

# Trustee Update

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## In this newsletter:

[Changes to Start Dates](#)

[Returning to School: New Information](#)

[Update on COVID-19: Dr. Eileen de Villa](#)

[Elementary Staffing Update](#)

[Access to Play Structures: Update](#)

[Director of Education Search](#)

[Every Child Matters: Orange Shirt Day](#)

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## Important: Change to Start Dates

### **Secondary Schools**

For secondary schools, given the complexities of the staffing and timetable process, we have adjusted the start dates of most secondary schools as follows:

**Tuesday, September 15:** Students attending Special Education Congregated Sites (York Humber HS, Central Etobicoke HS, Frank Oke SS, Maplewood HS, Drewry SS and Sir William Olser HS) and students attending Developmental Disability (DD) Intensive Support Programs in secondary schools. These students will follow a semester schedule.

**Thursday, September 17:** All remaining secondary schools, including students attending Intensive Support Programs (Autism, PD, MID, LD, and Gifted). Students will follow a quadmester schedule.

While most, if not all, secondary schools will be open on one of these two days, if there are unique circumstances that require additional time, those schools will contact families directly.

### **Virtual School**

Due to the large number of families who have selected Virtual School (more than 66,000 students), we require additional time to staff and timetable to ensure a more consistent opening for all staff and students. As a result, all students, including those in Special Education classes, attending Virtual School (elementary and secondary) will begin on **Thursday, September 17**. Our top priority is to ensure students experience success in both our in-person schools and virtual schools.

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## Returning to School

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>.

The **Return to School** webpage has been updated with new information on wearing masks/face coverings, including advice and videos on proper use, care and storage of masks. There is also more information to help you prepare for the first day of school, including checklists for elementary and secondary, updated resources, supports for mental health, a detailed plan on the return to school and information on response plans for Covid-19.

Please click on the links below that will bring you right to the information -

- [Mask/Face Coverings Required](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Elementary](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Secondary](#)
- [Resources for Preparing for Back to School](#)
- [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Safe Return to School - Detailed Plan](#)
- [Response Plans for Covid-19 Cases](#)
- [TDSB Return to School Video](#)
- [Learning and Instruction](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Operations - Transportation and Before and After School Programs](#)

As we prepare to open our schools in September and welcome back students and staff, we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all school community members, while also providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being and considering the needs of families and staff. Thank you for your continued patience as we all work through the challenges.

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## Update on COVID-19 - Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health (Sep 2, 2020)

"As we approach back to school, it often feels like a natural fresh start for many of us. So for today's update I'll share my advice for a safer return to school and safer socializing.

Back to school is a time of year typically filled with excitement. This year, many are feeling uneasy about this. Some may be worried about their child's ability to follow directions for physical distancing and wearing a mask. Others may be concerned about bringing the virus home to grandparents or other vulnerable relatives.

I've been asked if I'm sending my kids back to school this fall. The answer is yes, however, my youngest is in high school so the decision is a little simpler for my family. I know that everyone needs to make decisions that are best for their children and unique family circumstances.

For some who live with elderly family members or have health conditions, these decisions aren't necessarily straightforward.

**If you are sending your kids back to school there are ways to help them prepare:**

- **Help them practice wearing a mask at home, so they can get comfortable with this before going into the classroom;**
- **Teach them how to put their mask on properly, how to wear it and how to take it off;**
- **Make sure your child's mask fits comfortably and covers their nose, mouth and chin;**
- **Send at least two clean masks with your child to school each day and explain to them when they should change their mask;**
- **Send two bags to store clean and dirty masks separately; and**
- **Remind your child not to share or trade their masks with their friends.**

**You can also help prepare your kids by explaining how school will be different this year:**

- **Teach them how to wash their hands, practice physical distancing and wear their mask;**
- **Remind them you can sense a smile in someone's eyes even under a mask. So they should greet their friends with a big smile, a wave from a safe distance and not share their food or other personal items; and**
- **Create a routine to screen your child for symptoms of COVID-19 before school each day.**

**It's also important to watch for signs of stress or anxiety in your child. They may have a lot on their mind and they may or may not talk about it. Remind them that it's important to think about COVID-19 and their actions when they're at school, but let them know that it won't be this way forever.**

Let them know that it might be a little bit like looking both ways before crossing the street, or wearing your seatbelt, because it's all about their safety and good habits to protect them. Ask them about their day so they can share their feelings. For example they may be worried that a friend got too close, or that someone wasn't wearing their mask the right way.

