It is hard to remember a more challenging time in education than these last couple of weeks. After 6 months in education limbo, our system is largely back up and

Dear parents, caregivers and community members,

side, bricks & mortar schools are now in the swing of things, though there have been some bumps in the road (such as three schools in our Ward 11 affected by single positive COVID-19 cases at the time of writing this newsletter). Virtual schools are getting there -- the majority of classes are now online, but some families in our ward are awaiting their teachers to finish their onboarding, and a some families, particularly those in French Immersion, are still without teachers. These families are, quite understandably, extremely frustrated. The COVID-19 case counts in Ontario, and Toronto, in particular, continue to climb. With that in mind, it is crucial that we all pull together and remain vigilant in our approach to COVID-19, making sure we are following the screening measures with integrity, paying attention to hand hygiene, and wearing masks according to protocols.

running, but it has not been as smooth as we might have hoped. On the positive

I know it appears as though information is ever-changing, but we are in new territory each and every day, and so I encourage everyone to keep checking the TDSB's website regularly as more information is released and updated. In the meantime, however, please read on below for updates about the following items:

 Mask & Face Coverings - updated • More COVID-19 Information (Daily Health Screening; TPH Health Resources & Testing Sites; TDSB COVID-19 reporting; COVID-Alert App) Virtual Elementary Schools - update September 27/28 <u>Virtual Secondary Schools</u> - courses/sections added: apply by Wednesday, September 30

 Switching between Elementary Virtual School and in-person school (and vice versa): Deadline to apply is Wednesday, September 30 Requesting exemptions from synchronous (live online) learning

requirements: Deadline extended to October 20 • <u>Director of Education search</u>: new delegation opportunity

responsibility to follow public health and Ministry of Education requirements known to be effective in combatting the transmission of COVID-19. Unless an exemption applies that would allow a student, staff or visitor to attend in person without a mask, the wearing of appropriate masks is mandatory at TDSB schools or buildings.

MORE COVID-19 INFORMATION Daily Health Screening COVID-19 School Decision Guide Each day, before coming to school or work, students and staff should conduct a self-

and arrange for testing - follow the steps in the decision guide from Toronto Public Health. **Toronto Public Health Resoures & Testing Sites** Toronto Public Health (TPH) has created a COVID-19 Return to School information web resource specifically for families. The website has links to TPH

assessment of how they are feeling. This can be done using a paper-based

and here!).

COVID-19.

classroom or school closures.

and administrative sites.

staff as quickly as possible.

Tuesday, September 29.

from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Principal Contact Information

information is as follows:

Virtual School Teacher Absences

days.

confirmation, or pre-screen online using the mobile or web-based apps (learn more here

Anyone with new COVID-like symptoms

should stay home, consult their family doctor,

Wash your hands Watch your distance Wear your mask **TORONTO** Public Health TORONTO.CA/COVID19 **COVID-19 Reporting** All COVID-positive cases among staff and students of the TDSB are reported to

Toronto Public Health (TPH). TPH then follows up with contact tracing and directs

the TDSB and local schools on next steps including reporting, quarantine, and

Please note that all schools where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 where

the affected individual was potentially contagious while at school will receive a letter from TPH to inform them about the possible exposure and next steps. Learn

TDSB's Response Plan with regard to COVID-19 case management for schools

Active, confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and/or staff in TDSB

schools are reported daily on the TDSB COVID Advisories page.

more about Provincial Guidelines for COVID-management and the

based COVID-19 exposure alert app called COVID Alert. The app uses a novel approach to determine whether you (your device) has been within contact proximity of Canada another app user, but it does not collect or monitor personal information. For more information, please visit the COVID Alert webpage. We encourage everyone to download this app if it is compatible with their phones.

Elementary Virtual School

The launching of TDSB's Virtual School has been extraordinarily challenging, and

has caused considerable stress and frustration for some students, parents, staff, and trustees, alike. With the number of students in the Virtual School increasing

from 60,000 in early September, to over 77,000 on its launch date, staffing for

past weeks, including those in smaller ISP classes, the number of teachers

Parents/Students Currently Without a Teacher Assignment

these numbers has proved problematic despite board staff working all summer to build a robust roster of teachers. As students have been placed in classes over the

required in the Virtual School has increased from 2,200 to 2,400. Staff are working exceptionally hard each and every day to recruit, interview, hire and on-board new

Work has continued through and since the weekend to hire teachers — an issue being faced by a number of school boards in the GTA — and the goal is to have all classrooms up and running by mid-to-late this week. As of 5pm on Monday, Sept. 28, staff was looking to hire approximately 95 more teachers (a total of roughly 15 English and 80 French Immersion/Extended French teachers total), and creative solutions were being considered to meet the needs of our French programs. Staff are making progress and anticipate that all positions will be filled over the coming

VIRTUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - Update September 27/28

