The Door’s August Highlights: Learning, Growth and New Beginnings



(Walking Field Trip Exploring Our Roots: Community Heritage & Native Plants with Debbie Barton and Don Kwan 6th August 2026)

August 2026

Monthly Newsletter -August 2026
Updates from The Door

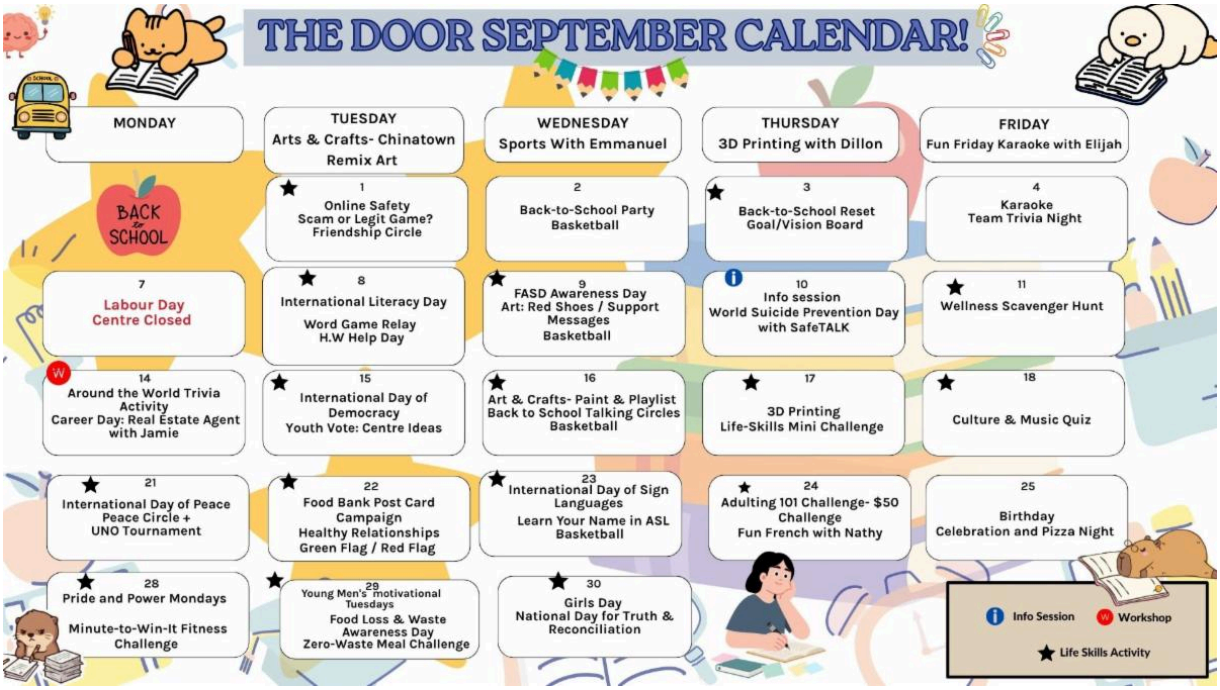
August was an exciting month at The Door Youth Centre, filled with learning, creativity, recreation, and community connection. Youth participated in financial literacy, positive-thinking, French-language, mental health, 3D printing, baking, and 2SLGBTQI+ inclusion activities. International Youth Day also encouraged youth to share their voices through a respectful debate.

Girls' Day offered a supportive back-to-school experience where participants decorated school supplies, updated their résumés, set personal goals, enjoyed karaoke, and connected with their peers. Recreational activities included basketball, volleyball, ping-pong, pool, arts and crafts, talent shows, board games, and No Tech Days.

Special highlights included a Chinatown heritage and native plants walk with Debbie Barton and Don Kwan, a youth-led cookie fundraiser, and an overdose awareness presentation. We also celebrated birthdays and held a thoughtful send-off for youth who graduated, moved away, aged out, or were preparing to pursue higher education.

We are grateful to our volunteers, partners, supporters, and sponsors for helping us provide a welcoming space where young people can learn, grow, build friendships, and feel a sense of belonging.

September Monthly Calendar



Exploring Our Roots: Community Heritage & Native Plants with Debbie Barton and Don Kwan

On August 6, youth from The Door stepped outside the centre for a special learning experience in Ottawa's Chinatown.

