

# Bala Avenue Community School

**ADDRESS:** 6 Bala Ave, York, ON  
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**GRADE RANGE:** JK to 5

## *Interesting Feature*

### **Model School For Inner Cities**

We are proud to be one of the original Model Schools for Inner Cities in the TDSB. As a Model School, we strive to meet the needs of the whole child. We work together with students, families, schools, partners and the community to help our students reach their full potential.

"Children . . . Our Future; Diversity . . . Our Strength".

Bala Avenue Community School, built in 1913, is located in the old community of Weston, near the southeast corner of Jane Street and Weston Road. The school currently serves 290 students (Kindergarten to Grade 5), representing approximately 20 different languages.

Our school offers the International Languages Elementary Program on Saturdays. This program is designed to give students the opportunity to learn additional languages, other than English and French, and to learn about and appreciate other traditions, customs and cultures.

African Heritage, Somali and Spanish classes are also offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 3:30-4:45pm.

### **Ojibwe**

We are pleased to offer Native Language instruction in Ojibwe for students from JK - Grade 5. This year, on November 9, 2012, Bala hosted a beautiful Sunrise Ceremony to honour Aboriginal people who served to protect peace and freedom over the years, as well as those deployed in peacekeeping missions around the world. On June 21, 2012, our Elder in Residence, Shannon Thunderbird, led the school's first annual Pow Wow to commemorate National Aboriginal Day.

Bala continues to work with our TDSB Aboriginal Education



## ***Interesting Feature***

Centre to provide valuable and inclusive programming and support for all of our students.



## More Information about Bala Avenue Community School

### Parent and Family Literacy Centre

Bala Avenue Community School's PFLC is a school readiness program for children 0 - 6 yrs old that introduces them to literacy and numeracy before they enter kindergarten. One of the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre's objectives is to prepare and support preschool children and their families as they transition into the school system.



### SNAP - Stop Now And Plan

The Canadian Safe Schools Network has sponsored the SNAP (Stop Now And Plan) at Bala. A trained facilitator provides direct instruction once a week to 2 classes throughout the year to promote positive peer relations and problem solving skills. This facilitator also provides mini workshops to the other Grade 1 - 5 classes at the school to enhance pro-social skills.

### Eco School

Bala is proud to be an Eco School, supporting environmental actions and issues of our time. We promote literless lunches and engage in several school initiatives contributing to solutions to the environmental issues that we face. Last year we were rated as a Silver ECO school!

### Bala's 100th Anniversay

Bala's 100th Anniversary - Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please plan to join us! Reconnect with old friends, tour the school and reminisce. Our School Council is providing bouncy castles for children aged 5 to 10! See the Bala Ave Reunion website for more information:  
<http://www.classmates.com/places/school/Bala-Avenue-Public-School/19160201>

### Additional Features

- Morning Meal
- Parent Resource Room
- Hot Lunch
- After School Program (ARC)

For a list of all programs that are also offered visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/Schools.aspx?schno=6101&schoolid=1424>



## Student Life - Where You Belong

The students at Bala enjoy a number of extra curricular activities at lunch and after school, including various clubs (jewelry, gardening, art, clubs), various intramural sports which include indoor soccer & european handball. We offer both Primary and Junior Choir as well as, co-ed cross-country and track and field; boys basketball; and, boys and girls soccer. Our boys basketball team practises after school at York Humber H.S. We thank our friends at York Humber H.S. for sharing their gym with us!

Many of our Grade 4 and 5 leaders have joined our Bala Leadership Team. These students are called upon daily for assistance. Their jobs may include: hot lunch delivery to younger students; assisting younger students on the playground; greeting visitors; delivering materials to classrooms; working in the Library; peer-mentoring; coaching or refereeing extra-curricular sports; helping classroom teachers with special assignments.

We are also a Safety Patrolers School. Many of our Grade 4 and 5 students have received training from the Toronto Police Services to monitor and assist our children as they cross the street in front of the school.



## What Sets Us Apart

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success supports our school to provide a healthy snack program for students every day of the week. Both our Morning Meal Program, (morning snack) and Hot & Healthy Lunches are offered 5 days a week.

Every year, we have an extended Hearing and Vision Clinic, sponsored by The Toronto Foundation for Student Success and Walmart. Thanks to this generous support, we are able to offer free eye glasses to our students who require glasses.

Arts For Children and Youth continues to support Bala with after school African Drumming and Aboriginal Drumming workshops. They are also partnering with us to create an intergenerational mural focused on community and sharing stories.

As a Fit for Life school, each Wednesday we participate in a schoolwide Cha Cha Slide & DPA.





## Parent and Community Engagement

Our School Council has active parent and community participation and supports school programs and initiatives that improve student self-esteem and achievement. Parent volunteers assist in the classroom, on field trips and at community events. Partnerships with community agencies provide summer programming, social skills support, Kindergarten readiness and lunchtime and after-school activities for children. Bala houses a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre that is open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am - 2:00. Parents participate in workshops and classes facilitated by staff members and external partners. We hold "Meet and Greet" workshops and Stakeholder Meetings with our external partners and community members every term. Many of our parents represent Bala at Model Schools Cluster Parent Academy Meetings which are held once a month. The Parent Academy represents 18 schools in our area.



## TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.



## Contact Information

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