If your child does not yet have a teacher assigned, please continue to access the independent learning resources web page where more resources, activities and live teacher-led videos have been added for the second week. As well, daily live sessions for Kindergarten to Grade 8 continue and recordings of all sessions are also available online. Teacher Communication: Once hired and assigned to a class, teachers are provided two days of Brightspace training and will then get their virtual classroom up and running and contact families/students. At this point, we anticipate that all Virtual School classrooms will be underway by mid-to-late this week and families

teacher to cover classes when the classroom teacher is absent. Students are encouraged to complete work that has been assigned by the classroom teacher or are encouraged to access the available resources and videos on the <u>Asynchronous (independent) Learning Activities</u> web page. **Elementary Virtual School Class Placement Criteria** Students in JK - grade 4 have been clustered into classes with students from the same grade from the same home school as much as possible. As a general guiding principle, there are at least 2 or more students together in a virtual class from the same homeschool. In some cases at the various stages of placements there was only one student request from a school per grade. In order for TDSB to accomplish this guiding principle, it required students to be hand registered in Trillium (the student registration system) one at a time.

Elementary Virtual School In-Person Elementary School SWITCHING BETWEEN ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL SCHOOL AND IN-PERSON LEARNING: Deadline September 30, 4pm Please note that 4 p.m. on September 30 is the deadline for elementary students to request a switch between the Virtual School and in-person (inschool) learning. This change would take effect on October 13, 2020 (the day after Thanksgiving). After that, students will remain in their current learning model until the next key entry date. Families of elementary students who would like to switch from in-person

SCHOOL TRAVEL: Safety & Overlea bridge petition For students and their families with the ability to do so, active school travel (i.e. travel by walking, cycling or other personal mobility devices) is the preferred option for all students not travelling by school bus or public transit. Overlea Bridge bike lanes petition: Like in most communities in Don Valley West, many students from Valley Park Middle School and Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute walk and bike to school. For students from Thorncliffe Park, the

Overlea Bridge has long been a bottleneck where cyclists ride the sidewalk

protected bike lanes. This is an important initiative, worthy of speedy and

often speeding traffic endangers them on a rather narrow roadway).

comprehensive community consultation.

school travel should be the priority!

(copied: here).

Among the updates:

more about these safety protocols, please click here.

(potentially endangering pedestrians) instead of using the road (where busy and

Marc Garneau CI Student, Hafeez Alavi, has started a petition to ask for temporary

School Bus transport: Students that do not live within the immediate school area and are eligible for school bus transportation are encouraged to travel by school bus to minimize additional traffic at the school during drop-off and pick-up times. Safety protocols are now in place for students traveling by this mode. To learn

Care driving/parking: When active school travel or travel by school bus is not possible, caregivers are encouraged to park legally at a distance from the school and travel actively the rest of the way. For pick-up and drop-off at the school site, priority should be given to caregivers of very young children and members of the school community with special needs. A Routes to School Map has been created

for every TDSB elementary school to assist families with recognizing 5-minute

Regardless of the way in which students get to school this fall, practicing safe

School Council Operations were updated last week in a message from TDSB Associate Director, Karen Falconer, to School Councils and Administrators

• School Council meetings are to be held virtually due to protocols on

• School Council elections, where possible, will be held by the week of

SchoolMessenger for sending messages to the school community

Please reserve the following dates for exciting Parent Engagement Events.

October 24 & 25: Parents as Partners: <u>www.parentsaspartners.ca</u>.

School Councils will receive Zoom Accounts for meetings, and access to

Parents/Caregivers with children in the Virtual School will be allowed to fully

and 10-minute walking/wheeling distance points along their routes.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT: School Councils & Conferences

participate in School Councils of their 'in-person' school

October 19 - more details forthcoming this week

numbers allowed to meet in person

Orange Shirt Day; please join from 12:00 - 12:30 PM for a <u>Virtual Circle on Google Meet</u> to commemorate: across the Toronto District School Board recognize Orange Shirt Day.

Roehampton Residence shelter - Community Bulletin

response to COVID-19, located at 808 Mount Pleasant Avenue.

Toronto published the 5th Community Bulletin about the Roehampton

weeks to evaluate what is working and where we need improvement.

Trustee Laskin and I also sit on the newly-established Community Liaison Committee for the Roehampton Residence. In its inaugural CLC meeting on

Residence, the temporary shelter activated to support physical distancing in

As this shelter is located in the immediate area of multiple schools, I sit on two committees established to alleviate the impact of the shelter on the school

community. The first is the Roehampton Residence School Committee, comprised of local school council chairs, local principals, vice-principals, superintendents, TDSB staff, trustees (myself and Shelley Laskin), city staff, shelter staff and Toronto Police Services. This group was meeting monthly throughout August, advising city and shelter staff on the establishment of school safety plans for those schools in close proximity to the shelter (North Toronto CI, Northern SS, Eglinton JPS, John Fisher JPS, Maurice Cody JPS and Hodgson MS). Now that school is underway and the plans have been established, we are now meeting every two

concerns, including some recent incidents on and adjacent to TDSB properties. We continue to follow developments closely and remain committed to advocating for student and staff safety, first and foremost. To read Community Bulletin #5, including a Q&A section about the School Safety Plan(s) of the Roehamption Residence, click: <u>here</u>.

