

September 29, 2023



PARENT BULLETIN #03

# The News

SATHYA SAI SCHOOL OF TORONTO-CANADA



## Parent Bulletin Highlights

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## Embracing Orange Shirt Day at Sathya Sai School: Fostering Understanding and Unity



**Grade 6 students proudly don orange shirts, standing united in support of Orange Shirt Day and reconciliation efforts.**

At Sathya Sai School, we hold a deep commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also fostering a strong sense of empathy, respect, and understanding among our students. One crucial aspect of this mission is the observance of Orange Shirt Day, a day of profound significance in the Canadian cultural tapestry.

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Parent Bulletins are Created and Designed by Faith Van Wart

## Meet Our New Grade One Teacher: Ms. Samia Touka



My name is Samia Touka.

I completed my undergraduate degree at Toronto Metropolitan University, where I studied Early Childhood Studies. I recently completed my Master of Teaching at University of Toronto (OISE).

I am excited, and grateful for receiving the opportunity to teach grade 1, where I will get to share my love for teaching with my wonderful students.

I look forward to building meaningful relationships with my students and their families, as well as my colleagues.

This year will be filled with joy, learning, and growth.

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## Embracing Orange Shirt Day at Sathya Sai School:

### Why is Recognizing Orange Shirt Day Important to Our Students?

- **Cultivating Empathy and Compassion:** Orange Shirt Day provides a poignant opportunity for our students to step into the shoes of their Indigenous peers and gain a heartfelt understanding of the historical traumas faced by them and their families. This experience helps in cultivating empathy and compassion, essential traits for global citizens.
  - **Learning from History:** By recognizing Orange Shirt Day, our students engage in a vital lesson about Canada's history. They learn about the injustices faced by Indigenous children in residential schools and develop a strong sense of social responsibility to ensure such dark chapters never occur again.
  - **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:** Our school community is wonderfully diverse, representing a mosaic of cultures, traditions, and beliefs. Recognizing Orange Shirt Day reinforces our commitment to inclusivity, reminding our students that every voice and experience matters.
  - **Empowering Indigenous Voices:** Through Orange Shirt Day, we amplify the voices and stories of Indigenous communities. This empowers our students to be advocates for positive change, to stand up for justice, and to actively participate in the reconciliation process.
  - **Fostering a Sense of Belonging:** Recognizing Orange Shirt Day demonstrates to our Indigenous students that their experiences, culture, and heritage are valued and respected within our school community. It fosters a sense of belonging and pride in their identity.
  - **Encouraging Lifelong Learning:** This observance sparks curiosity and encourages students to delve deeper into Indigenous history, cultures, and contemporary issues. It lays the foundation for a lifelong commitment to learning and understanding diverse perspectives.
- By recognizing Orange Shirt Day, we reinforce our dedication to nurturing compassionate, informed, and socially responsible individuals who are poised to make a positive impact in our global community.



**DR. REVATHI**  
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

September 29, 2023

Dear Parents and Well-wishers of Sathya Sai School,

On September 27, 2023, we had a Terry Fox event on our school premises and we also honoured September 29th as Truth and Reconciliation Day by wearing Orange T-shirts.

Hearty congratulations to all our current Grade 4 and 7 students. Almost all of them have obtained a Level 3 and/or a Level 4 in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in their EQAO tests conducted in June 2023. We are equally grateful to their teachers - Mrs. Mohan, Mr. Kandavel, Ms. Cassiere, and all teachers at the Sathya Sai School for grooming them over the years. Also, the Grade 4 and 7 parents deserve applause for their share in this result.

Please ensure your child(ren) come to school on time and if they are absent, please make sure that you notify their class teacher(s) and the school administration of the reason for their absence. Please follow safety directions as outlined by the Parent Patrol Team to ensure the safety of all parking lot users.

We are still awaiting the institution code from the Toronto Police Services to pursue with Vulnerable Sector Screening Certificates. Once the school receives we shall notify you accordingly.

**Please take a note of the upcoming events:**

**October 2, 2023** – October 31, 2023- Food Drive Launch

**October 9, 2023** - Thanksgiving Holiday

**October 10, 2023** – Picture Day

**October 13, 2023** - Professional Development Day (Half-Day + Progress report card making day).

**Open House Week** – October 16-20, 2023 from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**October 26, 2023** – Report cards sent home

**October 27, 2023** – Parent Teacher Interviews

**October 30** – November 3, 2023 -Grade 8's Bake Sale

Sincerely,  
Revathi Chennabathni

## The Survivors' Flag

The Survivors' Flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by Survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation.



### The Family

Some saw the adults as our ancestors watching over us; others saw these as parents signifying whole families ripped apart and also reuniting to represent healing.



### The Children

More than one child is depicted in the design as often whole sibling groups were taken from their parents, younger siblings, grandparents, and community.



### The Seeds Below Ground

Represent the spirits of the children who never returned home. Although they have always been present, they are now seen and searched for.



### Tree of Peace

Haudenosaunee symbol of how nations were united and brought to peace, which in turn, provides protection, comfort and renewal.



### Cedar Branch

Sacred medicine that represents protection and healing, but also what is used by some Indigenous cultures when one enters the physical world and then again when they pass on to the next (i.e. medicine bath). The seven branches acknowledges the seven sacred teachings taught in many Indigenous cultures.



### Cosmic Symbolism

Represents Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets. The Sun represents the divine protection that ensure those who survived came home. The North Star is prominent as it is an important navigation guide for many Indigenous cultures.



### The Métis Sash

The Sash is a prominent ceremonial regalia worn with pride. Certain colours of thread represent lives that were lost, while others signal connectedness as humans and resilience through trauma. All the threads woven together spell out part of history, but no single thread defines the whole story.



### The Eagle Feather

The Eagle Feather represents that the Creator's spirit is among us. It is depicting pointing upwards which mirrors how it is held when one speaks their Truth.



### The Inuksuit

Inuksuit are used as navigational guides for Inuit people and link to tradition.

This information was taken from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, University of Manitoba. Please visit their website for more information.

<https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>

Grade  
SK



Grade  
8



Grade  
7



Grade 5



Grade 3



Grade 1



Grade  
4



Grade  
JK



Grade  
2

