

# WOLVERINES

WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

**STRIVING TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL**



WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We trust that everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter break including lots of time spent with family and friends. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Holiday concert in December. Many thanks for your generous donations to our Tree of Warmth and Holiday Hampers. The volunteers from St. Paul's asked us to pass on our thanks for your kindness and support. We made a difference to families in need. That's a super lesson for our children.

We are already back into full swing. We see lots of learning happening in every classroom, demonstrating that students know the routines and expectations. It's a busy time! Over the next few weeks, our grade eight students will make important decisions regarding their transition to secondary school. Our grade three and six students are working to prepare for the standardized testing in the spring and our Junior Kindergarten students are really feeling comfortable in the school environment. Our teachers are gathering ongoing assessments. Kids and teachers are busy with in-school clubs and intramurals. It's a healthy mix of activities to engage kids.

A reminder that we do spend a significant amount of time outside each day so it is important that your child(ren) come dressed for the weather. Please help them pack extra socks and mitts as these are often still wet at the next recess time.

Student safety in our parking lot and kiss-and-ride areas is a constant concern. The parking lot is a busy dangerous place for students to traverse, especially in the morning when folks are hustling to get to work. Please use the bus/through lane to move through the parking lot to parking spaces and respect the no left turn times at the parking lot exit. The ten-minute window around entry and dismissal time is particularly busy; the snow and darker days add to the potential risk to our kids. We appreciate your help in keeping everyone safe.

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Warmest regards,

*J. Foster and T. Hawthorne*

J. Markovski

M. Bowman

Trustees:

Superintendent

Administrative Officer

Chris Braney 905-509-2426 [chris.braney@ddsb.ca](mailto:chris.braney@ddsb.ca)

905-666-6376

905-666-6368

Paul Crawford 905-852-0575 [paul.crawford@ddsb.ca](mailto:paul.crawford@ddsb.ca)

## Dates to Remember

Jan. 6—first day back

Jan 9—SCC meeting at 6:30 pm

Jan. 10—PJ Spirit Day

Jan. 17—PA Day

Jan. 24—Character Spirit Day

Feb. 6—SCC Meeting

Feb. 7—Western Spirit Day

Feb. 11—Grad Photos

Feb 12—Term 1 Reports go home

Feb. 14—Red/White/Pink Spirit Day

Feb 17—Family Day

Feb 25—Regional SCC

Feb. 26—Pink Shirt Day

# LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED

**We are in need of adult lunchroom supervisors who are available from 11:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.**

**Supervisors are assigned to monitor classes while the students are eating their lunch. They also supervise students in the yard with the assistance of other staff members. This is a paid DDSB position.**

**Please drop by the Main Office and see Ms. Hawthorne if you are interested in pursuing this important responsibility.**

## SCC NEWS:



Thank you for making our Bad Monkey fundraiser such a HUGE success! We raised over \$1100, which we will use to support school priorities. Thank you!

Stay up to date on the latest SCC news and events. Find us at Facebook.com under groups, "William Dunbar SCC".

For the 2019/20 school year the SCC executives are:

