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Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

Thank you for doing your part during these unprecedented times. As difficult as it is, please remember that we can feel perfectly fine... but we may be putting others at risk.

Please stay home, and only leave home for essentials. Please wash your hands. Please read with your child or have your child/youth read to themselves, to their siblings, to you.

We are all in this together.

"The power to change the story is entirely in our hands. So thank you, thank you to the residents of our city, thank you to business owners, thank you all for doing this, but we can still do better, we must do better, and we need your help to get there."

Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health

Other Important Links:

- canada.ca/coronavirus
- ontario.ca/coronavirus
- toronto.ca/home/covid-19/

Update on School Closures and Continuation of Learning

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Yesterday, the Ontario government [announced](#) that, due to the continued spread of COVID-19, all publicly-funded schools in Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed to students until Monday, May 4, 2020. The government also said that as we approach these dates, the decision will be re-evaluated and that the closure may be extended based on public health advice. Please note that child care centres, Extended Day Programs and EarlyON programs located in our schools will also remain closed until April 13, according to the province's Declaration of Emergency, which only allows closures to be extended for one 14-day period at a time.

For more on this announcement, please read Minister of Education Stephen Lecce's [letter](#) to parents and guardians.

As we have previously shared, TDSB staff have already begun the significant task of connecting with all students and families as we prepare to re-establish teacher-led learning beginning Monday, April 6. We know that parents/guardians will have a number of questions including how this upcoming learning will be marked and how report cards will work. As assessment policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, we are working with them to better understand the expectations and we will support our students through the process. As always, we will share this information as soon as possible.

We understand that each family is facing a different set of challenges right now as a result of the developing COVID-19 situation. I know our staff will be as accommodating as possible during this difficult time. If you and/or your children have not yet heard from teachers, they are continuing to connect with families this week in preparation for next week. Should you have any specific questions about learning within your child(ren)'s class, I would encourage you to contact the teacher directly. If further assistance is required, please contact the school principal.

While we are doing our best to re-establish teacher-led learning for all students beginning on Monday, April 6, the weeks ahead will be a new experience for all of us and there may be some challenges along the way. I would once again ask for your continued patience and understanding. We remain committed to supporting our students and their families as best we can under tremendously difficult circumstances.

We will update our parents/guardians as more details become available. In the meantime, we continue to update the TDSB [website](#) with additional information.

Sincerely,

John Malloy

Director of Education

TDSB Playgrounds and Park Amenities Closed

PLAYGROUND CLOSURE

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

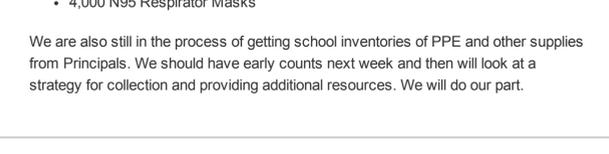
For more information, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/coronavirus

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.



Supporting Healthcare Workers with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As you know, the TDSB is doing everything we can to support Ontario's efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and is working closely with the Ministry of Government & Consumer Services to collect any materials (masks, gloves, etc.) that would help the province's efforts. To date, we have been able to assemble five skids of materials which is at the Distribution Centre awaiting shipping instructions to be donated to hospitals and healthcare workers in need.

In this first round, we are donating:

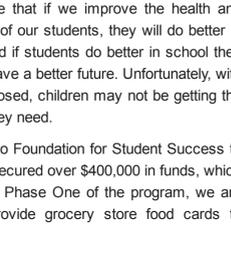
- 3,600 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 70,000 pairs of gloves
- 4,000 N95 Respirator Masks

We are also still in the process of getting school inventories of PPE and other supplies from Principals. We should have early counts next week and then will look at a strategy for collection and providing additional resources. We will do our part.

211 Toronto

Do you need information about financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, childcare, housing, food, clothing and shelter?

Find help at 211central.ca or call/chat/text/email 2-1-1.



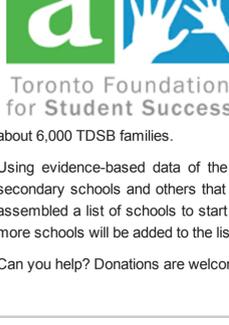
- 211 Toronto connects people to community and social services quickly and easily so they can get the help they need. For example: a person searching for financial assistance, employment assistance, childcare or food, clothing and shelter.

