

A.G. Bell News—January 2020

Danielle Denike, Principal Craig Bonikowsky, Vice Principal

Cheryl Dawson, Administrative Assistant

Kim Fullerton, Administrative Assistant



Happy New Year

We are excited to see everyone feeling refreshed from a break filled with adventure, relaxation, and time with family and friends. This is a great time to set goals for ourselves. By setting goals we are able to help ourselves focus our energies.

Safety is at the forefront of our school program. We ask our school community to continue to support us to achieve a safe school. We ask parents and guardians to drop off and pick up students at your child's entry door. If you need to come into the school we ask you start your visit by coming to the office first before entering the building.

As parents, guardians, and staff of our school's community, modeling this for our children shows the importance, and allows them to see how we as adults deal with the challenges and successes of goal setting. Lets work hard to reestablish good citizenship and academic discipline with the goal of great success!

Mrs. Denike and Mr. Bonikowsky

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SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

Twitter: @AGBellPS





Great Beginnings

START AT THE DDSB

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JANUARY 13, 2020

Registration starts online at 4:00 p.m.

www.ddsb.ca

Available JK spots at single track French Immersion schools
will be filled on a first come, first served basis only.

AG Bell SCC News – January 2020

Happy New Year! Here's to a wonderful 2020

The SCC wishes to thank all the AGB parents that attended the SCC Meetings in 2019. We encourage all AGB parents that have been coming to the meetings to keep coming in 2020. Additionally, we invite all AGB parents who have not been attending meetings to come out and see what the SCC is all about. Input from AGB parents will only lead to a stronger and more vibrant SCC.

The Next SCC Meeting will be February 4, 2020 in the Learning Commons (AGB Library). We will be discussing issues and topic that will impact AGB parents and students.

Some of the Topics that will discussed at the Upcoming Meeting

School Fund Raising

Upcoming AGB School Activities, News and Updates

Principal Updates

General Forum to discuss issues and questions you may have pertaining to AGB school.

AGB Fun Fair 2020 - Our Annual Fair that is enjoyed each year by our AGB school community. It will be occurring once again in May of this year.

A reminder that new parents are always welcomed to attend the SCC monthly meetings. You do not need to be a voting member to participate. It is a great forum to meet other parents, share ideas and be made aware of what is happening at the AGB school.

The next SCC meeting is February 4, 2020 and we look forward to seeing you there!

Tuesday February 4, 2020 at 7pm in the Learning Commons.

REMEMBER - You do not have to be a member of the SCC to come to a meeting.

AG Bell SCC



AG Bell Athletics

December seemed to fly by at AG Bell. Early December, the Intermediates Girls and Boys Basketball Teams finalized their 2019/2020 Rosters. The boys season started off with two wins before the winter break and added on a third win by defeating a mighty Glengrove team on January 8th. On January 9th, the Girls opened their season with Valley Farm at A.G Bell.



Student Council

Student Council at A. G. Bell has created three new sub committees that will focus on Tamil Heritage Month (January), Black History Month (February) and Athletics. Together with other members of the Intermediate community we look forward to creating engaging opportunities and events for the school community.

Lunchroom Supervisors Needed

We are looking for new supply lunchroom supervisors. This is a paid position that would run from 10:50 -11:50 a.m. If you are interested in this position please contact the office for more information.



