

Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter December 2021

Volume 1, Issue 9



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DECEMBER

Principal's News

Dear Africentric Families,

We sincerely hope that you and your family are doing well and staying safe.

We are only a few weeks away from the winter break! The past few months have been very different for our school community, but I would like to thank everyone for adapting to the new ways of doing things in an effort to keep all staff and students safe.

Thanks to all parents and caregivers who booked interviews with your child's teacher. We believe that it is important that families are regularly kept informed about the academic progress of our students and this is usually an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about what's happening in our classrooms.

We continue to do our best to keep all students and staff safe while at school as we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic.

We would like to express appreciation to all who contributed to our Poppy drive in November. This was a chance for us to honour veterans and remember the sacrifices they made for the freedom we enjoy today.

We would like to express thanks to Miss Raine Browne who has coordinated our snack program for the past few years. You will notice that we have revamped our snack program and students will now have other choices in keeping with Toronto Foundation for Student Success guidelines.

As we draw closer to the winter months, please remember that all students are to dress as the weather dictates. Dressing for the weather helps to keep us warm and can prevent hypothermia.

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

In Partnership,
Hugh and Rogene

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, Dec. 16 Barilla Canada chef Tim Minefee hosts a Cooking Demonstration - Details pg. 4
- AAS Spirit Day - Dec. 17 - Wear Kwanzaa colours - Red, Black and Green
- Kwanzaa Celebration - TBA
- Dec 20-31 (inclusive) Winter Break
- Monday, January 3 2022 return to school

School Council



Images: via the internet

When we think of Superheroes only the best comes to mind.

There are so many black superheroes that our children can read about. Can you name them all? Yes, there are the most popular ones that we are all told about and I will name a few, and what puts them on that list of the best.

Let's start with a popular one and that would be T'Challa, **Black Panther** the warrior king of the African nation of Wakanda who became the holder of the Black Panther mantle.

Calvin Ellis, **The Black Man of Steel**, a beacon of hope who fought alongside many of the other heroes. Isaiah Bradley considered to be the "**Black Captain America**", an underground legend among the black community. Nubia, a powerful Amazonian who has taken on the name of **Wonder Woman**. Who leads her warriors into a way of peace, and have superhuman strength and speed. Karen Beecher, **Bumble Bee** known as one of the first Black female superhero and remains an iconic legend.

Did you know that we have our very own Superheroes at the school? Who are they you ask? And Where can we find them? Well I call them the "Mighty Five".

Now, let me tell you a little more about them, and what they have done for our school.

Jelani Philbert Co-Chair dedicated 4+ years on School Council

Paul Osbourne Fundraising Rep., Co-Chair with 6+ years dedicated on School Council

Nicole James Secretary dedicated 5+ years on School Council

Robert Griffiths Treasurer with 2+ years dedicated on School Council

We can't forget the glue of the "Mighty Five" **Colleen Huggins** our Community Support Worker for the past 6 years.

What you might not know about them is that for many years this team have jumped over leaps and bounds to advocate for our children. Their commitment to ensure that all the children's needs at the school are put first in every aspect has not gone unnoticed.

Some parents may know them by face and others by name only, but for those that have had the opportunity to see them in action like I have, then you know how big their hearts are. I want to extend a warm thank you to them for building a strong foundation for the School Council to stand on. For the many long and tiring days that they doubled down to get proposals done, plan community events, fundraisers, and all the other behind the scenes things that are too many to list. So, the next time you see them in person or online you too can say you've had the opportunity to meet a true superhero, for they have the qualities and superhuman strength that makes them one.

With a new School year before us some of the "Mighty Five" have passed on the mantel. As they stay connected and deeply rooted to our school we know that there just a phone call, email, and zoom meeting away. As true Superheroes they're always there and "they will always have our backs".

Thank you, for being our Africentric School Council Heroes.

School council is an excellent way for you to get involved in your child's education.

