



Good day AYJ Community,

As always, we have some great informational items for our community in this week's update. Please take the time to read through each item below,

TDSB Recommends a Return to Mask Wearing Inside TDSB Schools and Buildings

Earlier this week, Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health said he "strongly recommends" wearing a mask in indoor public spaces. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam is also advising Canadians to continue wearing a mask, while Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, said she still recommends the use of masks indoors, especially amid an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the TDSB and AYJ have prioritized the health and safety of both staff and students. While the TDSB and AYJ takes its direction from the province, which does not require masks, given the increase in COVID-19 cases and the high number of absences, we as a system and as a school, are asking that all staff and students wear a well fitting mask when indoors in our school and other TDSB buildings to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help minimize disruption from COVID-related absences. **To be clear, this remains a personal decision.**

We also want to remind you **that masks are required** in the following circumstances:

- For days 6-10 after a self-isolation period of five days after a COVID-19 diagnosis. [Learn more.](#)
- If you are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)
- In public spaces, including schools and childcares, for the first 14 days following travel outside of Canada. [Learn more.](#)

Please continue to complete the [daily screening](#) before you come to school each day and stay home if you have not passed the screening. While not required to show verification as you enter a building, the [TDSB Health Screening App](#) is still updated and available for your use.

Semester Two Credit Rescue Day – Wed Apr 20th

As we approach the Mid Term (and hence mid term report cards), students will be given the opportunity to salvage missed assignments and evaluations during our second of two mid term Credit Rescue Days on **Wednesday April 20th**.

As with our previous Credit Rescue Days, **ONLY** students invited to participate by their teachers will be expected to attend school on these days. Students **NOT** engaged in Credit Rescue Activities will be assigned Asynchronous/Independent work that can be completed while they are at home. Students will need to log in to their BrightSpace Classrooms from home during their regularly assigned class times to be marked present for those days. Teachers will be sending out invites to students/families in the days preceding each Credit Rescue Day.

Students will be able to find their teachers on these days by accessing them in their classrooms at their regularly scheduled times during each day (i.e. Period 2 teacher at 11:05am to 12:05pm). Students may

also spend longer than their scheduled class time (not including over lunchtime) with a teacher should they require additional time and support.

There will **NOT** be any Cafeteria service for students at school on these days.

Please keep in mind that **Wed Apr 20th** is a **late start day** and as such Period One support will begin at 10:00am and the class schedule that follows will be adjusted accordingly.

Virtual Music Night 2:

Our upcoming Virtual Music Night is taking place on **Thursday, April 14th at 7pm**. This will feature a variety of student acts across many genres and disciplines.

Please use this Zoom link to join:

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94517220328>

Yearbook Sales Extension

Cash on-line has been re-opened so students/families can purchase a yearbook (link is below). They will remain on sale for **\$30 until April 15th**. After this time, the price will go up to \$40 so don't miss out on this deal get your yearbook today!

<https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/115560/153/False/True>

Summer School Registration

Registration for in-person and remote summer school opens April 19th. More info can be found [here](#)

Registration for eLearning summer courses tentatively opens April 26th (recent update).

More info can be found [here](#)

AYJ Graduation Ceremony IN-PERSON, Wednesday, June 29th @ 2pm

We are pleased to be able to confirm the details of our return to an IN-PERSON Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, June 29th @ 2pm. We are lucky to be hosted by the Crystal Fountain Event Venue in Markham (see address below).

All eligible graduates will need to login to their SchoolCashOnline accounts to access this item. (Please note that if the item does not appear as an option on your account, you will need to be added to the Grad/Potential Grad Student List. Contact the office for details)

Link: <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

The cost for this event is \$20 per grad (includes ceremonial cap & gown – mandatory). Each graduate will also be able to purchase 2 guest tickets (maximum) at an additional cost of \$20 per ticket.

****Important:** When completing your purchase, please enter student's:
Legal First Name and Legal Last Name
where it says : "Who are you purchasing this for?" **

Due to the limited number of seats at Crystal Fountain, only 2 guest tickets will be available to each graduate to purchase. In the very unlikely event that a few additional tickets become available, a subsequent sales process will be created and additional tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Event Details:

AYJ Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday, June 29, 2022
Crystal Fountain Event Venue
60 McDowell Gate
Markham, ON L6G 1B5

Important Upcoming Dates

Thursday, April 14th	AYJ Virtual Music Night – see item above
Friday, April 15th	Stat Holiday – Schools CLOSED, NO CLASSES
Monday, April 18th	Stat Holiday – Schools CLOSED, NO CLASSES
Wednesday, April 20th	AYJ Credit Rescue Day – see item above
Wednesday, April 20th	AYJ Late Start Schedule – credit rescue begins at 10:00am
Wednesday, April 27th	AYJ Late Start Schedule – classes begin at 10:00am

Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB

During the month of April, the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadian of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario, the province recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."

Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB - April 2022

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of April since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013, and the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This year our theme is Come to learn, go to serve; the goal of education is to serve humanity.

Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the turn of the twentieth century. They have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and their traditions and culture continue to be a vibrant art of every aspect of life for Canadians today.

We are inviting all TDSB community, students, and staff to join our virtual Sikh Heritage Month launch to recognize the contributions of Sikh Canadians. Join us for a remarkable afternoon of information and celebration (see below and [flyer](#) for full details).

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB - April 2022

Latin-America History Month is proudly recognized at the TDSB during the month of April as a result of a motion passed through our Board of Trustees in 2016.

This year the theme to mark Latin-America History Month is (DeColonizing) Latin-America History Month & Beyond: Learning about our collective pasts through the art of healing.

Since its creation of the Latin-America History Month Volunteer Planning Committee in 2016, the membership continues to expand searching every year for more intentional ways of working in solidarity with Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island (Canada) and ways to bring Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators and families together to decolonize understandings of Latin-America. The Latin-America History Volunteer Planning Committee comprised of TDSB staff, former students, parents/caregivers, and community members.

During the month of April, several activities are being planned for students, staff, and community members. We invite everyone to join us to kick-off Latin-America History Month with a virtual launch (see below and [flyer](#) for details). We're pleased to share with you the results of a Creative Arts Contest (to be posted shortly on the TDSB website) where all TDSB students were invited to participate from all grade levels. Elementary students will also be provided with the opportunity to learn about the art of healing and the powerful tool that music brings with Ruben Beny Esguerra, a Canadian musical artist and poet based in Toronto. Ruben Beny Esguerra has been nominated twice for a JUNO Award (2018 JUNO Awards in the World Music Album of the Year category and for the 2022 JUNO Awards in the Global Music Album of the Year category.)

Learning about careers in various fields, our students will have the opportunity to connect with accomplished Latin-America leaders and acquire information about their educational and professional journey to success. In addition, secondary students will further their learning on art as a form of healing by attending a workshop hosted by a member of the Afrolatinx community.

That's all for now AYJ, have a super extra long weekend!

P

Peter Paputsis (he/him)
Principal
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See the light . . . BE the light!
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