



## Welcome Back! - September 2019

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/alexmackenzie/>

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Grade 7 students, and families as well as new students and families joining Sir Alexander Mackenzie Senior P.S. this year. Newsletters from the school are sent home monthly at the end of every month.

**Staff Updates:** It is a pleasure to welcome our new staff: Ms. Murugiah, Grade 7/8 Extended French, Ms. Mason, Grade 7 Extended French, and returning staff Mr. Hiene, Science and math. Our school is in the process of hiring Long Term Occasional teachers for Grade 7 Extended French, 7D and Grade 8 Extended French 8F for the afternoon. We welcome Ms. Addesa, Occasional Teacher for Grade 7 Extended French and Ms. Forman, Occasional Teacher for Grade 8 Extended French for the afternoon who are teaching these classes.

I would also like to extend sincere appreciation to our teaching, office, caretaking, and support staff for their time and careful preparations to ensure that the school, classrooms, and programs are ready for your children. Our dedicated and professional staff looks forward to working in partnership with you to ensure a successful school year for your son/daughter.

**Student Information Forms:** Today you are receiving a package of student information forms for you to read, complete, and return to the school by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the student information package together and return the entire package to school.

In addition, a selection of school start up forms will be made available to parents/guardians this month in digital format using Permission Click. A broadcast message was sent by TDSB to you through School Messenger about the new process for digital forms. You will receive an e-mail from [noreply@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:noreply@tdsb.on.ca) after the first day of school.

Communication between home and school is a key to student success. Student agendas are one way to share information such as assignment due dates, information about our school and the TDSB. The SAM agenda is an essential communication tool for students, parents and staff. The cost of the agenda is \$6.00. The agendas are expected to arrive sometime in September. Attached is a letter about the school agendas. The student agenda is produced with the support of the Sheppard East Village BIA, [www.sharesheppard.ca](http://www.sharesheppard.ca).

**Student Attendance:** Kindly keep us informed of all absences, health, safety, parental custody information and current phone contact numbers. If your contact numbers have changed please let the office staff know. Thank you!

**SAM SPS School Hours:** The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 3:23 p.m. for all students Grade 7 and Grade 8. Lunchtime is from 11:34 a.m.- 12:29 p.m. It is expected that students who stay for lunch remain on school property at all times where they are supervised by staff. Students may bring a lunch or purchase a lunch from the cafeteria. For parents who pick their child up at the end of the day, please ensure you pick your child up before 3:23 p.m.

**Pedestrian Safety:** Parents please review pedestrian safety with your child(ren). Parents who drive, please obey all of the traffic laws including no parking and no stopping. For student safety, please do not park in the parking lot during entry and dismissal times.

**Safe & Caring Schools:** In the morning, school yard supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. and school yard supervision ends promptly at 3:35 p.m.

**School Safety and Security:** School staff requests the support and cooperation of all parent and caregivers to ensure the school is safe and secure for our students. **All parents and/or caregivers must enter the school through the front doors and start their visit at the office.** Our office staff will help parents and caregivers pass on messages to teachers or students or help arrange a meeting time with teachers. Thank you!

**Attendance:** Regular attendance, being punctual and being prepared for learning are essential keys to student success at school. Please contact the school at 416-396-6570 to report your child's absence before the school day begins. Ensure that your children arrive at school on time. Students who arrive late must enter the school via the locked front doors and get a late slip from the office. We strongly encourage parents to schedule appointments outside of school hours. If your child has an appointment during the school and needs to leave during the school day, parents please come into the school to sign your child out.

**Curriculum Night:** Please join us for Curriculum Night, Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> between 6:30p.m. and 8:00p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to learn about the year's academic program.

**School Advisory Council:**

One way to become involved in school life is to join the School Advisory Council. Parents and caregivers at SAM are encouraged to become members of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie SAC. Your student information package includes a School Advisory Participation Form. Parents/guardians interested in becoming members of the SAC, are asked to return the SAC Participation Form by Monday, September 18th. The first SAC meeting is Wednesday, October 9th at 6:30 p.m. The election of SAC Executive Members will be held on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m. Child minding is available by request.

**Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Snack Program:**

This year we are once again able to provide the Snack Program to students. The snack program may contain up to two items from the Canada Food Guide. Daily menus vary and include fruits and vegetables.

The school, through the support of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, subsidizes part of the cost to provide snacks. Daily snacks cost about 50 cents. Our focus is to ensure students have access to the program.

The 2019 - 2020 Snack Program will begin on **Monday, September 30, 2019**. Snack permission forms are part of the student information package. Your donations to the snack program are essential to maintain the program. Please use schoolcash online to make your donation. Kindly return your child's form to the homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

As well, we are seeking a **Snack Program Co-ordinator** who is responsible for ordering snacks, distributing snacks and preparing monthly financial reports. In addition, we welcome volunteers to become part of the Snack Program Steering Committee. This group of parents will meet once every two months to review the program. Each steering committee meeting will not take more than 30 minutes. If you are interested please contact the Vice Principal, Mr. Valles.

**School Volunteers:** The TDSB and Sir Alexander Mackenzie welcome parent volunteers. **Please note TDSB requires all parent volunteers to have a Police Reference Check.** Please contact the school for more information.

Respectfully,

Mrs. M. Iacobucci  
Principal

Mr. Valles  
Vice-Principal

