



Message from the Trustee

Hi Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. I am very grateful for all that you are doing for our city and our country to stop the spread of Covid-19. There is nothing more important than your health and the health of our communities right now. I am thinking of you and sending you strength, patience and courage. We will get through this. And we will do it together, even if physically apart.

I want to share with you that I have never been more proud to be a trustee and a TDSB parent than I am right now. Bearing witness to the work that our staff have done over the last two weeks to ensure that teachers and staff can connect equally with all students has been nothing short of remarkable. As we all embark on this new journey of remote learning, I am full of gratitude for the spirit of care and connection that our teachers and families will bring to this new world of learning.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything please get in touch and I will work together with your teachers, Principals, Superintendents to help.

All my very best to you and yours.

In community,
Stephanie

Continuation of Learning in the TDSB -

Message from the Director - April 3, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We know that you and your families are being impacted in many different ways by the Covid-19 pandemic and school closures. These are extraordinarily difficult times for many and we are trying to do our part in a community of caring. We are doing our best to re-route nutrition funding to families with the greatest needs and technology to families without access. In addition, last week, [learning resources](#) and [well-being resources](#) were provided to our school communities.

As we move forward, please know that we are here to support you and your family during this unprecedented time. We will support each other to get through this crisis together.

I have heard from many families that they are anxious and worried about supporting their child's learning at home and we recognize the reality many families are facing and their ability to support both online and offline learning. I also know that there are other families who would prefer for school to be replicated online. As we head into the continuation of learning on Monday for more than 240,000 TDSB students, I wanted to help give you a sense of what is ahead for learning.

Remote Learning in the TDSB

In a system of our size and diversity, this is no small task and I want to thank you for your patience and support as we have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan and implement remote learning in the Toronto District School Board. We hope that every student or family has received at least one communication from your child's teacher and principal.

Every classroom in the TDSB approaches learning differently and is designed in a way to meet the varied needs of the students in a particular classroom. Remote learning will be no different as every educator approaches their classroom in a way that is thoughtful and unique to their own students' learning needs, abilities and experiences. Learning will take on a variety of forms and may include online learning, phone connections, assignments submitted by email, online classrooms, off-line tasks and more. Our hope is that the learning is relevant for your child and that it supports their routine at home. It is important to note though, that it cannot follow a timetable of a normal school day for students.

As we do every day, we are relying on the expertise of our educators to use the strategies that best meet the interests and needs of their students and learning online under these circumstances. Over the coming weeks, they will be trying to find the right balance of approaches to promote student engagement in both online and offline learning. We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new learning model.

In addition to the expectations of teacher-led learning by grade, as outlined by the Ministry, our expectations of educators in the TDSB include consideration of:

- Equity – creating accessible, relevant and respectful learning experiences for all student
- Communication – using a variety of communication channels and having regular ongoing and open contact with students and families
- Well-Being – investing in developing students' learning skills and resilience during this unusual time and paying attention to well-being and mental health need
- Technology and Learning Platforms – how the needs of all students are being met

Assessment

For elementary students, teachers will use approaches to gather evidence of student learning and will provide meaningful feedback to students on their progress. Evidence of significant improvement in learning, during the closure period, may be taken into consideration by the teacher when assigning a final grade in a subject area. Otherwise, students, in Grades 1 to 8, will be assigned the grades earned based on their learning of the expectations in the curriculum up until schools closed on March 13, 2020. All students, Kindergarten to Grade 8, will receive a June report card.

Mid-term marks will be entered only for Grade 12 students by April 23, 2020, to meet the deadline to report grades to the [Ontario Universities' Application Centre \(OUAC\)](#) and the [Ontario College Application Service \(OCAS\)](#). Marks will reflect work done up until March 13, 2020. However, formative assessments done post April 6 can be used to improve a student's mark should students demonstrate further achievement of expectations.

For students in secondary school, teachers will assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities. Teachers will communicate results and feedback to students about these marked assignments and results will inform students' final course marks. Only demonstrated improvements in learning will be taken into consideration when assigning a final mark. Final marks will be entered in June, and will be based on work done until March 13, 2020, as well as after April 6, 2020. Summative and culminating tasks can be used for these final marks. All subjects a student is taking will be reported on in a June report card.

Supporting our Families

We know that part of maintaining positive relationships and staying healthy during the pandemic means paying attention to your well-being and mental health. TDSB will be posting simple, strategies for students and parents each week online. [Check the website regularly.](#)

We are partners in your child's education and we are here to do everything we can to ensure a seamless transition and support you and your child in this new environment. Please reach out to your teacher directly as necessary. Supporting the continued learning and well-being of our students – your children – during this pandemic is our priority. We are continually providing information updates to parents and students on a number of platforms such as the website, and TDSB social media channels – Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Recently, we have been using social media as a tool to better engage our students and hear how we can support them, their ideas and more. Follow along on TDSB's channels as we hear from our students directly.

We have heard your concerns and your questions and have put together a Q&A below that aims to address the common themes we are hearing. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's learning.

