

MAURICE CODY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

Maurice Cody Public School
364 Belsize Drive
Toronto, ON
M4S 1N2
416 393-9240

Trustee: Shelley Laskin- Website [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)
Superintendent of Education: Ian Allison
Principal: Robert Nigro
Toronto District School Board Website:
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca>

School Events

September 30-October 6	Sarah & Claire's Food Drive
October 5	Boys Slo-Pitch Tournament
October 7	PA Day *No School
October 10	Thanksgiving *No School
October 11	Lunchtime Programs begin
October 13	Girls Slo-Pitch Tournament
October 13	FSA Meeting 9 am (staffroom)
October 15	The Cody Howl (gymnasium)
October 19	Cross-Country Conference Finals
October 20-21	School wide Lice Check
October 27	Pizza Lunch #2
October 27	Photo Retakes & Kindergarten Class Photos
October 31	Halloween Parade *Details TBD

Principal's Message - Welcome

On behalf of the staff of Maurice Cody Public School, I would like to thank the students and parents for their cooperation this past month. Welcome back and bienvenue to all our students and families! A special welcome is extended to all that are new to our community! We trust that everyone had a successful first month of school.

Each new school year is an exciting beginning. Over the past few weeks, teachers have been very busy preparing and organizing classrooms in order to create a warm and friendly learning environment for the children.

The staff and I look forward to working with you and your children to provide a rewarding year. Our goal is to make Maurice Cody a place where children are excited about learning, where excellence thrives, and where we all take pride in our accomplishments. You are encouraged to participate in your child's education by becoming involved in our school activities.

I will be sending a school newsletter monthly through email to keep you apprised of school events, important dates and general information of things are happening around Cody and of course the successes we would like to share and celebrate with you.

I look forward to an exciting school year ahead and developing those partnerships that will continue to make Maurice Cody an amazing place for your child(ren) to learn!

Yours in partnership,
Robert Nigro

Curriculum Night- Thursday October 22nd

It was great to see so many of you at Curriculum Night! As I mentioned from the outset, the partnership between home and school is an important and critical one. Our staff is committed to providing the best learning environment and educational experience to see your child(ren) succeed.

When working together, we are confident that great things can and will happen! As always thank you for your ongoing support in your child's education. Should you have any academic and curricular questions, do not hesitate to connect with the classroom teacher first.

Sincerely,
Robert & Adelia

Terry Fox Run

On September 23rd, staff and students from Maurice Cody took part in the Terry Fox Walk/Run to help raise money for cancer research. We are very proud to be associated with *The Terry Fox Foundation* and believe that our involvement will launch a successful, positive and meaningful school year.

Our goal is to continue Terry Fox's dream to collect money for cancer research. Over the years, we have raised a significant amount of money. The enthusiastic involvement from all staff, parents and students is greatly appreciated.

Cross-Country Meet

This year's Cross Country team comprised of over 270 students from Grades 1 to 6! With early morning practices, during the month of September, our student-athletes were primed and ready to take on any and all challenges.

On Friday September 30th at Ashbridges Bay, the Maurice Cody Coyotes battled the elements, as they competed against the other schools in their regional meet. While Cross-Country is typically considered to be an individual sport, the Cody Coyotes, over 270 students strong, displayed their perseverance, dedication and commitment to complete the race. This was a testament to not only their mental toughness but also an indication that strength in numbers does matter when competing and working together!

We are extremely proud of all runners who completed their races as they represented the school with great pride! A special thank you to all the parent volunteers and coaches for making this season an enjoyable and memorable experience for all students participating.

Those who did advance will be competing in a few weeks' time.
Congratulations to all!
Go Coyotes!

Music: Choir Sessions to Begin (Ms. Snow)

The sound of music is in full swing with Choir practice. If interested please pick up a permission form from Ms. Snow for the following dates and times:

Primary Choir:

Starting on September 28, and every Wednesday at 8am in the music room, students in Grades 2 and 3 are invited to join and participate.

Junior Choir:

Starting on October 6th, and every Thursday at 8am in the music room, Grade 4,5 and 6 are invited to join and participate!

Get Involved!

