TORONTO FRENCH MONTESSORI SCHOOL

February 2025 Newsletter

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

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Principal's message to the parents of TFMS

Dear parents,

As we reflect on the month of February, I am filled with pride and admiration for the accomplishments and enthusiasm demonstrated by our students and staff. This month has been a testament to our school's commitment to learning, growth and fostering a strong sense of community.

February presented us with opportunities to celebrate family, friendship and love. Family Day reminded us of the importance of cherishing our loved ones, while Valentine's Day allowed our students to express kindness and appreciation for their classmates and teachers.

On Pink Shirt Day, we united against bullying and reaffirmed our commitment to fostering an inclusive, compassionate environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Our students and staff participated in various anti-bullying and inclusivity lessons and activities, empowering us all to be kind, empathetic, and stand up for one another. Our school community paid special attention to the observance of Black History Month. We took this opportunity to honour and commemorate the accomplishments, influences, and vibrant heritage of Black individuals over the past several decades.

Our Science Fair Expo hosted at the Willowdale Campus was a resounding success, showcasing the creativity, curiosity, and scientific prowess of our students. I was truly amazed by the innovative projects and the dedication our young scientists demonstrated in exploring solutions to real-world problems. Congratulations to all participants, and a special thank you to our dedicated teachers and parents for their guidance and support. Six of our students from grades 5 to 8 were selected to participate and compete with their project at the Toronto Science Fair hosted at the University of Toronto. We wish them luck and look forward to

hearing about their experience there!

In line with the recent provincial elections, our elementary students participated in a mock election process, which provided them with valuable insight into the importance of civic engagement. I was impressed by the thoughtful discussions and informed decision making displayed by our students through this initiative.

As we move forward, I would like to express my gratitude to our entire school community for your continued support and involvement in making TFMS a nurturing environment for learning and growth.

Together we are shaping the future leaders and innovators who will positively impact our world!

Yours in Education,

Mme. Rhoda
Principal

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QU'EST CE QUI S'EST PASSÉ DANS LE MOIS DE FÉVRIER ???

Au mois de février, beaucoup d'événements sont passés comme le mois des noirs, le saint valentin, la journée de famille et le pink shirt day.

Le mois des Noirs: Dans le mois des Noirs, on célèbre la culture et les traditions des Noirs et aussi nous nous souvenons des Noirs courageux qui ont sacrifié leur vie pour sauver et libérer tous les esclaves.

La journée de famille: La journée de famille est un temps ou on peut relaxer et visiter la famille comme tes cousins, tes tantes et tes oncles…

Le saint valentin: Saint Valentin est un jour où on donne des cadeau a nos amies, exprime notre gratitude pour eux et remercie nos parents pour ce qu'ils ont fait pour nous.

Le pink shirt day: Pink shirt day est un jour où on parle de maltraitement, comment ça peut effectuer les personnes, ce qu'on peut faire pour arrêter la maltraitement.

Par: Melody Ghalili
Grade 6

PINK SHIRT DAY

"In 2007, David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt]…[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. 'I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,' says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. 'Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.' So Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out a message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again."

Since then, the Pink Shirt Day initiative, lead by the CKNW Kids' Fund, raises funds to support anti-bullying programs year-round, and people from over 180 countries across the world show their support on Pink Shirt Day each year.



DEMOCRACY

The word **democracy** comes from the Greek words “demos” and “kratos”. Demos means people and kratos means power; so ‘democracy’ means power of the people. Democracy is a form where people can vote.

Some countries have a democracy, monarchy or autocracy. Canada is a good example of a democratic government.

Some rulers use force also known as an authoritarian government.

A democratic country like Canada has citizens who vote for the ruler and there are not as many rules that the citizens don’t like when compared to an authoritarian government.

Kings has certain powerful people such as the lords, knights and nobles who support them. With their support, they try to make rules that reflect God’s peace. They can force people to do stuff for the kingdom.

