



May 9, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Community Members:

On May 7th, 2019, a devastating fire at York Memorial Collegiate Institute resulted in the complete destruction of the building. York Memorial has played an important role in our community for almost 100 years. It has served many generations of families, including my own. Although we are in shock and grieve the loss of our school, we will overcome this tragic event as a community and we will rebuild together.

TDSB staff is currently working non-stop to make plans for the immediate return to class of our students. This is the single most important goal in the short term, that being the continuity of learning for our students. You will be receiving updates through the school as information becomes available.

I want to thank everyone who has been involved in the efforts, including the Toronto Fire Service, the Toronto Police, and staff at the TDSB, in particular, Principal Donna Drummond for her strength and leadership over the last few days. She has truly embodied the spirit of York Memorial during these trying times.

I also want to thank the George Harvey Collegiate Institute community for the warm welcome they have been providing to our York Memorial family in these difficult times.

TDSB staff will be hosting a community meeting for parents at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 14, 2019 in the George Harvey Collegiate Institute auditorium to answer questions about the recent events, and plans to move forward to support student learning. George Harvey is located at 1700 Keele Street. We hope you can attend.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Tonks".

Chris Tonks
Trustee, York South-Weston