

# MVMS Newsletter

June 2021

June's CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

## Perseverance

### Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

As this exceptional school year is quickly coming to an end, I wanted to provide you with some recent updates and important information. As you may already know, the Government of Ontario [announced](#) this past week that all school boards, including the TDSB, will **not** return to in-person learning for this school year. As we recognize this is not how we envisioned finishing the school year, we will continue to provide our students with online learning until Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

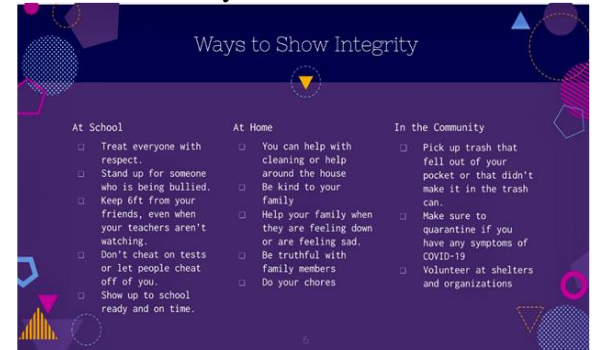
In the days ahead, I will also be providing you with additional information on how families/students can return their devices and pick up personal belongings. A schedule will be sent out via email with guidelines and instructions for you to follow shortly. Looking forward to next year, our team is currently organizing our classes for the [2021-2022 school year](#). Our goal is to create

classes that are balanced in terms of gender, academic needs and strengths and social emotional considerations. We try to have each student go to the new class with at least one friend and to separate students whose working relationship may have been less positive. If parents feel that there is something about their child's strengths and needs that we do not already know which we should consider during the placement process, they should send an email to the child's teacher, with a copy to the principal. Requests for particular teachers or straight versus combined classes cannot be accommodated. If you have any questions, please email me directly:

[jim.stamatopoulos@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jim.stamatopoulos@tdsb.on.ca) or your child's teacher. The voice mail at school is picked up regularly and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. We thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Warm regards,  
*Jim Stamatopoulos* Acting Principal

We ended the month of May by celebrating our students with Character Education Assemblies, focussed on integrity. Students leaders in each grade conveyed excellent examples of integrity and engaging interactive opportunities with the audience, such as a game of Kahoot or an interactive Jamboard. Thank you to our student leaders for organizing and facilitating all 3 recognition assemblies and sincere congratulations to all the award recipients. Well done Milne Valley!



The MVMS Speaker Series continues to be a tremendous success. In May, our Milne Valley School Council continued their Speaker Series by welcoming Antwi Atuahene to share his inspirational journey of perseverance. He expressed personal stories of relationship building, challenges he faced, and how he is giving back to his community. It was a great opportunity for our community to participate in rich dialogue centred on how to address and remove barriers in our schools. Antwi provided advice to our students; "Build relationships with great people" and to our educators; "Be great listeners." We would like to give a special thank you to our school council member Sim Frayne who organised this community event and did an outstanding job as moderator. Thank you Sim!



Click [here](#) to learn more about his journey.



## Upcoming Events

### June 2021

4 PA Day – No School

17 School Council Meeting

28 Virtual Graduation Ceremony @5:30pm

### September 2021

2 PA Day – No School

3 PA Day – No School

6 Labour Day - No School

9 First Day of School

8 PA Day – No School

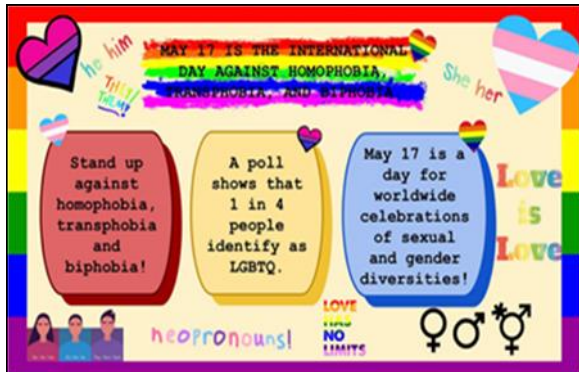
## Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call: 416-395-3951.

Kindly leave a message with your child's full name, homeroom number and reason for absence.

