

# Trustee Update

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## In This Together

I hope you and yours are keeping well during this unprecedented and highly unusual time for all of us.

Looking back over the past two weeks, the provincial government's decision to close schools seemed to be the first of a cascading series of federal, provincial and municipal decisions to help us all keep our distance and flatten the curve and minimize the stress on our health care system.

I know it is challenging for a great many families trying to juggle working from home, or away from home, and having kids at home, without a routine and school to keep them academically and socially engaged. Add to that the stress that the pandemic is causing many in our community with respect to family incomes, paying the bills and keeping ourselves and our families housed, fed and healthy, not to mention staying mentally and physically healthy.

Below is a series of short updates, some of which you may have already received, relating to our kids, classrooms and our schools as we stay home and do our part to stop the spread.

I appreciate your patience in this time of uncertainty, and I hope you are finding time to connect with your loved ones while respecting the direction from the Medical Officer of Health regarding social distancing.

Keep well,  
Jennifer



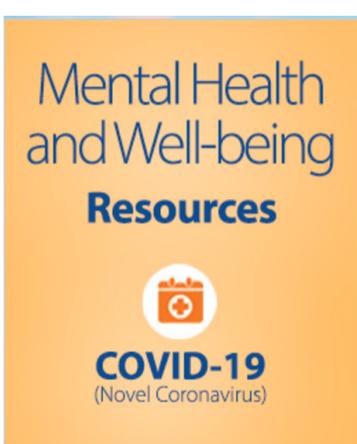
## Learning from Home

Please read [this update](#) from our [Director of Education](#) regarding the current status of our efforts to support students learning from home.

"As the efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 continue all around us, I hope you and your families are doing well under what continues to be very challenging circumstances. I know the stress of social distancing, lack of routine and trying to balance everything as best you can is continuing to mount for many of us. During this unprecedented time, you likely have a number of questions about your child(ren)'s education and while I am not able to answer all of them at this point, I want to provide an update in hopes of addressing as many as possible." [read on ...](#)

## Student Learning Resources

In addition to the [Learn at Home](#) resources provided by the Ministry of Education, the TDSB has also provided many useful [Student Learning Resources](#) that you may also find useful in this interim period, while we work through connecting students and teachers electronically, consistently and equitably for our 250,000 students and almost 600 schools.



## Looking After Our Kids' Mental Health

There is a broad range of emotions and questions students of all ages may be experiencing in this uncertain and unprecedented time of the Covid-19 pandemic and school closures. The change in routines and feelings of separation from peers, educators and other important caregivers may cause distress.

However, this time offers an opportunity to strengthen our resilience and pay greater attention to our well-being. Below are some key resources to help engage with and support children and youth around the impact of the pandemic on their mental health and well-being.

[These resources](#) will be updated regularly. Check back often. Also, [read more for more information on how the TDSB is responding to the pandemic.](#)

## Playgrounds Closed

On Wednesday, March 25, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health [announced the closure](#) of a number of city amenities including all city-owned playgrounds, sports fields, and basketball and tennis courts to limit public congregation and reduce the spread of COVID-19. All Toronto schools have been called on to do the same.

For that reason, effective immediately, the TDSB will be closing all playgrounds and other amenities, including sports fields and basketball and tennis courts, on school board property until further notice. The Board will be posting signs and taping off all playgrounds and asks the public to please avoid use until further notice. Where fencing or gates exist around structures, they will be locked.

We recognize that playgrounds are important to our school communities, however we must all follow the advice of medical experts from Toronto Public Health and limit public congregation.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to maintain the health and safety of our communities.

### PLAYGROUND CLOSURE

**This playground is closed to the public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.**

**For more information, visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/coronavirus](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/coronavirus)**



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