

Spirit Week 2020

The week of December 14 to December 18th is SAM's Spirit Week! What is that, you may ask? Well, from Monday to Friday, all students were invited to wear clothing and accessories matching the theme of that specific day. Monday was Silly Hat Day. All students and teachers were to wear a silly hat. Tuesday was Beach Day. Everyone was supposed to wear the type of clothing people would normally wear to the beach. On Wednesday people were to wear the colours of SAM, which are red, green, and black. The following day, Thursday, all students and teachers were to wear holiday themed clothing. And last but not least, on Friday, we got to wear pyjamas and onesies to school! This week was definitely the most exciting week of 2020.

NM & CL, Grade 8

8A Assembly

Along with the announcements, class 8A also was in charge of the assembly this December. The character trait of this month is Kindness and Caring. In this assembly, 8A showed us many ways we could express Kindness and Caring through our actions and words. They also talked about a few holidays that are in and around December. For example, Diwali, Hanukkah, Lunar New Year, Eid, and Kwanzaa. And of course they mentioned Christmas! The teachers even prepared a little dance, the Nutcracker, to go along with it. The students in 7/8X shared a dance as well. The tech team put all of this together in a very beautiful slideshow, and presented it to the whole school. Everyone played an important role in the making of this amazing assembly.

NM & CL, Grade 8



Toronto Public Health

Messages

- Toronto is still under Lockdown (**Grey Zone under the Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework**). Toronto Public Health has prepared a [holiday guide](#) with information on how you and your family can safely plan for and celebrate the holiday season this year.
- Stay home except for essential trips such as work, school or health care visits.
- Stay home if you are ill or even if symptoms are mild.
- Connect with family and friends virtually to reduce the spread of COVID 19.
- Restrict gatherings in your home to household members only. If you live alone, you may consider having exclusive contact with one other person/household.
- Go for a walk alone or with members of your household to get fresh air and exercise.
- Check on family, friends and neighbours.
- During the Winter Break, if you are reporting a case of COVID-19, please contact the TPH Health Connections Line at 416-338-7600. This telephone number will be monitored during the winter break.



Important Updates

-January 4, 2021

Return to School

-January 4, 2021

Grade 6 to 7 Extended French Application Process Opens

-January 13, 2021

Virtual Grade 6 to 7 Extended French Program Information Night

-January 15, 2021

PA Day – No School for students

-January 29, 2021

Last Day to submit Grade 6 to 7 Extended French Applications

Sir Alexander Mackenzie Senior PS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support and diligence in following the new health and safety procedures in place to help ensure our school is safe and welcoming for all. As you know, this week our teachers worked on preparing our students for a potential pivot to virtual learning. This week students had the opportunity to sign out a SAM Chromebook (if they needed a device) and take home their learning materials. Our students are familiar with using google classroom. Please continue to listen to the news and check the TDSB website for updates about the return to school on January 4, 2021.

During the fall term, our students had many opportunities to participate in virtual clubs such as Stress Busters, Origami Club, Eco-Warriors and SAM Steamers. Our students showed amazing leadership and talents within these clubs. Last week students elected Student Leadership Council class representatives who are eager to bring our SAM community together. Students are also invited to join JUST-US@SAM. In the New Year, we will also be selecting student leaders to be peer mentors for the Grade 8 to 9 Transition.

Staff updates: Please welcome Mourad Belamine, Long Term Occasional Teacher, of 7/8Y.

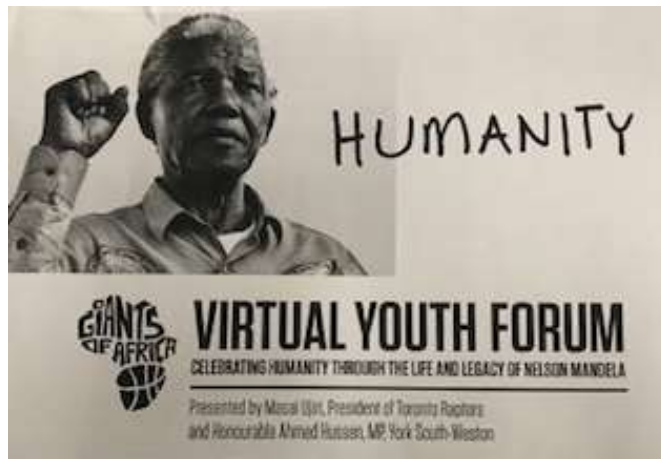
This holiday break will be very different for all of us. There are resources and supports available over the holidays. For more information visit [Winter Well-Being](#). I want to wish each and every family a safe and happy holiday.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Iacobucci