You may also contact SchoolMessenger (automated call-out system) directly at 1-833-250-2290 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the current day or a future date.

Our student council members helped us recognize the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia with powerful messages of inclusivity and equality during our morning announcements. It is wonderful to see students take a stand against all forms of discrimination. They continue to make us very proud with their commitment to social justice!



## Perseverance

Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on PERSEVERANCE.

What does perseverance mean to you?

### What is perseverance?

- Staying with the task and not giving up
- Demonstrating commitment, pride, and a positive attitude in completing a task
- Working hard without giving up
- Remaining focused on a goal
- Having the inner strength to pursue a goal or task
- Pursuing worthy objectives with determination and patience, while exhibiting fortitude when confronted with failure
- Demonstrating self-discipline

### Your child can show perseverance by:

- sticking to a task, even though he or she wants to give up
- wanting to continue with something he or she is finding hard to learn
- setting achievable goals and celebrating when they are met

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to persevere?
- What can you do when you want to give up?
- Why is perseverance important and what are some of its rewards?

### Projects to do together:

- Talk about and agree on a family commitment motto. Call a family meeting and decide on a family motto related to perseverance.
- Make a list of achievable goals, including personal goals, family goals, and school-related goals.
- Help your child set achievable goals and assist him or her in achieving them.
- Discuss a role model and how he or she has persevered to achieve his or her goals and dreams.

### Encouraging perseverance in your child:

- Encourage and praise your child to persevere, even when he or she wants to give up.
- Reflect periodically on your child's personal, academic, and social goals and whether these goals are attainable.
- Discuss the importance of planning, prioritizing, organizing, and managing time as strategies to achieve goals.
- If your child exhibits perseverance, let him or her know that you have noticed and are proud!

**Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.**



### MVMS Speaker Series

Milne Valley School Council will be hosting our final guest speaker as part of a presentation series, and you are invited to join us! Our next speaker is Heather Watts, an acting education manager for Six Nations Lifelong Learning Task Force. In this session, we will learn about significant moments in history, treaty making, equity issues across Indigenous communities, as well as gain perspective on the actions we can take and

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discussions we can have at home as we venture on our Reconciliation journeys. Please mark this on your calendar and [register](#) to reserve your spot. As a reminder, our monthly school council meeting will take place immediately following the speaker series. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you then!



## WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE

June 17, 2021: 6:45PM (EST) / School Council Meeting immediately following speaker

## June is Pride Month



June is Pride Month at the TDSB! It's an opportunity to celebrate diversity and raise awareness among all staff and students about the rich culture and history of our LGBTQ2S community.

Please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/pride](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/pride) to learn more about these activities and find out how you can get involved. Participating in the city's Virtual [Toronto PRIDE 2021 Parade](#) on Sunday, June 27th– Everyone is welcome! Follow and join in the conversation on Twitter, #PrideTDSB!

## Adult Summer/Community Programs

Adult General Interest courses will be offered in July to continue to engage with existing learners, while increasing the presence and awareness of Learn4Life programs to new learners. Courses will be offered from July 6 to 31, 2020 through a synchronous online delivery model. Registration will be available through our website at [www.learn4life.ca](http://www.learn4life.ca).

Adult ESL is planning on delivering a remote synchronous learning model, with whole group and small group instruction, from July 6 to July 24, 2020 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Classes will be five days a week for three weeks. We will also be implementing a modified Portfolio-Based Language Assessment program to include 1 to 2 assessments. The number of classes and levels will be based on student enrollment, interest, and funding. More information is available on [www.ESLtoronto.ca](http://www.ESLtoronto.ca)

## Sun Safe Behaviour

This spring and summer, the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health want kids to be safe while playing outdoors.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, please follow all guidelines from Toronto Public Health, including social distancing.

Getting students outside and active is good for their health but too much sun can have serious side-effects, including burns, eye damage, premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. We encourage all students to practice sun safety.

What exactly does sun safe behaviour look like?

- Cover up: Even on days with a moderate UV index students should wear a hat and sunglasses, especially if they'll be outside for over 30 minutes.
- Stay cool: Students should stay in shady areas, particularly at midday when the sun is strongest.

Use sunscreen: Choose sunscreens with SPF 15 or higher that include protection from both UVA and UVB rays.

