

September 17, 2023

# Bessborough E & MS Newsletter



## Bessborough Elementary & Middle School

211 Bessborough Drive  
Toronto, ON M4G 3K2

### Safe Arrival:

[bessborough@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:bessborough@tdsb.on.ca)  
416.396.2319

LN5 Superintendent:  
Andrew Howard

Ward 11 Trustee:  
Rachel Chernos Lin

Principal:  
Janet Bambrick  
Vice Principal:  
Lynette Bacon

Office Administrator:  
Renee Cronier  
Secretary:  
Vesna Bozic (Acting)

### Upcoming Events:

Sept. 25-Yom Kippur  
-NO CROSS-COUNTRY  
PRACTICE

Sept. 26-School Council  
Meeting-6:30 PM

Sept. 29-Orange Shirt Day  
Assembly.

October 4-Vaccine Clinic for  
Grade 7s and 8s

October 5-Curriculum Night

October 6-PA Day-NO SCHOOL

October 10-Terry Fox Run



## Cross-Country Cancelled Monday, September 25



Attention Bessborough! Cross Country is cancelled tomorrow morning. Coaches will see runners at the next practice!

## School Council Meeting

The first Bessborough School Council Meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 pm in the Bessborough Library. We hope that you will be able to join us and get involved in the school council!

## Calling for Parent/Guardian Committee Members: New "Bessborough Helping Hands Committee"

At Bessborough, we are committed to improving the mental health and well-being of our students. Feeling connected to our school community and having a deep sense of belonging at school are key steps to creating a culture of well-being not only for our students, but also for our staff and families. We are creating a new Bessborough Helping Hands Committee and are looking for parent/guardian committee members to join our team. Parents/Guardians will work alongside students and staff to identify areas/times in our school that could use a few extra 'helping hands' (e.g., Kindie winter dressers, recess door monitors, library helpers, Terry Fox run assistants, etc.) and help to fill these positions. Committee members will meet during lunch at school once or twice a month. If you are interested in joining our new team please complete this [Google Form](#) and Ms. Bacon will reach out to you soon to organize our first meeting!

## Bessborough Reorganization

This past Friday, an email was sent to all families about reorganization at Bessborough. Every September, schools review actual student enrolment as compared to initial projections from last April and reorganize classes where required. We do our best to plan for the new school year, but there are always factors, such as new or departing students, which might affect how classrooms are organized. Due to low enrolment in kindergarten and high enrolment in the middle school there will be a realignment of staff with two educators (one teacher and one DECE) in room 7 rather than the three educators that we currently have in that room. We are currently working on a new organization model for grade 7, with another class being added. This will reduce the very large numbers in these classes. There will also be a shift in staff members teaching assignments in our school to match the needs of the new organization model. We are currently working on this new model and more information will be shared with families early this week by email.

## Kindie Coffee Morning-Thank-you!

We had a beautiful morning for the Kindie Coffee that was organized by our Parent Council on Thursday, September 21. It was a pleasure to see so many families coming out to this event and another big welcome to the new families who have just started their Bessborough journey. Thanks so much to parents Rachel Kingston and Jenny Banwell for organizing the coffee and treats and to Parent Council Chair, Andrea Bee for connecting everyone together. Thank-you as well to our amazing Kindie Team, Ms Miller, Ms Wolodarsky, Ms Guerrero, Ms McNamara, and Ms Gershman for their time (and coordinating outfits!)

## Orange Shirt Day

Our Bessborough community recognizes Orange Shirt Day every year and all students and families are invited to wear orange on **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Our learning will focus on Indigenous Peoples' resistance to losing their cultures and languages. We will be sharing the book "Stolen Words" at our assembly, and we will have students make connections to themselves through reflecting on the importance of the languages they speak to their identity and culture. As Canadians, we are called upon to take action to learn, share and celebrate, to build a better country together! We encourage everyone to review the following resources: [Urban Indigenous Education Centre National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)



Hello, Bessborough friends and family! Today we are kicking off our 18th annual Terry Fox School Run campaign. The run will take place on **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Over the years, our school has helped raise \$89,000 for cancer research. We are very lucky to live in a community that shows up year after year and supports these important causes with enthusiasm and positive energy. This year we are hoping to surpass the \$13,000 we raised last year and have set our goal at \$14,000. We realize this is a lofty goal to set but do honestly believe it is achievable for us. Students are encouraged to click on our [school site](#) and set up a personal or classroom fundraising page. They can customize their page by uploading pictures, videos, and messages. You can also order a [Terry Fox t-shirt](#) online and the total sales will be added to our school fundraising goal.

Click on this link to access our school site <https://schools.terryfox.ca/37435> Click on this link to order a Terry Fox T-shirt <https://shop.terryfox.org/>

Sincerely, The Terry Fox Team at Bessborough

--"Seek opportunities to show you care. The smallest gestures often make the biggest difference." - John Wooden

## Grade 7 Overnight Trip-Camp Cedar Glen

To help students build new relationships with their peers we will be having our annual 'community building trip' to YMCA Cedar Glen from October 16-18. Parent/Guardians should have received the excursion information and permission forms through the excursion management system. If you have any questions, please ask your child's homeroom teacher.

## Picture Day-October 30

Clear Images has confirmed the date for picture day which will be **Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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.





# BESSBOROUGH E&MS SCHOOL COUNCIL

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### HELLO + WELCOME

To all those whom I've yet to have the pleasure of meeting, greetings! I am **Andrea**, your School Council President. Our school is more than just a place of education; it's a community where we can inspire, support, and empower one another. Together with all of you, I look forward to making this year a memorable chapter in our school's story.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**21**  
SEPT

**Thursday 8:30am**  
Kindie Coffee + Welcome

**26**  
SEPT

**Tuesday 7pm**  
School Council Meeting

**27**  
SEPT

**Wednesday All Day**  
Picture Day

**29**  
SEPT

**Friday All Day**  
Orange Shirt Day

### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Bessborough School Council, we wanted to say **thank you** to our amazing parent volunteers, **Heather Zimcik**, **Katerina Podalak** for a successful **Movie Night** and to **Kristine & Jason Locklin**, who put on an unforgettable Lawn Bowling Social! **We appreciate you!**



### SPIRIT WEAR

Don't miss out! Get your spirit wear orders in by **Friday, September 22nd** for the ultimate school pride! **Order today!**

### GET INVOLVED

We need you! Get involved and help us make a difference in our school and community. **Sign up here!**

### FOLLOW US!

Stay up to date and informed by following us on **Instagram.**

