

Bessborough E & MS Newsletter



Bessborough Elementary & Middle School

211 Bessborough Drive
Toronto, ON M4G 3K2

Safe Arrival:
bessborough@tdsb.on.ca
416.396.2319

LN5 Superintendent:
Andrew Howard

Ward 11 Trustee:
Rachel Chernos Lin

Principal:
Dima Nijmeh-Mantia
Vice Principal:
Frances Themeliopoulos

Office Administrator:
Renee Cronier
Secretary: Toyin Bere

Upcoming Events:

- September 30 – Orange Shirt Day
- October 6 – Virtual School Council Meeting at 7:00 pm
- October 12 – Thanksgiving



Welcome New and Returning Staff

Ms. Dima Nijmeh-Mantia
Ms. Verjenia Aziz
Mr. Andrew Gryfe
Ms. Kristin Leishman
Ms. Fillis Paraskevopoulos
Ms. Tina Reid
Ms. Rachel Standing
Mr. Tom Tzavaras

Principal
Early Childhood Educator
Itinerant ESL Teacher
Grade 1 Teacher
Special Needs Assistant
Grade 7 Teacher
Grade 7 Teacher
Special Education Teacher

Orange Shirt Day

Our Bessborough community recognizes Orange Shirt Day every year and all students are invited to wear orange on Wednesday September 30th.

Thank you to Ms. Standing for sharing the following information about a virtual event for Grades 5 to 8: To commemorate Orange Shirt Day there is an amazing virtual event that is being put on by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. It is called [Every Child Matters: Reconciliation through Education](#). Grades 5-8 have been invited to participate in this unprecedented online event that is open to all Canadian schools. The virtual event provides students and staff with the opportunity to learn firsthand from Residential School Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and leaders from nations and cultures across the country. As Canadians, we are called upon to take action to learn, share and celebrate, to build a better country together!

Safety at Drop-off and Pick-Up

We ask for your ongoing partnership in ensuring the safety of all students at Bessborough by:

- Stopping in the designated Drop-Off-Zone on the east side of Bessborough Drive – ***south of the Bus Loading Zone.***
- Ensuring that you do not stop and block traffic at any time on Bessborough.
- Walking students across the street if you park on the west side of Bessborough so children will not walk or run between moving vehicles.
- **Supporting the reinforcement of physical distancing and mask wearing. Toronto Public Health states:** *“Wearing masks/face coverings can be an added public health measure for containing the spread of COVID-19 when it is used in combination with frequent handwashing, physical distancing and staying home when sick.”*

The updated TDSB Mask Guide states: “School visitors, **including parents/guardians**, are required to wear a mask/face covering when indoors and outdoors on school property, **such as during pick-up and drop-off.**” ([Page 2](#))

Important reminder about movement between Learning Models

The first of three possible opportunities to move between learning models is coming up. Families considering a move from in-person learning to the Virtual School are reminded that the **absolute deadline to inform the office is September 30th**. Please contact the school right away if you have already decided to request a move. The complete details are available [HERE](#).

Trustee Chernos Lin’s Ward 11 Webpage

All families can visit Trustee Chernos Lin’s Ward 11 [webpage](#) and sign up to receive her Newsletter. While Community Coffee Meetings are postponed until further notice, information about virtual meetings is regularly posted.

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

“Education is a partnership involving students, parents, teachers, principals, staff, trustees, school boards, government, and the community. The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) is committed to strengthening this partnership and is committed to assisting parents and school councils in ensuring student success in education.”

Issue 1 of this school year’s PIAC Post is linked [HERE](#).



Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone. We have missed you and we are sorry we can't be doing all of the fun things we are usually organizing and announcing in this first newsletter of the school year.

New School Council Chair

We are pleased that Andrea Bee has joined the school council as our new Chair! A complete list of the School Council Executive is available on the Bessborough School Council website.

Volunteers Needed

The position of **Appreciation Chair** is currently vacant. It's a creative, fun role that coordinates treats for our teachers from time to time- for example, welcome back to school chocolates, a turkey draw at Thanksgiving etc. Huge thanks to **Suzanne Sharples** for her behind-the-scenes work in this role the past few years. Please email Christine Davis (brent.christine.davis@gmail.com) if you're interested in taking on this role.

Are you interested in being a **class parent**? The role will look a little differently this year than it did in years past. Class parents this year will act as a liaison between the teachers and parents where needed and will be mainly a communications role. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Josette Katkic (katkic.ja@gmail.com).

School Council Meeting

Our first school council meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 pm. Details on how to join will follow. The operating budget will be voted on at the meeting. Though we want to do as much as we can this year, the TDSB has put a restriction on fundraising for the time being. Given this is our first time doing a virtual Parent Council meeting, we request that all questions are emailed to Parent Council ahead of time and we will do our best to answer as many questions as possible during the available time.

Please send all of your questions to sc.bessboroughdriveelementaryandmiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca by Thursday October 1st at 12 pm.

Appreciation Corner

Thank you to our outgoing school council members who have worked so hard on behalf of the school: Robyn Israel, Linna Chercover, Cabrina Skillen and Suzanne Sharples.

Special thanks to Lisa Suutari who helped to welcome the staff at Bessborough back to school last week. We are sure that the staff and teachers enjoyed the treats!



Bessborough E. & M.S. School Council is on Insta

Follow us on Instagram and get messages about events, when forms are due, pictures of the fun goings-on at Bessborough and more!

Follow [@bessboroughschoolcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bessboroughschoolcouncil)



Virtual School Council Meeting – October 6



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Website: <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/bessborough/>