

Join us for
The Grove Community School
Open House!

January 26th, 2012, 6:30 pm

Alexander Muir/Gladstone Ave. Public School

108 Gladstone Ave.

Childcare will be available

The Grove, which opened in September 2009, is the west end's newest public alternative school focused on social justice, environmentalism and community activism. This innovative school is committed to diversity and equity. The school will offer students academic excellence in a unique experiential learning environment.



Registration forms will be available at the meeting and at
www.thegrovecommunityschool.ca

Social justice, Environment and Community Activism – an enriching, exciting and unique experiential educational in Toronto’s West End. Join us!

The core values of social justice, environmentalism and community activism are at the heart of the Grove Community School. All aspects of the curriculum will be infused with these values. The ways in which children are taught will also be directed by these values.

What does this mean concretely? For example, reading and math materials will reflect the school’s values. There will be an emphasis on conflict resolution and restitution. Students will have opportunities to learn outside the classroom and engage in community action. Children will spend a lot of time learning outdoors at places like Dufferin Park.

Core Values

Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice

The Grove values the contributions of all members of our diverse community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and other community members. We are committed to creating a school that challenges individual and systemic biases that cause inequality, including racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination.

Our goal is to enable learners to make connections between their individual experiences and the social contexts in which they occur. The intention is to support the whole community to be able to recognize and critically engage all forms of social injustice, and to learn and work together towards democratic transformation and positive social change.

Ecological Sustainability and Environmental Justice

At The Grove we believe that the quality of children’s learning and their ability to realize their life potential is intimately related to the health and wellness of their interconnected ecological and social environments. We see sustainability and social justice education as inextricably linked.

At The Grove, students learn in, about, and for the environment. Environmental education at The School is about values, attitudes, ethics, and actions. Students at The Grove increasingly learn the principles of ecological literacy through concrete experiences and community engagement and make connections with their natural communities.

Community Engagement & Activism

While we seek to nourish the individual needs of all students, The Grove is a community-centred school in which students, families, teachers, and community members work and learn together in a cooperative way to solve real problems. We encourage family members to contribute through parent-led committees, after-school clubs and events, weekly “Grove Gatherings”, parenting workshops, and classroom volunteer opportunities.

We encourage students and the community to learn for deep understanding by evaluating the social and environmental significance of what they are exploring. We focus on authentic problems and solutions that encourage collaboration and cooperation; students experience the reality that real-life problems often are too complex for one person to solve alone.

The Grove’s Curriculum

At The Grove, we satisfy Ontario Ministry of Education requirements with respect to curriculum expectations, but we also go beyond them with a unique approach guided by our core values.

Our curriculum is designed to be engaging and challenging, to tap into and further stimulate children’s curiosity and love of learning. We believe education needs to be holistic, nurturing all aspects of a person’s being, and we seek to develop all dimensions of students’ capabilities. The arts—including visual and dramatic arts, music and dance (creative movement)—help to expand and foster imagination and creativity. We provide children with authentic learning experiences, where we communicate and support well the attainment of high and realistic learning expectations for all our students. Curriculum is taught using themes, or big ideas and is organized into units where time is taken to deepen the children’s understanding of their learning. The Grove uses collaborative assessment, and avoids the use of high-stakes evaluation instruments. Our anti-bias educational goals include helping students attain: self-awareness & family pride; comfort and joy with human diversity; the ability to recognize and understand unfairness; empowerment and the skills to act against prejudice and discrimination.