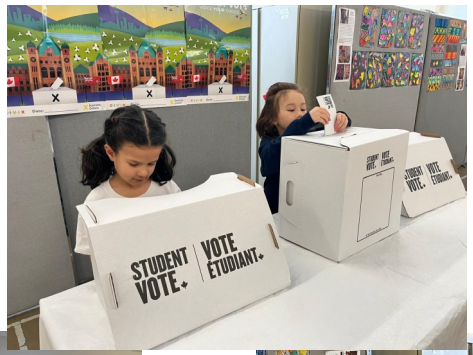
JRochelle
Grade 6

What We Did on Election Day

After snack, Ms. Katie showed us a presentation about campaigns and elections Then she separated us into groups and assigned us each a different party to represent. She gave us each a sheet of paper that said what that party would do if they were elected. We had a few minutes to write down two of our favorite options and present them to the class.

Then our class was allowed to vote. We had a voting ballot similar to the ones the parents got and we took turns voting for who we thought should have been elected. Then we compared our results to what our parents had.









April Yan
Grade 5

Our Review on Cyberbullying

On February 25, 2025, a presentation was conducted by Mr. Robert, the vice principal, regarding the effectiveness and consequences of cyberbullying. He began by stating that cyberbullying is a growing issue in today's digital age, involving the use of electronic communication to target individuals. He further explained that this form of bullying has several emotional consequences, impacting self-esteem, mental health, and overall well-being. Addressing cyberbullying requires an initiative-taking approach, including education, awareness, and stricter regulations.

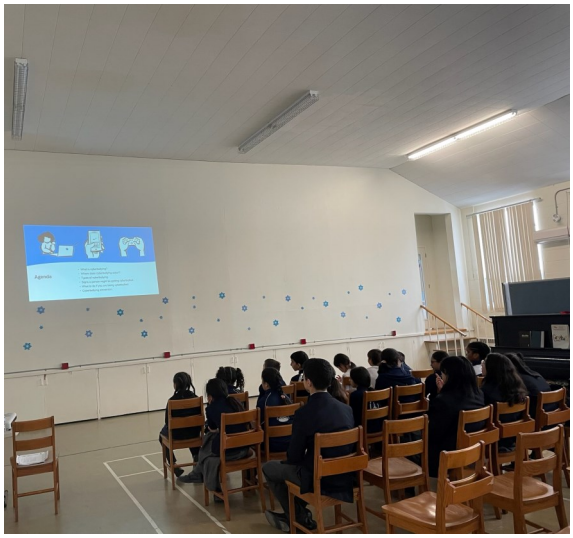
Unlike traditional bullying, which occurs in physical locations, cyberbullying follows victims everywhere through smartphones, social media, and online forums. A key point emphasized in the presentation was that this continuous exposure can lead to anxiety, depression, and, in severe cases, self-harm or suicide. The inability to escape online harassment makes it a particularly dangerous issue that requires urgent intervention.
Additionally, it was highlighted that cyberbullies can hide behind fake identities, making it easier to engage in harmful behavior without accountability. This anonymity fosters a culture where individuals feel emboldened to say things they would not in person, escalating the severity of online harassment. Victims often struggle to identify their bullies, complicating efforts to seek help or take action.

Social media platforms and online communication tools are commonly used for cyberbullying. It takes many forms, including spreading false rumors, sharing private information, sending threatening messages, and public humiliation. The rapid dissemination of harmful content increases the emotional distress of victims, making them feel powerless and isolated.

In conclusion, the lesson conveyed that cyberbullying is a critical issue with severe implications for individuals and society as a whole. The far-reaching impact on mental health and personal safety underscores the importance of taking decisive action. By raising awareness, enforcing stricter policies, and fostering responsible online behavior, efforts can be made to reduce cyberbullying and ensure a safer digital space for all. The internet should serve as a platform for positive interactions rather than a medium for harm and harassment.

By Farhan Pourazari (Grade 7)
And Derushan Sivanarul (Grade 8)





Black History Month Commemoration at TFMS

Black History Month is an annual celebration that honors the achievements, history, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. It provides an opportunity to recognize the important roles Black people have played. During our school's Black History Month function, Junior High students presented various projects highlighting influential Black Canadian figures. These included individuals such as Dan Philip, Dr. B. Denham Jolly, Dr. George Phills, Bryan and Shannon Prince, Rosemary Sadlier, and Yvonne Squires. Through their research, students were able to showcase the remarkable legacies of these figures and gain a deeper appreciation for the impact of Black history on our society.