Co-Chairs: Shannon Belmore & Katie Coppolino

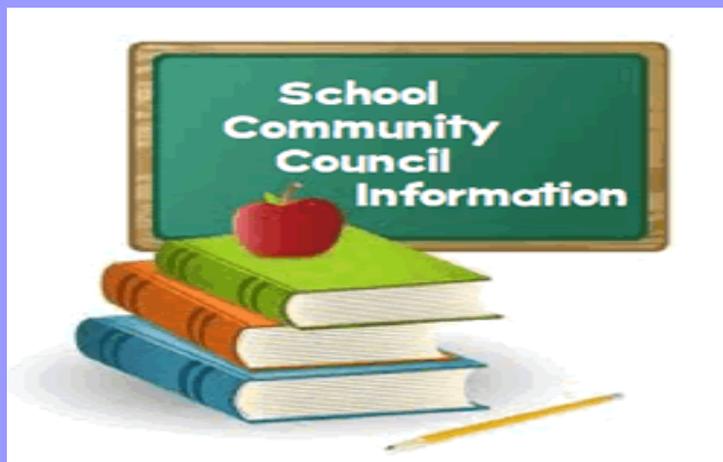
Secretary: Lisa Appelbohm

Treasurer: Julie Chipp-Smith

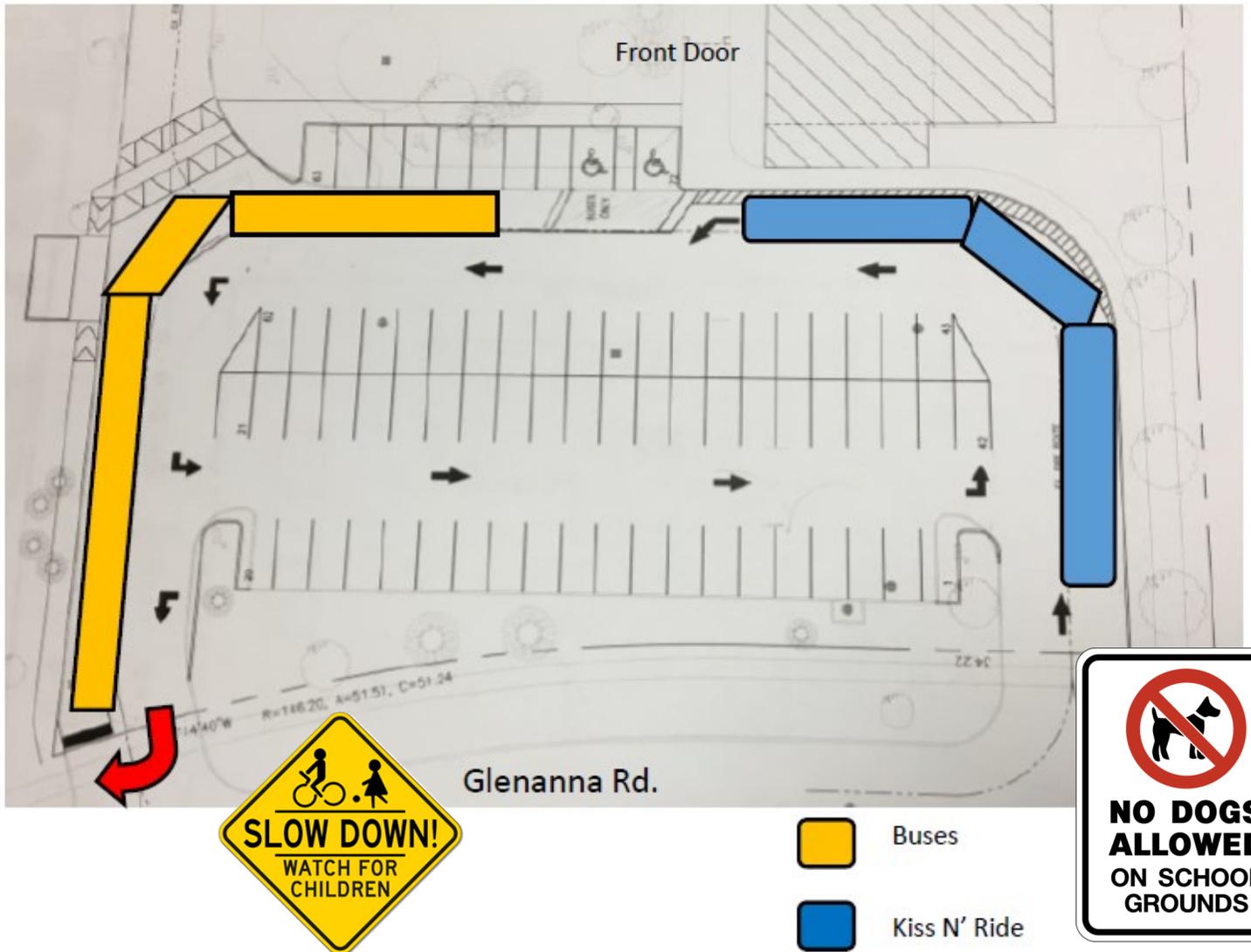
All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and daycare is provided. The dates are as follows:

- February 6, 2020
- March 5, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- May 7, 2020
- June 18, 2020

If you are interested in attending SCC meetings, helping at school Community events, or want to know more about the SCC, please email us @ [SCC.williamdunbarps@scc.ddsba](mailto:SCC.williamdunbarps@scc.ddsba)



# Parking Lot Reminder



- ⇒ **Kiss and Ride is one lane wide. The second lane is for busses.**
- ⇒ **We do not recommend parking in our lot during Kiss and Ride times. However, if you need to, please use a designated spot. This allows buses and Kiss and Ride to flow smoothly.**
- ⇒ **When exiting onto Glenanna Rd, IT IS A RIGHT TURN ONLY during Kiss and Ride times. This improves flow of traffic and safety.**
- ⇒ **Please share this information with anyone dropping off or picking up your child(ren), for example grandparents or daycare.**

## Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program where readers select the winners. This initiative is organized by the Ontario Library Association. The Forest of Reading helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors, and illustrators. It promotes literacy and encourages a love of reading.