Happy PONGAL

பொங்கல்

JANUARY 15-18, 2020

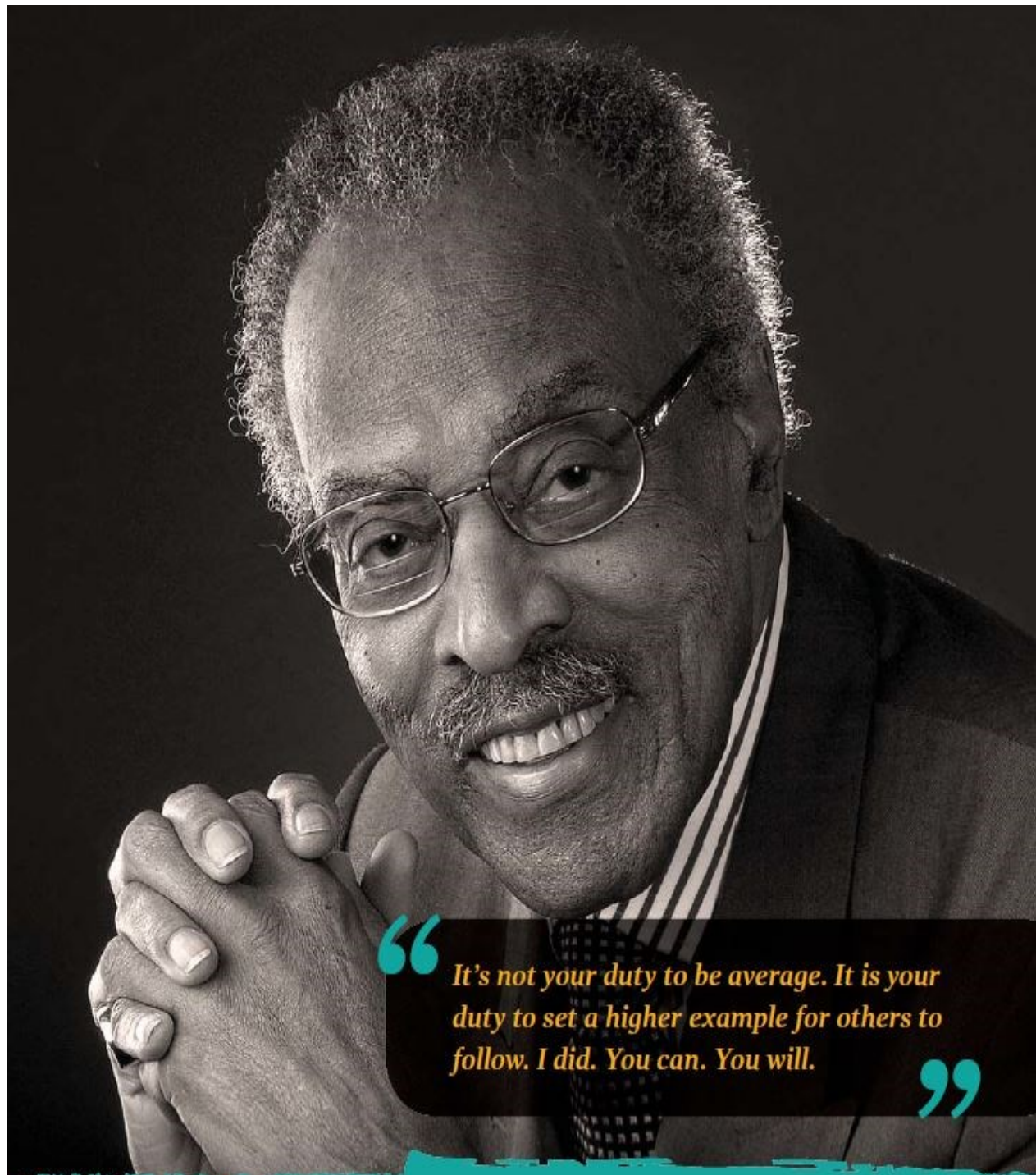
Pongal is a four day celebration each year that marks a period of plenty, peace and happiness. "Thai" (January) and "Pongal" (boiling over of milk and rice) is the harvest festival for Tamils, similar to Thanksgiving. Once a year, Tamils express gratitude during the harvest festival, mainly to the sun for a bountiful harvest. Families rejoice and share their harvest with others.

January is **Tamil** Heritage Month



In January, we celebrate the history of Tamil language and culture while recognizing the contributions that Tamil-Canadians have made to our diverse Canadian tapestry. Tamil Heritage month will be an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the rich cultural fabric of our nation while highlighting the significance of the earliest Tamil traditions, knowledge and cultural elements of Tamil heritage and ancestry. Join us as we embark on a journey of discovering the history of Tamil Heritage.





