

# Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter November 2021

Volume 1, Issue 8



Hugh Reynolds, Principal  
Rogene Reid, Vice Principal  
Nandy Palmer, Superintendent  
Alexandra Lulka, Trustee

## School Council Co-Chairs:

Maureen Burbick  
Howard Ford  
Contact us: [aas.vol@gmail.com](mailto:aas.vol@gmail.com)



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School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/africentricschool/>

1430 Sheppard Ave. W., North York, ON M3M 2W9, Phone: 416-395-5251

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## Principal's News

Dear Africentric Families,

Our school year is off to a great start so far and we sincerely thank you for being vigilant where your child's/children's health and well-being are concerned. Our School Council met virtually on Wednesday evening, October 27th and a new executive was voted in place, namely:

Maureen Burbick – Co-chair  
Howard Ford – Co-chair  
Robert Griffiths – Treasurer

We would like to express appreciation to the current and outgoing executive members for their hard work and dedication to our school community. We would also like to express thanks to Colleen Huggins, our Community Support Worker who will be assuming a different role in the TDSB. Colleen has served with distinction in her role as Community Support Worker and we wish her continued success in her new role.

We have been fortunate to have with us two centrally assigned teachers who will be supporting our school,

primarily in literacy. We believe that literacy and numeracy are essential to student achievement and we are happy to have Thalia Davids-Smith and Eboni David supporting our students.

Please note that the time for reporting to parents/guardians is fast approaching. There will be no in-person interviews due to COVID-19. Interviews will be done by phone or virtually on the evening of November 18 and the morning of November 19. Your child's/children's teachers will soon be scheduling interview times with you.

Thank you for participating and contributing to the Terry Fox fundraising. As a result of your efforts we were able to raise \$559 to support cancer research.

Hoping you and your family members are keeping healthy and staying safe.

In Partnership,  
Hugh and Rogene

## Upcoming Events

- Nov 4 Diwali
- Nov 11 **Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly** - look for details to follow
- Nov 17 Report Cards go Home
- Nov 18 and 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 19 - PA Day - no school
- See attached calendar

## School Procedures

### What to bring to school?

Label all items that come to school with the child's name and grade.

Every day the child needs the following items:

1. Lunch & snack
2. Re-usable water bottle
3. Facemasks (minimum 2) Please note: Face masks are required for grades JK/SK to grade 8. Please send more than one labelled mask each day; practice wearing the mask at home to build stamina.
4. Clothing for the weather (e.g., cold weather gear i.e. coat, mitts, hat etc., raincoat/umbrella, sunscreen and sunhat - we need to have our students out often to allow for "mask breaks" - please ensure your child is dressed for the weather)
5. **School Uniform is black pants/skirt, white shirt (not a t-shirt) and black shoes.**
6. Kleenex and hand sanitizer. There will be Kleenex in the classroom and hand sanitizer for students to use, however, having a small (unscented) hand sanitizer and a small Kleenex package in the lunch bag would be very helpful
7. Indoor and outdoor shoes – this will ensure hallways and classrooms stay clean
8. JK/SK students please bring a change of clothes as well as the above

We will be focusing on outdoor education and daily physical activity this year to allow for "mask breaks" for our students and staff.

### Lockers

Students will not be using lockers at this time. Please keep in mind that students will be keeping their backpacks, sweaters, etc. at their desk. Try to keep that in mind while shopping!

### Cell Phones

If a student has a cell phone, please remind him/her that it must be turned off during the **entire school day** and it is his/her responsibility to take care of it (without a locker) this year. Please discuss if your child can handle this responsibility. **Our school does not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.**

### School Parking Lot

A reminder that we share the building with another school. Please park in the designated parking lot and not in the bus route. Please support us with this again and allow us to use our supervision allocation on our students rather than parking lot expectations.

**Dress appropriately for the weather** e.g., cold weather gear i.e. coat, mitts, hat, raincoat & umbrella, sunscreen and sun hat - we need to have our students out often to allow for "mask breaks" - **please ensure your child is dressed for the weather.**  
Thank you 😊

### TDSB Health and Safety Guidelines

It is more important than ever for families and the school to align and share responsibility for public health and safety. Thank you in advance for being strong allies and advocates for our students, the community, and our staff. Here's an update: We have installed hand sanitizer stations at all our main entrances for students and staff, installed directional arrow decals on the floors of the school to direct traffic and keep everyone safe, prepared protocols for any suspected Covid cases and implemented cleaning procedures that will ensure everyone's safety. In addition to all the safety protocols we mentioned above, here are a few great things we have done at the school level to help keep everyone safe.

#### Cohorts

Students in Kindergarten to grade 8 will remain with students in their own classes for the entire day. We will not be combining any classes for gym, reading buddies, library time, etc. and hence reduce the contact of your child to students in their classroom only while indoors. They will also be strongly encouraged (please help us with this) to play with students in their classroom while they are outside on the playground.

