



TDSB Elementary Virtual School Family Newsletter

As we all continue to navigate this challenging time, we hope everyone enjoyed the Family Day long weekend and had an opportunity to relax and enjoy some time together.

Students and staff in the Elementary Virtual School continue to teach and learn in ways that maximize the virtual environment. With each passing month we hear of new and creative learning opportunities and activities happening in classrooms.

This month we welcomed some new students into the Elementary Virtual School and hope that everyone is settling in, connecting with classmates and enjoying their virtual classroom.

For more information and updates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/virtualschool and follow along on Twitter @tdsbvs.

Coping Through COVID

On February 11, families joined TDSB mental health professionals to discuss mental health and well-being through the pandemic. [Watch a recording on the webcast here.](#)

The Virtual School also held a community webinar with Psychology and Social Work professionals discussing topics such as navigating stress, ensuring physical activity, managing screen time, etc. [Watch a recording here!](#)

Join us for Virtual Drop-Ins!

Connect directly with staff from TDSB Professional Support Services. Ask questions and get answers for how to support your child's mental health and well-being.

- [Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m.](#)
- [Thursdays 7 to 8 p.m.](#)

Change to March Break Dates

On the advice of public health officials, the Ministry of Education has delayed March Break to help reduce community transmission of COVID-19. The break is now from **April 12 – 16, 2021**. Regular classes will continue throughout March.

Newcomer Supports for Students and Parents/Caregivers

Settlement Workers in Schools offers settlement services to newly arrived families to Canada and secondary school students in schools' satellite and reception centres. Settlement Workers deliver individual/family services or group programs that help participants to understand and to successfully transition into the education system and to accelerate the settlement process. More information: www.tdsb.on.ca/New-to-Canada/Settlement-Workers.

Brightspace Overview & Technical Support

Virtual School and Brightspace Overview: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSw4IJSPvi4

Virtual Learning IT Support: www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Student-Virtual-Learning-IT-Support

VS Code of Conduct

Please review the [TDSB Virtual Schools Code of Conduct](#), which provides guidelines and expectations for schools/educators, students and parents/guardians.



TDSB Celebrates African Heritage Month

During February, the TDSB is proud to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for 2020-2021 is ***Kujichagulia: Self Determination***. [Learn more](#).

TDSB Celebrates Chinese Heritage Month

The TDSB is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) in February. This year is the ***Year of the Ox: Loyal, Honest, Responsible, Hard-Working and Logical***. Lunar New Year is also known as the spring festival and begins with the first moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later. [Learn more](#).

Community Support HUB

Gain access to information, resources and the exciting work being done by the Community Support Worker (CSW) team across Toronto.

Families are invited to join 'Drop in Tuesdays' from 9 to 11 a.m. to [connect with CSWs live](#). [Learn more](#) and visit [tdsbHUB.ca](#).

Special Education Update

Updated Individual Education Plans (IEP) went home electronically in early February. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or the Principal if you did not receive the IEP.

Join the next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on March 1, 2021 at 7 p.m. [Learn more](#).

Virtual Library Resources

Did you know that students can access TDSB provided eBooks, encyclopedias, videos and other information when learning from home?

The TDSB **Virtual Library** has carefully selected digital resources, to support student learning, that can be accessed online anytime, anywhere.

The Virtual Library helps students to find:

- **Curriculum relevant online resources/tools** to help with projects, homework, and to encourage reading and viewing in a variety of formats for **K to 12 learners** - eBooks, database articles, streamed media, and online tools (see Read Watch Learn and Find)
- **Subject links to help** with research, math practice, games, homework (see Find)
- Resources for starting an **inquiry** or **research project** (see Inquiry and Find)
- Reading suggestions and **student book reviews** (see Read and Just Read It)

Find the Virtual Library at www.tdsb.on.ca/library or through your school's webpage or your student's Brightspace classroom.

For more information about how to use the Virtual Library with students at home, look for the **Parent** button on the left toolbar.

Please ask your child's teacher for a **Virtual Library Password Information page** to access many of the Virtual Library resources from home.

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

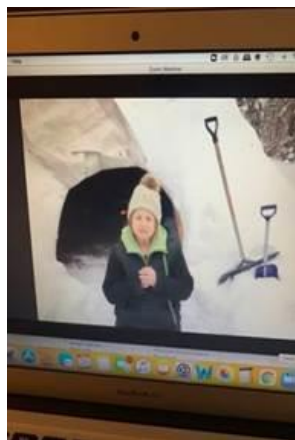
For more information and to learn about registration options: www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.



Virtual Schools

Virtual Field Trips and Special Assemblies

Recently, a number of Grade 3 and 6 teachers have engaged in a series of professional learning opportunities. Students also participated in synchronous interactive virtual assemblies and field trips. During these exciting weeks, over 3,000 students and 160 teachers benefited from this program.



The Grade 3 virtual assemblies included creative arts sessions and fundamental movements sessions to learn the importance of being physically active during these challenging times.

The Grade 6 virtual trips involved outdoor trips to the Scarborough Outdoor Education School with a focus on biodiversity.

Students have been actively engaged in learning while teachers connected with one another to learn and gain new skills.

Virtual Schools Staff Directories

Below are the Virtual School administrative team directories for easy reference. Principals and Vice-Principals in each Learning Centre have been designated by grade.

[Learning Centre 1 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 2 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 3 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 4 Virtual Elementary School](#)

Ongoing Professional Learning

Teachers continue to engage in professional learning to deepen their knowledge and practice of using digital platforms and tools to engage students and to promote deep learning in literacy and mathematics.

While teachers have been learning in their grade teams, students participated in Virtual Fieldtrips with some incredible community partners including: The Toronto Public Library, Toronto Outdoor Education Centres and Let's Talk Science. Virtual story times, campfire sing-alongs and STEM design challenges were fun ways to get outside of the regular virtual classroom and explore new spaces.

Some examples of professional learning during February include the following:

- Reading Strategies & Guided Reading
- Special Education: Supporting Students in Virtual
- Environment and IEP Writing and Implementation
- Universal Design for Learning
- Culturally Responsive and Reflective Pedagogy
- And many more!

Virtual School in the News

Check out some exciting stories about the TDSB Elementary Virtual School:

- [TDSB students create online newspaper from home](#) (Global News)