Blue Spruce is for students in Kindergarten to grade 3. Mrs. Wurster will read these books to the students in their weekly library period. We will begin January 13<sup>th</sup> and read the 10 titles with voting to take place at the end of April.

For students in grades 3 and 4, they may choose to participate in the Silver Birch Express program.

They read fiction and non-fiction books and complete a short response about their book. They must read at least 5 out of 10 titles to vote at the end of April.

For students in grades 5 and 6, there is the Silver Birch Fiction program. Students in grades 7 and 8 can participate in the Red Maple Fiction programs.

There is the Yellow Cedar Non-Fiction program for grades 5-8. Students need to read at least 5 out of the 10 titles to vote at the end of April. They also complete a short response for Mrs. Wurster to share their thoughts and learning about the books they've read.

There was an information meeting in December for interested students in grades 3 and up. Many students are avidly reading the books and enjoying the experience. Students are still welcome to take part.

## Tree of Warmth

William Dunbar P.S collected 3 boxes of winter clothing for the Tree of Warmth. The Tree of Warmth was a Student Council event that took place from December 2 to December 13. It was a chance for us to give to others. Students brought in new winter clothing for children who were in need and didn't have any. Some examples of the winter clothing we collected were mittens, scarves, and hats. The donations were all brought to St. Paul's On-the-Hill with our Food Hampers where they were distributed to children in need of winter clothing. Thank you to those families who donated to this event.

By: Zackery H.

## Food Hamper

From December 2nd to December 13th, William Dunbar's Student Council held its annual Food Hamper event supporting the St. Paul's On-The-Hill Food Bank. Each class was asked to donate food to make up a food hamper. It was then delivered to a family in need so they could have a Christmas dinner with all the fixings.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated!

By: Maegan B.



## Me to We Update

Our We Volunteer toiletry drive continues. Please send in any donations!



## December Sing Along!

On the last day of school before the December Break at William Dunbar, we had a school Holiday Sing-Along session and assembly. Ms. Shearer's class started off with a play. After that, they started playing a lot of popular Christmas, Chinese New Year, and Hanukkah songs, like Dreidel, The 12 Days of Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, and more. Everyone had fun and was singing. After the Sing-Along was finished, some teachers made a special performance. Overall, it was a really good experience and everyone enjoyed it. We hope this happens in William Dunbar for many years to come. Happy Holidays!

By: Joke O.

## December Kindergarten Concert



## STEM Event Jan. 9th

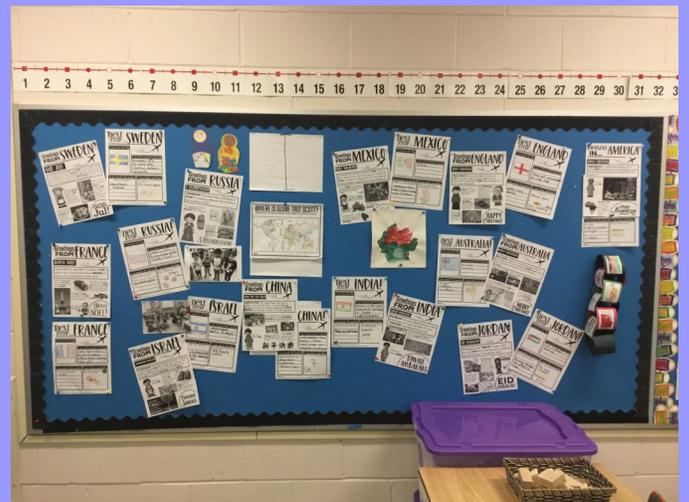
During the William Dunbar STEM event, we had to make paper skimmers and have them glide across the floor using one fan. We had limited supplies including: a paper base, a ruler, tape, a straw, two small pieces of white cardstock (as a sail), a paper clip and scissors. Our team first had to cut out the



base and fold on the lines, then we had to bend the paper clip and put it in the straw, and to keep it secure, we put clear tape. Then we cut out our sail and taped it to the straw and, because of the friction, we put clear masking tape on the bottom of our paper skimmer, to make our paper skimmer glide across the floor. Even though our team was under a lot of pressure, the four of us had a ton of fun during the William Dunbar STEM Event!