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## June is Italian Heritage Month

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize June as Italian Heritage Month. During this month, the TDSB celebrates the spirited culture and traditions of the Italian community with students, staff and the entire TDSB community.

The TDSB is joined by the Province of Ontario in recognizing Italian Heritage Month since June 2010 when the Italian Heritage Month Act was passed. This Act recognizes the important contributions that immigrants made in building Ontario's communities and the economic, political, social and cultural achievements of Italian Canadians throughout the province. Italian Canadian immigrants have played a prominent role in supporting Canada's post-war boom and Toronto's emergence as a diverse, vibrant world-class city.

## TDSB Elementary Summer School



Our elementary summer school program focus is to close the achievement and well-being gap and to continue student engagement into July. Programs for students in Grades 3 to 8 will be delivered from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 9am to 12pm. French programs will also be available for students currently in a French Immersion or Extended French Program. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration is online and is currently open to the public. More information is available at [www.tdsb.on.ca/summer](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/summer)

The International Languages Elementary/African Heritage Program offers language classes to students Kindergarten to Grade 8. Classes will run from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 1:30 to 4pm. A minimum of 23 students is required to open a language class. Remote

synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that language learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration will be online and open on Monday, May 25, 2020. More information is available on [www.ileprograms.ca](http://www.ileprograms.ca).

## Bicycle Safety

#wearyourhelmet [toronto.ca/helmets](http://toronto.ca/helmets)

Now that the warm weather is here, children will be participating in outdoor activities like bike riding. The Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health want kids to be safe while playing outdoors this summer.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, please continue to follow all guidelines from Toronto Public Health, including social distancing.

In addition, parents and caregivers can stay a step ahead by protecting children when they ride.

Here's how:

1. An adult should always supervise children 10 years of age or younger when they are using a bicycle or other wheeled sports equipment. Even older children may need on-going supervision when riding near the road.
2. Make sure children wear the correct helmet properly when they ride. Ontario's bike helmet law requires all children and youth under age 18 to wear an approved bike helmet when riding a bicycle.
3. Keep children away from traffic when they use wheeled sports equipment. Make sure they ride in a safe place.
4. Teach children how to:
  - a. steer, brake and ride in a straight line
  - b. wear the right safety gear, and
  - c. do a safety check every time they ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, use in-line skates or wear shoes with wheels.
5. Be within arm's reach when your children are learning to ride any wheeled equipment.
6. Always walk a bicycle, scooter or skateboard across a street intersection, instead of riding across.
7. Tell children that you are happy when you see them riding safely.
8. Remind children of the safety rules when they forget.
9. Be a good role model - wear a helmet and safety gear yourself. Children copy what adults do.

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## National Indigenous Peoples History Month



During the month of June, people across the country mark National Indigenous Peoples History Month in recognition of the rights, histories, contemporary realities, and extraordinary achievements of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The unique cultures and perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities are celebrated nationally and locally.

On June 21st, the TDSB also recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day. June 21st is a day of significance for many Indigenous Peoples in the country we call Canada today. It marks the day when the Sun is closest to the Earth. It is the longest day of the year and the shortest night. Many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples celebrate Summer Solstice. It is a time that reminds us to remain grounded, humble and appreciative. It is usually celebrated by coming together with family and community for a feast, although ceremonies and traditions are being marked in different ways this year due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditional foods are an important aspect of the feast as they signify connection to the land and animals.

Learn more! [www.tdsb.on.ca/IndigenousEducation](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/IndigenousEducation)

## Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month



TDSB is proud to recognize Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month during the month of June celebrating these rich and vibrant cultures. The contributions of the Portuguese-speaking community to Canada's history are vast as include the arts, sports, medicine, and public life.

Did you know? 250 million Portuguese speakers worldwide, making it the fifth-most spoken language. Over 1,400 TDSB students speak Portuguese as their mother tongue or as a primary language.

Portuguese is the official language of eight countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome & Principe and East Timor. While the Archipelago of the Azores and the Archipelago of Madeira are a part of Portugal, they are simultaneously Autonomous regions which share in the Portuguese language. As well, due to historic ties, various regions of the world including Macau, China, and Goa and Damao, India, celebrate their Portuguese influence.

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