

# The Grove Community School

**ADDRESS:** 108 Gladstone Ave, Toronto, ON  
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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.thegrovecommunityschool.ca>

**GRADE RANGE:** JK to 6

## *Interesting Feature*

### **Community**

Fostering a sense of community is the cornerstone of The Grove. Children and their families will experience and contribute to a sense of community in the school through activities, organized events throughout the year

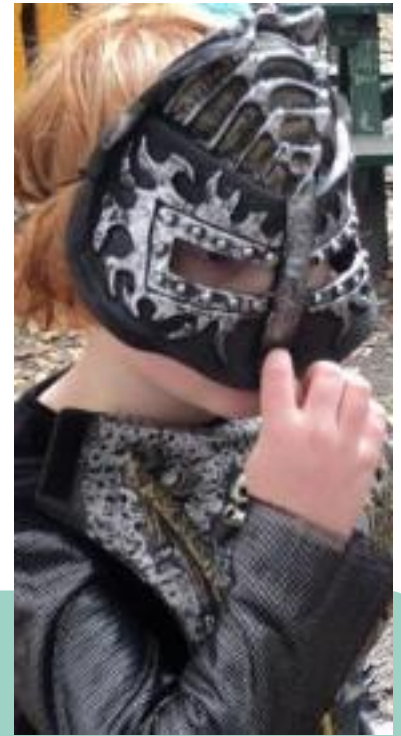
The Grove Community School is housed in Alexander Muir/ Gladstone Ave. Junior and Senior Public School which is located at Dufferin//Dundas, and is comprised of two buildings (Alexander Muir; Gladstone Ave). Although The Grove classrooms are located on the third floor of the Alexander Muir building, students from both schools share the use of the library, gym, auditorium and school yard. In September 2009, the school opened its doors to 71 students and created two Junior/Senior Kindergarten classes, a Grade 1, and a Grade 2/3 classroom. In September 2010, a new classroom was added, extending the community to include Grade 4.

(such as potlucks, Grove Gatherings, concerts), and volunteerism. The Grove values, respects, and fosters equity and diversity in its school community. The Grove provides a community where children from diverse families feel safe and see themselves and their families reflected and valued.

**Interesting Feature**

## **Collaboration, Grove Gatherings and School Events**

The Grove provides a non-competitive and collaborative environment for children. As a community, teachers, parents, caregivers, families, staff, and children collaborate and create opportunities, to enable children to excel. The practice of calling teachers by their first names is an expression of collaboration. Collaboration is also modeled through democratic decision-making. Teachers encourage all students to share their ideas, opinions and feelings, and to explore different points of view. We have created opportunities for students to choose a monthly special event, called “Wacky Wednesday”, which honours the children’s interests.





## More Information about The Grove Community School

### Respect for Children's Voices

Child-centred education is about respecting, recognizing, and responding to a child's needs and rights and providing a safe and nurturing learning environment where each child can flourish. Child-centred education rejects stereotypes and enables children to be themselves and find their own voices. The Grove is a school where differences are the norm!



### Holistic Education

At The Grove, we believe that education should sustain and nurture the multiple dimensions of human beings – physical, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, and spiritual. At The Grove, we believe that education should sustain and nurture the multiple dimensions of human beings – physical, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, and spiritual.



### Democratic Decision-Making and Practice

At The Grove we want to prepare students, especially those in the junior grades, to share significantly in making decisions about their education, including the curriculum. For example, our goals include offering students ongoing and regular opportunities to help shape the agenda and direction of their individual and group learning



## Additional Features

For a list of all programs that are also offered visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/Schools.aspx?schno=5904&schoolid=3999>



## Student Life - Where You Belong

Grove students have many opportunities to enjoy curriculum-related in-school activities and excursions, as well as extensions to the arts program. Students participate in both school and Board sports initiatives in conjunction with Alexander Muir/ Gladstone Ave. School. Throughout the year, there are also a number of whole-school activities when families can enjoy events with students and staff. On Halloween, all students and teachers love the wild rumpus at Dufferin Grove Park, a fun day of activities based on the experiences of Max in the story 'Where the Wild Things Are'. Our Winter Snowflake concert in December is a sharing of cultural traditions through learning, music and fun. In January, our whole school when skating at Dufferin Grove Park and returned to the school to share hot soup. Gender Splendor week, an annual event, involves students in examining traditional gender roles and understanding the origins and impact of homophobia. Earth Day activities in mid-April promote stewardship of our environment and enjoyment of the outdoors.



## What Sets Us Apart

At The Grove, we aim to create curriculum to counter biases related to race, colour, culture, ethnicity, linguistic origin, disability, socioeconomic class, age, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, religion, faith, sex, gender, sexual orientation, family status, and marital status. As much as possible, we provide opportunities for all students to understand the factors that cause inequity in society, and to understand the similarities, differences, and the connections between all forms of discrimination. We help students to acquire the skills and knowledge that enable them to challenge unjust practices, and to build positive human relationships. We believe that the quality of children's learning and their ability to realize their potential is intimately related to the health and wellness of their interconnected ecological and social environments. We see sustainability and social justice education as linked. The Grove is a community-centred school in which students, families, teachers, and community members work together to learn from each other to solve real problems.



## Parent and Community Engagement

At The Grove, teachers, families, and staff work collaboratively toward the common goal of educating our children according to our core values. The Grove has an active parent council which works with a range of committees to effectively coordinate parent involvement in the school. Family involvement at The Grove is vital to our success and is requested from all families; families are strongly encouraged to volunteer 2-5 hours a month. There are many ways to be involved in the school that accommodate work obligations and changing family structures. Some examples of involvement could be working on a committee, organizing and participating in special events or volunteering in the classroom (e.g., helping an emergent writer, or working with a child on a writing piece either by helping scribe, or assisting the child with computer technology).



## TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.

## Contact Information

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*Please visit us at* <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/Schools.aspx?schno=5904&schoolId=3999>