

**Dr. S.J. Phillips**

**“Soaring to Success”**

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January 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM'S MESSAGE**

**DURHAM DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD**



**Principal:**

*D. Robson*

**Vice Principal:**

*S. D'Angelo*

**Office Administrator:**

*J. Metcalfe*

**Chief Custodian:**

*M. Fallis*

**Superintendent of O'Neill**

**Family Schools:**

*S. Nevills*

**Oshawa Trustees:**

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Welcome back! Returning to school in January is always filled with renewed energy. We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays with their families and friends, and on behalf of the entire staff at Dr. S.J. Phillips, we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020! We look forward to witnessing the many successes and achievements of our students as the year unfolds.

Each day at Dr. S.J. Phillips, we continue to focus on student achievement and well-being. Through the daily instruction, special events, leadership opportunities and clubs, we promote student engagement and leadership. When visiting the school, please take a moment to look at our Learning Journey Wall. Our Learning Journey Wall is a display of 'work in progress' and an opportunity for our students to show their thinking and their approaches to understanding Mathematics and Literacy.

As we begin the New Year, it is always a good time to focus once again on our personal goals and to adjust and fine tune the steps we must take to achieve them. We encourage parents to sit down with their child(ren) and discuss their performance, celebrate the successes and develop goals and next steps.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and staff. All the best in the New Year!





January 1st - New Year's Day

January 5th - Birthday of Giuru Gobind Singh Ji

January 6th - Epiphany (Christian)

January 6th - Classes resume

January 6th - Standing Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm

January 10th - Pajama/stuffed animal - Spirit Day

January 10th - No Pizza

January 13th - Kindergarten Registration opens at 4:00 pm (online)

January 14th - Popcorn Day

January 15th - Ubuntu Assemblies "Drumming" Grade 3-8 in our Gym

January 16th - Grade 8 IPRC Meetings

No Pizza this week

January 17th - PA Day - Elementary Schools Only

January 19th - Epiphany (Orthodox)

January 20th - Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

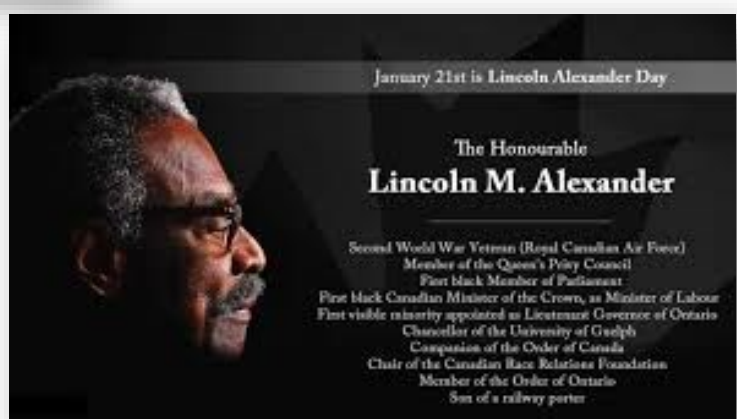
January 20th - Martin Luther King Day

January 21st - Lincoln Alexander Day

January 22nd - Vision and Hearing Screening

January 23rd - Jiggi Jump 1:15 pm

January 23rd - Dental Screening





Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders, and responsively support current leaders

LEADERSHIP

O'Neill Student Leaders visited on December 17th and led our grade 8's in some fun games in the gym.



## ATTENTION PARENTS

The Durham District School Board's (DDSB) Kindergarten program is a child-centred, inclusive learning environment for four-and-five year olds.

### Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs are optional and offer:

- an inquiry play-based model
- comprehensive curriculum: personal and social development; language; mathematics; science and technology; arts, health and physical education
- average class size of 26 students to two educators
- variety of early learning programs for ages 0-5
- before and after care programs available

Kindergarten registration for September 2020 will open on January 13th, 2020 at 4 p.m. online.

Your child must meet the following age requirements to enter Kindergarten September 2020:

To register for Junior Kindergarten, your child must be 4 years old by December 31 in the current year

To register for Senior Kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old by December 31 in the current year





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Leadership



Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.

equity

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Settlement House Toy and Food Drive a success. It could not have been done without your generous donations.



## SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence

# ENGAGEMENT

### Do you have time, skills, ideas or help to offer our SCC and school as a whole?

This is a list of names and emails for parents/guardians who want to contribute to the school community but can't or would rather not officially join the SCC. If you are one of these people please fill out this form and return to the booth or send in to school with your child.

Please circle what applies to you:

I have time during: Daytime Evenings Weekends It changes

I would like to help with: Fall Festival planning Fall festival setup (afternoon before)

Festival take down (right after the festival ends) Fall craft (after school)

Raffle baskets wrapping Christmas decor Popcorn Days

Dance-a-thon behind the scenes (making signs or flyers, shopping or calling for donations etc)

Teacher's Luncheon day of Luncheon donations of a dish to serve

Bakesale donations Other upcoming events or jobs

I have a skill/experience with: Graphic design Crafting/arts Baking/cooking

Fundraising/grant proposals New ideas etc

I have a child in highschool who needs volunteer hours: Yes No

Add your name and email or phone number and you will be added to our volunteer list. Please note that you are under no obligation to volunteer when contacted. We will send out a general email when we need many people and specific emails if it is for a certain skill needed or things of that nature. If you cannot help with that one just reply not this time or don't and just wait for our next email. You won't be excluded or passed over if you say no. Even if you can only do a very small amount it is helpful and appreciated! Thank you in advance!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **December 26 - January 1 - Kwanzaa (African/American Canadian)**

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.





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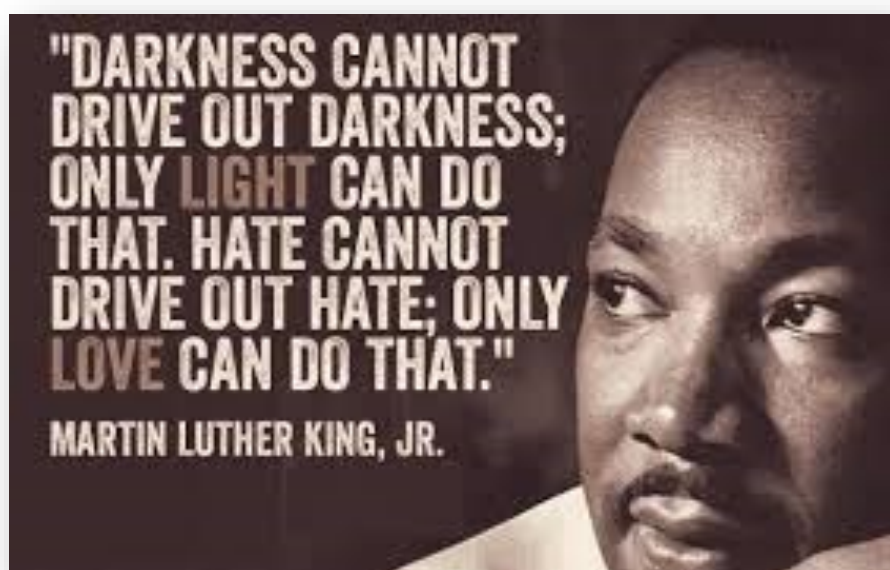
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### **January 15 – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.**

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.







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### **January 15-18 Thai Pongal**

In India, the holiday stretches across four full days, but in Sri Lanka, most only celebrate it for one or two days. Thai Pongal falls on the first day of the month of Thai on the Tamil traditional calendar, which normally lands in somewhere between January 13th and 16th on the Western calendar. The festival, which involves feasting, visiting relatives, and giving out gifts, is one of the most cherished of all Tamil holidays and has been celebrated for at least 1,000 years. Source: <https://publicholidays.lk/tamil-thai-pongala-day/>

### **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 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.

**Our monthly school newsletters will be "paperless" and will be posted to our school website.**

***If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please let your child's teacher know.***



A vertical poster with a rainbow-colored background. At the top, there is a large inverted triangle with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The words "Positive Space" are written in a large, bold, white font with a red outline, centered over the triangle. Below the triangle, the text reads: "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." At the bottom, there are logos for CUPE Local 218, Durham District School Board, ETFO Durham Teachers' Local, and OSSTF District 13, along with logos for DDSB (Diverse, Daring, Daring Learning) and a circular logo with the letters "EED".