Our Meeting Dates

School Council will meet on
Wednesday nights @
6:30 -7:30 pm (1 hour)
*unless extra time needed
for planning special events*

Upcoming Meetings

- ♦ Wed. December 1, 2021
6:00-8:00 pm via Zoom
➤ Planning for Kwanza Event
and Parent Engagement Grant
- ♦ Wed. February 16, 2022
6:30 -7:30 pm via zoom
- ♦ Wed. April 13, 2022
6:30 -7:30 pm via zoom
- ♦ Wed. June 15, 2022
6:30 -7:30 pm via zoom

**Save the dates we would
love to see all our
parents there.**

Join the Team

Here's more information
[School Council Roles and
Responsibilities \(tdsb.on.ca\)](https://tdsb.on.ca/School-Council-Roles-and-Responsibilities)

TDSB Hub

- Black-Focused Resources
 - Black-Focused Programs
 - Black-Focused Scholarships
- [tdsbHUB.ca - Black-Focused
Programs and Resources
\(google.com\)](https://tdsbHUB.ca - Black-Focused Programs and Resources (google.com))

Understanding TDSB

Information for Parents,
Guardians, and Community

- ❖ Special Education
- ❖ The Grade 8-9 Transition
- ❖ Optional Attendance
- ❖ Brightspace and Google Classroom for Families
- ❖ Adult Learning
- ❖ Workshops

[tdsbHUB.ca - TDSB Connects
\(google.com\)](https://tdsbHUB.ca - TDSB Connects (google.com))



Happy Kwanzaa

Wishing you light,
happiness and peace
in the coming year.



CHANGES TO THE SNACK PROGRAM!

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).




We all know food costs have recently increased dramatically. There are many reasons for this and here is just a couple:

1. Due to COVID, our Snack Program food items must be individually pre-packaged to avoid and limit handling
2. Outside forces such as increases in the cost of living have substantially increased all food costs.

As of November 18, 2021 Africentric Alternative School, has had to make some significant and difficult changes to the Snack Program. Regrettably, this new direction has meant that we have had to let go our Snack Program Coordinator Ms. Pink (Ms. Raine Browne). We wish Ms. Pink all the best in her future endeavours. Thank you, Ms. Pink, for your support of AAS and the Snack Program.

Allocating **all** our limited funds to food means we can ensure we are able to provide three food groups for most days and will also mean we can offer a greater variety of Snack Program offerings. Please see below for a sample of the rotating menus.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Clementine	Red apple slices	Carrots & Ranch dip	Clementine	Red apple slices
Organic Granola Bar	Apple currant flat	WW Carrot muffin	WW Bagel with jam	Breton Crackers and jam
White milk	Cheese string	Yogurt drink	Yogurt tube	Cheese string
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Grapes	Carrots & ranch dressing	WW Veggie samosa (Delivered on the morning of serving)	Red grapes	Carrots & ranch dressing
Digestive Cookie	Bread sticks	Yogurt drink	Blueberry Scone	WW Breadsticks
Cheese String			Yogurt tube	Cheese string

Mark this date: Dec. 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Barilla Cooking Video - Featuring Chef Tim Minefee



Barilla Canada Corporate Chef Tim Minefee is the chef/product development professional for the culinary department at Barilla in Northbrook, Illinois. He was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, studying culinary arts at Kendall College in Evanston, Illinois. He has held many culinary positions and titles over the last 25 years including chef of campus services, executive chef of senior services, and owner/operator of a food truck. Tim looks forward to sharing his unique culinary experiences with you.

Here are some links for more information on the Barilla company and their products:

- Canadian website
<https://www.barilla.com/en-ca>
- Company History
<https://www.barillagroup.com/en/who-we-are/history/>
- Our Commitment to Sustainability
<https://www.barillagroup.com/en/purpos e/sustainable-sourcing/>
- Our Diversity and Inclusion journey
<https://www.barillagroup.com/en/purpos e/diversity-inclusion/>

Rigatoni with Chicken, Tomato & Parmesan

Ingredients:

- 1 Box Barilla Mezza Rigatoni
- 3 Tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil
- 2 Garlic cloves, minced
- 28 Oz. Crushed Tomatoes
- 8 Oz. Ground Chicken
- 2 Tbsp. Parmesan Cheese, grated
- 2 Tbsp. Parsley, chopped
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Directions:

Cook pasta 1 min. less than package directions. Meanwhile, in a skillet over low/medium heat add oil and garlic. Cook for 1-2 min. or until fragrant. Add tomatoes, season and bring to a simmer. Add chicken to tomatoes. Reserve 1 c. of cooking water from pasta. Drain pasta and add to sauce, re-season and mix well. Remove from the heat and garnish with parmesan and parsley.