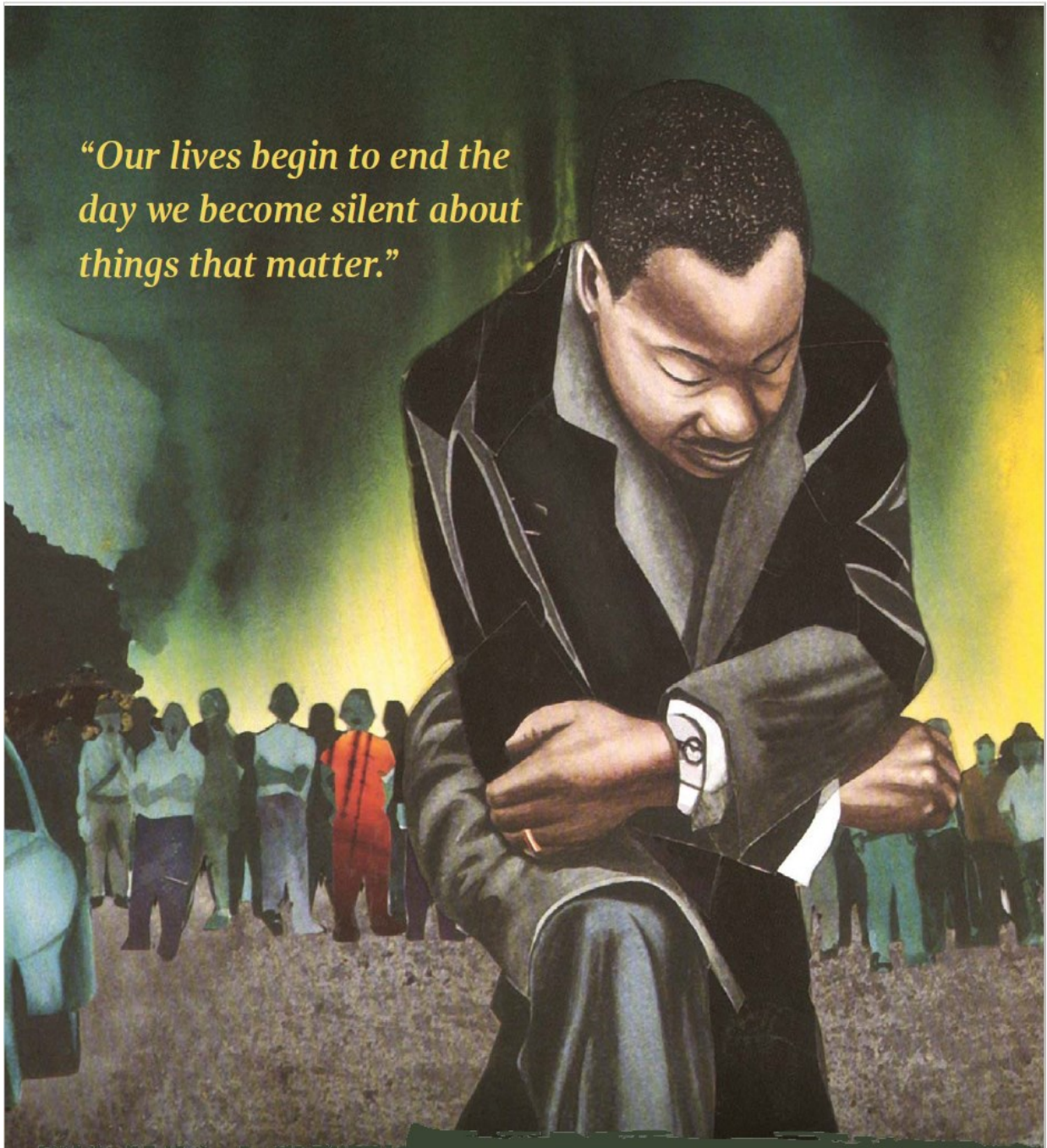
“It’s not your duty to be average. It is your duty to set a higher example for others to follow. I did. You can. You will.”

LINCOLN ALEXANDER DAY

JANUARY 21



*"Our lives begin to end the
day we become silent about
things that matter."*



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

January 20th, 2020



DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CHOOSING *my* SUCCESS!

OVERVIEW FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

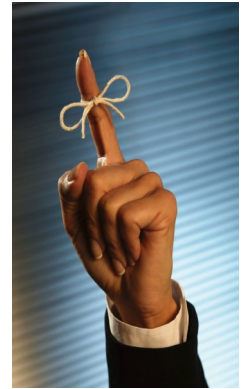
Grade 8 Important Upcoming Dates

Planning is well underway for our Grades 8 transitioning to Grade 9. Here are some dates to remember:

| Date | Item |
|--|---|
| Monday, January 13 th , 2020 | PHS Guidance Department Visits AGB |
| Wednesday, January 15 th , 2020 | Pathway Counsellor, A. Warren visits Gr 8 classes |
| Friday, January 17 th , 2020 | Career Cruising with Course Planner Open: course planner in Career Cruising updated, open and available for planning for all Grade 8 students |
| Wednesday, January 22 nd , 2020 | Grade 8 to 9 Parent/ Guardian Transition Information Night (for Mainstream and Gifted Stream) at 6:30pm @ |
| Monday February 3 rd - 5 th , 2020 | Grade 8 IPRCs for Identified Students @ AGB—letters coming home soon |
| Thursday, February 13 th , 2020 | Students are to submit completed and signed “Choosing My Success” Course Planning Tools to homeroom teachers |
| Friday, February 21 st , 2020 | Grade 8 homeroom teachers submit completed “Choosing My Success” Course Planning Tools to principal |
| Monday February 24-26 th | “Choosing My Success” Course Planning Tools due to PHS |

