

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE


We continue to encourage our students to make healthy food choices. Studies show that many Canadian children eat too many foods that are high in sugar, fat and salt and not enough vegetables, fruit and whole grain foods. Children concentrate and learn better when they eat foods from the food groups in Canada’s Food Guide. A healthy lunch and snacks provide the energy and nutrients children need to take on the school day. Our nutrition program provides students with a nutritious snack in the morning and offers an opportunity for students to try a variety of snack options. If we all promote the importance of eating healthy snacks, we will create a better future for our children.

Continue to visit our Cornell Website (<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/cornell>) and follow us on Twitter (@CornellTDSB ) for all the up to date information.


GOOD NEWS STORY

Early literacy skills are the roots of reading success. This year, the Cornell grade 2 Team created a plan to focus on the development of early literacy skills. Through a 12 week reading intervention program, students were taught to read with confidence, fluency, understanding and enjoyment. This reading program included focussed lessons on phonics, reading strategies, guided reading and using levelled books from PM E-Collection to challenge students. Students were withdrawn daily for 25 minutes and worked individually with a teacher, outside their classroom. The results were amazing! Grade 2 students showed huge improvement throughout the 12 week block. In October 2020, the reading levels started at 45% at grade level. Assessments were completed in February 2021 and now 78% are at grade level and we continue to improve. This is very exciting and we are very proud of the accomplishments of these students!

Grade 2 Reading Scores (Oct - Jan.2021)	Group 1: % at Level 1 (DRA 6-below)	Group 2: % at Level 2 (DRA 8-14)	Group 3: % at Level 3-4 (DRA 16 and above)
October 2020	30%	24%	45%
November-December 2020	14%	33%	45%
February 2021	5%	16%	78%



**\*\*REMINDER\*\***  
Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 14th**. Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour on Sunday evening. It is also a good time to replace the batteries in all of the fire alarms/smoke detectors in your home!



TDSB Releases Results of Staff, Student and Parent/Guardian Surveys

Survey Results

“These survey results speak to the adaptability and resilience of our students and families and are a result of the incredible work and commitment of our staff. In the face of ongoing obstacles and challenges posed by the pandemic, many parents and students feel schools are safe and supportive spaces for learning. This extraordinary feat has placed significant demands on all of our staff in the Toronto District School Board. Our Board remains committed to supporting student and staff mental health and well-being in the months ahead.”

- Karen Falconer, Interim Director, TDSB

Key Survey Findings:

Students and Parents/Guardians

- Before the Winter Break, **89%** of parents (felt their child) and **81%** of students felt protected from getting COVID-19 because of the health and safety precautions that were being taken at their school (e.g., health screening, masks, hand washing, physical distancing).
- **70%** of families report coping moderately well to extremely well.
- **8 out of 10** students are: finding ways to connect with friends and/or classmates, feeling supported by their friends and/or classmates and feeling they belong at their school or their virtual space.
- **9 out of 10** students: feel somewhat or very supported by their teachers, feel their teachers care about them, receive extra help from their teachers when they ask them.
- **84%** of students said they learn better in-person compared to virtual learning.

Students reported that they are struggling with their mental health:

- 40% (approximately 12,800) of students feel lonely (all the time or often).
- 40% of students feel happy, and hopeful for the future (all the time or often).
- 50% of students are nervous or worried (all the time or often).
  - 60% of students are bored and under a lot of stress (all the time or often).

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**WHY JOIN CORNELL CARDINALS  
SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL?**

The Council Needs  YOU!



**1. CHILDREN BENEFIT**  
Research shows that participating in your child's school and showing engagement helps them perform better academically



**2. THE SCHOOL BENEFITS**  
Council provides support for school teachers and administration which in turn creates a positive & caring atmosphere in the school



**3. MAKE CONNECTIONS**  
Get to know the teachers & staff better and make life-long friends with other parents at the school!



**4. IT'S GOOD FOR YOU**  
Socializing with other parents and volunteering to do good for your child's school is fun, healthy and rewarding!

READY TO HELP OUT?

Join the next Council Meeting On:

Tue, March 30th at 5pm

**Message from Toronto Public Health**

COVID-19 Variants of Concern



Recently, new strains of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been identified. Some of these new strains are called variants of concern, because they spread more easily between people. Toronto Public Health (TPH) has identified individuals in some school settings who have tested positive for a variant of concern. This is not unexpected as there are variants of concern spreading in Toronto and across Ontario. TPH recently started updating daily case counts and information about variants of concern in Toronto, which is available [here](#).

