ✦ Busing is provided within metro Toronto, excluding Etobicoke and Scarborough, for JK to grade 5 students. TTC tickets are available for students in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- ✦ A Nutrition Program offers free hot breakfasts, hot lunches, and a snack to all students.
- ✦ The school facility houses an Aboriginal Headstart Program, which has a capacity for approximately 30 "at risk" children, from ages 3 - 5.
- ✦ The school also houses "Gizhaadaagamiik Daycare Centre". It has a capacity for approximately 30 pre-school and school age children as well.

School Focus For This School Year

First Nations School of Toronto is unique in that Aboriginal values, spirituality, culture and Ojibway language are integrated into the school curriculum. The goal is to ensure that urban Aboriginal children will have the opportunity to learn about their heritage and the traditional Anishinabe cultural perspective while acquiring the skills necessary to survive in today's world.

Our focus is to offer the Ontario Curriculum with an 'overlay' of Native language, tradition and culture, that meets the requirements set by the School Council, the Toronto District School Board and the Ontario Ministry of Education.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	76	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	44	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	19	
Grade 7 - Grade 8	13	
✦ Gender:		
Female	38	50%
Male	38	50%
✦ Primary language other than English:	5	10%*
✦ 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	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

- ♦ Integrated Programs:
DARE Arts
- ♦ Music:
Drumming, Music Workshops, Vocal
- ♦ Visiting Artists:
Dance
- ♦ Visual Arts:
Film/Video Workshops

Athletic Teams

- ♦ Cross Country
- ♦ Football
- ♦ Soccer
- ♦ Swimming
- ♦ Track and Field

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

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

Culture/Caring

- ♦ Caring:
Act & Adapt Children's Mental Health Programs,
School Based Children's Mental Program (SNAP)
- ♦ Social Skills:
Future Aces

Student Success

Transitions

- ♦ Start Right

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

- ♦ Annual Winter Solstice Celebration
- ♦ Morning Sweetgrass Circles
- ♦ Weekly "Big Circles" involving the whole school
- ♦ Visiting elders
- ♦ Grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing
- ♦ Balanced Literacy Programming at all grade levels
- ♦ Various fieldtrips across the city and the GTA
- ♦ "The Honour Feather Society", a self-esteem and culture promotion program
- ♦ OFIP Literacy workshops for all teachers
- ♦ Nutrition Program supported by new kitchen
- ♦ Portal project using Internet and white board technology to further engage students in learning, and link classrooms and schools to share aboriginal traditions and culture, as well as knowledge in general

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

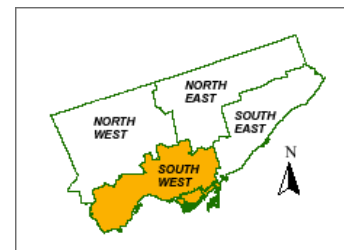
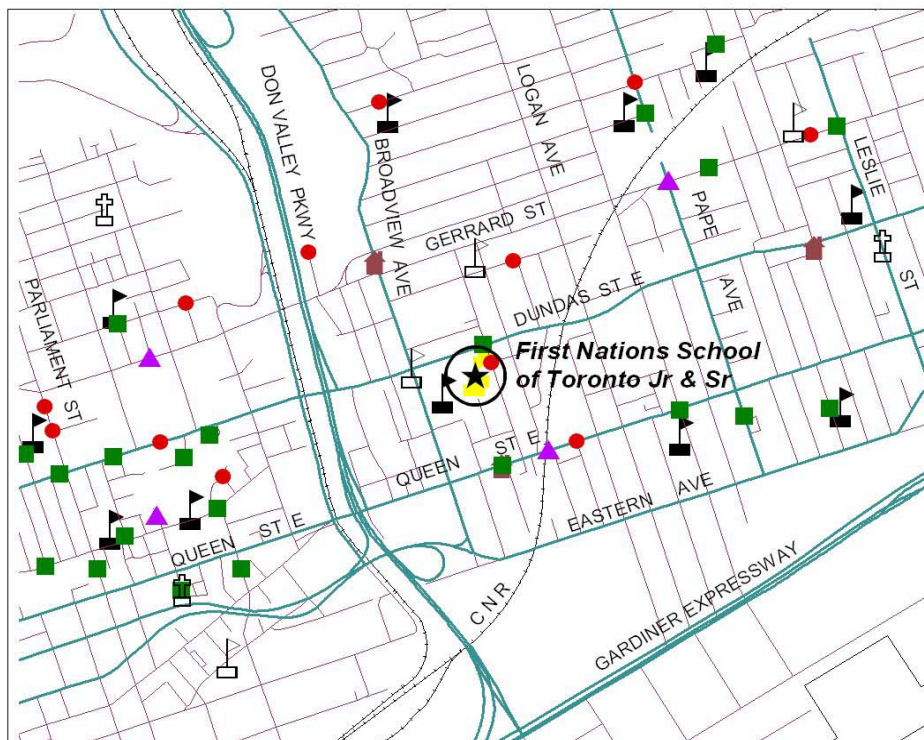
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ First Nations School is continually strengthening and encouraging more parent involvement in school activities. Currently, the school has:
- ✦ a School Advisory Council
- ✦ parent volunteers who assist in classrooms, in fundraising activities, and on field trips
- ✦ parent volunteers who assist with the operation of the school's cafeteria
- ✦ parent volunteers who, in concert with the principal, plan and direct the activities of the Honour Feather Society, which is a school spirit and student self-esteem program

Community Links:

- ✦ Community volunteers involved in tradition and culture activities.
- ✦ Aboriginal Peacekeeper Unit of Metro Toronto Police Service. They provide safety presentations to various classes of the school.
- ✦ Native child and Family Services of Toronto. They occasionally provide in-class workshops or presentations about safety. They also co-lead the senior fieldtrip each year, usually to Grundy Lake Provincial Park.
- ✦ Mount Sinai Hospital Outreach Science Program which offers free science workshops to all grades. The workshops are run by University of Toronto science graduates.

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.