Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter May 2022 Volume 1, Issue 13

Toronto District School Board

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

Page

School Council Co-Chairs: Maureen Burbick Howard Ford



Email: AfricentricAlternativeSchool@tdsb.on.ca 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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Upcoming Events

- Mother's Day May 8, 2022
- May 23, 2022 Victoria Day
- May 27, Spirit Friday Denim Day!
- May 27 & June 2 Dance Workshops - JK-8
- June 3, 2022 PA day no school
- June 14, 2022 JK/SK Orientation 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- June 17, 2022 a.m. Play Day
- June 23, 2022 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony - School Gym
- June 30, 2022 Last day of school



Principal's News

Dear Africentric Families,

We hope that this message finds you safe and in good health. It has been quite a busy time as we make plans for the end of this school year and looking forward to the new school year in September 2022.

Our school promotional flyer is now complete and will be shared with our community soon. Once received, please share it with friends, families, and close contacts. We are hoping that this promotion will generate interest in our school and will lead to an increase in the number of students registering for next school year. Your suggestions are also welcome as we try to find creative ways to ensure that immensely from these experiences. our communities are aware of our school.

We are still accepting registration for students K-8. Interested parents may book a virtual face-to-face meeting directly by calling our school office at 41-395-5251. Please share this information with your close contacts who might have children who are looking forward to entering K-8 next school year.

We would like to express gratitude to members of our School Council for

their hard work and dedication to supporting or students, staff and families.

Thanks also to the graduation committee (comprising parents, staff and students) for the great work they are doing in planning our grade 8 graduation. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to grade 8 student, Ahkeel Barrett who is the proud recipient of the Dudley Laws bursary. We are proud of your accomplishment.

Our Steel Pan and African Drumming programs are well under way and our students have been benefitting

Even though it is Spring, there will be days when the weather is unpredictable. Students are reminded to check the weather and dress as the weather dictates before coming to school each day. Dressing for the weather helps to keep us comfortable and can prevent hypothermia and hyperthermia.

In Partnership, Hugh and Rogene

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School Council



More information to come, at a later date



Getting Involved

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
 ♦ Wednesday June 15, 2022
 6:30 -7:30 pm via zoom

Save the date. We would love to see all our parents there.



School Council Meeting Minutes School Council (tdsb.on.ca)

Summer Family Fun



Four Seasons of Fun for the Whole Family

Amusement Park in Ontario | Toronto Attractions | Canada's Wonderland (canadaswonderland.com)



Toronto Zoo | Home



http://www.bowlerama.com/ http://playtimebowl.com/ https://planetbowl.ca/



Ontario's Largest Indoor Amusement Park <u>Fantasy Fair</u>

Summer Programs for Children



Registration for summer CampTO is open

Summer CampTO runs from July 4 to September 2, 2022

There's a City of Toronto camp in every neighbourhood across the city

CampTO - City of Toronto



What's On! (theex.com)

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May Word Search

1	MAY MAY					FLO	WER	5		M	AY DA	Y				
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MAYPOLE
SPRING
MOTHERS DAY
CINCO DE MAYO

Q.	UNINK	E I N
	FLOWERS	MAY DAY
	GARDENING	BUMBLEBEE
	NIGHTINGALE	BUTTERFLY
	TAURUS	SUNSHINE
	MEMORIAL DAY	BLOSSOM

Africentric Spirit Day! Friday, May 27/22 Wear your jeans On Denim Day



The Benefits of Being on **Time - Punctuality**

Punctuality is a habit of:

- Attending a task on time.
- Doing things at the **right time**.
- Not missing parts of the lesson and school routines
- Managing your work and personal life

Punctuality is one of the keys to a successful life.

The following are a few reasons that prove why punctuality is important for life:

- 1. Punctuality and time management affects the process of learning.
- 2. A key to success... Being punctual gives you a sense of stability, security and selfconfidence.
- 3. It shows your integrity and demonstrates respect for others... being late affects those around you by interrupting other students and teachers in the class.