A Message from the Library (Ms. Hatzis)

Dear Cody Parents,
Please check the attached document on how your child(ren) can access the TDSB virtual library at home.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Visitors to the School

Our first priority for all students is their safety. Board and Provincial guidelines clearly outline the process that all visitors must follow upon their arrival on school property, which begins with reporting to the Main Office to sign in and out. You will be issued a Visitor Badge, which must be worn visibly during your stay.

School Hours

The office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
Telephone 416-393-9240
Facsimile 416-393-9234

All students from Grades 1-6 are expected to be on the school grounds by 8:30 in anticipation of entering the school at 8:40. Our Kindergarten students need to be dropped off at the designated playground by 8:40am in anticipation of entering the school by 8:55 am. Students who go home for lunch should be on the school grounds by 12:30 in anticipation of entering the school at 12:35.

Entrance and Dismissal Times

<i>Kindergarten:</i> Supervision – 8:40-8:50 am outside Entry – 8:50-8:55 am Lunch - 11:25-12:35 pm Dismissal – 3:20 pm	<i>Grades 1-6:</i> Supervision – 8:30 – 8:40 am Entry – 8:40 – 8:45 am Lunch – 11:30 – 12:35 pm Dismissal – 3:25 pm
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During an Indoor Morning Entry:

When it is indoor supervision, before the morning bell, staff on duty will assist in the following way: Grades 1-3 students go to the hallway in the basement, and Grades 4-6 students are in the atrium. Parents, we ask that you do not escort your children to their classrooms due to congestion and to encourage independence, students must wait for the 8:40 bell to go to class.

Lates

We expect our students to be **on time** for school each day. We also understand that once in awhile a circumstance arises which will cause a student to be late.

A student is considered late if he/she **is not in the classroom** when the final bell rings at 8:45am (Grades 1-6) and 8:55am (Kindergarten). Chronic lateness will be reported to parents/guardians.

Any student who arrives after the other students have entered the building, whether alone or accompanied by a parent or guardian, **MUST** report to the office for a late slip.

Lunch Policy

Please be reminded that the lunch hour is from 11:30 am-12:35 pm (Grades 1-6) and 11:25am-12:35 pm (Kindergarten). When children stay for lunch, they will eat with their classmates and remain on school property. If there is ever a need for your child to leave school property, a written request signed and dated from the parent is required for each occurrence.

Litterless Lunches

Maurice Cody is striving to have a zero food waste policy. Please help us to continue along the path to a more sustainable future by packing your child's lunch and snack in reusable containers. We suggest you purchase a canteen for water or juice rather than purchase wasteful drink boxes, cans, and bottles. For food transport, reusable food containers are widely available as are specially designed lunch bags with individual food compartments. Reduce waste by refraining from purchasing individually wrapped treats.

We hope that you will assist us in reducing our school's environmental footprint and embrace this opportunity to bring environmental education into your home.

Preventing Illness

Childhood illnesses, like colds, are spread easily when children are in close contact in the school setting. Many of these illnesses can be prevented through something as simple as washing hands with soap and water. Here are some reminders for your children:

- Not to share food
- Not to share drinks
- To throw away used tissues
- To wash their hands frequently using soap

If you think your child is ill, call your doctor or health care provider and do not send your child to school. By visiting the doctor and taking precaution, one can prevent an illness from becoming more severe.

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in a total system breakdown within minutes of exposure, even to just trace amounts of certain allergens. Although exposure to foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, fish, soy and sesame seeds are among the most common causes of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law. Sabrina's Law requires every school board in Ontario to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them.

For the safety of students with life-threatening food allergies and an overall concern for children's health and nutrition, we believe that celebrating milestones and other special occasions at school without food is strongly encouraged. We recommend that you and your children find creative ways to mark these moments at school, if you wish, and we look forward to seeing some fresh celebratory ideas come to fruition this year (i.e., birthday book).

As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and to **PLEASE NOT SEND ANY SNACKS OR LUNCHES WITH YOUR CHILD THAT CONTAIN PEANUTS OR NUTS.**

At Maurice Cody, our goal is to promote sensitivity, community, vigilance and compassion. We hope you will respect the varying health concerns of a growing number of anaphylactic students at our school, while still meeting your own children's health and nutritional needs. If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform his/her teacher and the office staff immediately.