- We offer a 24/7 confidential service in 150 languages

- We connect people to over 4,000 programs and services in Toronto

- 211 reduces the call burden on other municipal phone services (311, 911) as well as city staff, councillors, trustees and their offices.

211 Toronto is operated by Findhelp and funded by the City of Toronto, Government of Ontario and United Way Greater Toronto.



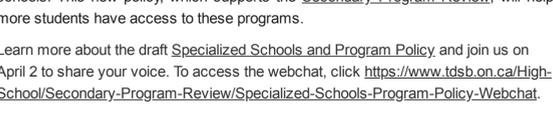
Helping Feed Students

One in four children in Toronto lives in poverty. We believe that if we improve the health and well-being of our students, they will do better in school, and if students do better in school then they will have a better future. Unfortunately, with schools closed, children may not be getting the nutrition they need.

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success to date has secured over \$400,000 in funds, which means for Phase One of the program, we are able to provide grocery store food cards to about 6,000 TDSB families.

Using evidence-based data of the Learning Opportunities Index as well as noting secondary schools and others that were in Communities facing great challenges, we assembled a list of schools to start with for Phase One. As more funds are secured, more schools will be added to the list.

Can you help? Donations are welcome at <https://tfs.ca/>.



New Invitation - Specialized Schools & Program Policy Consultation via Webchat

The TDSB community is invited to participate in a webchat on the [Specialized Schools and Programs Policy](#), on **Thursday, April 2 at 1 p.m.**

We are committed to our specialized programs and schools and value the variety and opportunity they bring to our students and their school experiences. This online consultation is for a new policy designed to improve clarity when it comes to admission procedures, practices and timelines which differ from those in regular schools. This new policy, which supports the [Secondary Program Review](#), will help more students have access to these programs.

Learn more about the draft [Specialized Schools and Program Policy](#) and join us on April 2 to share your voice. To access the webchat, click <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review/Specialized-Schools-Program-Policy-Webchat>.

April is Hispanic Heritage Month, Latin American History Month and Sikh Heritage Month

During the month of April, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize **Hispanic Heritage Month**. As stated in the *Hispanic Heritage Month Act*, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest-growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

During the month of April, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize **Latin-America History Month**. As outlined in the TDSB Days of Significance Resource Guide: "Latin-America immigrants began arriving in large numbers in Toronto in the late 1970s. Latin America is generally defined as the countries south of the United States where people speak Romance languages (such as Spanish, Portuguese, and French). Today, some of the people from these countries might identify as Latino, Latina, Latinx, or Hispanic."

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board during the month of April. On March 22, 2016, the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month, making TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so, and matching recognition by the Province of Ontario who proclaimed the Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013. The *Sikh Heritage Month Act*, 2013 states, "Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the middle of the twentieth century. They represent a growing and dynamic population. Sikh Canadians have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario. April is an important month for the Sikh community. This month, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. Sikh Canadians widely celebrate Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, across Ontario. Because of COVID-19, this year's parade has been cancelled.

Board Meeting Notes

The following items were approved or received by the Board of Trustees at the Regular Board Meeting on March 11, 2020 and the Special Board Meeting on March 24, 2020. For more information, including a full list of Board Decisions, please read the Summary of Decisions ([March 11](#) and [March 24](#)) and view the following Board Reports:

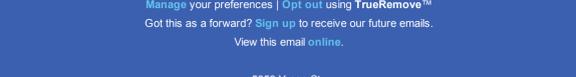
- [Three Year Financial Projection](#)
- [2020-21 School-Based Staff Allocation](#)
- [Financial Facts: Revenue and Expenditure Trends](#)
- [Caring and Safe Schools Annual Report 2018-19](#)
- [2020-21 School Year Calendar](#)
- [Options for Reducing the Distribution of Single-use Plastic Items](#)
- [Climate Action in the TDSB](#)
- [Black Youth Mental Health Day – March 2](#)

During the closure of all public schools, the Government of Ontario is allowing school boards to meet virtually. The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting is on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.



People for Education Newsletter

- Schools are closed but learning will continue
- Pandemic Reading
- We need your support



TDSB EcoSchools Newsletter

- Eco-Schools Teacher Survey
- Self-care and earth care online



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