

Principal's Report- February 2, 2026

Southside School Council #5

Current Population 395 with 17 classes

Staffing Update: We have just hired a new Student Supervisor for afternoons, welcome Melanie Keenan. We will be hiring a new contract EA in the coming weeks for a new student who will be joining us in February. Until that position is filled, we will have a temporary EA (Glenda Burditt/Amy Geerts) in the role.

We were approved for our Facilities Grant for a Digital School Sign ! We will be working with the school board over the next few months on this project. No new updates at this time.

Safe and Inclusive Schools Team

Our Safe and Inclusive Schools team met last week to discuss the second half of the year. One major topic was how to increase parent engagement around mental health and the impacts of online/social media. We would like to find a way to provide parents with information on how to support their children. The team is interested in feedback from School Council on how to support parents/families and is interested in participating in School Council events.

School Improvement

All staff will be focusing on numeracy and literacy goals.

Literacy Goal: Students will... build fluency and improve reading comprehension

Numeracy Goal: Students will.... improve computational and problem-solving skills

Literacy / Numeracy Update

In our continued effort to improve school performance, staff members are working together within their division teams to develop and implement strategies aimed at addressing identified gaps in numeracy and literacy skills. These areas for improvement were highlighted in the January staff meeting. Teams are encouraged to reflect on their practices by asking: What have you tried? What is working? What will you try next? This reflection helps evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies and plan future actions.

The upcoming March staff meeting is crucial for our improvement plan. Teams will present their data to showcase any gains in skills, which will form the basis for revising and refining our strategies. By analyzing this data, teams can adjust their approaches for the next learning cycle, ensuring ongoing progress and effective interventions. This structured process supports both educators and students, ultimately enhancing educational outcomes.

EQAO

In preparation for EQAO 2025/26 staff have already begun practice questions with students. In addition to this, staff will be meeting monthly with Admin to prepare as well. As the testing window gets closer,



SOUTH-SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

2025-2026 Safe and Inclusive School Plan

Our school is committed to providing all students with a safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment free from bullying and harassment that promotes respect, acceptance, and empathy.

Staff, students, parents and caregivers, and community partners will work together as a team to help make our school safe and welcoming for everyone.

The Safe and Inclusive School Plan highlights some of the key actions that our school community will put in place as part of our bullying prevention and intervention efforts.



Key Priorities and Goals

This year we are focusing on developing respectful relationships, specifically between students.

We are doing this because we want all members of our school community to feel safe, connected, and respected.

Key Actions or Strategies

- Communicate clear, consistent language throughout all grades using Restorative Practices model
- Model Restorative Practices interactions
- Collect student input on what it means to respect peers
- Involve students in the process of learning how to better respond to their peers

Community and Home Connections

- Ask your child about the language used at school to resolve concerns/issues
- Try to talk about cyberbullying at home with your child
- Check out this resource School Mental Health Ontario about supporting mental health and well-being for every family

students will be participating in practice assessments online.

Testing window for 2025/26 Gr 3 and Gr 6 EQAO: May 5–June 9, 2026.

We will be posting sample literacy and numeracy questions for both Gr 3 & 6 in our upcoming family weekly memos.

Webinars for Parents prior to Primary/Junior EQAO

[EQAO hosts webinar series](#) for teachers, school administrators, principals and parents and guardians.

Please share the links to the sessions below with your staff and school community and feel free to post the information to your website and social media.

[EQAO Math Session for Parents and Guardians of Junior Students](#)

(February 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.)

Join us for a free webinar about how EQAO assesses junior-division students' mathematics learning. EQAO staff will discuss questions from the mathematics component of the junior-division assessment. Participants will hear how these math questions help assess the skills students are learning in class. Staff will also highlight valuable insights and resources that can help parents and guardians support their child's learning.

[EQAO Literacy Session for Families: Focus on Writing](#)

(February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.)

Join us for a free live webinar about how EQAO assesses students' writing skills at key stages of their education. EQAO staff will discuss writing prompts and questions from the reading components of the primary- and junior-division assessments and from the OSSLT. Participants will hear how these prompts and questions help assess the skills students are learning in class. Staff will also highlight valuable insights and resources that can help parents and guardians support their child's learning.

Budget: \$41,556.00

Carry forward has been processed.

Remaining \$23,789.94

42.75% of budget has been spent

Dates to Remember:

Feb 16 Family Day Holiday

Feb 20 Term 1 Report Cards go home

April: Spring Photos

Your devoted Administrators,

Mrs Collins and Ms Maddox

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