FAQS

Does everything I send to school have to be labelled peanut-free and nut-free?

No. We are aware that there are a lot of food options that don't declare themselves peanut- or nut-free, but still contain no peanuts and nuts in the ingredients. And we're fine with that. We just ask that you check ingredients on whatever you're sending to ensure peanuts and nuts are not listed, including anything you make or prepare at home.

Can we send snacks that may contain traces of peanuts or nuts?

We would prefer you not to, but we recognize that most foods made or prepared at home may contain traces of peanuts or nuts. We ask that you do your best not to send any pre-packaged products that warn about traces of peanuts and tree nuts, but are primarily focused on precluding the entrance of foods that definitely contain these life-threatening allergens.

What happens if I mistakenly send my child with food containing peanuts or nuts?

That food will be immediately taken to the office and a note will be sent home that day, informing you of the mishap.

Can the school provide a safe snack list?

We prefer not to, as food ingredients, manufacturing facilities and packaging plants can change without warning, rendering a previously safe snack unsafe. Reading ingredients is key to finding allergy-safe snacks; although increasingly, highly visible peanut-free and nut-free symbols are appearing on popular snack items, making it easier to quickly identify them in the grocery aisles. If you have any specific questions or concerns about finding allergy-safe snacks, we are more than happy to help and encourage you to contact us.

If a product says it's peanut-free, does that mean it's nut-free and visa versa?

No. Peanut-free means no peanuts or traces of them. Nut-free means no tree nuts (cashews, hazel nuts, walnuts, almonds, etc.) or traces of them. It is common that a peanut-free product is also nut-free, but that assumption should not be made unless neither peanuts nor nuts are listed in the ingredients. Again, reading ingredients is key.

What about other allergies?

Teachers are notifying parents of all allergies in their classrooms in order to keep all students safe. One of our main concerns as a school community is peanuts and nuts, as they are the major allergens threatening an increasing number of our students. Typically, they are also more likely than other allergens to cause a reaction through indirect contact (ie trace amounts left on surfaces, hands, clothing, in some case air-born exposure, etc). Several of our students - including some of those with

peanut and nut allergies - have other severe food allergies as well (fish, egg, mustard, to name a few), but if they don't threaten to cause a reaction unless ingested, we prefer to leave them out of the conversation about what other students should and should not be eating. So far, it has worked to leave the vigilance around those allergies to the families and students affected. However, our policy that promotes sensitivity, community, vigilance and compassion is in place to cover any and all special needs within our school environment, as they are and as they arise. We are doing our best to create a safe and healthy school setting for all of our students. As such, we choose to only ask for community cooperation where and when necessary. Where peanuts and nuts are concerned, the elimination of cross-contamination (when something innocuous is touched by an allergen) in our school is vital to the safety of our anaphylactic students.

October 2016: Days of Significance, Days of Interest (Mr. Gale)

This is a month-long overview of important days and events that may be of interest. The information provided comes from the TDSB "Days of Significance" document as well as other information from external sources.

Please note:

* Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date

** Local/ regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date during this period

Bold Bolded titles are primary holy days of a tradition

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/docs/Days%20of%20Sig8.pdf>

+ Additional days of significance not mentioned by TDSB

OCTOBER Character Education Trait: *Responsibility* (<http://character.org/lessons/lesson-plans/mixed/shades-cahaba-elementary-school/>)

Women's History Month

(<http://www.etfo.ca/advocacyandaction/womensissues/womenshistorymonth/Pages/default.aspx>)

Somali and Islamic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month (City of Toronto)

(http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3054)