Spaghetti with Kidney Beans, Broccoli, & Mozzarella

Ingredients:

- 1 Box Barilla Spaghetti
- 3 Tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil
- 2 C. Onion, small dice
- 2 C. Broccoli florets
- 1 (15oz.) Kidney Beans, drained
- 2 C. Low sodium vegetable broth
- 2 Tbsp. Shredded mozzarella
- 2 Tbsp. (jar) Roasted red pepper, small dice
- Salt & black pepper to taste

Directions:

Bring a pot of water to a boil and cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a skillet over med./high heat add oil and onion cooking until soft/fragrant; about 2 minutes. Add broccoli; cooking for a min. then beans, seasoning with salt and pepper. Add vegetable broth and bring to a simmer. Drain pasta and add to skillet, mix well, and remove from the fire. Add cheese and red pepper before serving.

Coming very soon....Look out for details on Barilla Canada Pasta donation!

Africentric Alternative School Student Photo Day - January 27/22 Graduation Photo and Retakes: February 23/22



Switching between in-person and virtual learning for February 2022 – change requests - must complete an Elementary Switch Form between Friday, December 3 and Friday, January 7

All Parents/Caregivers of Elementary Students,

As you know, all TDSB students selected either in-person or virtual learning for the 2021-22 school year. At the time of selection, we communicated that there would be one opportunity to switch between in-person and virtual learning in February 2022.

In order to plan ahead for elementary students to switch between in-person and virtual learning for February 2022, parents/caregivers and students requesting a change must complete an Elementary Switch Form between **Friday, December 3 and Friday, January 7**. A form must be completed for each student requesting a switch. Parents/caregivers and students who do not wish to make a change do not need to complete a form.

If you are considering a switch, please speak with your child before submitting a Switch Form. We expect that parents/caregivers with shared decision-making responsibilities will come to an agreement before completing the form.

We recognize that we are asking for this decision well in advance of February and thank you for your understanding, as this process takes time to complete. While we cannot guarantee that all switch requests will be met, it is our goal to accommodate as many as possible based on available programs and space (e.g. French Immersion, Extended French, Specialized Programs, Alternative Schools, other limited circumstances).

More information about the Elementary Switch Form will be shared directly with parents/caregivers on December 3. Elementary classes will reflect changes due to switches beginning on **February 22, 2022**.

Whether you choose a switch in learning model or not, a limited number of teachers or classes (or school for virtual learning classes) may change due to a possible re-organization.

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/switchform. Please contact the Principal at your child's school with any questions. Thank you.

Information for Parents/Guardians about Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 21–27, 2021

Ontario schools should be places where students, staff, parents/guardians and the community feel welcome. Providing a safe learning environment is critical to ensuring student success.

This is why bullying and cyberbullying in all forms, is considered a serious issue that can affect students' learning, sense of safety and overall well-being.

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November (November 21 – 27, 2021) as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. This week is dedicated to promoting safer schools and positive learning environments.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, students, staff and parents/guardians are encouraged to learn more about bullying and cyberbullying. In addition to understanding how bullying impacts student learning and well-being, there will be opportunities to learn about preventing bullying.

What is cyberbullying?

Bullying by electronic means or cyberbullying can take many forms, such as using email, text messages, apps or through social media. It can also include:¹

- Sending hurtful and sometimes threatening emails, pictures or text messages.
- Spreading gossip, secrets or rumours about another person that will damage that person's reputation, sense of safety and well-being.
- Hacking into an email account or creating an anonymous account and sending/posting hurtful materials to others under an assumed identity.
- Creating social media posts or websites that contain stories, cartoons, pictures or jokes ridiculing others.
- Creating polling websites where visitors are asked to rate individuals' attributes in a negative manner.
- Taking an embarrassing photo of someone and sharing it with others.
- Directly messaging someone and deceiving them into revealing personal information, including gender identity or sexual orientation and then sharing that information with others.
- Hacking someone's online profile to impersonate them or posting sexual, racist and other content that may be offensive.
- Deliberately excluding others from or in gaming sessions, group chats or social media accounts.

