

Bessborough E & MS Newsletter



Bessborough Elementary & Middle School

211 Bessborough Drive
Toronto, ON M4G 3K2

Safe Arrival:

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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:

- Dec. 8, 9 – Grade 3 classes completing CCAT-7
- Dec. 11– Classes finalize creations for Door Decorating Contest
- Dec. 14 – 18 – Spirit Week
- Dec. 16 – Door Decorating Contest Winners announced.
- Dec. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021 – Winter Break



Health & Safety

Toronto remains in the Grey Lockdown category of the province's Covid-19 Response Framework. See Toronto's [Lockdown Guide](#) for more information about how you can stay safer and help reduce virus spread.

TPH School Information for Parents and Caregivers is available [HERE](#).

Government of Canada Resources

Use these activities to teach your child about what they can do to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- [Hand washing heroes](#) (video)
- [Colour and learn](#) (colouring pages)
- [Coughing and sneezing hygiene for kids](#) (video)
- [Kids, here's what you need to know about COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 resources for youth and students.](#)

Virtual Elementary School Update

The most recent update for Virtual School families is available [HERE](#).

We hope all Virtual School students are enjoying their PA Day today!

Covenant House Spirit of Giving Bessborough Tradition

Please support our Low Denomination Gift Card Collection for Covenant House Toronto. From December 7 to December 16 we will collect gift cards (in one collection bag per classroom) and will arrange to drop off all gift cards before the winter break.

Covenant House has expressed their appreciation for this Gift Card Drive and will be giving out “Gift Card Packages” to the young people at Covenant House as presents.

Every donation, no matter how small, will make a big impact in the lives of the youth who are homeless in the city every night. Suggested Gift Cards (\$10 amounts suggested) for: Rexall, Shoppers Drug Mart, Tim Hortons, McDonalds, Burger King or Subway.

Holiday Season Door Decorating Contest

Ms. Buksner and Mrs. Backus have organized the much-anticipated Door Decorating Contest for all classes! Students will be brainstorming and formulating their plans and there will be 3 categories to choose from:

- 1. Most Recycled Materials** - This category will be judged on the door with the most recycled materials used. See if you can use ALL recycled materials!
- 2. Best Humour** - This category will be judged on the door with the funniest holiday message/design!
- 3. Best Visual Representation of your theme choice** -Theme choices are: hope, perseverance OR sacrifice

Doors must be decorated by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH. Ms.Backus and Ms. Buksner will be going around the school to take photos that day, compile them for viewing and a voting Google Form will be sent to teachers. On MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, each class will complete the Google Form, voting for each of the categories as a class. On WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th the winning class doors in each category will be announced and the winning classes will be presented with their prize!

Spirit Week Plans

We will be consulting our students – the **best merry-making holiday-fun experts** we know – to plan some more fun activities for everyone for the week of December 14-18th. Please stay tuned for more details!





Toronto Miracle Food Drive

Please see details below about the Toronto Miracle Food Drive that we received on December 3rd.

A message from Judy and Chris Laham, local team leaders in support of the Toronto Miracle Food Drive.

Hello Bessborough,

We thought it would be great for our school to do something together this holiday season!

We are the community leaders for our NEIGHBOURHOOD for the Toronto Miracle's ONE DAY FOOD DRIVE on December 5th. We are asking people who are interested in donating food to register on the site (torontomiracle.org/donate) and then leave at least one non-perishable food item on your doorstep by 10:00am. Volunteers will collect the donations and distribute them to food banks and agencies around the city. It couldn't be easier! Just register online and we'll do the rest.

If your interested in joining me in volunteering for this amazing initiative, check out our website torontomiracle.org

You may also drop your non-perishable goods at Northlea E & MS in the teacher's parking lot behind the school on Sutherland between 10-4 pm this Saturday December 5th!

Thanks everyone!

Judy and Chris Laham

Communication for Grade 8 Families

TDSB secondary schools are hosting virtual open houses and information sessions (live or pre-recorded) for parents/guardians and students between November and January. All families are invited to join on the scheduled dates and the complete list is available [HERE](#).

Please also take some time to explore the valuable interactive resources available at the [Beyond8](#) TDSB website.

Some key dates to keep in mind:

December 8, 2020 – TDSB Virtual Event (Learning Centre 1) for parents, guardians and students.

Please see [EVENT FLYER](#).

January 11, 2021 – Course Selection Opens (using myBlueprint)

January 13, 2021 – Virtual Open House at Northern Secondary School

January 29, 2021 – Optional attendance forms due at secondary schools. **Download** [HERE](#).

February 12, 2021 – Deadline for parents/guardians of students to be informed of the status of the Optional Attendance application

Please review the 2020-2021 **TDSB Secondary School Information Guide** [HERE](#).

Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts

While the deadline for submission of Optional Attendance forms are due at secondary schools on January 29, 2020, applications to **specialized programs** may require the forms earlier than that date.

For students interested in applying to Wexford's Visual & Media Arts or Performing Arts specialized programs, information about the application process as well as the digital portfolio/audition submission can be found here:

[Visual & Media Arts Admissions](#)

[Performing Arts Admissions](#)

Wexford CI's deadline for applying and submission of forms is December 14, 2020 and the deadline for submission of the digital portfolio/audition is January 11, 2021.





Virtual Welcome to Bessborough

Does anyone else miss meeting up with other Bessborough parents...?! We do! Does anyone want to get creative and think of ways we can meet some new parents in our community? If anyone is interested in helping organise a delayed welcome event for JK and/or Grade 7, please email Christine Davis (bessboroughschoolcouncil@gmail.com). This is usually organised by a grade 8 or SK group of parents.

Bessborough E & MS School Council is on Insta



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