Mr. Sam



Honour the Legacy and Contributions of

Black people in Canada and their communities

Below is a selection of poems written by students in Grade 4/5 as a reflection to our discussions about Bullying on Pink Shirt Day. They had a choice to pick from 1 of 4 different perspectives- the Bully, the Bullied, the Bystander and the Brave

I am…
By Daniel G

I am the bully
I wonder why I get so mad all the time
I hear them crying for mercy
I see the scared faces on the classmates
I want to stop this madness, but I can't
I am the bully

I pretend to not bully
I feel like a monster against an innocent person
I touch, trying to find my inner blindness
I worry that nobody likes me now and in the future
I cry about my bullying
I am the bully

I understand that I'm a different person
I say mean things to other classmates
I dream for a change to my environment
I try to find solutions to stop
I hope to tell my classmates that I don't want to be a bully
I am the bully

I am…
By Yusuf

I am the bully
I wonder if I can stop
I hear scared murmurs
I see fear in their eyes
I want to stop
I am the bully

I pretend I hate everyone
I feel deadly
I touch my soul
I worry it is gone
I care about everyone, but I can't show it
I am the bully

I understand I am mean
I say I don't care
I dream of a time when I stop
I try to be nice
I hope I will be nice one day
I am the bully

I am…
By Nathan

I am the bully.
I wonder if I should not do this.
I hear the victim's cries, I want to never do this again.
I see him in pain I see someone tell on me.
I want to end this and be nice like the rest of the school
I am the bully and that will never change.

I pretend not to care but I do.
I touch my heart I try to run but I can't.
I feel his suffering, I need to run but still I can't
I worry he's hurt but I can't show it.
I cry for help in my head I cry because I did those rude things
I cry because I am the bully

I understand how he feels
I say to myself stop but it doesn't work.
I dream that it never happened and try to block out the memory
I try to block myself from doing this.
I hope to not bully people never again.
I am the bully.

I am…
By Leah

I am the bullied
I wonder why they hurt me,
I see his scary eyes,
I want to know why.
I am the bullied.

I pretend I am brave,
I touch my sad soul.
I worry that he'll hurt me.
I cry for someone and the brave tries to help
I feel a sense of sadness,
I am the bullied.

I understand that's how he is but he can change,
I say that he can change
I dream I wasn't the bullied, but I am,
I try to not get bullied but am too weak
I hope that life will change its perspective
I am the bullied

I am…
By Kaj

I am the bystander
I wonder if he will get caught.
I hear him swearing.
I see her in pain.
I want it to stop.
I am the bystander.

I pretend to not be there.
I feel bad for the bullied.
I touch the bullied, but the bully pushes me away.
I worry it will go on forever.
I cry because I'm not helping.
I am the bystander.

I understand that the bully can't quit
I say, "stop", but it doesn't help
I dream of a world free of bullying
I try to touch my heart
I hope it will soon end
I am the bystander

I am…
By Aafarin

I am the bystander,
I wonder how the child feels
I hear the bully laughing and saying mean things,
I see the child crying and crouching,
I want the mean bully to stop,
I am the bystander.

I pretend to not notice,
I feel my heart cracking,
I touch myself and wish I were brave,
I worry that this will never stop,
I cry because I'm doing nothing,
I am the bystander.

I understand how the bullied feels,
I say enough! But they don't listen,
I dream of having the courage,
I try to ignore but it is too hard,
I hope that they bully will stop,
I am the bystander

I am…
By Isabella

I am the bystander
I wonder how they feel
I hear the bad words go through my ears
I see how they all feel
I want to help them
I am the bystander

I pretend that I don't understand
I feel the pain they go through
I touch my heart to see if I'm ok
I worry if anyone gets hurt
I cry at home thinking about the fight
I am the bystander

I understand how hard it is to pretend
I say to myself try to do something
I dream that all of this stuff can stop.
I try to help but my body does not move
I hope they don't feel hurt
I am the bystander

I am…
By Melissa

I am the brave
I wonder why people are crying
I see the bully laughing
I want the bully to stop
I hear people crying
I am the brave

