

Friday January 8, 2021

Bessborough E & MS Newsletter



Bessborough Elementary & Middle School

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Principal:
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Vice Principal:
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Office Administrator:
Renee Cronier
Secretary: Toyin Bere

Upcoming Events:

- January 11, 12 – Virtual Grade 8 IPRC Review Meetings
- January 15 – P.A. Day
- January 11-22 – Extension of Virtual Learning
- January 29 – Optional Attendance forms due at Secondary Schools



Health & Safety: Virtual Learning Extended

Toronto remains in the Grey Lockdown category of the province's Covid-19 Response Framework. On Thursday January 7th the Provincial Government announced that online teacher-led learning would be extended until January 25, 2021 for elementary school students.

The entire News Release is available [HERE](#).

See Toronto Public Health's [Lockdown Guide](#) for information about how you can stay safer and help reduce virus spread.

Thank you students & staff!

We have been so impressed by the participation, enthusiasm and engagement our students have been demonstrating this week! We continue to praise students for their efforts and adaptability during this virtual learning period. Thank you also to all helpers at home who have been supporting the learning.

Our Bessborough staff members have been working tirelessly since before the winter break to be prepared for virtual learning. Thank you all for your incredible dedication, leadership and collaboration!

The Character Trait, Teamwork is celebrated in the TDSB in January and we are proud to recognize the teamwork among our Bessborough community members.

Please stay well and safe. We look forward to seeing everyone at school when this virtual learning period ends.

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:

- 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](#).

NEW French Immersion Program [Grade 4 Entry]

To apply for the Middle French Immersion Program (Grade 4 entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between January 4 and January 29, 2021.

Please see this important [INFORMATION PACKAGE](#) and details about the online application process [HERE](#).

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window. Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in a French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the “sibling option” within the online application.

For more information about the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) application process, please join us for a Virtual Information Session on one of the following dates:

- January 14, 2021 – 10 am
- January 21, 2021 – 7 pm
- January 27, 2021 – 7 pm

More information about the new Middle French Immersion Program, available in multiple languages is available to families [HERE](#). For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB

Tamil Heritage Month is recognized nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest.

This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights - Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members heritage identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self-identity and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee. A poster challenge is currently underway, and we will be posting the two winning designs that reflect this year's theme in early January.

Please visit the heritage/history month website (<http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/equity/HeritageHistory-Months/2020-2021>) under Tamil Heritage Month for additional learning resources, Daily quotes/facts that may be shared through daily announcements, a powerpoint on interesting facts on Tamil customs and traditions, and resources from the TDSB Professional Library.

Recognizing Tamil Heritage Month through Creative Writing

The month of January is recognized by the TDSB as Tamil Heritage Month. This year's theme is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை/ Truth - Rights - Unity. This coincides with one of the most important festivals celebrated by Tamils in South Asia and all over the world. Traditionally, during this month, Tamils, irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal, a harvest festival that offers prayers of thanks to the sun and nature for giving bountiful crops.

All TDSB students are invited to submit a creative writing piece (poem, short story, essay) related to this year's theme of உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை / Truth - Rights - Unity.

Please see this [document](#) for FULL details.

deadline: All entries must be received by Friday, January 22, 2021 to tdsbamilheritagemonth@gmail.com

Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February 2021. This year the selected theme is Year of the Ox: Loyal, Honest, Responsible, Hard-Working and Logical.

We are excited to share with you that two of our initiatives will be a poster competition and a one-minute video talent showcase with prizes to be won. All TDSB students and staff are welcome to participate. Further information about these initiatives are currently available on our official CHM site <https://bit.ly/2021CHM>

Deadline for Poster Challenge: January 17, 2021 by 11:59 pm

Deadline for One-Minute Video Talent Showcase: January 17, 2021 by 11:59 pm

Other exciting events/news will be shared through our official CHM site <https://bit.ly/2021CHM> and Twitter (@tdsbChineseHM) ~ 2021 Chinese Heritage Month Committee

Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB

March is Greek Heritage Month. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

One of the highlights for Greek Heritage Month 2021 this coming March will be the TDSB Greek Heritage Month Multi-Media Contest, featuring original student & staff work in three creative categories:

- 1) Be graphic! Design a poster!
- 2) Sharpen your pencil! Write something!
- 3) Let's get digital!

The focus of this year's media campaign is: 1821-2021

Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα, Learning From Our Roots...Shaping Our Future
This year marks the 200th year of Independence for Greece.

Four groups qualify: K to Grade 3, Grade 4 to 8; and Grade 9 to 12; and TDSB staff. A winning submission will be selected from each of the qualifying groups. The deadline for submitting entries is Friday, January 29, 2021.

For more information, contest entry and submission guidelines, please see attached file or visit http://bit.ly/GHM_MediaContest See also: [POSTER TEMPLATE](#)

For information and resources about Greek Heritage Month visit: https://bit.ly/GHM_TDSB



Appreciation Corner

A big thank you to those who helped plan and distribute Chromebooks early on Monday morning to get our students online. It was a seamless, very well organized and safe pick up!

A HUGE thank you to all of the teachers and staff at Bessborough from all of the parents. You kept our kids engaged and learning this week. Not an easy task! We can't wait to see you all in person when in-person learning resumes.

Bessborough E & MS School Council is on Insta



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

- January 15th – P.A. Day



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