

School Address

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Director of Education

Chris Spence

OUR SCHOOL

Bruce Jr. Public School is located in South Riverdale between Queen Street and Eastern Avenue, west of Jones Avenue.

- ✦ Our school has an enrolment of 201. More than half of the students have English as their second language. The largest non-English speaking group is of Chinese heritage with growing representation of other languages and cultures. We provide Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6. Core French is offered at the Grade 4-6 levels.
- ✦ Bruce School's Nutrition Program serves a healthy breakfast/snack to all children and offers a nutritious hot lunch program to those students staying for lunch.
- ✦ We work closely with our local community partners. The Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre at Bruce is one of the original five Toronto First Duty sites, a precursor to the Best Start provincial initiative. The project brings together Bruce Public School and WoodGreen Community Services to and our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre to provide a progressive integrated program of kindergarten, child care and family support. We gratefully acknowledge our partnership with the Atkinson Charitable Foundation for their continued support. Financial, research, program and management support from the Foundation, the Toronto District School Board, WoodGreen Community Centre, and the City of Toronto all contribute to our efforts and successes in providing exemplary services to our students and families.
- ✦ The Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre is a community based program bringing a range of sectors together to ensure children have opportunities to reach their full potential. The Centre provides flexible enrolment from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and serves children and their families from prenatal to Grade 3. By combining the kindergarten curriculum with the child development approach of child care and the excellent supports of our Parenting and Family Literacy program, the centre offers a holistic, high quality, learning environment supporting physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. The program is delivered by a teaching team of early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers, parenting workers and assistants using a common approach, resources and space.

School Focus For This School Year

The Bruce school staff is working toward providing meaningful learning experiences for all of our students in literacy. Professional development opportunities will be provided for all of our Teachers, Educational Assistants, Special Needs Assistants and Early Childcare Educators, allowing them to work together in a vibrant Professional Learning Community. Together we will assess student data, develop needs based plans, allocate resources, and review the implementation and success of our plans, making adjustments as needed. Our Literacy focus will bring together the knowledge and skills of both the Early Years staff and the Primary and Junior staff to improve student learning and success. We will the work that started in 2008 with the Ministry of Education as an OFIP (Ontario Focussed Intervention Partnership) school to address our school improvement goals.

OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	196	
Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3	133	
Grade 4 - Grade 6	63	
✦ Gender:		
Female	101	52%
Male	95	48%
✦ Primary language other than English:	79	40%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	2	1%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	7	4%

* 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:

Co-Curricular

Arts Programs

- ✦ Dramatic Arts:
Live Production/Play
- ✦ Music:
Band, Choir, Music Concerts / Performances, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Vocal
- ✦ Visiting Artists:
In-School Performances By Professional Artists, Music, Prologue to the Performing Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:
Artists in the School, Ceramics, Computer/Graphic Arts, Crafts, Excursions

Intramurals

- ✦ Floor Hockey
- ✦ Soccer

Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Flag Rugby
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Softball
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

Clubs

- ✦ Blue Spruce Reading Club
- ✦ Boy's Reading
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Gardening
- ✦ Library
- ✦ Library Helpers
- ✦ Photography

- ✦ Silver Birch Book Club

Leadership

- ✦ Office Helpers
- ✦ Student Announcers

Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Book Bags
- ✦ Borrow a Book Program
- ✦ Daily Independent Reading
- ✦ Early Years Program
- ✦ Family Math Night
- ✦ First Steps: Reading, Writing, and Oral
- ✦ Scientists in the School

Community, Culture and Caring

Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:
One-on-One Mentoring Program

Community - Tutoring

- ✦ Community Based:
BLG Reads to Kids
- ✦ School Based:
Homework Clubs

Culture/Caring

- ✦ Camps:
Outdoor Education
- ✦ Caring:
Woodgreen Community Services
- ✦ Fundraisers:
Jump Rope for Heart
- ✦ Nutrition Programs:
Lunch Program, Nutrition Program
- ✦ Safe & Caring Schools:
Toronto First Duty
- ✦ Social Skills:

THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

Peer Mediation/Helpers, Second Step, Tribes

Equity

- ✦ Assemblies
- ✦ International Heritage/Languages Program
- ✦ Storyvalues.com

Student Success

Transitions

- ✦ Welcome to Kindergarten

Remedial Activities

- ✦ Early Reading Intervention
- ✦ Reading Recovery

Specializations and Other Programs

Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)

- ✦ OFIP

Special Education Programs

- ✦ MID - Mild Intellectual Disability



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

Our primary focus at Bruce is to teach children the joy of being lifelong learners. We strive to provide high quality balanced literacy programming each day. This will be achieved collaboratively with intensive Professional Development for all staff focussed on improving student learning. The students will benefit from the broad base of knowledge and expertise that is unique to our learning environment. We will bring the best from what we know about language development from our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre staff, our Early Childhood Educators, our Kindergarten, Primary and Junior teaching and support staff. The Professional Learning Teams that we have created will share ideas regarding how to develop powerful school improvement literacy strategies.

Our primary improvement goals for 2008 - 2009 are:

- ♦ To continue to improve Literacy Learning opportunities for our students.
- ♦ To focus on the results of the fall and spring DRA testing, CASI and our EQAO results in order to align student data with our literacy goals.
- ♦ To continue to reinforce home/school literacy partnerships and to train and recruit volunteers to work with students.
- ♦ To expand our reading resources/activities/visual aids to reflect the diversity our school represents i.e. race, culture, gender, religion, family structure etc.
- ♦ To continue to provide professional development experiences for our staff to ensure each child is receiving an exemplary balanced literacy program.
- ♦ To make excellent use of our computer lab. We will work together to provide all of our students with meaningful opportunities to integrate information technology into their daily learning in order to develop their skills in Media Literacy.
- ♦ To provide an excellent model of polite, effective and good communication to our students and community, in order to prepare our students for success today, and in the future.