I pretend not to hear
I feel sad to be bullied
I touch my heart to not also be bullied
I worry if more people will suffer like this
I cry for people to get free
I am the brave

I understand how they feel
I say stop but they don't listen
I dream everyone will not be bullied
I try to say stop but they don't listen
I hope one day it will stop
I am brave

I am…
By Mimi

I am the brave
I wonder if I tell them stop they'll hurt me
I hear bad words I want to tell the teacher
I see mean faces he looks so angry
I want to stop the fight
I am the brave

I pretend I ignore him, but I see all the hurt
I feel sad for the bullied
I touch my heart and tell them to stop
I worry I might get hurt
I cry in my head to not show the pain
I am the brave

I understand it might be scary
I say to go and stop
I dream nobody gets bullied
I try to stop him
I hope he stops by himself
I am the brave

I am…
By April

I am the brave
I wonder who else is with me
I hear the pleading cries for mercy
I see the blood and tears
I want to make them taste revenge
I am the brave

I pretend to brush it off as nothing
I feel anger in my veins
I touch my heart and now to stop this
I worry for those bullied every day
I cry for the teacher in hopes to stop this
I am the brave

I understand the pains of all the bullied
I say it's fine, but I don't mean it
I dream for us to have better than this
I hope that I can help them all
I am the brave

I am…
By Maya

I am the brave
I wonder why bullies do this,
I hear her cries get worse.
I see him be rude.
I want him to stop,
I am the brave.

I pretend I'm looking away,
I feel like I should quit being scared,
I touch my heart to get courage,
I worry for her,
I cry for the bullied,
I am the brave.

I understand how she feels,
I say stop but he doesn't listen,
I dream of a world without this pain,
I try to do something,
I hope one day the world will stop this.
I am the brave.

I am…
By Zakaya

I am the brave
I wonder if the bully knows that it is not nice.
I hear bad thoughts of what the bully is saying.
I see the bully bullying someone.
I want to tell the teacher.
I am the brave.

I pretend to be brave when the bully is bullying someone.
I feel my heart because the bully is mean to a boy or a girl.
I touch the bully to say it is not nice to bully someone.
I cry and my heart is broken to see that horrible thing.
I am the brave.

I understand how people think about a bully.
I say it is not nice to say mean things.
I dream that a bully will be nice in the future.
I try to tell the bully, but I am too scared.
I hope the boy and the girl are safe.
I am the brave.

I am…
By Parmis

I am the brave.
I wonder what the bully is thinking.
I hear bad words.
I see pushing and throwing.
I want calm, kindness, and respect.
I am the brave.

I pretend it's fake but it's real.
I feel so upset for them.
I touch my heart to stop bullying.
I worry if it happens again.
I cry that they should stop bullying
I am the brave.

I understand that the bully has hard things too.
I say be kind, but they don't.
I dream peace and kindness.
I try to tell them to stop.
I hope that they understand.
I am the brave.





PINK SHIRT DAY

"In 2007, David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt] …[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. 'I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,' says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. 'Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.' So Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out a message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again."

Since then, the Pink Shirt Day initiative, lead by the CKNW Kids' Fund, raises funds to support anti-bullying programs year-round, and people from over 180 countries across the world show their support





Our Science Fair

During the month of March, our school, ***Toronto French Montessori School****, decided to host a science fair. This is when all the students from our school bring and create many experiments to show to our teachers and parents. All students have the choice to do an experiment or a model for their project. They also hav to use a three fold bristol board.*

Many students made many beautiful projects. They also had many creative projects and ideas!

The school also had decided to choose 6 students to participate in the UFT(University of Toronto) Science Fair. 3 students from Upper Elementary and 3 other students from Junior High! Congratulations to everyone who got picked!!

- I also loved how all the students got to show their creativity in all their projects and models. The best thing is that they also worked very hard on their projects. The experiments and ideas were fantastic!

-Jessica Huynh
Grade 7

During the Science Fair, we got to see many different experiments from grades 1-5, talking about a lot of different topics in science from natural disasters to physics to scientific shapes and how they work. We also got to see many different experiments and models that the students had created!

The grade 1's also presented a group project about how different liquids can make the rainbow depending on their weight. Seeing their presentation and listening to their song about density in English was fun.