#### Late arrivals

Due to new policies mentioned above, late arrivals will be lining up on marked spots outside the school building and checked in by our school office staff. Please lineup with your child if you are late until they have formally been checked in with the office staff. We do not have supervision available once the instructional day has begun at 8:55 am. PLEASE BE ON TIME as this will be a much longer process this year and will impact the flow of the school and the instructional day.

#### Appointments

Please try to avoid scheduling appointments (i.e. dentist, doctor) during the school day. If it is unavoidable, **call the school when you arrive**, and we will call your child down to meet you outside of the school. This will be a longer process than usual as we can't have students waiting in the office. Students will be walked out to meet their parents outside our front doors.

#### Dropping things off

**Please send children to school with everything they need to avoid the need for drop off. Please send all lunches to school with children in the morning. We are unable to have a drop-off table for school lunches any longer and hence every dropped off item would mean a disruption to the entire class. For health & safety reasons, families are encouraged to not come and drop off anything during the day! Students are expected to take a packed lunch and snacks from home.**

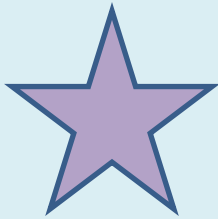
#### Lunch at School

We are STRONGLY encouraging parents to allow students to stay in their routine for the whole day. Students are expected to stay at school for lunch. Not only is this crucial for their social wellbeing during nutrition breaks, but it is safer for everyone when no one is leaving and returning to the building. No student can leave school property during lunch hour.

Theme of the Month - NOVEMBER

# NIA - EMPATHY

Theme for the Month of NOVEMBER is NIA -EMPATHY



“Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia



Africentric Alternative School  
2021-2022 Daily Schedule  
Have a Happy Day!

Improve your Vocabulary with these words...

Entry Time	8:50 - 8:55 a.m.
Period 1	8:55 - 9:25 a.m.
Period 2	9:25 - 10:05 a.m.
Recess	10:05 - 10:20 a.m.
Period 3	10:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 - 11:40 a.m.
Lunch	11:40 - 12:30 p.m.
Entry Time	12:30 - 12:35 p.m.
Period 5	12:35 - 1:15 p.m.
Period 6	1:15 - 1:55 p.m.
Recess	1:55 - 2:05 p.m.
Period 7	2:05 - 2:45 p.m.
Period 8	2:45 - 3:15 p.m.

**Acquaint:** to make familiar

**Intervene:** to interfere with something so as to stop, settle, or change.

**rapt:** showing complete delight or interest

**Spontaneous:** Acting or taking place without outside force or cause

## Africentric Alternative School Parent Council Members:

<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Maureen Burbick</b>
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Howard Ford</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Robert Griffiths</b>



Adinkra  
symbol,  
meaning  
cooperation



## Thank you to our school's Nutrition Program supporters.

We would like to acknowledge and thank President's Choice for the President's Choice Children's Charity School Nutrition Grant. Our Nutrition Program is supported in part by President's Choice Children's Charity and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS).



Adinkra symbol, in the Akan language, which means – None is greater than God, the Creator. The symbol is called Gye Nyame (pronounced Gee-Nah-May)



Adinkra  
symbol,  
meaning  
lifelong  
learning



## Nguzo Saba

### The Seven Principles



#### Umoja ▲ Unity

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

#### Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

#### Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

#### Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

#### Nia ▲ Purpose

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

#### Kuumba ▲ Creativity

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

#### Imani ▲ Faith

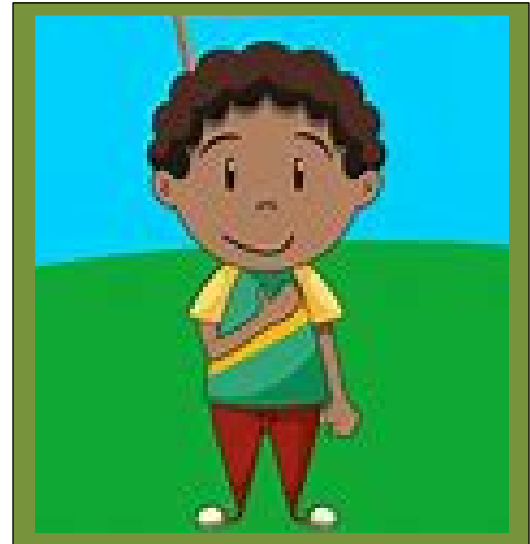
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga*  
Creator of Kwanzaa  
©1965

**TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Africentric Alternative School**  
 2021 - 2022

**H** Statutory Holiday  
**B** Bd. Designated Day  
**PA** PA Day

<p><b>September</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Respect</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<p><b>October</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> <p>Responsibility</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<p><b>November</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Empathy</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30											
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<p><b>June</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Perseverance</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<p><b>Professional Activity Days:</b>                  Thursday, September 2, 2021                  Friday, September 3, 2021                  Wednesday, September 8, 2021                  Friday, November 19, 2021                  Friday, January 14, 2022                  Friday, February 18, 2022                  Friday, June 3, 2022</p> <p><b>First Day of School:</b>                  Thursday, September 9, 2021</p> <p><b>Last day of school for Elementary students:</b>                  Thursday, June 30, 2022</p> <p><b>Dates to Remember:</b>                  Labour Day: September 6, 2021                  Thanksgiving: October 11, 2021                  Winter Break: December 20, 2021 - December 31, 2021 (last day of school December 17, 2021); school resumes January 3, 2022                  Provincial Family Day: February 21, 2022                  Mid-Winter Break: March 14 - 18, 2022                  Good Friday: April 15, 2022                  Easter Monday: April 18, 2022                  Victoria Day: May 23, 2022</p> <p><b>Total Instructional Days: 187</b></p>																																																																																												
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### Africentric Alternative School School Pledge

Today I pledge to be the best possible me.

