

AMG Weekly Message
March 11, 2022

The TDSB, Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education have made announcements about changes to COVID-19 measures in TDSB schools. You can read the full announcement here <http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/staffnews/staff-news/covid-19-measures-at-the-tdsb>. These guidelines are the broad strokes, we are still waiting on the specifics on how this will be implemented at the school level.

It is now the start of March Break. The staff and students have already left on a well-deserved holiday. We will work towards putting the new guidelines in place and ask for your patience and support as we will need time to work through the details upon our return on March 21st.

These changes will be stressful for some and a relief for others. We all have our own experiences with COVID-19 and our own comfort levels. As we have done over the last two years, we will work through this as a school community, through respectful dialogue, understanding and patience. I have been in conversation with the School Council Chairs and will continue to work and communicate with them about the concerns of the community. You can share comments and concerns with them at amgparents@gmail.com.

Please take some time to talk about the upcoming changes with your children. Help prepare them for their return to school. Some of our youngest students have never been to school without a mask. It will take time for them to adjust. I shared these tips last week for when children are having difficulty. They will also be helpful when having conversations around the changing measures.

- Bring up the topic at a time and place where a discussion can occur. If there are distractions, a shortage of time or if either you or your child are too tired or busy, it is likely the conversation will be interrupted.
- Begin by listening. Let your child tell you what they believe they know, how they learned it and how they are feeling. Don't rush to correct or reassure. Allow them to finish their thoughts. Open-ended questions are better than specific ones. It is better to ask, "How are you feeling about what happened?" than "Are you scared because of what happened?" You can be a bit more specific if general questions fail.
- Respond to what your child tells you. Their concerns may be specific or general, concrete or abstract, closely related to the events or related very little. Address what they are concerned about. Don't overload children with information or solutions. Talk to them with ideas they can handle at their age. If you help them with their concerns today they will likely share more in the future.
- Limit exposure to media coverage as it can become overwhelming.
- Be aware that new stresses may open old wounds. When a child is confronted with a crisis, losses and upsets from the past may be remembered. The child may or may not wish to talk about these old issues.
- Talk about specific things you can do to make your child feel secure.
- Children deal with stress in many different ways and at different paces. While children may not wish to talk today, they may wish to talk in weeks or days to come. Follow up discussions may be helpful.

Enjoy the break. Take care. See you Monday, March 21st.

Sudeep

Portrait of a Freedom Fighter: History of Black History Month and the Leaders who fought for freedom
Shannon from the Grove worked with Ms. Fairweather and her grade 4/5s to learn about black freedom fighters. They researched a freedom fighter of their choice and painted a portrait.

[Click on the link to see a slideshow of the learning process and the portraits.](#) Make sure you check out the last slide to hear Nicolas speak about his painting of Viola Desmond.

Sunflowers in Solidarity

AMG and The Grove have begun a fundraiser to help the people of Ukraine. Many students across both schools had the chance to talk about the situation in Ukraine and know that we as a community will be helping. Students put so much love and effort into the envelopes that will hold sunflower seeds.

The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine and has now become a symbol of resistance, unity and hope. Please plant these seeds to spread hope in our communities for a peaceful and cooperative future.

The Sunflowers in Solidarity fundraiser will start after the March break. More information will follow.



Virtual Learning Registration Form for 2022-23

With plans and staffing already underway for September, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is asking families interested in requesting Virtual Learning for the entire 2022-2023 school year to complete a [Virtual Learning Registration Form](#). If your child will be attending school in-person next year, no action is required. The [Virtual Learning Registration Form](#) is available online now and the deadline to complete is Monday, March 21 at 11:59 p.m. Please note, there will be no opportunity to switch in either direction between In-Person and Virtual Learning once the Registration Form closes. To learn more about Virtual Learning for the 2022-23 school year, including details around program availability,

technology, extracurricular activities, etc. please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/VirtualLearning. If you have more than one child in a TDSB school (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12), please complete a separate Virtual Learning Registration Form for each child using this same link.