I especially liked how everyone got to see each other's experiments and got to ask questions about their project and learn something new!

I really liked how everyone worked hard to create their project and what they had chosen. I think that the Science Fair was a very good learning experience for the school, and I can't wait to see what the school will do for next year's science Fair !

-Janel Marie-Luce
Grade 7

Our Science Fair



























LOWER ELEMENTARY FRENCH

Dear parents,

I hope this message finds you well! It's been a busy and exciting month, and I'm happy to share some of the highlights from our classroom:

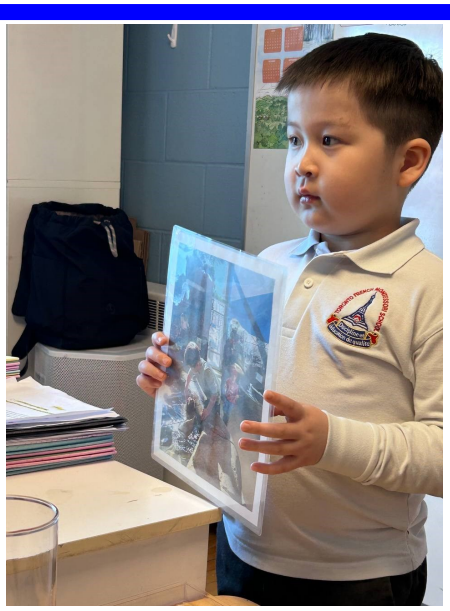
- **First Tests**: The kids had their first tests, and most of them did really well! I'm proud of their hard work and dedication.
- **Science Fair**: We had a fantastic science fair, and the students proved to be excellent team players. It was wonderful to see their creativity and collaboration.
- **Valentine's Day**: We celebrated Valentine's Day with fun activities, focusing on kindness and friendship. The kids really enjoyed it!
- **Pink Shirt Day**: Our class participated in Pink Shirt Day to stand against bullying and promote kindness. It was a great opportunity to talk about respect and empathy.
- **Black History Month**: February was Black History Month, and we took the time to learn about influential figures and events that shaped history. The students showed a lot of interest and asked insightful questions.
- **Show and Tell**: We've had some amazing Show and Tell sessions! It's always a joy to see the kids excited to share their interests and talents with the class.

Thank you for your continued support!

Best regards,
Mme. Pegah




Bienvenue




4 fév 2025




Journée du chandail rose




Mois de l'histoire des Noirs
Mae Jemison
1956 – présent
Marie-Jeanne Lamie
1977 – présent
Mary Ann Shadd
1823 – 1893
Willie Rosco Bowen
1875 – 1925

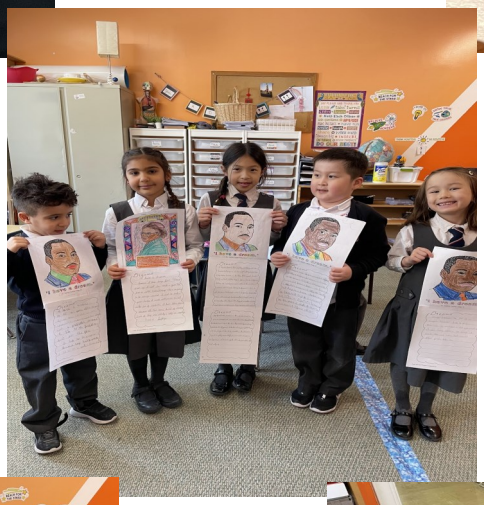
LOWER ELEMENTARY ENGLISH

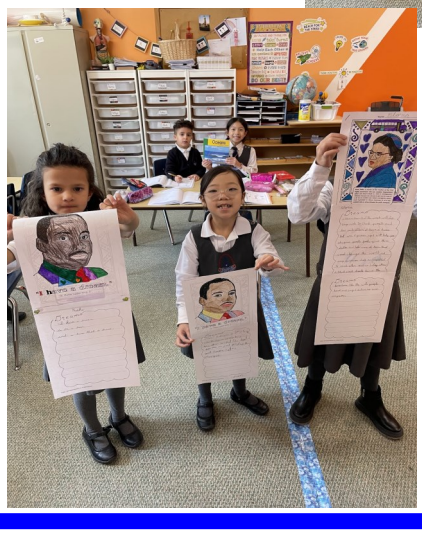
We had so much fun being curious about Science this month as we prepared for our Science Fair presentation. We also participated in an Ontario Science Centre online workshop about animal trackings. February is also Black History Month and we read stories about Ruby Bridges, Viola Desmond, and Martin Luther King. Students then reflected and wrote about their own 'dreams' for the future.

