



## A.G. Bell News—October 2019

Danielle Denike, Principal Craig Bonikowsky, Vice Principal

Cheryl Dawson, Administrative Assistant

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### Fall is here!

What a wonderful evening we had at our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 26th! Thank you to everyone for attending. The staff truly enjoyed meeting everyone as we begin our partnerships for 2019-2020. Your involvement and partnership will directly and positively impact the academic achievement of your children. Thank you for your involvement in your child's learning.

When our parents and guardians positively partner with their school, research has showed that students feel positive about their schooling experience, and as a result attend regularly, have strong social skills, regularly complete homework, and overall have higher grades and scores.

We hope you will consider the many ways you can be involved with AG Bell, such as the SCC, volunteering for various events or trips, or simply reading with your child or helping them with their homework.

Again thank you for a great start to the school year.



## SCC News—First Meeting—Tuesday, October 1st at 7pm

Looking for a great way to support your child's school? AG Bell's School Community Council (SCC) will be having its first meeting of the 2019/2020 school year on Tuesday, October 1st starting at 7pm in the Learning Commons (Library). Babysitting will be available.

We look forward to seeing you at the SCC meeting on October 1st!  
Please e-mail SCC at [SSC.AlexanderGBellPS@sc.ddsbc.ca](mailto:SSC.AlexanderGBellPS@sc.ddsbc.ca) if you have any questions.



This brochure has been created to give you information about School Community Councils.

The Durham District School Board encourages you to consider becoming a member of your School Community Council. Your partnership is essential in working together to improve student learning.

**WHAT IS THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE?**

The Parent Involvement Committee is a regional committee that supports SCCs by providing them with resources and professional development. The committee is comprised of parents throughout the Durham District School Board, trustees, community members, school and board staff.



Special Thanks to  
**Durham District School Board  
Parent Involvement Committee**

Thinking about becoming a member of your School Community Council?

For more information contact your school principal or the Superintendent of Education responsible for SCCs.  
**(905) 666-5500**

**PARENT RESOURCES**

[www.ddsbc.ca](http://www.ddsbc.ca)  
(Choose Parents, then Parents & Community Involvement in Schools)

[www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)

[www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/)



**SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCILS**

A great way to be involved  
in your child's school

**QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

**WHAT IS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL?**

The School Community Council (known as an SCC) is a group of interested parents, school staff and community members who work with the principal as an advisory group to support the students of the school.

**WHAT DOES AN SCC DO?**

SCCs support student achievement by advising the principal of the school on all matters related to the school. SCCs communicate information to the parent community regarding specific school issues. (i.e., Healthy Snacks Program)

**DOES MY SCHOOL HAVE AN SCC?**

Yes, every publically funded school in Ontario has an SCC.

**HOW OFTEN DOES THE SCC MEET?**

\* All parents and guardians are welcome to attend all meetings.

SCCs meet at least four times each school year, but many meet more frequently.

**CAN I GO TO MY SCC MEETINGS?**

Yes, all meetings are open to the public, but you must be a member of the SCC to vote. Meeting dates and times are established at the beginning of the school year. Please look on your schools website, newsletters or phone the school office to find out the meeting dates.

**HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF MY SCC?**

\* All parents and guardians are welcome to attend all meetings.

Complete a nomination form, and return it to the principal at the start of the school year. Elections for the executive parent members, if necessary, will be held during the first month of school.

**WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO IF I BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF THE SCC?**

You should plan to attend all SCC meetings during the year and participate in the decision making conducted by the SCC. In addition, many SCCs help initiate and support the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grants.



**WHAT DO I GET OUT OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCC AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?**

Members of the SCC stay in touch with what is happening at the school. The role of SCC members is to act as an advisory group, supporting the decisions of the school administration on matters pertaining to School Improvement Planning for Student Achievement and Well-being (SIPSAW).

**DO SCCs REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SCHOOLS?**

SCCs have organized and supported programs such as (but not limited to):

- Family Literacy & Math Nights
- Home Reading Programs
- Breakfast and Healthy Snack Programs
- Take your Parents to School Days
- Fund-raising Projects

SCCs can support and recommend the schools administration team and school board on a variety of issues including (but not limited to):

- School Improvement Planning for Student Achievement and Well-being (SIPSAW)
- Student Code of Conduct
- Board Policies and Procedures which may affect students (i.e., playground equipment)
- Allocating of fund-raising profits

## AG Bell Athletics

### AG Bell Athletics

Athletics at AG Bell are off to a FLYING start. Congratulations to all the students who will be representing us on the Jr. Girls Soccer Team, Int. Girls and Boys Volleyball Team, X-Country Team and the Jr. and Int. Co Ed Flag Football Teams.

We will be cheering for all the participants of the X-country team, who have been training over the past few weeks for the Area G meet, on Friday October 4th at Lake Ridge.