1. Source: PREVNet: <https://www.prevnet.ca/bullying/cyber-bullying>

Signs a Student is Being Bullied

As students may not directly discuss what is taking place at school, you can watch for signs that a child is being bullied that could include:

- being upset or feeling anxious/sick on school days or inquire about changing schools
- not wanting to take part in activities or social events at school
- may be acting differently than they normally do
- suddenly beginning to tell you they lost money or personal belongings
- coming home with torn clothes/broken possessions or physical markings and offer explanations that don't make sense.

How Can I support my Child's Success?

Talk About It

Parents/Guardians can find tips and suggestions to help support and encourage these conversations using the following resources:

- *Parent Tool Kit: Teen Edition*, developed by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), provides tips for parents on various topics that include being a listener, a mentor, a coach, and a learner.
- *Parent Tip Sheets*, a multi-lingual resource developed by Ontario's Principal Association Service Partners and Victim Services Toronto, through the Healthy Relationships project on how to navigate cyberbullying together.

Information to Help You: Cyberbullying

- *Building Healthy Relationships – A toolkit and guide* that highlights the role electronic devices can have in building and maintaining relationships in this digital age.
- *Kids Help Phone* – Offers counselling 24/7 in English and French. Children, parents and guardians can talk with someone about what

they are feeling at 1-800-668-6868. Or text CONNECT at 686868 to chat by text.

- *Media Smarts – Cyberbullying Resources*
- *Cybertip.ca – What To Do if Your Child is Being Bullied?*
- *PREVNet – Cyberbullying information and resources: including, What Parents Can Do.*

Interactive Resources

- *Bullying – we can all help stop it* – this resource provides information on what to watch for, what you can do, what you can expect from the school and where you can learn more.
- *We All Belong* and *A Circle of Caring*
- Storybooks and Comic books for young children developed by COPA to accompany *We All Belong*
 - *Toof and That Blanket*
 - *Specs and The Best Part*
 - *Bouncy and The Any Kind at All Fish*
 - *A Sticky Situation*
 - *Caring is the Universal Language*

Please be advised that the links in this guide redirect you to external websites with resources that are not created, owned or operated by the Government of Ontario. The Government of Ontario is not responsible for the information and content from external sources.

By clicking on these links, users take full responsibility for understanding and agreeing to any terms or conditions of use required by these non-government websites or platforms. The Government of Ontario is not responsible for the content, user experience or privacy policies on external websites or platforms.

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; cold weather gear i.e. coat, mittens, hat, scarf, winter boots/indoor shoes, etc. 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 - cold weather gear (i.e. coat, mittens, hat, scarf, winter boots/indoor shoes). 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 your child 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 - DECEMBER

Kindness & Caring

Theme for the
Month of
DECEMBER is
**UJAMAA -
Kindness &
Caring** ★



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.

Conscientious: Using or done with careful attention.

elevate: To lift up; raise

ruse: a clever way to fool someone

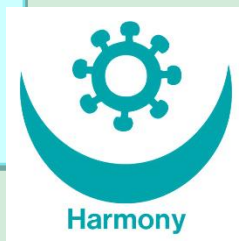
diverge: To be or become different

Africentric Alternative School Parent Council Members:

Co-Chair	Maureen Burbick
Co-Chair	Howard Ford
Treasurer	Robert Griffiths



Adinkra
symbol,
meaning Love,
Faithfulness &
Harmony



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
adaptability



Nguzo Saba

The Seven Principles



Imani

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



September

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		

Respect

October

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

Responsibility

November

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				

Empathy

December

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	31	

Kindness & Caring

January

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	31					

Teamwork

February

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				

Fairness

March

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	31	

Honesty

April

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

Co-operation

May

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	31					

Integrity

June

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		

Perseverance

Professional Activity Days:
 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

First Day of School:
 Thursday, September 9, 2021

**Last day of school for
 Elementary students:**
 Thursday, June 30, 2022

Dates to Remember:
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
Total Instructional Days: 187



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



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 ☐

No ☐

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.