

School Address

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Rose Marie Hewitt

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Lisa Manuel

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Kit Hollingworth

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Ward 15 Trustee

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Superintendent

Jill Worthy
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Director of Education

Gerry Connelly

OUR SCHOOL

Built on the site of the original Plains Road School (circa 1891) and named for Canada's 13th Prime Minister who attended from 1900 to 1903, Diefenbaker Elementary School is a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 school in a quiet residential neighbourhood of primarily single family dwellings. Our population is currently approaching 400 students. This September we added the grade 5 component to our Extended French program, which begins at grade 4. The extended French program is comprised of a blend of students from Diefenbaker and several nearby schools. We continue to have one JK/SK class located at the Centennial Child Care Centre at Mortimer and Coxwell.

School Focus For This School Year

The teachers at Diefenbaker implement all aspects of The Ontario Curriculum, with a particular focus on the new Curriculum for Language, Social Studies and Mathematics. Teachers are working to implement programs that address the expectations of the curriculum and the needs of each individual child. Staff attend many curriculum implementation workshops and in-services at all grade levels.

In late October, the Computer Migration Technology Initiative was implemented. We have acquired a total of 42 new computers connected to the TDSB's Wide Area Network. There are 14 computers in the library and each class has at least 2 networked computers. These computers enable our students to make full use of Information Technology to enhance their learning.

We have significantly expanded the range of activities offered through our Physical Education and co-curricular programs over the past year. With the support of our Home and School, much new gym equipment has been purchased and our teachers use this equipment during Daily Physical Activities.

Other programming components that meet the needs of our students include:

- ✦ ongoing interaction with community resources such as our local public library, Science Centre, Toronto Urban Studies Centre and community parks and recreation facilities
- ✦ International Languages and After Four programs
- ✦ programs to build self-esteem, social skills, anti-bullying and conflict resolution strategies such as Second Step, Roots of Empathy, Intergenerational Teaching-Learning Community and Peace by Peace
- ✦ Interschool Athletics, Houseleague Games and Activities, Adopt-an-Athlete, Folkfest, Winter and Spring concerts, Primary and Junior choirs, Orff and recorder
- ✦ Diefenbaker primary students sharing activities with E.Y.C.I. and Cosburn students as partners, i.e. dramatic arts and literacy activities and school visits

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2007)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	382	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	255	
Grade 4 - Grade 5	127	
✦ Gender:		
Female	198	52%
Male	184	48%
✦ Primary language other than English:	80	23%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	9	3%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	9	3%

* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- † **Relevant Curriculum**
- † **Equity**
- † **Accountability**

Regular Instructional Programs

- † Languages - English, English as a Second Language, and French
- † Mathematics, Science and Technology
- † Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance
- † Social Studies, Health and Physical Education

Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

At Diefenbaker School we are continuing to extend our school-wide initiatives in language and mathematics and to enhance our resources. We are also continuing to build resources to support the Ontario Social Studies curriculum, the Science and Technology curriculum, Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education.

Literacy

The pursuit of excellence in reading and writing remains an ongoing focus at our school. We are continuing to implement the following in support of our literacy program:

- ♦ continuing to use First Steps Program: reading and writing
- ♦ involving parents in the language program by sharing student work at parent-teacher conferences
- ♦ providing external supports to reading and writing through Reading Buddies, pen pals and other authentic written language experiences
- ♦ expanding the scope of the library program to include use of the multi-media computers
- ♦ encouraging parents to read at home with their children, as part of our Borrow a Book program in the primary division
- ♦ developing computer literacy in the classroom and in the computer lab for word processing and developing research and communication skills
- ♦ implementing Developmental Reading Assessment program (Gr. 1-3) & CASI Reading Assessment (Gr. 4 - 5)
- ♦ building sets of novel studies at each grade
- ♦ building literacy skills based on author/illustrator workshops (JK-Gr.5)
- ♦ beginning to set up a Literacy Resource section in the Library for classroom teachers to use
- ♦ building a collection of media literacy resources
- ♦ expanding our Literacy Place collection to support Primary Literacy
- ♦ participating in an Action Research Program for Primary writing

Mathematics

Our staff is developing the following strategies to augment our students' learning opportunities in mathematics:

- ♦ ensuring that students are learning each of the strands of the revised Ontario Mathematics Curriculum with a focus on problem solving throughout the strands
- ♦ collaborating with the School Council in the development of a bank of ideas on linking mathematics learned at school with home activities
- ♦ building and refining our instructional strategies in the teaching of mathematics by participating in staff development workshops and in-services
- ♦ upgrading the mathematics texts from grades 1 to 5 and manipulatives for use in all classrooms
- ♦ establishing a mathematics resource room

Science and Technology and Social Studies

We continue to focus on Science and Technology and Social Studies by upgrading our resources to support the new curriculum and by professional development.