7/8H



Student Reflections about Humanity Virtual Youth Forum

What I took away from this event is that the steps towards eradicating racism may be big, but little actions can also be a huge help. Comforting someone who has experienced racism is a contribution towards ending it, and so is something as simple as making a post on social media. Both can spark a conversation among others about racism and help make racist attitudes less common.

KB, Grade 8

From this event, the most important thing I took away was to always move with kindness and love. I also learned that you should share your knowledge about things going on in the world because it's important to teach and educate yourself.

AA, Grade 8

Youth should continue Mandela's legacy by educating themselves and others and keep the conversation going, as well as encouraging others to do the same. Make sure to spread a little kindness every day and caring for others, even people you might not know. Always keep the conversation going to ensure people don't forget because as the quote said, "If you move with kindness, people respond."

MK, Grade 8

We can continue the legacy of Nelson Mandela by learning to forgive, to help people, to love, to be kind, to learn from mistakes, and to listen.

LX, Grade 7

An activist tries and put efforts to make changes in society towards a greater good. An activist has a desire to impact the world for the better. For example, Cameron Davis because he was talking about BLM, his experience being Black, and overall he was trying to make a difference that each and every one should be treated equally.

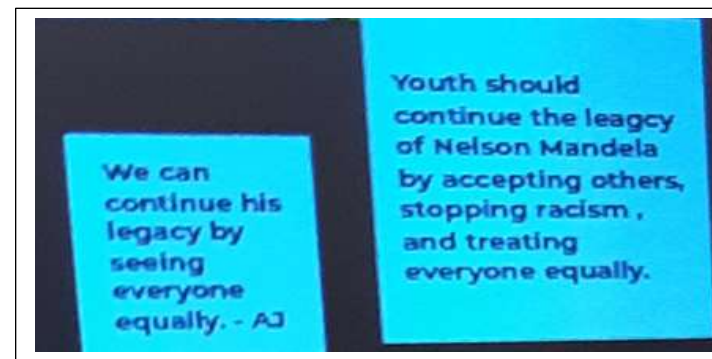
HP, Grade 7

I took away from the event that anyone and everyone can make an impact. Not only powerful individuals or people with lots of support, but any regular person can make a change that can eventually lead to something as big and powerful as someone who was already in that position can do, and even perhaps even more. It doesn't always mean that it will work, but I feel that if there is enough passion and commitment to whatever impact someone wants to make, it's always possible.

JL, Grade 8

The quote that resonated with me was 'I may not understand the song you sing, but I can listen'. I interpret it as we might not be similar to other races and cultures, but we should still appreciate them.

FX, Grade 8



JP, Grade 7

Toronto Public Library

The Toronto Public Library offers a variety of live and on-line programs to families in addition to eBooks. There are many things to read, watch, listen to and do. All you need is a library card. If you do not have a library card, you can [register online for a Digital Access Card](#).

Visit [38 Ways to Use the Library from Home](#) to learn more.

Mental Health & Well Being

For support with questions about mental health and well-being, you can contact one of the organizations:

- Visit a [What's Up Walk-in Clinic](#) for free mental health counselling
- [Telehealth Ontario](#) at 1-866-797-0000
- [Kids Help Phone](#) at 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868
- [Mental Health TO](#) at 1-866-585-6486 for free phone or video mental health counselling for infants, children, youth and families
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)

French Programs Application Information & Timelines

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Programs, there is an online process to apply for Middle French Immersion (begins in Grade 4) and an electronic/fillable application for Grade 7 Extended French.

Middle French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between January 4 and January 29, 2021.

Grade 7 Extended French: Applications must be completed between January 4 and January 29, 2021. An electronic/fillable application form is available at the link below and can be submitted directly to the Grade 7 Extended French school associated to your home addressed by email.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Other-Programs>

Offers of placement within the program (not a specific school) will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window.

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process, virtual information sessions and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

