Elia Middle School
Grades 6 - 8

**OUR SCHOOL**

Elia Middle School is named after the original farming community of Elia. It is a school with a highly diverse student population, both culturally, economically and linguistically. Our Grade 6 students are primarily from four elementary schools: Derrydown, Lamberton, Sheppard and Stilecroft. The staff is committed to motivating and challenging students to maximize their potentials in all areas of the curriculum so that they can become optimally rounded citizens of Canada and the world.

The following programs/strategies are in place to assist us in addressing the needs of our students:

- English as a Second Language support, an entry level ESL program, and a Literacy Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP)
- Student leadership opportunities such as the Student Council, Peer Mediators, Future Aces and an Ambassadors Program
- Effective communication through the Teacher Advisor Program, school newsletters, curriculum evenings, school performances and our School Council
- Student involvement in co-curricular activities such as robotics club, chess club, homework club, environmental projects, sports teams, house league teams, band, choir and visual arts enrichment activities
- A consistent Code of Success, Dress Code, Common Understandings and Policy on Bullying, led by a student Anti-Bullying Committee that works together throughout the year
- A renovated driveway with a passenger drop-off and pick-up area to improve student safety
- A Special Education Program to improve the achievement levels of students according to their abilities.

The Pride of Elia: Elia is committed to high academic achievement for all students in a school environment which is equitable, safe and caring. Our students take pride in themselves and their accomplishments. They are motivated towards excellence, and towards working together co-operatively for the success of all.

**School Focus For This School Year**

Our school focus for the 2008-2009 school year is improving student achievement in Numeracy, Literacy, providing a safe and caring learning environment, increasing the number of extra curricular activities and providing equitable access of opportunities for students.

**OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of students:</td>
<td>558</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary language other than English:</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>64%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students born outside of Canada:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students living in Canada for 2 years or less</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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; in Grades 7-8: History and Geography, Family Studies and Guidance

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
- Concert & Performances
- Step Dance
- TDSB Professional Development Programming for Teachers

Dramatic Arts
- Live Production/Play

Integrated Programs
- Talent Show

Music
- Band
- Choir
- Choral Project
- Excursions
- Guitar
- Itinerant Music Teachers
- Keyboard
- Piano
- Recorder
- Steel Pan/Band

Visiting Artists
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Visual Arts
- Art Appreciation

- Excursions
- Visual Arts Workshops

Athletics
Athletic Teams
- Basketball Team
- Cross Country Team
- Slo-Pitch Team
- Soccer Team
- Track and Field Team
- Volleyball Team

Intramurals
- Ball Hockey
- Cross Country Running
- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

Clubs
Arts and Culture
- Craft Club
- French Club

Literacy
- Library Club

Competitions
Academic Based
- FIRST Robotics
- Mathematics Competitions: Gauss Math Contest, Ontario Math Olympics, Pythagoras Math Contest
THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

- Science Competitions: Science Fair, Robotics
- Technology Fair

**Community, Culture and Caring**

**Culture/Caring**
- Settlement Education Partnership Toronto (SEPT)
- Youth Advocates

**Food Programs**
- Breakfast Program
- Nutrition Program

**Fundraisers**
- Terry Fox Run

**Safe & Caring Schools**
- Future Aces
- Let’s Stop the Bullying: Bully Prevention Program
- Strict Discipline School Program for Expelled Students
- Toronto Police Services - School Liaison Officer

**Social Skills**
- Conflict Management Program
- Peer Mediation/Helpers

**Equity**

**Ethnocultural**
- International Heritage/Languages Program

**School-Wide Strategy**
- Assemblies

**Mentoring**

**Community Based**
- Go Girls!
- Kids.now Educational Leadership Program
- Summer Mentoring Program

**School Based**
- Peer Mentoring

**Tutoring**

**Community Based**
- We Dare To Learn Together Tutorial Program

**School Based**
- Homework Clubs

**Specializations and Other Programs**

**Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)**

**Literacy Support**

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Literacy Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP)

**System Initiative**
- Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP)

**Special Education Programs**

**Resource**
- Home School Program (HSP)
- Resource (Res)

**Student Success**

**Pathways Programs**

**Schools to Future**
- Career Fair
- Careers in Hospitality and Tourism
- Job Shadow Day - Grade 8
- Steps to College
- Westview Partnership

**Remedial Activities**

**Literacy/Numeracy**
- Remedial Literacy Program
- Remedial Numeracy Programs
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**

- We have identified key areas for improvement based on our EQAO results. This is documented in our EQAO Action Plan.
- This year we will focus on the improvement of Reading instruction for Grade 6 classes.
- We have provided in-service for all Grades 6-8 teachers in using successful strategies to enhance teaching and learning at Elia.
- All core teachers use CASI as an assessments tool for all students in reading, writing, spelling and mathematics to improve achievement.
- Our Grades 6-8 teachers administered Canadian Achievement Test in the fall and the spring of each year to enhance student success.
- We have bought new textbooks in mathematics, science and history will further assist in implementing the Ontario curriculum.
- We will continue to use current Literacy and Numeracy resources to Plan and deliver lessons suited to the needs of our students.
- We continue to offer outstanding music and visual arts programs which encourage our students' appreciation for and expression of the arts.
- Our Library Information Technology program expands literacy, mathematics, social studies and science skills by assisting students in using print and technology resources.
- We have fully implemented the new science and technology curriculum. Students will demonstrate their learning on a daily basis and more so during our spring Science Fair.
- The computer program delivers specific course content for all grades, delivered by teachers who have a high level of expertise working with computers.
- Staff advisors are working with students in the Teacher Advisor Program that emphasizes effective study habits, positive social interaction and relevant life skills. This year we are introducing the Second Step program, the new Career Portfolios and the Annual Education Plans.
- We are continuing to emphasize the proper use of the student planner and improved communication with parents and guardians.
- Our Health and Physical Education programs are designed to meet the needs of transition years students by promoting co-operative games, physical fitness and lifelong learning on important health issues. All of our students wear the Elia gym uniform.
- Students' academic needs are being met through ESL/ESD, LEAP and our Special Education programs and a Science Enrichment program.
- We are proud of our outstanding staff who teach these programs and our wonderful group of students, parents and guardians. Elia is committed to high academic achievement for all students in a school environment which is equitable, safe and caring.
Our Community Partners

Parent And Community Involvement

Parent Involvement:
- Elia Middle School has a strong volunteer program and School Council that supports our efforts in promoting high student achievement, student safety and linking home to school.
- Our staff works closely with community agencies such as Hincks/Dellcrest Children's Centre, Clinical Youth Services and Public Health to provide a full range of services to our students and their families.
- We have a Settlement Worker who works out of our school on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Settlement program is a community based partnership program that provides our new students and parents with information, orientation sessions, referrals to settlement agencies, resources, translation, interpretation and much more.
- Our classes participate in activities at the local public library.

Community Links:
- Our school works in partnership with Hinks Delcrest, San Rowmanoway Revitalization Centre, The Olympian Safety Program, Half Pints, Anti-Bullying Program, our Local Police Division, Future Aces Foundation and many other community agencies.

Our Neighbourhood

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.

The mission of the Toronto District School Board is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.