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).





Sample Snack Menu:

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 ar jam
White milk	Cheese string	Yogurt drink	Yogurt tube	-
				Cheese string
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Grapes	Carrots & ranch	WW Veggie samosa	Red grapes	Carrots & ranch
Directive Cookie	dressing	(Delivered on the morning of serving)	Plucharry Coope	dressing
Digestive Cookie	Bread sticks	(inorming of serving)	Blueberry Scone	WW Breadsticks
Cheese String		Yogurt drink	Yogurt tube	
			-	Cheese string

We are grateful for the support of the following organizations:

Angus Systems -

a very substantial donation to assist classroom technology needs

<u> Barilla Canada -</u>

donated cooking demonstration, pasta, and a very substantial financial contribution for Chromebooks and music program supplies

Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation and TFSS - (Toronto Foundation for Student Successs)

Morning Meal/Snack Program Freezer donation

<u>Shutterstock -</u>

Donated books and puzzles created by black authors and illustrators

Starbucks Coffee Canada -

Employees donated hats, mitts, scarves, socks

Turner Consulting Group Inc. -

Tana Turner, Principal Consultant generously donated books and resources for our library



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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. <u>School Uniform is black pants/skirt, white shirt (not a t-shirt) and black shoes.</u>
- 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 <u>entire school</u> <u>day</u> 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. <u>Our school does not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.</u>

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 – the drinking function on our water fountains has been disabled due to COVID. Students will need a water bottle to fill up during the warmer weather. 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. <u>Please</u> <u>send all lunches to school with children in the morning</u>. 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 **<u>STRONGLY</u>** 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.

Themes of the Month - March

Integrity and Imani

Theme for the Month of May are **Imani &** Integrity



"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." (Oprah Winfrey)

"The time is always right to do what is right." (Martin Luther King Jr.)



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

Entry	8:50 - 8:55 a.m.
Time	
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	12:30 - 12:35 p.m.
Time	
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.

Study Tips for Students

- 1. Make your studies a priority.
- 2. Work honestly.
- 3. Stay focused Don't multi-task.
- 4. Set a Schedule.
- 5. Find a quiet place to study, with few distractions turn off the cell phones, turn off the headphones, shut down the videos, disconnect from social media.
- 6. Manage your time. Work steady. Keep up with your homework. Review periodically.
- 7. Whenever possible, work with a friend who can keep you focused. We learn a lot when we talk to others. Make up questions and test each other.
- 8. Spend at least one hour per day studying.
- 9. Think critically about what you are learning.
- 10. Rehearse and remember.
- 11. Test yourself.
- 12. Believe in your ability.
- 13. Relax. Get enough sleep.
- 14. Don't compare yourself to anyone else.

Remember, the teacher starts you on a path. To have a good journey, you need to stand up and walk it by yourself. (J. D. Hancock - Global Cognition)



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Africentric Alternative School Parent Council Members:

Co-Chair

Maureen Burbick

Co-Chair

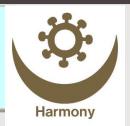
Howard Ford

Treasurer

Robert Griffiths

welcome to the Parent council

Adinkra symbol, meaning Love, Faithfulness & Harmony





Sinkofa: A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past to build for the future.



Odo Nnew Fie Kwan meaning...Love does not lose its way home. Those led by love always end up in the right place. 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)

83

Umoja

D

ujichagulia

Ujima

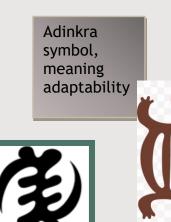
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Ujamaa