In order to make the above happen, we are doing the following:

- ♦ Adjusting the school organization to ensure opportunities for teamwork and shared activities.
- ♦ Timetabling to ensure a morning Literacy Block and quality Daily Physical Activity.
- ♦ Providing literacy support for ESL and Special Education students.
- ♦ Organizing Professional Development to include all staff.
- ♦ Regular planning meetings with school and Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre.
- ♦ Continuing our Buddy Reading Program between primary and junior students.
- ♦ Coordinating school-wide Literacy Events through book fairs, field trips, theatre presentations, a family Literacy night, celebrations, story-telling, music and dance.

Other priorities for 2008-2009

- ♦ Ongoing excellent support for the Bruce Woodgreen Early Learning Centre.
- ♦ Improved mathematics instruction and resources: PD support ensured due to partnership with OISE professor; refurbished math resource room, more manipulatives and classroom materials
- ♦ Continued improvement and development of our playgrounds, gardens and outside learning environments.
- ♦ Continued improvement of our indoor learning environment (art, yoga, music rooms)
- ♦ Continued development of a skilled and consistent base of volunteers and student placements in our school.
- ♦ A focus on the arts including inviting artists to work with all students in our school.
- ♦ A focus on the development of a strong, respectful and caring school community.
- ♦ Continued Implementation of Tribes and Second Step Behaviour resources.

Our School Plan



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Parent And Community Involvement

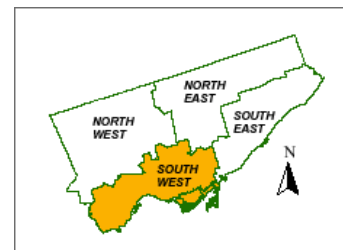
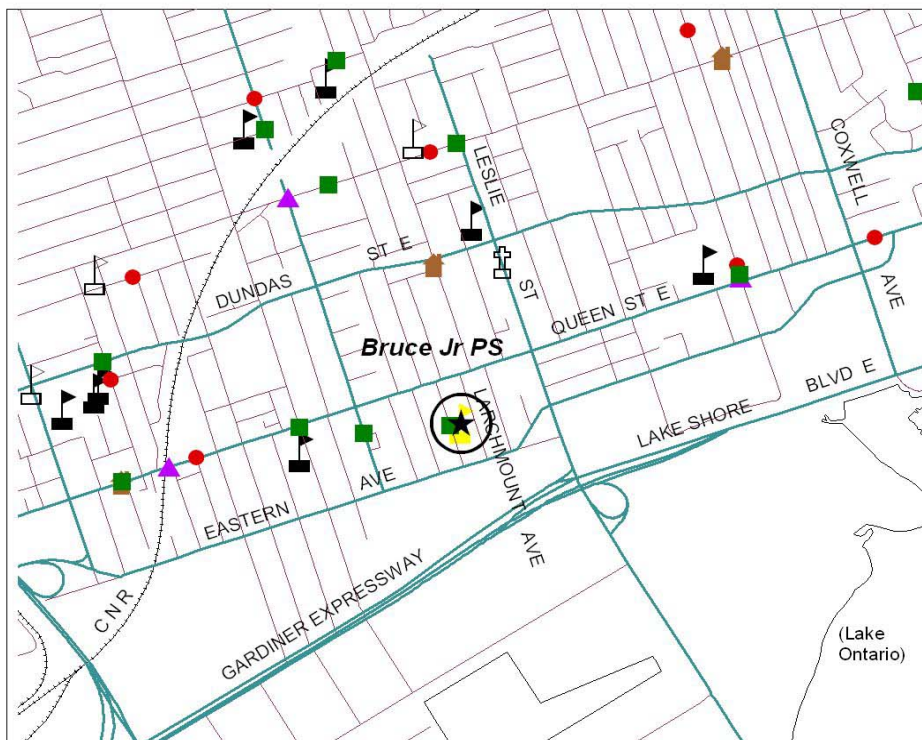
Parent Involvement:

- ✦ School Council and Home and School Association, active fundraising activities to support school improvement plans.
- ✦ Assisting in classrooms and on field trips, and regular family movie nights.
- ✦ Actively participating Bruce/Woodgreen Early Learning Centre held five days a week.
- ✦ Sitting on or chairing special committees e.g. school playground, ward council, management committee for Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre.
- ✦ Incredible Years Parenting Program, and sharing diverse skills, talents and cultural information with the school.

Community Links:

- ✦ Classroom lessons delivered by our community liaison police officer, 55 Division to teach our students about personal safety and responsibility.
- ✦ Collaboration with community agencies, e.g. Atkinson Foundation, Woodgreen Community Centre, Pape Library.
- ✦ Lunch program - fully supported by parents, local business community, Field to Table, Toronto Foundation for Student Nutrition, Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund, Toronto Foundation for Student Success and Riverdale Kiwanis.
- ✦ Toronto Public Health, One to One Mentoring project.
- ✦ Volunteers from law firm Borden, Ladner, Gervais (BLG Reads to Kids Project) support our Early Literacy Program.
- ✦ Coop students from local secondary schools are placed in our classrooms.
- ✦ School Site for OISE/UofT Master Teacher Program and York University Regent Park Community Education Program student placements.
- ✦ Groups of Faculty of Medicine students are paired with three classes.
- ✦ Woodgreen Community Centre and Bruce school provide opportunities for volunteers to gain skills in our kitchen and support our nutrition program.
- ✦ Several Junior age boys and girls are sent to camp in March and in the summer with the Tim Horton's camp program.

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.