1	International Day of Older Persons (UN)	http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/index.shtml http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/index.html
1-10	Navaratri** (Hinduism)	mailerindia.com/hindu/veda/index.php?dussera festivals.iloveindia.com/navaratri/index.html library.thinkquest.org/11719/vasishtfiles/navaratri.html www.hindujagruti.org/hinduism/festivals/navaratri/
2	Al-Hijra New Year* ** (Islam)	http://www.britannica.com/event/Hijrah-Islam
3-4	Rosh Hashanah* (Judaism)	www.jewfaq.org/holiday2.htm www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/4644/jewish/Rosh.htm www.ou.org/chagim/roshhashannah/default.htm
5	International Walk/Bike to School Day (TDSB) (USA)	http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/
5	World Teachers' Day (TDSB, UN)	http://www.5oct.org/2012/index.php/en/?lang=en
7-11	Durga Puja (Saptami) (Hinduism)	
7-9	Jalsa Salana (Islam)	
9	Durga Ashtami (Hinduism)	
10	Ashura* (Islam)	http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/38434/Ashura
10	Thanksgiving (Canada)	www.history.com/minisites/thanksgiving/
10	Vijaya Dashami (Hinduism)	
10	World Mental Health Day (WHO)	http://www.camh.net/ http://www.who.int/topics/mental_health/en/index.html http://www.wfmh.org/index.html
10	World Homeless Day+	http://www.worldhomelessday.org/ http://worldhomelessactionday.squat.net/ http://homelesshub.ca/education
10-17	Week Without Violence (TDSB)	http://ywccanada.ca/en/pages/www/introduction
11	Dasehra** (Hinduism)	http://www.hindujagruti.org/hinduism-for-kids/565.html
11	International Day of the Girl (UN)	http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/idg-jif/index-en.html http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QgoY3P3GAY

		http://www.becauseiamagirl.ca http://www.dayofthegirl.org
11	Maun Agiyaras (Jain)	
11	National Face Your Fears Day (US)+	http://www.giftypedia.com/National_Face_Your_Fears_Day
12	Yom Kippur* (Judaism)	www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/yomkippur.htm www.jewfaq.org/holiday4.htm www.ou.org/chagim/yomkippur/default.htm www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/yomkippur www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/4687/jewish/Kippur.htm
16	Pavarana Day (Buddhism)	
16	World Food Day (UN)	http://www.feedingminds.org/ http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/ http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/food/index.html
17	International Day of the Eradication of Poverty (UN)	http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/takeaction/ http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/poverty2000/index.asp
17-23	Sukkot* (Judaism)	www.jewfaq.org/holiday5.htm www.sukkot.com urj.org/holidays/sukkot/index.cfm? www.torahlots.com/holidays/sukkot/sukkot.htm www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/index.html
19	Karva Chauth (Hinduism)	
19	We Day+	http://www.weday.com/we-day-events/toronto/
20	Birth of the Ba'b (Baha'i)	http://aglobalworld.com/holidays-around-the-world/bahai-birth-of-the-bab/
20	Installation of Guru Granth <i>as Guru</i> (Sikhism)	
24	Shemini Atzeret* (Judaism)	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm
25	Simchat Torah* (Judaism)	www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/4689/jewish/Simchat.htm www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm
26	Child Care Worker & ECE Appreciation Day+ (Ontario)	http://www.childcareontario.org http://cupe.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/webarc/archivedat5843.pdf
29	Diwali Kali Puja (Hinduism)	
30	Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism)	
30	Deepavali (Hinduism)	
30	Diwali** (Jain, Hinduism, Sikhism)	www.indolink.com/Kidz/dashera.html . www.indolink.com/Kidz/stories.html . www.indolink.com/Kidz/greatpeople.html . www.diwalifestival.org/ www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/diwali.html www.diwali.nl/ www.surfindia.com/festivals/diwali.html
31	All Hallow's Eve/Hallowe'en (Christianity)	www.americancatholic.org/Features/Halloween/ www.loc.gov/folklife/halloween.html
31		
31	New Year (Enlightment of Gautam Swami) (Jain)	

Important Dates for the 2016-17 School Year

Labour Day: September 5, 2016

Thanksgiving: October 10, 2016

Christmas Break: December 26, 2016 to January 6, 2017 inclusive (last day of school December 23, 2016; school resumes January 9, 2017)

Provincial Family Day: February 20, 2017

Mid-Winter Break: March 13 to 17, 2017 (inclusive)

Good Friday: April 14, 2017

Easter Monday: April 17, 2017

Victoria Day: May 22, 2017

Professional Activity days

Friday, October 7, 2016

Friday, November 18, 2016

Friday, December 2, 2016

Friday, January 20, 2017

Friday, February 17, 2017

Friday, June 9, 2017

Friday, June 30, 2017