Important Dates

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Jan 13th | PHS visit to Gr 8s on Course Selection |
| Jan 13th | Online Kindergarten Registration Begins |
| Jan 17th | PA Day |
| Feb 3-5th | Grade 8 IPRCs |
| Feb 4th | SCC Meeting @ 7pm in the Library |



Dates of Significance

January is Tamil Heritage Month

On June 12, 2012, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario had its first reading of Bill 111, an Act to proclaim the month of January Tamil Heritage Month. People of Tamil heritage have migrated to Ontario since the 1940s. Tamil Canadians have overcome obstacles while making significant contributions to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural tapestry. Tamil Heritage Month presents an opportunity to reinforce the important history and contributions of Canadians of Tamil heritage. The month of January was chosen because the first month of the Tamil calendar – *Thai* begins in January. This month is also significant as Tamil Canadians recognize many cultural and artistic observances including the Tamil Harvest Festival – *Thai Pongal*.

January 1 – New Year's Day

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are special days for many people around the world. On the morning of New Year's Day, children on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario go from house to house collecting gifts of edible treats. People of Japanese heritage welcome the New Year (Gantan Sai) with prayers and visits to holy sites often timed to coincide with the stroke of midnight. For French Canadians, New Year's Eve is sometimes more important than Christmas Eve. Their house-visiting custom is called "guignoloée." Bell-ringers announce that visitors have arrived. After the singing, the visitors collect money, food, and clothes for the needy.

Dates of Significance Continued

People of Scottish heritage call New Year's Eve "Hogmanay". Many European Canadians observe several Scottish customs today—the most popular among which are the use of noise-makers and the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” at midnight. Often there is also a round of kissing. On New Year's Eve, many people of Chilean heritage sing their national anthem. People of Austrian heritage may eat marzipan candy pigs, which stand for good fortune. People of Portuguese heritage eat 12 raisins for good luck—one for each stroke of the clock. Koreans may stay up all night, and have "forgetting-the-year" parties, during which there is a ceremony to forget any past disappointments.

January 15 – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and political activist who is arguably the most famous leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. King was named Man of the Year by Time Magazine in 1963, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964—then the youngest man ever to have received the award. He turned over the Nobel Prize money to further the Civil Rights Movement. King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had planned to lead a march in sympathy with striking garbage workers. It was only 9 years later, in 1977, when he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter. In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year. The struggle to have this day recognized as a federal holiday involved Stevie Wonder's song “Happy Birthday,” and a petition with 6 million signatures—the largest petition in US history. The day was observed first in 1986, and was finally observed in all states in 2000. For his promotion of non-violence and racial equality, King is considered a peacemaker and martyr by many people around the world.

January 15 - Martin Luther King Day

The idea of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. After King's death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office). Only two other figures have national holidays in the U.S. honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

Dates of Significance Continued

January 21 – Lincoln Alexander Day (Canada)

Lincoln MacCauley Alexander was born on Jan. 21, 1922. He practised law for more than 10 years and in 1968 was elected MP of Hamilton West, becoming Canada's first black MP. He held his seat for four terms, but left in 1980 to become chair of Ontario's Worker's Compensation Board. In 1985, he was named Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the first black man to hold that title. He was also the University of Guelph's longest-serving chancellor from 1991 to 2007. He died in October 2012 at the age of 90.

As of December 3, 2014, Lincoln Alexander Day January 21, Lincoln's birthday, is now recognized officially as Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada, with Royal Assent by the Governor General December 9, 2014.

January 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN)

On November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to designate January 27 the "International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust." This day coincides with the day in 1945 when the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. The UN resolution also rejected any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, and member states are urged to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent future genocide. This day has been observed since 2001 as Holocaust Memorial Day in many European countries. Observed within the State of Israel, and Jews world-wide; Yom HaShoah vea hagvora, the "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the courage of the Jewish people," on the 27th day of the month Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in April.



"We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."
Dalai Lama