Ms. Katie











UPPER ELEMENTARY ENGLISH

This month we were busy exploring the effects that mining and erosion play on our land and environment. We also enjoyed learning from each other's Science Fair projects. February is also Black History Month and we honoured this by reading and learning about Mae Jemison, who became the first African-American woman to travel into space. Let's also not forget how much fun we had this month exchanging Valentine treats and playing in all the snow!

Ms. Katie



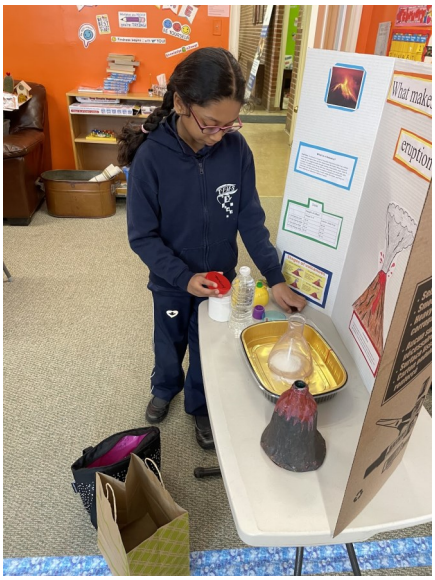







AN ILLUMINATION TO LIGHT POLLUTION
Invertebrates


PROCEDURE
GUMMY
OSMOSIS
EXPERIMENT
HYPOTHESIS
MATERIALS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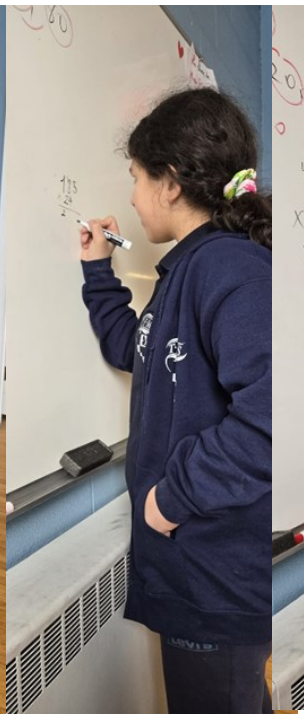
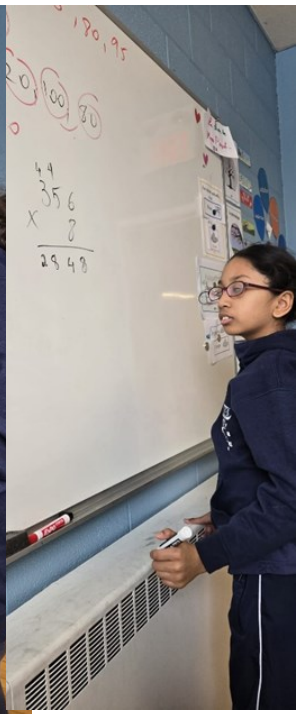
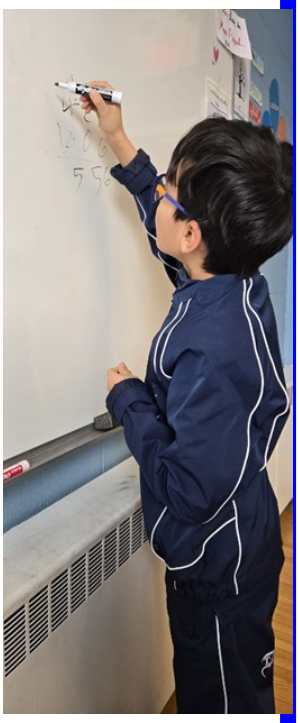
UE and JH FRENCH

Grade 4/5 students are actively participating in math exercises on the board and engaging in hands-on science activities.