By: Jordan M., Alexis P., Rachel L., Megan F.,  
(Team #7)

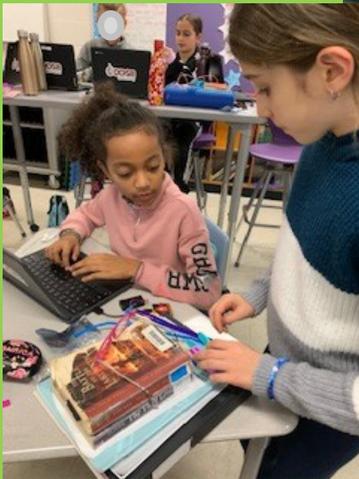
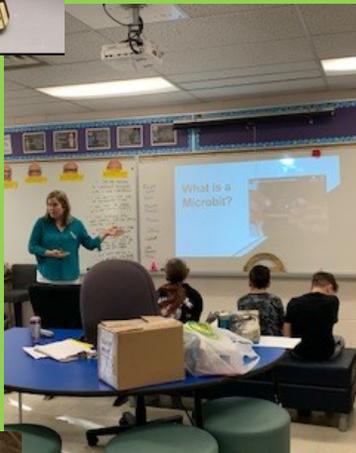
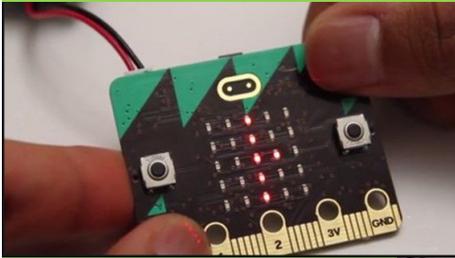
## Celebrations Around the World



## Micro Bits

This week, our class worked with the STEM facilitator, Ms. Kennedy who taught us about microbits. A microbit is a learning tool that introduces children to coding. It was created in the United Kingdom when the BBC teamed up with Microsoft to introduce a new generation to coding. The microbit itself is a little chip with LED lights that displays messages. You can code the microbit to do so many marvellous things. Our class was given a chance to use this piece of technology to code messages and symbols. Then we were asked to create a pair of user-friendly smart glasses to assist people to remember tasks. We learned throughout the day about problem-solving, critical reflection, and using the microbit to code what we required. We got to explore all the features of the microbit and ways to apply it in action. We had a lot of fun using the microbit and also got a whole new experience at school. The microbit is a very exciting way to learn how to code.

By: Sophia M. and Adriana C. (Ms. Dwarka's class)



## H.A.F.H.A.C.

Our H.A.F.H.A.C. crew did a hot chocolate sale, candy cart sale and Raptors raffle ticket sale. We raised \$1,784 because of everyone that supported H.A.F.H.A.C.

We learned that other people matter and that we should care more about them. You should learn about poverty and people that are in need.

Helping families that are in need is a good deed. We are basically the family's holiday life-savers. We make the family's day an exciting one. You probably don't know what poverty is so we will tell you. Poverty is when people don't have enough money to pay for all their bills and rent for the house.

When we were doing the candy cart sale, we would say, "Anything from the trolley dears" in a very nice tone. We would let whoever is buying a treat take their time. Why? Here's why. If we were impolite, then the people that we were impolite to wouldn't support H.A.F.H.A.C. any more.

We hope you enjoyed our article about our H.A.F.H.A.C. experience.

By: Chloe M. & Maliyah J.

HAFHAC was part of our unit on poverty, where students learned what poverty was, how people ended up in poverty, the difficulties getting out of poverty, and things people are doing to help those in poverty. The two main take-aways were, anyone of any age can help someone in poverty, and that it doesn't take much to help turn someone's life around. Examples of this are a gesture of kindness, spare change, food, clothing, empathizing with them in the smallest way.