As Toronto continues to experience increased cases of variants of concern, it is more important than ever to follow the steps of self-protection. Public health measures will work to prevent the spread of the variants, including:

- ☐ Limiting your contact to household members only, and staying at home as much as possible. Social gatherings and playdates outside of the school setting have led to the spread of COVID-19
- ☐ Going out only for essential outings such as medical appointments, food shopping, school, essential work, or for physical exercise.
- ☐ Keeping at least two metres (six feet) apart from others outside of your household.
- ☐ Wearing a mask.
- ☐ Cleaning your hands frequently, with soap and water for 15 seconds.

- ☐ Staying home if you are feeling unwell or if you have been told to self-isolate.

Public health measures in schools will also work to prevent the spread of variants of concern. To add protections for our school communities from these new variants TPH has made some important changes to the **school screening tool** for [staff and visitors](#) and [students JK-12](#). **Please make COVID-19 symptom screening part of your morning routine.** Everyone in your household must complete the screening before school every day.

**Changes to the school screening tool include the following:**

- ☐ **Household member has symptoms:** If anyone in your household has one or more COVID-19 symptoms, all children and adults who attend a school setting must stay home from school until COVID-19 has been ruled out with a test result. If the household member with one or more symptoms does not go for testing, the children and adults in the home who attend a school setting must stay home for 14 days.
- ☐ **Household member has travelled:** If anyone in your household has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, all children and adults who attend a school setting must stay home from school until the person who travelled completes the federally-required 14 days of self-isolation. If the individual is exempt from this self-isolation because they perform an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot), the rest of the household can still attend school.

- ☐ **Close contact of someone who had COVID-19:** If anyone in your household is self-isolating at home because they were a close contact of someone who had COVID-19, all children in the household will need to stay home from school until the person who was a close contact completes the 14 days of self-isolation.

If students or staff/visitors have one or more new or worsening symptoms they must stay home, self-isolate and arrange to [get tested](#). Please see [Follow-Up Instructions for School Students, Staff and Visitors tested for COVID-19](#) for more information.

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep our schools and communities safe. Please continue to visit our website at: [www.toronto.ca/COVID19](http://www.toronto.ca/COVID19) to stay up-to-date. Information specific to school communities is available at: [COVID-19 school information for parents & caregivers](#).

If you have questions about COVID-19, please call our Hotline at 416-338-7600, Monday-Sunday 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM. Interpretation services are available. If you need immediate health care assistance, please call Telehealth Ontario 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-866-797-0000.

Sincerely,

Nicole Welch  
Director, COVID-19 School Response Team  
Chief Nursing Officer





If your child was born in 2017 they are eligible to attend Full Day Kindergarten commencing September 2021. Registration is completed online. Please visit the TDSB website at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and click on Kindergarten registration.

**Mental Health and Well-Being Resources During Covid-19**

Join us for our Virtual Drop-Ins!

Connect directly with staff from TDSB Professional Support Services. Join us to explore ideas regarding your child or youth's mental health and well-being.

- [Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.](#)
- [Thursdays 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.](#)

**Need immediate help?**

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health or substance use emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the emergency room of your local hospital.
- If you are not sure if it is an emergency, or just need to talk through the situation, consider reaching out to:
  - [Telehealth Ontario](#) at 1-866-797-0000
  - [Kids Help Phone](#) at 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868
  - [Mental Health TO](#)
  - [211](#) – community supports such as food banks, housing and more.
  - [Toronto Public Health](#)
  - [Distress Centres of Greater Toronto](#)
  - [Assaulted Women's Helpline](#) 1-866-863-0511 or text #SAFE (#7233)
  - [Black Youth Helpline](#)
  - [Indigenous Youth Helpline](#)
  - [Muslim Youth Helpline](#)
  - [What's Up Walk-In® | Mental Health Counselling](#)
  - [Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line](#)

**Severe Weather Procedure**

With the colder weather upon us, and the likelihood of severe weather conditions, we want to take this opportunity to review the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Severe Weather Procedure with our schools and families.

From time to time it is necessary to cancel school buses, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites. These decisions can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto and are not taken lightly. If Environment Canada forecasts poor weather conditions (including ice and significant snow), the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), the TDSB and Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) teams will assess and monitor the situation overnight and into the early morning in order to determine any necessary bus cancellations and school closures.