JH Students:

Despite the many events at school, we managed to complete our assignments and take exams. Among all these tasks, we also had a kitchen experience, where we made a cake, and enjoyed a trip to the cinema.



Cinéma

Ce mois-ci, les Juniors Highs ont décidé d'aller voir le film Mufasa. On a marché la-bas et puis on a acheté nos billets et on est rentré pour voir le film. On a beaucoup aimé le film, et on aimerait aussi faire plusieurs sorties comme ça pendant l'année, où on peut apprendre la manipulation d'argent alors qu'on passe un bon moment avec nos camarades.



Cuisine

Ce mois, on a décidé de faire le désert: roulette à la crème avec notre professeur de français: Mme. Sepideh. Pour faire ce desert, tout le monde a participé pour ramener les ingrédients qu'il fallait. On s'est bien amusé, et la roulette était vraiment bonne.



ART





* * *

"DNA Diversity and Inclusivity"



Inspired by Reggie Laurent

Black Artists Inspired Art









Gakonga Kenyan artist

Song's and dance are all part of Kenyan culture and every painting has its own joyful rhythm that will bring a smile to your face and a warmth to your heart.

"Life is like a dance and every day is precious"

Lois Mailou Jones an American painter

and educator, said, "The wonderful thing about being an artist is that there is no end to creative expression. Painting is my life; my life is painting". She also said

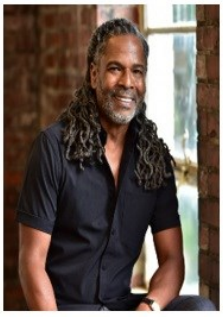
"Mine is a quiet exploration - a quest for new meanings in color, texture and design".











Reggie Laurent is an abstract artist from Chicago

His distinctive style, blending geometric and organic forms, are the foundation for a diverse range of artistic expressions known as the DNA Series.

"My art imitates life because it is representative of the diversity and inclusivity of each culture, the backbone of what makes the world such an interesting place."



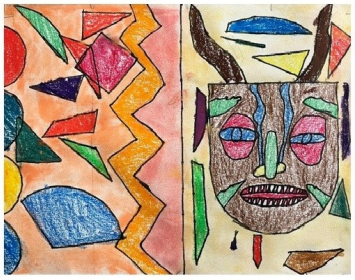




"New meanings in Color, Texture and Design"

Inspired By Lois Mailou Jones













OUR BUSY BUDDIES AT WILLOWDALE CASA

February at a Glance:

This February, Casa children at Willowdale Campus worked diligently with the Montessori materials as well as continued the textbooks work in the afternoon.

In Arts and Crafts we made a groundhog craft for Groundhog Day, a Family House for Family Day, as well as a variety of cards and fun crafts for Valentine's Day. Children enjoyed playing a Valentine game while sharing cards and gifts with each other. Throughout the month we read stories relevant to these topics.

This month we had discussions on the importance and the meaning of being a 'Buddy not a Bully' (on Pink Shirt Day), and celebrating our differences as well as all that we have in common while exploring Black History Month.

The arrival of the Month of Ramadan was also acknowledged through crafts and book reading.

Willowdale Casa children participated in the School Science Fair and had a lot of fun exploring the Cycle of Water, and sharing their knowledge of the three states of water, the influence water has on weather, clouds, and the life giving importance of water.