## SAFE SCHOOL REMINDERS



### Digital Devices—Keeping our students safe and focused on learning.

Devices can be a valuable tool to augment learning, such as enabling research or the use of educational apps. However, they can also interfere with learning. Texting, engaging in social media and the taking of personal pictures or videos during class time is detrimental to a safe learning environment. The use of devices at recesses and lunch on school property is prohibited as there cannot be direct supervision to ensure appropriate use. This includes listening to music during these times. While we anticipate student compliance, here is the progressive response in the event of repeated issues:

First Offense: student receives a warning and they must take their phone and lock it in their locker (Please ensure your child has a Dudley lock that works.)

Second Offense: student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Third Offense: A guardian is contacted. The student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

### Anaphylaxis



Thanks for remembering  
this is a



Peanut/Nut  
Free School

**NO NUTS PLEASE!** Some allergies have the potential of being life threatening. As we have a number of students with life threatening allergies, we ask that all parents assist in our students' safety by reading the labels on all lunch products to ensure that they do not contain nuts or traces of nuts. Even trace elements could cause a severe life-threatening reaction. **Thank you to all community members for putting safety first!**

**Also note that any nut alternative products, i.e., SoyaButter, WOWButter, are not permitted in the school. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school staff to control for a "peanut safe"**

**environment.** As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don't look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).



**Homemade Baked Treats:** We request that students and parents/guardians DO NOT bring in any homemade baked goods for special occasions. If you wish your child to bring in an item to celebrate a special event, we will allow any store-purchased, pre-packaged food item, with the ingredient label(s) clearly visible, indicating that it is a peanut/nut-free item and does not contain ingredients that any classmates are allergic to. As an alternative, we encourage any students wishing to bring a celebratory item to share with his/her classmates, to consider non-food items, i.e., pencils, stickers, etc.



### Scents and Latex

We also have members of our community with severe allergies to latex and scents. We ask that no latex products, such as balloons, are brought to school. William Dunbar is committed to being a scent sensitive community so please do not wear or send scented products to school. **THIS INCLUDES HAND SANITIZER PRODUCTS.** These products also violate Health and Safety guidelines for our board.

### Administration of Medication at School

**Any medications** that need to be administered at school require a special form completed and signed by your family doctor. These forms, **Administration of Oral Medication** or an **Administration of Medication by injection**, are available from the office. The completed form, and the medication in the **original** labeled container, must be provided to the school. The parent/guardian is also responsible for providing any special instructions or training to staff before we can begin administration. Please note, all forms expire at the end of the school year and must be renewed each September.

Good attendance patterns can become an important factor in a student's overall success at school.

### Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year.
- Students who are absent 15 days of school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and tend to have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

### Families can support good attendance at school by:

- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Getting clothes, lunches and backpacks ready the night before.
- Communicating regularly with your child's teacher.
- Talking with your child about their school day.
- Taking part in school events and activities to show your child that you value school and education.
- Planning vacations and appointments around the school schedule whenever possible.
- Making sure your child goes to school, unless they are truly sick.



**Attendance  
MATTERS** 

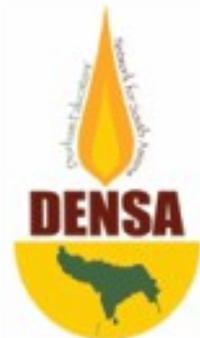


**Act early!** Let the school know right away if there is a problem or concern. There are lots of ways we can work together to get attendance back on track or prevent an attendance problem from starting.

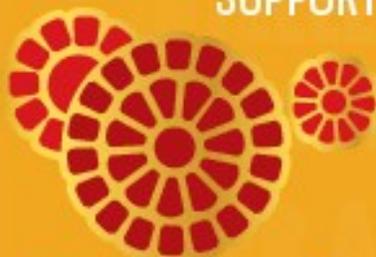
# January is Tamil Heritage Month



In January, we celebrate the history of Tamil language and culture while recognizing the contributions that Tamil-Canadians have made to our diverse Canadian tapestry. Tamil Heritage month will be an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the rich cultural fabric of our nation while highlighting the significance of the earliest Tamil traditions, knowledge and cultural elements of Tamil heritage and ancestry. Join us as we embark on a journey of discovering the history of Tamil Heritage.