**More than ever it's especially important to keep your children at home if they're sick. It's also very important for everyone to get the flu vaccine this fall.**

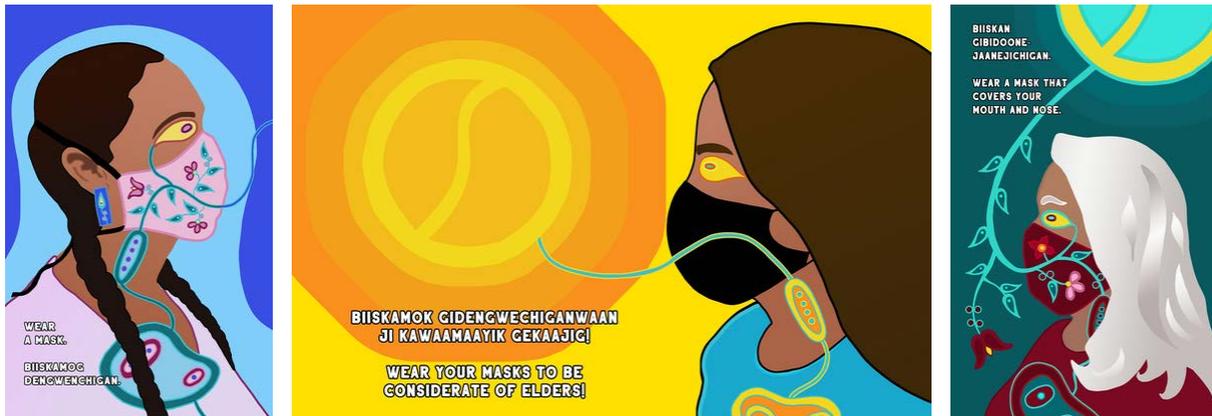
While many of us are preparing to send our kids back to school, many of us are also looking forward to squeezing in that last little bit of summer fun this weekend. While you are doing this, I ask that you please be careful while you are socializing. The choices we make this Labour Day weekend have the potential to affect us all in the weeks and months ahead...

**The truth is that the only safe way forward is to keep following our public health measures: wash your hands, watch your distance and wear your mask.** Everyone doing their part is what has kept Toronto from experiencing outbreaks like we're seeing in other cities. I cannot emphasize enough just how critical our behaviour today is in determining what happens next...

So please, as you are outside and enjoying these last days of summer, I ask that you all take my advice seriously:

- Stick to one bubble of up to 10 people;
- Avoid crowds, closed spaces and close contact with people outside your bubble because the risk of infection is high;
- Wash your hands;
- Watch your distance; and
- Wear your mask.

**And, as I have asked since the beginning of this pandemic, please continue to take care of each other."**



## Elementary Staffing Update

To serve 47,462 students in the Elementary Virtual School will require in excess of 2000 classroom teachers. (Please note that these registration numbers are based on 90% of elementary parents/guardians completing the registration but also include projections that are required to facilitate the staffing process).

Staffing allocations for in-school have been completed and were sent out to principals Friday. Based on the responses from families we were able to achieve the following caps in the elementary panel for staff allocation:

School	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 3	Grades 4 to 8
Virtual School	29	20	35
TDSB Identified High Priority Schools (based on TPH and other criteria)	15	20	20
All Other Schools	24*	20	27

\* Original projection for JK/SK was 27

***Since the teacher allocation is based on caps, should one or two additional students register at a school in September and all classes are at the cap for their grades, they would be placed in one of these classes — thereby exceeding the cap. Should a larger number of students register at a school, staff would look to see if additional teachers could be allocated.***

Schools are now in the process of adjusting their staffing models (i.e. class configurations and teaching assignments) for students who will be attending in-person learning. We appreciate that the timelines to do this are quite short and want to thank our Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals for the heavy lifting that is needed over the upcoming days in order to welcome students and staff back to school. And we thank teachers for their patience. This is not the same process as previous years with reorganization happening at the beginning of the year. It is my understanding staff will not be "surplus" based on usual processes, but reallocated to either another school or the Virtual School - and they would return to their home school.