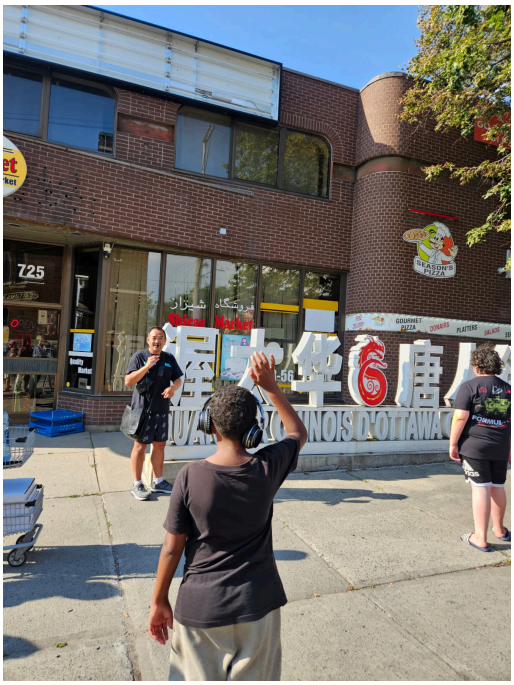
Led by local artist and tour guide Don Kwan, youth learned about the history and culture of the Chinatown neighbourhood where The Door is located. During the walk, they explored the Chinatown Arch, Kowloon Market, public murals, sidewalk art, and other important community landmarks. The

experience gave youth a deeper understanding of the people, stories, and artwork that have helped shape Chinatown.

The trip ended at Street Seats, where The Door's former Board Chair, Debbie Barton, shared her knowledge of local plants and their uses. Youth also had a great time playing ping-pong in the new Street Seats space along Somerset Street before enjoying pizza, snacks, and drinks together. Exploring Our Roots encouraged curiosity, meaningful conversations, and a greater appreciation for the history, culture, art, and natural environment surrounding The Door.

A special thank you to Debbie Barton and Don Kwan for sharing their knowledge with our youth. We are also grateful to the Chinatown BIA, Ottawa Community Foundation, and Street Seats for helping make this memorable experience possible.









Celebrating New Beginnings and Goodbyes

The Door held a special Celebrating New Beginnings and Goodbyes Party to recognize youth who had graduated or aged out of the centre.

On August 10,we celebrated Beni, Sean, Mohammed, Osama, Danny, and others as they prepared to begin exciting new chapters in their lives. Youth and staff shared warm and fuzzy notes filled with encouraging messages, memories, and well wishes. Everyone also enjoyed games, food, music ,ice-cream cake and time together.

Although saying goodbye is never easy, we are proud of everything these youth who have accomplished. Each of them contributed something special to The Door and helped create many wonderful memories within our community.

We will miss seeing them at the centre, but we are excited to see where their journeys take them. We wish Beni, Sean, Mohammed, Osama, Danny, Azizi, Tina and all our departing youth continued success, happiness, and many new opportunities in the future. They will always be part of The Door family, and our doors will remain open whenever they would like to visit.



Building Financial Skills with RBC

Members of youth participated in an informative financial literacy workshop led by Eric and Zeid from RBC on August17th.

During the session, youth learned useful tips about creating and following a budget, avoiding overspending, understanding credit scores, and using credit cards responsibly. Eric explained these topics in a clear and engaging way, giving youth practical knowledge that can help them make informed financial decisions now and in the future.

Youth also participated in an interactive game- Kahoots! that allowed them to test what they had learned and ask questions in a welcoming environment. The workshop encouraged young people to think carefully about their spending habits, financial goals, and the importance of building healthy money-management skills early in life.

RBC is a valued supporter of The Door Youth Centre, and we are grateful to Eric and Zeid for continuing to share their time, knowledge, and guidance with our youth. Their support helps us provide meaningful learning opportunities that prepare young people for a successful and financially responsible future.



Summer Youth Initiative Cookie Fundraiser

Youth put their baking and teamwork skills into action during The Door's Summer Youth Initiative cookie fundraiser on August 20.

With support from volunteer Malith, youth worked together to prepare and bake delicious cookies before selling them to members of the community. They enjoyed learning new baking skills, following recipes, working as a team, and seeing their hard work turn into a successful fundraiser.

The cookie sale gave youth an opportunity to interact with the community while developing valuable communication, customer service, and sales skills. They confidently welcomed customers, explained the purpose of the fundraiser, and encouraged community members to support The Door.

Through their efforts, the youth raised a small but impressive amount of money that will go directly toward programming and activities at the centre. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to supporting a place that means so much to them.

A special thank you to volunteer Malith for sharing her time and baking skills, and to everyone in the community who purchased cookies and supported our youth.





Open the Door to Opportunity: Support Our Youth

We've been fortunate to receive many of our previous wishlist items over the past few months, but we still truly need your support. Your financial donation makes a real difference in the lives of our youth. Even a small monthly contribution of $10–$20 helps sustain our programs.

A monthly gift of $100 provides one youth with full access to all of The Door's programs, including hot meals, workshops, music lessons, life skills training, and a safe space to belong.

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The Door's Website

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