SUPPORTING ALL DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY



# Happy PONGAL

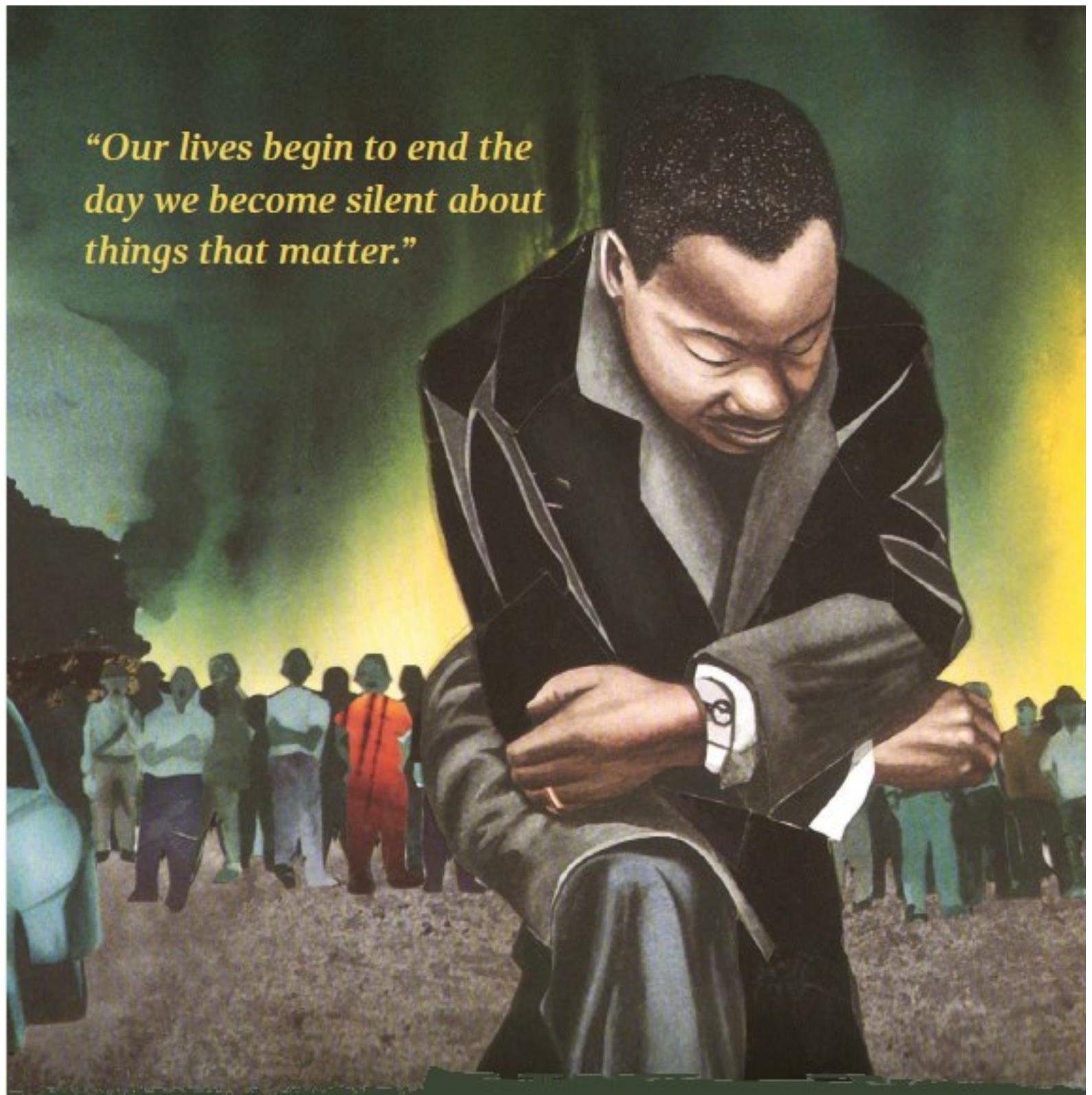


## பொங்கல்

JANUARY 15-18, 2020

**Pongal** is a four day celebration each year that marks a period of plenty, peace and happiness. "Thai" (January) and "Pongal" (boiling over of milk and rice) is the harvest festival for Tamils, similar to Thanksgiving. Once a year, Tamils express gratitude during the harvest festival, mainly to the sun for a bountiful harvest. Families rejoice and share their harvest with others.