On Sept 26th, our Jr. and Int. Co Ed Flag Football Teams had their Season opener at Applecroft. All Three teams made great gains throughout their games. On Oct 7th and 9th the teams will be competing in the Lancer Football Tournament at Harmony Heights.

The intermediate boys and girls volleyball teams and the Jr. Girls soccer team have been practicing hard over the month of September and are looking forward to successful seasons.



Stay tune for future team accomplishments and upcoming Flyer events.

LET'S GO FLYERS!!





# October is... ISLAMIC HISTORY MONTH

**On October 25, 2007, the Parliament of Canada officially declared October as Islamic History Month in Canada. This is intended to be a time for Canadians to celebrate and focus on Muslim cultural heritage and the over 1000 years of Muslim contribution to world history and knowledge in order to build bridges between Canadian Muslims and all Canadians.**

Background image:

'Doorway in courtyard, Morocco, North Africa'



## Important Dates

Sept. 30th- Orange Shirt Day  
Oct 1st 7:00pm—First SCC Meeting  
Oct. 4th Pat on the Back Assembly “Optimism” theme  
Oct. 9th Yom Kippur  
Oct. 11th PA Day  
Oct. 13-20th Sukkot  
Oct. 14th Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed  
Oct. 19th Dussehra  
Oct. 21st Simchat Torah  
Oct. 27th Diwali  
Oct. 29th Birth of the Bab

### Dates of Significance

#### Women’s History Month

October is Women's History Month in Canada, an opportunity for Canadians to learn about women's and girls' valuable contributions to our country's history – and to the quality of our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### Islamic History Month

On October 25, 2007, the Parliament of Canada officially declared October as Islamic History Month in Canada. This is intended to be a time for Canadians to celebrate and focus on Muslim cultural heritage and the over 1000 years of Muslim contribution to world history and knowledge.

#### Hispanic Heritage Month

Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from the 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

#### October 1 – International Day of Older Persons (UN)

Living up to the Secretary-General's guiding principle of "Leaving No-One Behind" necessitates the understanding that demography matters for sustainable development and that population dynamics will shape the key developmental challenges that the world is confronting in the 21st century. Not addressing older persons means not addressing 20 per cent of the global population by 2030, where there will be more people over 60 than children under 10, with the most rapid change in age structures occurring in the developing world. If our ambition is to "Build the Future We Want", we must address the population over 60 which is expected to reach 1.4 billion by 2030.

#### October 2 nd National Custodial Worker’s Day

On October 2nd National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day is a day set aside to show appreciation to the people who keep our schools and workplaces across the nation running smoothly.

#### October 5 – World Teachers’ Day (Unesco)

Teachers can be the most powerful force for ensuring equity of access to education, offering hope and reinforcing resilience. “The United Nations' (UN) World Teachers' Day celebrates the role teachers’ play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society.” This year’s theme is: “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher.”

#### October 11th International Day of the Girl

On International Day of the Girl Child (11 October), themed “With Her: A Skilled Girl Force”, join UN Women as we stand with girls everywhere as they inspire, innovate and take charge of their own future.

#### October 14 – Thanksgiving (Canadian)

Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. Unlike the American thanksgiving which commemorates Pilgrims and settling in the New World, the first Canadian Thanksgiving goes back to an English explorer, Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient, but, unsuccessful, he established a settlement in North America.



October is

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Support all dimensions  
of diversity.



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# Women's History Month

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October 11**

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For more information: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/idx-eng.html> ,  
<http://www.nwhm.org/html/involved/donttellme/index.html>

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### **October 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. They proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure these rights are respected. These convictions are inscribed in a commemorative stone unveiled on this day. Since then, people of all backgrounds, beliefs and social origins have gathered every year on October 17th to renew their commitment and show their solidarity with the poor. Replicas of the commemorative stone have been unveiled around the world and serve as a gathering place to celebrate the Day. One such replica is located in the garden of United Nations Headquarters and is the site of the annual commemoration organized by the United Nations Secretariat in New York. This year's theme is: Theme: "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity".

### **October 24 United Nations Day**

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.

### **October 31 – Hallowe'en (Celtic)**

The tradition of Halloween dates back to the time of the Celtic people. On October 31st, Celtic herd-keepers would gather for the harvest at a festival they called Samhain-from the Old Irish "Sam+fuin" meaning the end of summer. The Celts believed that the spirit world became more active and alive when the natural world of plants was withering and dying. In order not to be harmed by these spirits, the Celts lit hilltop bonfires and put candles in their windows to scare them off and to show them which way to go.

**Trustees: Patrice Barnes (289)-892-6685 or [patrice.barnes@ddsb.ca](mailto:patrice.barnes@ddsb.ca)**

**Superintendent of Education / Mohamed Hamid (905) 666-5500**

**Alexander Graham Bell P.S.**

**25 Harkins Drive**

**Ajax, Ontario L1T 3T6 (905) 683-7368**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**

**<http://www.ddsb.ca/school/agbell>**

**Twitter: @AGBellPS**