Staff confirm as we finalize the registration numbers in Virtual School, we continue to work on the Special Education staffing that is dependent on student placement by program and level of support. Also, as previously indicated, wherever possible, staff at the Virtual School will try to keep students from the school and same specialized programs together.

Finally, staff are working over the long weekend to try to figure out teaching for the virtual school and getting classes set up. They don't know exactly when information can be shared with families, but it will also be as soon as possible.

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## **Access to Play Structures: Update**

After consulting further with Toronto Public Health, all TDSB play structures will be open to students during the school day (one cohort at a time) and continue to be open to the public outside of school hours. As always, everyone who uses the play structures should practice hand hygiene before and after use.



## **Director of Education Search**

From the website [https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Director-of-](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Director-of-Education/DirectorSearch)

[Education/DirectorSearch](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Director-of-Education/DirectorSearch)

The Toronto District School Board is in the process of recruiting its next Director of Education. This process is being led by a Trustee Director Search Committee, in partnership with Mandrake, an executive search firm.

The Trustee Director Search Committee is made up of 11 elected trustees. This committee was selected to represent the four different Learning Centres; provide oversight, guidance and direction in the selection of the new Director of Education; and represent the TDSB and all of its stakeholders.

This committee will also interview and select candidates for final approval for hire.

Mandrake has been retained as an external executive search firm to run and manage the recruitment process. Their role is to provide advice to and represent the interests of the Trustee Director Search Committee. They will also play a role in interviewing and assessing interested and qualified candidates.

Below you will find more information about the process, including key dates, consultations, how to apply and contact information.

### **Timeline (Please note that dates are subject to change)**

#### **September**

- Stakeholder Consultations
- Recruitment Commences
- Target: September 24 – Job Posted

#### **October**

- Candidate Recruitment

#### **November**

- Candidate Interviews and Assessment
- Candidate Selection

### **Consultations / Information Sessions**

#### **Stakeholder Consultations**

Various TDSB stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in an electronic survey that will inform the specific job criteria, accomplishments, experience and background that will be used to create the candidate profile for recruitment. Stakeholders include: leadership staff, trustees, union and federated leaders, Community Advisory Committees, the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. Trustees will also be reaching out to community members in each of the four Learning Centres. This information will also inform the candidate profile for the next Director of Education.

#### **Informational Webinar**

- **Monday, September 14, 2020.** (Save the Date)
- Please check back soon for more details.

#### **Public Delegations**

- **Wednesday, September 16, 2020.** (Save the Date)
- Please check back soon for more details. [Delegation Process](#)

#### **How to Apply**

The Director of Education position is expected to be posted on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020. This date is tentative and subject to change. Please check back soon for more information.

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# Every Child Matters: Orange Shirt Day



## What is the Sept. 30 virtual event?

Designed for students in Grades 5 through 12, this virtual event provides an opportunity to learn first-hand from Residential School Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and leaders from nations and cultures across the country. Educators can select the events they wish to livestream for their students and download free educational resources. This national gathering is hosted by the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation and will bring together a diverse and inspiring program of Truth and Reconciliation activities to coincide with **Orange Shirt Day**. As Canadians, we are called upon to take action to learn, share and celebrate, and to build a better country together!

**What will the event include?** The agenda for the event will be available later this summer, which will include special guests and performances. Be sure to register now to be the first to know.

**Who is participating?** This is an opportunity to learn first hand from Residential School Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and leaders from nations and cultures across the country.

When you register, you will be joining hundreds of thousands of Canadian youth for this extraordinary and live virtual event to support and encourage meaningful Reconciliation across Canada.

**How can I register?** Registering before the event is the best way to receive the livestream information once it becomes available. You can do so quickly and easily here - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/every-child-matters-chaque-enfant-compte-tickets-107741056400>



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