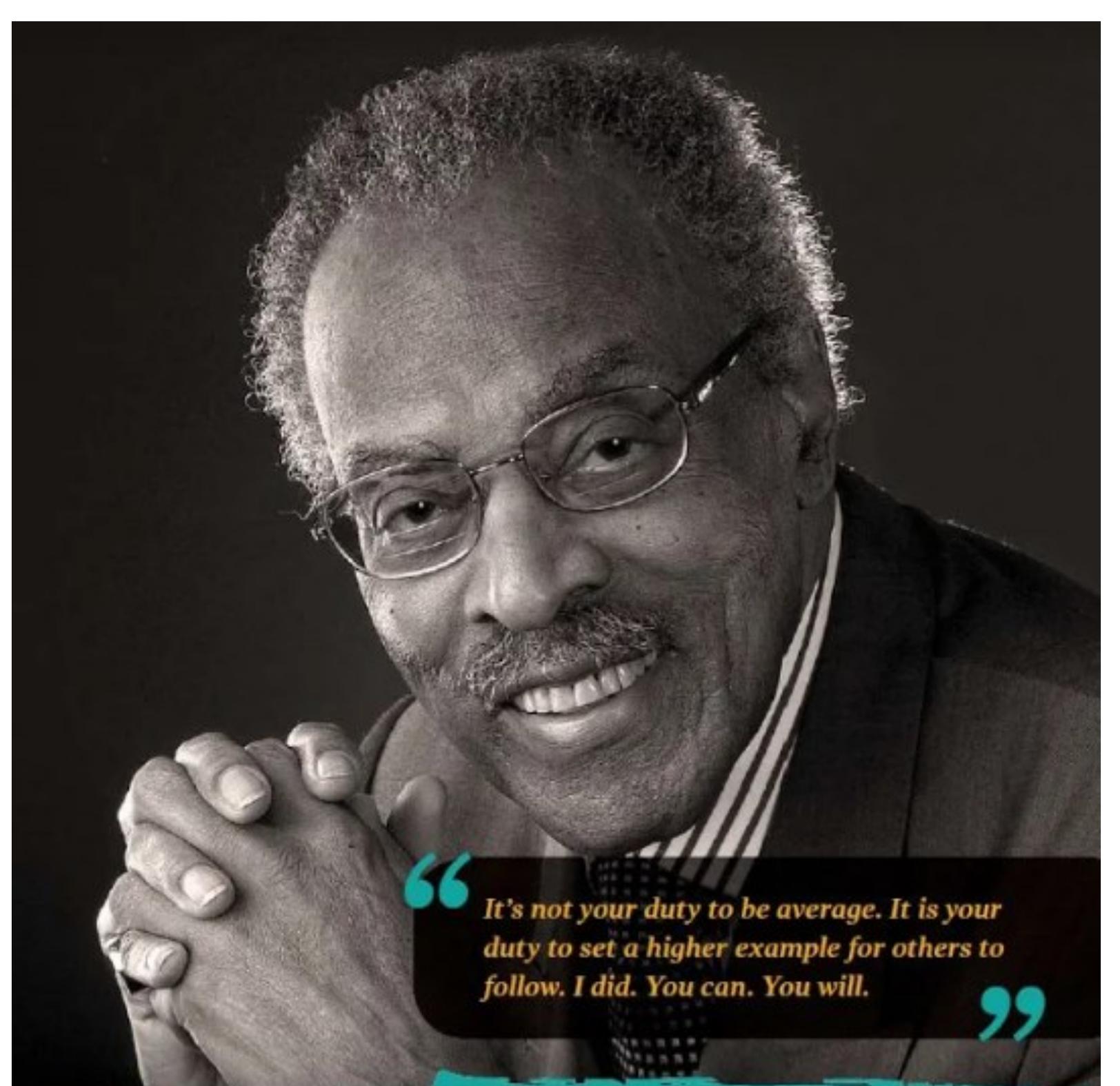
*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”*



# MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

JANUARY 16, 2017





“ *It's not your duty to be average. It is your duty to set a higher example for others to follow. I did. You can. You will.* ”

# LINCOLN ALEXANDER DAY

JANUARY 21





**December 26 -  
Kwanzaa (African/American Canadian)**

**January 1 -**

Professor Maulana Karenga started Kwanzaa in 1966 to encourage African Americans to celebrate the beauty of their African heritage. The time is celebrated by decorating with African art and fabrics, and wearing African clothing. Each of the 7 principles of Kwanzaa, called the Nguzo Saba (Swahili for "seven principles") is thought about and celebrated on each of the 7 days of the festival. The Nguzo Saba are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose in building the community), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). A special seven-pronged candle holder, the Kinara, is used for Kwanzaa. One candle is lit the first day, two the second day and so on.