Finally, a few reminders about being good neighbours. Our local schools are open to the community during non-school hours to enjoy and use respectfully. However, we are finding an increase in older children congregating on school property in the evenings. With COVID-19 keeping everyone outside, this is not unexpected, but

September 17, members discussed the Terms of Reference and raised ideas and

more difficult periods in our collective experience, I hope we can all practice kindness, be empathetic, and look after each other. As a community and here at

support and continued patience as we break new barriers in education. And, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any issues, concerns or comments. Warm regards, Rachel Rachel Chernos Lin TDSB Trustee, Ward 11, Don Valley West, Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™

on Thursday, October 1 School Travel: Safety & Overlea Bridge petition • Parent Engagement: School Councils & Parent Conferences Orange Shirt Day: Wednesday, September 30 Roehampton Residence shelter - Community Bulletin #5 In-Person Secondary School In-Person Elementary School **MASK & FACE COVERING** UPDATED **REQUIREMENTS** - updated In response to rising confirmed cases of COVID -19, health agencies and provincial and municipal governments are reviewing and updating health and safety measures in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus. The TDSB is also reviewing its health and safety measures and making changes where needed. The TDSB's Mask Guidelines have been updated in light of increases in confirmed COVID-19 cases around the city and Province, as well as confirmed cases among school staff and students. The guidelines have also been updated to provide additional direction regarding mask exemption requests. Important changes are highlighted in yellow throughout the <u>updated Mask Guidelines</u>. These Mask Guidelines have been developed to address our collective

protocols and information about monitoring symptoms, self-isolation, immunization clinics, and other resources. A current list of COVID-testing sites, including hospital sites, mobile clinics, and pharmacy-based testing can be found through the TPH COVID-19 Testing website. There is one large testing site in TDSB Ward 11 at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (2075 Bayview Avenue). The Sunnybrook testing site is now open to children over 1 year of age, and the hours are Mon-Fri, 11 am to 7:30 pm and Sat/Sun 9:30am-5:30pm. More information on the Sunnybrook Testing website. In addition, there is currently a pop-up mobile testing site at the *TNO Youth Centre* (45 Overlea Blvd) running from Sept.29 thru Oct.17. This testing site accepts children over 3 months of age and adults, and is open daily from 12pm - 7pm. Finally, as of this week, the Leaside Shoppers Drug Mart location at 1601 Bayview Avenue (between Millwood Avenue and Fleming Crescent) is now offering COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic individuals, including children. Lots of options open nearby for testing, so if you are experiencing symptoms or have potentially

been exposed, please seek testing, follow quarantine rules, and stop the spread of

3 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION We all have a role to play to reduce COVID-19 spread & keep our city safer:

COVID-Alert App This summer, Health Canada launched a Bluetooth-

that have not yet heard from a teacher should expect contact in that timeframe. **Board Communication:** Trustees have stressed with staff that regular and frequent communication about progress on the roll out of the Virtual School is essential. All Elementary Virtual School families will receive a further update on

IT Support: If you are experiencing account and/or password issues, please

login and password information for your child will be emailed to you. Additionally, you can access the TDSB Brightspace Information Page

under Course Registration and the Virtual School Staff section.

for more information, tutorials, TDSB Brightspace Support, and/or access

Brightspace support 24 hours a day In addition, a designated parent phone

support line has been created at 416-396-9100, and it is open Monday to Friday

If you are a teacher with questions about Brightspace, please visit KEY to Learn,

We understand that you may have questions or concerns and would like to speak directly with someone at your child's Virtual Elementary School. If your regular school is located in Ward 11, then you are in the Learning Centre 1 (LC1) Virtual Elementary School. There are three principals assigned to LC1, and their contact

• Grades 6 to 8: Juliet Sesanker-Daniel: juliet.sesanker-daniel@tdsb.on.ca

Please be aware that, at this time, it may not be possible to provide a replacement

Grades K to 2: Tamara Schwarz: tamara.schwarz@tdsb.on.ca

Grades 3 to 5: Amelia Dennis: <u>amelia.dennis@tdsb.on.ca</u>

access support by completing this form. Once the information has been verified,

Student in grades 5-8 have been registered by grade cohorts with a balance of gender while trying to have as much diversity in our classes as possible. While there may be students from their homeschool in their class, it is not a consistent practice as the JK-4 cohort, because the large numbers of students interested in Virtual School prevented staff from following the same practice. It would have required several more weeks to cohort all grades by home school. There may be students in classes with the same surname letter, but we ensured distinct surnames in classes as much as possible.