- **If Busses are Cancelled:** As more than 93% of TDSB students who are currently attending in-person school do not use a school bus, schools will remain open. Families must make alternative arrangements to transport their children to school. Students who receive bus transportation receive updates regarding their transportation via TSTG.
- **If Busses are Cancelled and Schools are Closed:** The decision to close schools (which would include child cares and Extended Day Programs) will be determined by the TDSB and the TCDSB by 6 a.m. in order for families to make alternative arrangements. In addition to updates being posted on the TDSB [website](#) and on [Twitter](#), families will receive a notice from School Messenger **only** if schools are closed. *\*Please note that Virtual Schools will not operate and we will not be providing remote learning on days when schools are closed due to severe weather.*

It's important to note that when schools remain open on days with severe weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they choose. While the Severe Weather Procedure remains the same as it has in previous years, the current COVID-19 pandemic will be an important factor in any decision we make and we will ensure that all necessary health and safety precautions are being followed. With that in mind, staff will continue to closely monitor severe weather impacts on TDSB students, families, staff, and operations, and adjustments will be made if necessary. Please know that the safety and well-being of all students and staff is deeply important to us at the TDSB and we will continue to consult with Toronto Public Health regarding any necessary changes that be needed.

We encourage you to keep this information for your reference at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support

**WEATHER GUIDELINES AT SCHOOL**

Children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors, however, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods be considered necessary for student and staff safety. Conditions warranting indoor recesses (a) Rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds and extreme cold. (b) Cold weather: When temperature and/or windchill factor indicates - 28C or lower children will remain indoors due to risk of frostnip and frostbite.

When an extreme cold weather alert is issued or when temperatures and/or windchill factor indicates -20 to -28C, recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess be 20 minutes depending on local conditions. Children should be monitored closely for signs of frostnip, frostbite or difficulty breathing. (c) Humidity, Heat and Smog Alerts: The City of Toronto issues heat alerts and heat emergencies based on the daily forecast from May to September. Alerts are posted on the Web site [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health) or available by calling (416) 338-7600.

Staff and students should be vigilant about their level of activity and should take frequent breaks for water in order to remain adequately hydrated. Other conditions: Weather conditions change during the day. When necessary and if the weather is questionable, the school principal will consult the Environment Canada’s [www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca) or Toronto Public Health Web sites for information. During the winter months, children are encouraged to bring an extra pair of gloves and indoor shoes



**Character Development: A Partnership with Families**

We continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some tips for supporting Character Development in the Home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live character every day

For more information, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/character](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/character).

**Honesty**

**MARCH’S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE**  
**HONESTY**

Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on HONESTY.

**What does honesty mean to you?**

Your child can show honesty by:

- sharing his or her feelings and being truthful
- telling the truth, even though he or she may know that there will be consequences
- being reliable and responsible in completing a job

**Questions to discuss with your child:**



- What does it mean to be honest? Discuss different ways to be honest with yourself, with your peers, and with others.
- What should you do if you need to tell the truth, but you know there will be consequences?
- How do you feel when someone else has been dishonest with you? What would you do?
- Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have you ever lost someone's trust? Has someone lost your trust?
- What's the difference between being honest with your own family and being honest with someone you've just met?

**Projects to do together:**

- Watch TV shows or movies. Talk about the ways in which the characters were honest or dishonest with each other.
- Read the story entitled The Boy Who Cried Wolf, and discuss the importance of being honest.

**Encouraging honesty in your child:**

- Give your child opportunities to tell the truth.
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry.

**Grade 2’s in Ms. Meghji’s Class Room 207**

**Ask the question: What makes you Happy?**

We all strive to be happy and healthy.

There are a number of small things you can do that will make a big impact on your overall well-being, according to psychologists. That might be reading an adventure story, keeping a gratitude journal or even gazing up at the stars on a clear night.

But happiness is something we all have to continuously work at.

Click on the link below to see the what makes students in Ms. Meghji’s class happy...

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRu6ton79cmW6TGCAN-NjOn9GyRlp7SUVHaTmlUIUPpQTPU-IFAxARcfRqD0VoPFIIM8mleO7LRXxrE/pub?start=true&loop=false&delayms=5000>

CORNELL JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL						
March 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	DAY 5	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DAY 5	DAY 1	DAY 2	Isra and Mi'raj DAY 3	DAY 4	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Daylight Savings Time	DAY 5	DAY 1	St. Patrick's Day DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	March Equinox
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Navroz	DAY 5	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	
28	29	30	31	Notes: <div>CHARACTER TRAIT - HONESTY</div>		
Palm Sunday First day of Passover	DAY 5	School Council 5pm DAY 1	DAY 2			

***Whether you choose online virtual learning or in person learning, please contact the school if you have any questions.***

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