No matter how good I am, I know that I can become better.

Today I pledge to build on the work of yesterday which will lead me into the rewards of tomorrow.

Today I pledge to feed my mind knowledge, my body strength, and my spirit faith.

Today I pledge to take my education seriously and I will always do my best, at school, at home, and in my community.

Today I pledge to be focused, self-disciplined and ready to learn

Today I pledge to believe in me.

Ashe

Remembrance Day...

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Africentric Alternative School will be having a virtual assembly for Remembrance Day. Please look for details and a link in your email.

# GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS



## NO SMOKING

TDSB Policy PR502 prohibits smoking on school property. Please help us keep a healthy learning environment that is free from smoking.



## Student Pick up and Drop off

We are reminding you that the bus loop at the front of our school should not be used for student drop off or pick up. To ensure the safety of all students, please park in the designated parents' /visitors' parking area at the side or back of the building. Thank you for helping us to keep our students safe.



## Access to Building

Reducing the number of people in the building is crucial to our success during this critical time. Only students and staff may enter the building. Essential visitors (i.e., maintenance) will be allowed into the building during the school day; however, parents and visitors will not be permitted in the school. Any parent meetings will take place virtually or over the phone. Please call the school if you would like to schedule an appointment with administration or staff.



# COVID-19 Screening for children/students

Please complete before entering the child care/JK-12 school setting.

Updated October 5, 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Does the child/student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?



Fever > 37.8°C and/or chills

Yes  No



Cough

Yes  No



Difficulty breathing

Yes  No



Decrease or loss of taste/smell

Yes  No



Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

Yes  No

- If the child/student has a health condition diagnosed by a health care provider that gives them the symptom, select "No". If the symptom is new, different or getting worse, select "Yes".

- Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed above, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

**If "YES" to any symptom:**



Stay home & self-isolate



Get tested with a PCR test

Or



Contact a health care provider

## 2. Does anyone in your household have one or more COVID-19 symptoms and/or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms?

Yes

- If the child/student is fully vaccinated\* or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and been cleared, select "No".

No

## 3. In the last 10 days, has the child/student tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?

Yes

- If they have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No".

No

## 4. Has the child/student been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate?

Yes

- If the child/student is fully vaccinated\* or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and been cleared or public health has said the child/student does not have to self-isolate, select "No".

No

## 5. In the last 14 days has the child/student travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the [federal quarantine requirements](#) OR was told not to attend school/child care?

Yes

**If "YES" to questions 2,3,4 or 5:**



Stay home & self-isolate



Follow public health advice



\* Fully vaccinated means 14 days or more after getting a second dose of a two dose COVID-19 series or as defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health





# MY CHILD/STUDENT HAS 1 OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

THE CHILD/STUDENT SHOULD STAY HOME, SELF-ISOLATE & GET TESTED.

Notify the child care/school that they have symptoms.

## WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE COVID-19 TEST?

### POSITIVE

- Let the child care/school know that they tested positive for COVID-19.
- The child/student must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started. They can return on day 11, even if someone else at home develops symptoms.
- Household members & close contacts who are not fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine\* must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should get tested.
- Toronto Public Health will contact you to do an investigation & will provide further instructions.

### NEGATIVE

#### Is the child/student a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?

- No**  They may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes**  **If the child/student is not fully vaccinated\***: they need to self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure to the person who was positive.
- Yes**  **If the child/student is fully vaccinated\***: they may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes**  **If the child/student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and was cleared**: they may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes**  **If the child/student only received an exposure notification through the COVID Alert app**: they can return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours if nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).

Siblings and adults in the home who attend a child care/school setting can return right away as long as there are no other household members with symptoms.

### NOT TESTED

- The child/student must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day symptoms started. On day 11, the child/student can return to the child care/school setting if their symptoms are improving.
- Anyone in the household who is not fully vaccinated\* or has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and was cleared, must self-isolate until the child/student gets a negative COVID-19 test or 10 days have passed.
- If a health care provider has diagnosed a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, the child/student can return 24 hours after their symptoms improve (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea). Household members do not need to stay home.



### If the child/student travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days:

- The child/student must follow federal guidelines for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.
- If the child/student is fully vaccinated they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If the child/student is not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion.
- Follow federal requirements for travellers.



\*Fully vaccinated means 14 days or more after getting a second dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series or one dose of a single dose series.