Nia

Kuumba

Imani





The Seven Principles

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

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

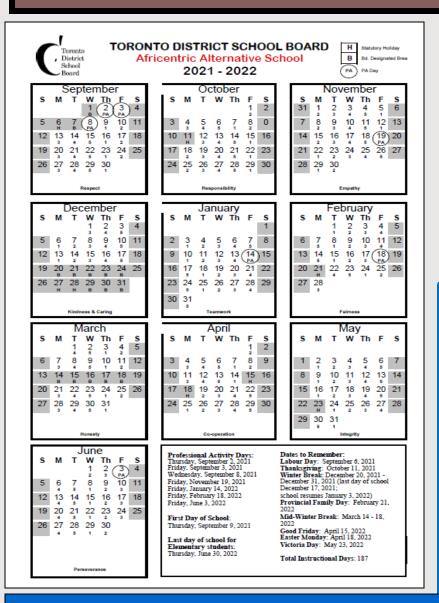
Kuumba A Creativity To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

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.

University of Sankore Press, 3018 West 48th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043 + (323) 295-9799

Dr. Maulana Karenga Creater of Kwanzas

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Your child's safety is very important to us.

To keep your child safe the TDSB requires that parents advise the school of a child's absence or lateness. This is done to ensure children arrive to school safely and are accounted for accurately. If you do not advise the school, you will receive an automated Safe Arrival Call and/or a call from the school.

If your child is going to be <u>absent or late</u> for school - please call the school at 416-395-5251.

Please call the school office - 416-395-5251, for the <u>occasional</u> instance that you are going to be <u>late picking up</u> your child at the end of the day. This allows the school to plan proper supervision for your child.

If you need to <u>pick up your child early</u>, please give the school office a call and give us sufficient time to call down your child.

We truly appreciate your help to ensure the safety of the students at Africentric Alternative School.



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, selfdisciplined and ready to learn Today I pledge to believe in me.

Ashe

Child AFETY



NO SMOKING

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



Access to Building

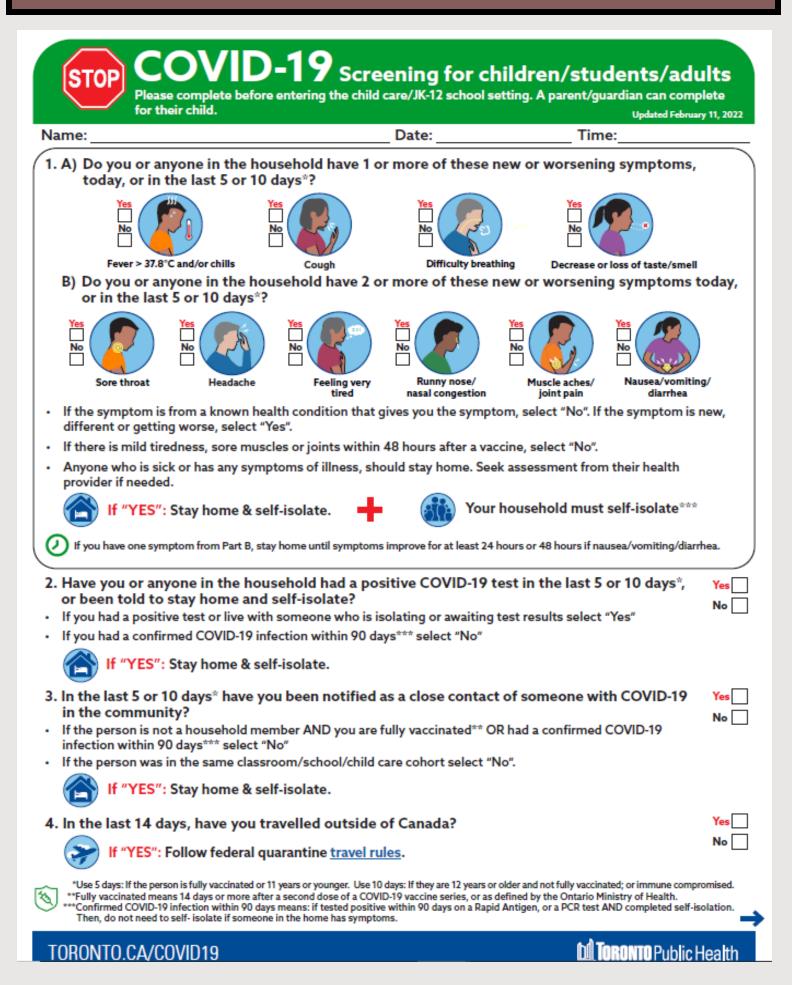
Reducing the number of people in the building is crucial to our success during this critical time. Only students and staff may enter the building. Essential visitors (i.e., maintenance) will be allowed into the building during the school day; however, parents and visitors will be permitted in the school on a limited basis. Please call the school if you would like to schedule an appointment with administration or staff.