Secondary Virtual School

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ADDED - Apply by Sept.30

September 15 deadline, some high school students do not yet have full

and 2).

Due to the significant increase in demand for the Virtual School just prior to the

timetables. To address this issue, additional sections for courses were created last week. These classes will begin on Monday, October 5 and end on Wednesday, November 25. They will run Monday to Friday, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and include a two-hour synchronous/live session with the teacher (same as courses in Periods 1

Students *must* register for these classes through eReg to expedite the process; the

students in the Virtual Secondary School who could not get full Quad 1 timetables.

deadline to register is **September 30**. Access to these classes is restricted to

In addition, for students who require a second course for Quad 1, Virtual Night

can be found here: www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Night-

In order to meet the significant demand, we continue to explore additional

School classes will also be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., starting October 13. More information (registration closing October 9)

Instructions and registration information are posted: here.

offerings during Quad 2, as well as Saturday offerings.

School-and-Summer-School/Night-School

form before the deadline.

Elementary Virtual School

more, can be found: here.

Director of Education Search

learning to the Virtual School must contact their in-person school before the deadline to request the change.

Families who would like to request a switch from the Virtual School to in-

To complete this form, you will need your child's Student Number. Please email your child's teacher (or home school) if you do not know this number. Please note: For families who do not yet have a teacher assigned or have not yet connected with a teacher in Virtual School, please be assured that the TDSB will proceed with assigning your child a teacher and class as

person learning must complete the Virtual School Opt-Out online

Learn more about switching between the Virtual School and in-person learning,

Secondary Virtual School

Deadline to request an exemption from synchronous (live online)

synchronous learning can be made to the School Superintendent. If granted, the superintendent will ensure that alternative learning approaches are put in place for

exempted students. Approved exemptions will be stored in the student's Ontario

approval. Exemptions can be extended beyond the 3-month period by re-applying

More information about the minimum requirements, application deadlines, and

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SEARCH: new delegation date!

member of the search committee, I am one of eleven trustees working with executive-search firm Mandrake to bring the best candidate forward this fall.

Our Board is excited to involve the public in learning about the process.

Trustees at the TDSB are searching for a permanent Director of Education. As a

all exempted students, and will respond in writing to all exemption requests. Teachers will be responsible for all aspects of instructional programming for

Individual requests for an exemption from the minimum requirements for

In-Person Secondary School

including upcoming key dates for both elementary and secondary schools.

soon as possible and you will remain prioritized.

learning requirements: EXTENDED to October 20

Student Record and will expire three months after the date of

for another exemption prior to the expiration date.

the Director on October 1 at 4:30pm. To learn more about the delegation process, click here. It is important to know that to register a delegation, you need to contact the TDSB 2 days before Oct.1, either by email (delegates@tdsb.on.ca), phone (416-397-3627), or fax (416-393-9969. marked "Attention: Written Submission for Consideration by Trustees.") Key upcoming dates in the search process: October 6: Final Approval of Director Search Criteria - Committee of the Whole, followed by a Special Board Meeting.

October 7: Candidate Recruitment - Job Posting (Post closing: October 28). November: Candidate Interviews and Assessment; Candidate Selection.

To learn more about the Director Search process, including an informational

Webinar and Presentation, please check out our microsite <u>here</u>.

Please note an additional date was added to hear input on the Search Criteria for

On Wednesday, September 30, 2020: please wear orange to participate in follow <u>@UIEC_tdsb</u> and <u>@tdsb</u> on Twitter to see how students and staff from For more information, please click <u>here</u>. To learn more about Orange Shirt Day, visit <u>www.orangeshirtday.org</u>.

Yesterday, the Shelter, Support, and Housing Administration Division at the City of

Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails. View this email online.

the TDSB, we are in uncharted territory, and we thank everyone for all their

5050 Yonge Street

Toronto, Ontario | M2N5N8 CA This email was sent to .

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 November 21 & 22: <u>PIAC</u> School Council Information & Appreciation. **ORANGE SHIRT DAY - Wednesday,** September 30 SHIRT DAY ednesday, September 30, 2020 On Wednesday, September 30, 2020 TDSB staff, students and communities wear orange to recognize the legacy of the Residential Schools System for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. By wearing orange, we acknowledge the history of Residential Schools in Canada and we honour Survivors.

behaviour reflect poorly on our community and are not in keeping with the wonderful sense of community we are fortunate to have in Ward 11.

we do ask that all families and students be considerate of these shared spaces, school property, and our school neighbours. Excessive noise, littering and bad As we enter the final days of September in what has undoubtedly been one of the

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