

Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter October 2021

Volume 1, Issue 7



Hugh Reynolds Principal
Nandy Palmer, Superintendent
Alexandra Lulka, Trustee

School Council Co-Chairs:

Jelani Philbert
Maureen Burbick
Contact us: aas.vol@gmail.com



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



Principal's News

Dear Africentric Families,

We hope that you and your loved ones are well. Our school year is off to a good start but, as you know, these are unprecedented and challenging times for all of us. There are so many changes and new protocols to which we have to adhere - all due to COVID-19. However, we are committed to keeping all staff and students safe and to make the situation at school as engaging and productive for all our students. Please be vigilant about your child's/ children's health. Remember that it is extremely important to do the health screening questionnaire every morning before they leave for school. If they are sick, please keep them at home. If you or they come in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19, keep them at home, notify the school and get tested as soon as possible. The Start of Year Forms should have been sent to you electronically by the Board by now. Thank you to those who

have completed them. Please complete, sign and return the pertinent ones to the school as soon as possible. Your patience, understanding and co-operation are very much appreciated.

Yours in partnership,
Hugh and Rogene

Hugh Reynolds, Principal AAS.
Rogene Reid, Vice Principal AAS.

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Upcoming Events

- Sept 30 - Orange Shirt Day - 1st National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Terry Fox Walk - Oct 8
- Oct 11 - Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween
- Nov 19 - PA Day
- See attached calendar

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.

Back to 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 sunhat - 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 safety reasons, families are encouraged to not come and drop off anything during the day!

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 - OCTOBER

UJIMA - RESPONSIBILITY

*Theme for the
Month of
OCTOBER is
Responsibility*



"I believe we are here on planet earth to live, grow up, and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom."
Rosa Parks.



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

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.

**Improve your Vocabulary
with these words...**

Acquiesce: to accept, agree, or give consent by keeping silent or by not making objections

Escalate: to increase in extent, volume, or scope:

Idyllic: peaceful, happy, and enjoyable

Jolt: Sudden shock or surprise

Africentric Alternative School Parent Council Members:

Co-Chair	Jelani Philbert
Co-Chair	Maureen Burbick
Treasurer	Robert Griffiths
Secretary	Nicole James
Fundraising	Paul Osbourne

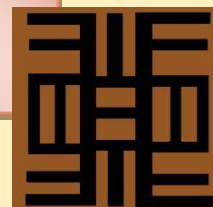
Welcome to the
Parent Council

Adinkra
symbol,
meaning
cooperation



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



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).



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.

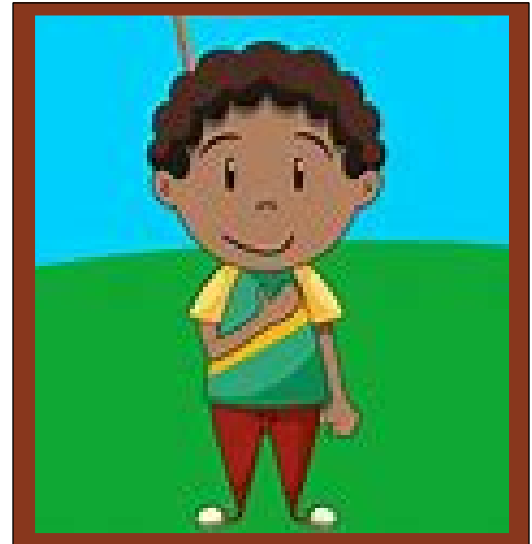
Imani ▲ Faith
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

The Malikoni Kwanza
Center of Kwanzaa
1981

Terry Fox Run/Walk - Friday Oct. 8

The Africentric Alternative School is supporting the Terry Fox Run/Walk. Our involvement follows the Nguzo Saba - The Seven Principles followed by our Africentric AS. Specifically, the Principle of Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility. This fits perfectly with our theme for October - Ujima/Responsibility. Your financial contribution will serve to support cancer research and raise school spirit! Help us by making a modest contribution today!

 Toronto District School Board	TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Africentric Alternative School 2021 - 2022	<div>H</div> Statutory Holiday <div>B</div> Bd. Designated Day <div>PA</div> PA Day																																																																																																																																					
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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





COVID-19 Screening for children/students

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

Updated Sept. 1, 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".

If "YES" to any symptom:



Stay home & self-isolate



Get tested

Or



Contact a health care provider

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

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 vaccine series or one dose of a single dose series.

**Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.



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.