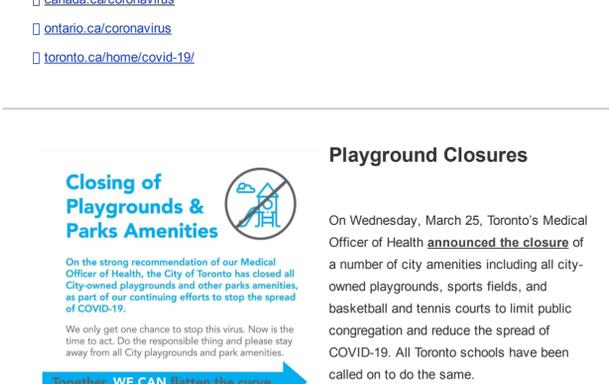
Sincerely,

John Malloy
Director of Education

For Remote Learning Q & A, click [here](#)

Non-Digital Learning

Staff is developing a plan to address student learning that does not require access to technology to meet the needs of a range of learners and family circumstances. The plan will be implemented in phases. Next week, school teams will ensure that all students are involved in learning online or offline. Staff is assessing safe ways to provide printed packages to families in subsequent weeks and other non-digital learning options during the week of April 13, 2020.



Stay Informed

We are continually providing information updates to parents and students on a number of platforms such as the website (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/TDSB>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/torontodsrb/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/toronto.dsb?ref=ts>).

- For School Closed Qs and As click <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Health-Active-Living/Coronavirus>
- For Student Learning Resources click <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Health-Active-Living/Coronavirus/Learning-Resources>
- For Ministry of Education Learn at Home click <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home>
- For Mental Health and Well-Being Resources click <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-Well-being/Resources-During-Covid-19>

In addition there are a number of events and activities cancelled or postponed. The most up-to-date information will be posted to this page as it becomes available - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Health-Active-Living/Coronavirus/Event-Cancellations>.

Stay Home. Stay Safe.

Save Lives.

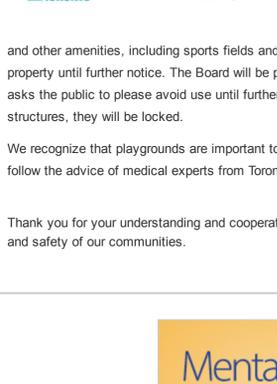
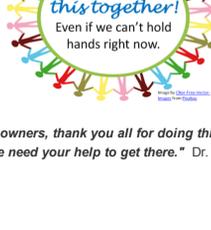
Please stay home. Please save safe. Please wash your hands.

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/



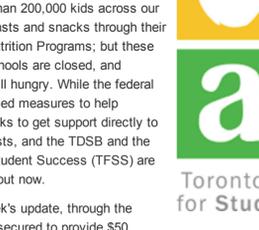
Playground Closures

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.



Food for Kids Program – Phase

Two Rollout

On a normal day, more than 200,000 kids across our city get nutritious breakfasts and snacks through their school-based Student Nutrition Programs; but these are not normal times. Schools are closed, and children and youth are still hungry. While the federal government has announced measures to help families, it may take weeks to get support directly to those in need. A gap exists, and the TDSB and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) are working hard to get help out now.



As mentioned in last week's update, through the TFSS, funds have been secured to provide \$50 grocery store food cards, per child, to families in need. This amount was determined because it is approximately the cost of a healthy breakfast for a child for 30 days. Card quantities are limited, so the TDSB is using evidence-based data to determine which schools are eligible.

For the first two phases of this program, approximately \$700,000 of funding was secured to provide grocery food cards. Our goal is to provide grocery food cards to students in the top 150 schools on the Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) if funding permits. In Phase 1, approximately 3400 students received \$50 grocery cards. Phase 2 should reach 6,800 more students.

The TDSB is working with TFSS, student nutrition programs, and external donors to secure additional funds for this program.

Can you help? Donations are welcome at <https://tfss.ca/>. Please select "COVID-19 Response Fund" from the drop down box when making a donation.

Doing Right... TDSB Rent Deferral Measures

TDSB has implemented rent deferral measures to assist our private sector tenants and community partners. On March 30, 2020, TLC tenants in non-operating former school buildings and private sector tenants in operating schools, including childcares, were notified that their rent for the month of April will be deferred to a later date. TDSB will be assessing the deferral of rent payments on a month-by-month basis. TDSB is also creating a process to have the tenants apply for a complete waiver of the rent based on loss of revenues during the closure period. Tenants have responded with appreciation for consideration in this situation. Proud of our senior team for implementing this measure.

Supreme Court of Canada Agrees to hear Toronto's appeal of cuts to city council

Provincial Response to COVID-19

- [Ontario.ca](#)
- [Ontario's Action Plan](#)
- [Continuity of Learning Plan](#)
- [Tentative Agreement with ETFO](#)
- [List of Essential Workplaces](#)

Federal information on COVID-19

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response](#)
- [Canada Emergency Relief Benefit](#)

Official COVID-19 Resources

- [Toronto Public Health](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

Spadina-Fort York Resources

- [Councillor Joe Cressy](#)
- [MPP Chris Glover](#)
- [MP Adam Vaughan](#)

Davenport Resources

- [Councillor Ana Bailao](#)
- [MPP Marit Stiles](#)
- [MP Julie Dzerowicz](#)



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