Briar Hill Junior Public School

Briar Hill's GOLDEN RULE:
"At Briar Hill, we keep our hands, our feet and our hurtful words to ourselves."

Briar Hill Junior Public School is located at the corner of Briar Hill Avenue and Dufferin Street, just north of Roselawn Avenue. The school officially opened on September 30, 1927. When Briar Hill School was built, it replaced a one-room brick schoolhouse called Fairbank. In the 1800’s before Fairbank existed, there was a log schoolhouse called Needham’s School.

Briar Hill is a small school with a family atmosphere. Currently, our school serves approximately 175 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5. Our students come from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and many speak English as a Second Language.

Briar Hill staff are committed to academic excellence, particularly in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Literacy
Briar Hill has just completed a three year Literacy Project sponsored by TDSB and funded by the Ministry of Education. The skills for successful achievement in Reading, Writing and Oral Language are taught to students during a 90 - 120 minutes block of time first thing in the morning. As a result of this intensive, focused instruction over 3/4 of our students are achieving at or above the provincial standards. Literacy is taught through the integration of curriculum subjects into this block of time.

Numeracy
Briar Hill teachers continue to have a focus on student achievement in all areas of the mathematics curriculum. Staff members attend ongoing Professional Development, sharing their new learnings and strategies with their colleagues. A focus for this year is Problem Solving and ensuring that each student understands different ways to solve problems and is able to give a verbal or written explanation about how the problem was solved. These teaching methods resulted in almost 90% of our Grade 3 participating students to reach or exceed Provincial Standards on the 2009 EQAO Math test.
More Information about Briar Hill Junior Public School

The ARTS
Briar Hill teachers have many talents. This is particularly true in the Arts curriculum which is divided into 4 strands, Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts. At Briar Hill we are able to have almost every class taught by teachers with additional qualifications in these subject areas. Our students are very fortunate to have such enriched programming.

Leadership
Briar Hill promotes senior student leadership through our Fun and Fitness Ambassador program. Fun and Fitness Ambassadors encourage peer leadership in physical fitness. F & F ambassadors may participate in TDSB sponsored workshops to learn new and interesting ideas to show their school mates ways to be physically active during recess times.

Character Development
Briar Hill is committed to the development of good character and actively practices the TDSB character traits. Our Grade 4 & 5 students develop Empathy and Understanding on a daily basis by participating in a program with some of our special needs students. Every day 2 students give up their recess time to spend time playing with and helping our special needs students.

Partnerships
This year Briar Hill has entered into partnership with Fairbank Memorial Centre for Seniors. Sponsored by a grant from Trillium Foundation, a group of students and seniors will be learning yoga together in Briar Hill's gym. Next spring, we are hoping our students will learn to play Bocci ball at the Seniors' Centre. Our choir enjoys performing at Seniors' luncheons.

Additional Features

- Code of Conduct

For a list of all programs that are also offered visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/schools/index.asp?schno=6104&schoolid=1425
Every student should have the experience of attending a warm and caring school like Briar Hill. While we currently have only 117 students, our families speak 32 different languages. We are truly a multi-cultural school. We welcome into our classrooms students with a wide range of abilities and challenges from giftedness to developmental disabilities. Our teachers and support staff are trained to meet the needs of all of our students in both inclusive and segregated classroom environments. Briar Hill offers a full primary and junior curriculum that is often integrated into our morning literacy block of time. We are a Future Aces School and Character Development traits are embedded in the curriculum. Our music, gym and art teachers each have special qualifications that enable them to deliver an extraordinary program in these subject areas to all of our students. Health and Physical Fitness are important areas in our daily lives at Briar Hill. We offer extracurricular activities to meet a variety of our students’ needs. These include: Choir, Eco Club, Fun & Fitness Ambassadors, Soccer, Terry Fox Run, I Walk, Earth Day and Community Cleanup, Toronto Schools on the Move, and more.

What Sets Us Apart

* Literacy Block * Integrated Curriculum * Family-like Atmosphere in a small personal setting * Qualified teachers for Music, Physical Education, Visual Arts * Welcome To Kindergarten Bags and Parent Workshop * Special Literacy Trained Teachers * SMART Boards * Multicultural student body, community and staff * Nutrition Program * Toronto School on the Move * Earth Day Community Clean-up * Partnership with Local Maria Shchuka Library * Partnership with Local Seniors’ Centre for Yoga and Bocce Ball * Future Aces Program * Optional School Uniform * Well established Book Room to enhance Literacy program * School Wide focus on developing healthy characters, minds and bodies * Silver level Eco School * Annual school-wide celebration of nation-wide Music Monday * New Playground Equipment *
Parent and Community Engagement

Briar Hill has a small but active School Council. All parents are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings and participate in decision making that affects the school. We know our parents have busy schedules and appreciate any time parents are able to give through their volunteer work in the classroom, with our Nutrition Program, Pizza Days, etc. Parent Information Evenings are held throughout the school year (e.g. Curriculum Night, Parents EQAO Evening, etc.) and focus on ways parents can support their children’s learning at home. Our annual Fun Fair is held on the first Thursday in June (June 3, 2010). Our Public Health Nurse provides support to teachers regarding programming, and also provides workshops for students. We have annual screening for dental, vision and hearing problems. Our partnership with our local seniors’ centre allows the young and the old to develop good relationships.

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.

The Director of Education, Chris Spence has developed a Vision of Hope to help guide the TDSB to an education system like this one. Three priority areas will help guide this vision:
- student achievement
- parent and community engagement
- financial stability

Among our first steps that we are taking is re-creating our schools and that’s where Better Schools Brighter Futures comes in. To learn more visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/brighterfutures

Contact Information

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Please visit us at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/schools/index.asp?schno=6104&schoolId=1425