**January is Tamil Heritage Month**

On June 12, 2012, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario had its first reading of Bill 111, an Act to proclaim the month of January Tamil Heritage Month. People of Tamil heritage have migrated to Ontario since the 1940s. Tamil Canadians have overcome obstacles while making significant contributions to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural tapestry. Tamil Heritage Month presents an opportunity to reinforce the important history and contributions of Canadians of Tamil heritage. The month of January was chosen because the first month of the Tamil calendar – *Thai* begins in January. This month is also significant as Tamil Canadians recognize many cultural and artistic observances including the Tamil Harvest Festival – *Thai Pongal*.

**January 1 – New Year's Day**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are special days for many people around the world. On the morning of New Year's Day, children on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario go from house to house collecting gifts of edible treats. People of Japanese heritage welcome the New Year (Gantan Sai) with prayers and visits to holy sites often timed to coincide with the stroke of midnight. For French Canadians, New Year's Eve is sometimes more important than Christmas Eve. Their house-visiting custom is called "guignoloée." Bell-ringers announce that visitors have arrived. After the singing, the visitors collect money, food, and clothes for the needy. People of Scottish heritage call New Year's Eve "Hogmanay". Many European Canadians observe several Scottish customs today—the most popular among which are the use of noise-makers and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight. Often there is also a round of kissing. On New Year's Eve, many people of Chilean heritage sing their national anthem. People of Austrian heritage may eat marzipan candy pigs, which stand for good fortune. People of Portuguese heritage eat 12 raisins for good luck—one for each stroke of the clock. Koreans may stay up all night, and have "forgetting-the-year" parties, during which there is a ceremony to forget any past disappointments.



### **January 15 – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.**

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and political activist who is arguably the most famous leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. King was named Man of the Year by Time Magazine in 1963, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964—then the youngest man ever to have received the award. He turned over the Nobel Prize money to further the Civil Rights Movement. King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had planned to lead a march in sympathy with striking garbage workers. It was only 9 years later, in 1977, when he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter. In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year. The struggle to have this day recognized as a federal holiday involved Stevie Wonder’s song “Happy Birthday,” and a petition with 6 million signatures—the largest petition in US history. The day was observed first in 1986, and was finally observed in all states in 2000. For his promotion of non-violence and racial equality, King is considered a peacemaker and martyr by many people around the world.

### **January 20 - Martin Luther King Day**

The idea of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. After King's death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office). Only two other figures have national holidays in the U.S. honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

### **January 21 – Lincoln Alexander Day (Canada)**

Lincoln MacCauley Alexander was born on Jan. 21, 1922. He practised law for more than 10 years and in 1968 was elected MP of Hamilton West, becoming Canada's first black MP. He held his seat for four terms, but left in 1980 to become chair of Ontario's Worker's Compensation Board. In 1985, he was named Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the first black man to hold that title. He was also the University of Guelph's longest-serving chancellor from 1991 to 2007. He died in October 2012 at the age of 90.

As of December 3, 2014, Lincoln Alexander Day January 21, Lincoln's birthday, is now recognized officially as Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada, with Royal Assent by the Governor General December 9, 2014.



### **January 25 Lunar New Year,**

This festival has its origins in East Asian and South East Asian countries. It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar, 15 days later.

The lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, so the dates of the holiday vary slightly from year to year, beginning some time between January 21 and February 20 according to Western calendars. Approximately 10 days before the beginning of the new lunar year, houses are thoroughly cleaned to remove any bad luck that might be lingering inside, a custom called "sweeping of the grounds." Traditionally, New Year's eve and New Year's day are reserved for family celebrations, including religious ceremonies honouring ancestors

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lunar-New-Year>

### **January 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN)**

On November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to designate January 27 the "International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust." This day coincides with the day in 1945 when the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. The UN resolution also rejected any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, and member states are urged to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent future genocide. This day has been observed since 2001 as Holocaust Memorial Day in many European countries. Observed within the State of Israel, and Jews world-wide; Yom HaShoah vea hagvora, the "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the courage of the Jewish people," on the 27th day of the month Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in April.



# Positive Space

**This is a SAFE SPACE where human rights are respected and where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, teachers, friends, families, and allies are welcome and supported.**

CUPE Local 218  
Durham District School Board  
ETFO Durham Teachers' Local  
OSSTF District 13