Highlights include:

- ♦ enhancing kits to support the Ontario Science and Technology and Social Studies curriculum
- ♦ working with community volunteers on hands-on technology projects, Scientists in the School and University of Toronto Science Outreach Program
- ♦ hosting special assemblies (Remembrance Day, Heritage Day) which focus on curriculum areas including media literacy
- ♦ focusing on professional development and upgrading our resource materials to support The Ontario Curriculum

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

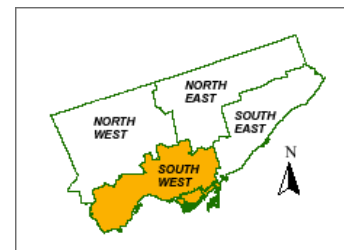
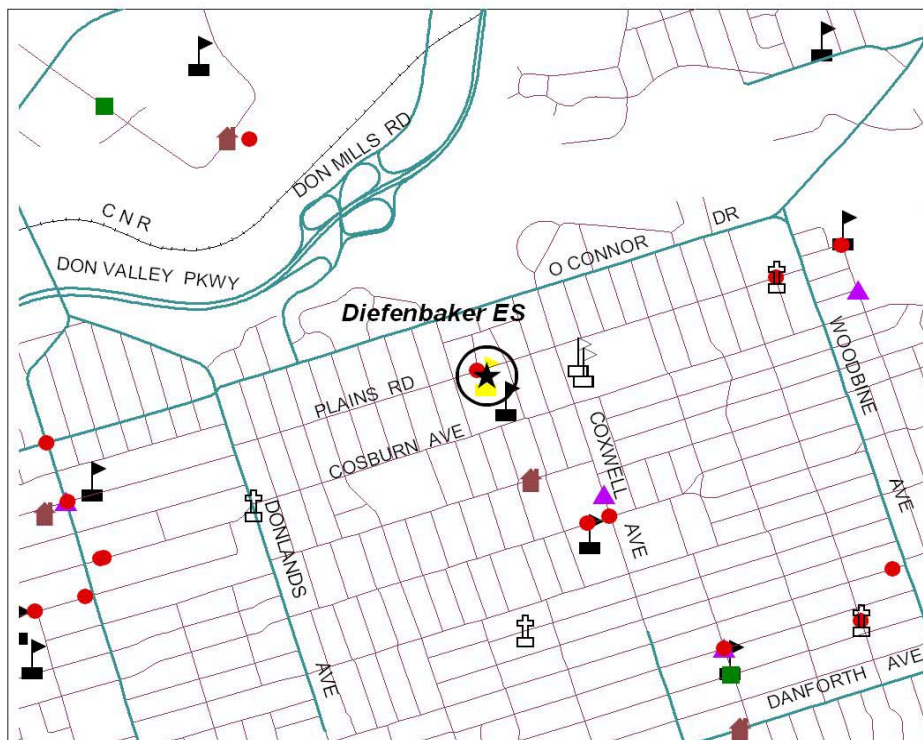
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ An energetic, committed School Council
- ✦ A highly involved and well-represented Home and School
- ✦ Valuable assistance provided by many parent volunteers
- ✦ Community fundraising events: Bingo Nights and Fun Fair/Family BBQ, Pizza Lunches, Magazine Sales, Dance-a-thon
- ✦ Safe Arrival

Community Links:

- ✦ Intergenerational links with local senior citizens
- ✦ Education programs with the police and fire departments
- ✦ Visits to the public library, parks and recreational facilities
- ✦ Pen pals with a variety of members within and outside our community
- ✦ Co-op students from local secondary schools, community colleges, and Faculties of Education
- ✦ Volunteer Garden Committee working with students on greening an environmental projects
- ✦ Walk to School
- ✦ Parent Safety Program
- ✦ Adopt an Athlete
- ✦ Partnerships with University Faculties of Education

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- ★ OUR SCHOOL
- ▣ TDSB Elementary School
- ▣ TDSB Secondary School
- ▣ Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/ Parenting Centre
- ▲ Community/ Recreation Centre
- Public Library

0 0.5 1 Kilometers

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.