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.







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HOW LONG SHOULD YOU SELF-ISOLATE FOR?

You have symptoms⁺ of COVID-19 or tested positive

lf:

- Fully vaccinated**, OR
- 11 years or younger, regardless of vaccination status

Stay home & Self-isolate:

- Must self-isolate for at least 5 days from the day symptoms started and until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/ vomiting/diarrhea), whichever is longer
- Use test date if no symptoms
- Wear a mask in public places, including while exercising, and do not visit higher risk settings from days 6 to 10.

If:

 12 years of age or older AND not fully vaccinated** OR

Immune compromised

Stay home & Self-isolate:

- Must self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started, or longer if symptoms last longer than 10 days
- Use test date if no symptoms

Someone in the household has symptoms+ of COVID-19 or a positive test AND you did not have a confirmed COVID-19 infection within 90 days***

 You must self-isolate for the duration of the household member's isolation period

If the household member is:

- Fully vaccinated**, OR
- 11 years or younger, regardless of vaccination status

Stay home & Self-isolate:

 You must self-isolate for at least 5 days from the day the household member's symptoms started and until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/ diarrhea)

Use test date if no symptoms

- If the household member is:
- 12 years of age or older AND not fully vaccinated**, OR

Immune compromised

Stay home & Self-isolate:

 You must self-isolate for 10 days from the day the household member's symptoms started You were notified as a close contact of a positive case in the community

lf:

Fully vaccinated** AND no symptoms,

Do not need to self-isolate

- Monitor for symptoms for 10 days and self-isolate immediately if symptoms develop
- Wear a mask in public places, including while exercising, and do not visit higher risk settings for 10 days from last exposure.

lf:

- 12+ years AND not fully vaccinated** OR
- Immune compromised

Stay home & Self-isolate:

 Must self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure unless you had a confirmed COVID-19 infection within 90 days***.

lf:

11 years and under AND not fully vaccinated**

Stay home & Self-isolate:

- Must self-isolate for 5 days from last exposure unless you had a confirmed COVID-19 infection within 90 days***.
- Wear a mask in public places, including while exercising, and do not visit higher risk settings from days 6 to 10.



*Symptoms include 1 or more symptom from 1.A or 2 or more symptoms from 1.B on the screening tool

- If you have one symptom from 1.B, other household members do not have to self-isolate.
- If you have one symptom from 1.B AND were a close contact of someone in the community, then self-isolate consistent with a COVID-19 infection.
- If you/your household member's symptoms are improving for 24 hours AND the person with symptoms never had a
 positive test AND tests negative on a PCR test OR 2 rapid antigen tests taken 24 to 48 hours apart, self-isolation ends.
- When the person with symptoms completes their self-isolation, they do not need to self-isolate again if other household members become ill.
- Clearance testing is not required. A positive test requires completion of the isolation period even if symptoms are improving.
- For counting isolation days: the day symptoms start (or test date if no symptoms) is Day 0.
- Being in the same classroom/school/child care cohort is not considered a close contact because preventive and protective measures are in place.



If you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days:

• Follow federal requirements for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.

This tool is consistent with provincial guidance: COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening and COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management. Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge (gov.on.ca)

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