Mme. Adina



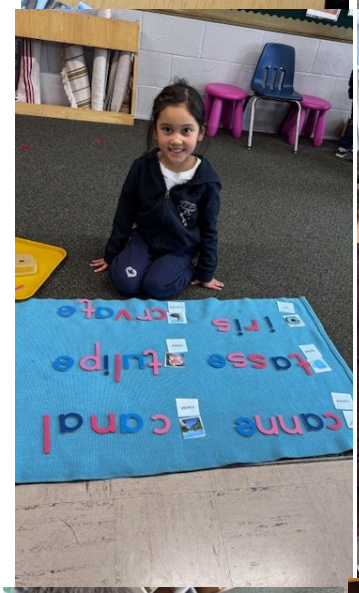








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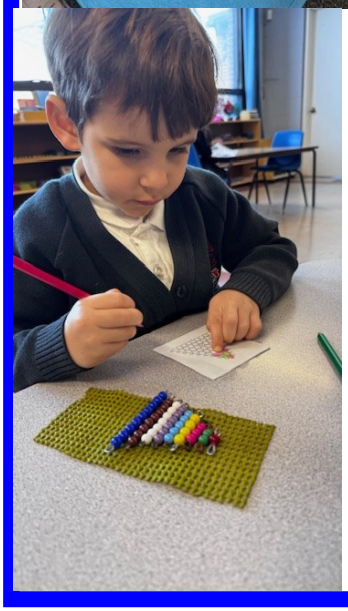

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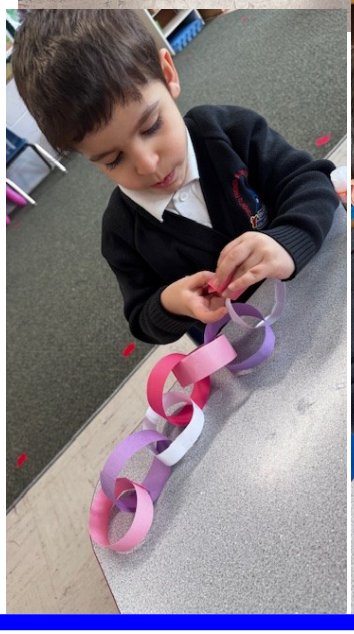





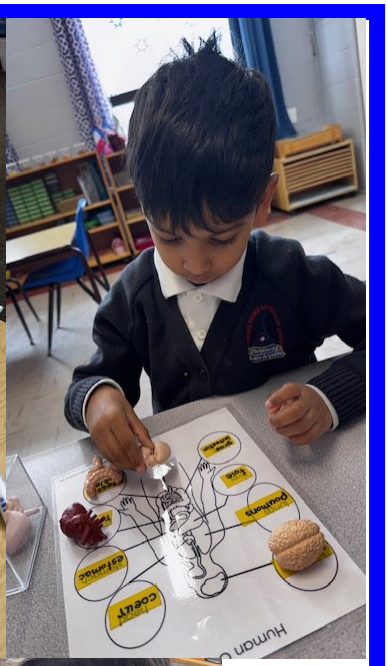






OUR BUSY BUDDIES AT STOUFFVILLE

This month was very busy. Between Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Family Day and Pink Shirt Day, we had a lot of things to do.

To celebrate Black Month History, we made a beautiful heart!

Mme. Christelle



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

For the occasion, we made beautiful crafts…






And yummy cookies we ate for our snack .




HAPPY FAMILY DAY!!!



Pink Shirt Day !











We also made snow volcano experiments



And used our creativity with clay.



But we didn't forget to work hard…



And after all the hard work, we enjoyed the snow ☃



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OUR BUSY BUDDIES AT STOUFFVILLE

Snow experiment, touching, feeling and having lots of fun



Exploring winter with its amazing winter animals and crafting a beautiful snowy owl



OUR BUSY BUDDIES AT STOUFFVILLE

And always in a studious atmosphere



Happy Valentine's Day

and, happily enjoying joys of winter and snow



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Important dates in March 2025:

Tuesday, March 4	**Pancake Tuesday/Mardi Gras**
Thursday, March 6	**Elementary Library Day**
Friday, March 7	**Pre-Casa and Casa Parent/Teacher Interviews - No School for Casa students**
Monday, March 10	**March Break: March 10 – 21**
Monday, March 24	**Back to School**
Thursday, March 27	**Library Day**
Friday, March 28	**Pizza Lunch Day / Civies Day**

Important dates in April 2025:

Monday, April 7	**Canadian Achievement Tests: to be confirmed**
Thursday, April 10	**Library Day**
Tuesday, April 15	**Picture Day—Stouffville Campus**
Wednesday, April 16	**Picture Day—Willowdale Campus**
Thursday, April 17	**Professional Activity Day – No School for students**
Friday, April 18	**Good Friday – No school**
Monday, April 21	**Easter Monday – No School**
Tuesday, April 22	**Back to school**
	Earth Day: Wear something green
Friday, April 25	**Pizza Lunch Day / Civies Day**