



## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to your best year of school ever! We hope you enjoyed the summer! Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning family, we're glad you're here! Getting ready to begin the school year is not an easy task. It requires hard work, dedication, careful planning, and the collaborative efforts of students, parents, and staff.

As the Principal, I am truly honoured and excited to be part of the wonderful Cornell Community. This year promises to be an exciting adventure and I look forward to getting to know all of you. The school year will present us with challenges and a full range of learning opportunities that will allow us to learn and grow. When we all work together to help one another in a positive, respectful and productive manner, the possibilities for improvement and success are immense. Rest assured we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all school community members, while also providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being, and considering the needs of families and staff.

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. The TDSB has launched a [Back to School](#) website for parents, caregivers and students that will continue to be updated in the coming days.

## **MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL TRUSTEE, MR. ZAKIR PATEL**

*Please see attached back to school message from Trustee Patel.*

## **KEY MESSAGES:**

### **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Whether you are virtual or in person, the first day of class is Wednesday September 7, 2022 at 9:15am, OUR SCHOOL DAY is 9:15am – 3:45pm. Lunch is 12:00 – 1:00pm.

### **CLASSROOM TEACHER**

Over the next few days your child's classroom teacher will be reaching out to you to introduce themselves to your family. Please make note of the teacher's name and room number so that your child may line up in the correct line on Wednesday September 7, 2022. This will make for an efficient entry on the first day of school.

### **CURRICULUM / MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT**

**Thursday September 29, 2022**

### **PHOTOGRAPH DAY IS COMING**

Please mark your calendars. Photographs for individual students has been tentatively booked for **Tuesday October 18, 2022**. Further details and information will be available soon.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation will once again be using a phased approach to transportation to start the school year. Special needs students will receive service starting on Wednesday September 7th while all other eligible students will start on Monday September 12th pending driver availability. At this time, our bus companies have indicated a shortage of drivers so communications will be sent out over the next week and half to keep all parties apprised of the situation. Families are encouraged to sign up for an account on the transportation portal so you can keep updated on transportation news pertaining to your children.

**Please see attached documents for more information.**

## **COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES AND PRACTICES**

Over the past 30 months, TDSB staff have been diligent in following the health and safety directions provided by the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health to manage COVID-19 and keep our school as safe as possible. Earlier this month, the Ministry of Education released its guidance for the new school year. They have stated that schools will begin the year in the same way that we ended last year, with only the most necessary COVID-19 measures in place. We continue to take our health and safety direction from the Ministry and Toronto Public Health and it is important to note that this is the current information and can change based on a change of guidance.

**Screening** – Students and staff should continue to do a daily self-assessment before entering school and stay home if they are sick. We are awaiting an updated screening tool from the Ministry and will share as soon as it is available.

**Masks** – The TDSB continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks for staff and students who request them.

### **HANDWASHING**

- Students should wash their hands regularly with soap in either warm or cold water.
- In classrooms where there are sinks, this can be done within the class.
- Classrooms are equipped with liquid soap and paper towels to support hand drying.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided by the school for all classrooms without sinks.

### **WATER FOUNTAINS**

- Toronto Public Health recommends that water fountains are not to be used to drink water but might be used to fill water bottles.
- Students are encouraged to carry individual refillable water bottles to come filled from home. Students can use our water filling station near the gym to fill their water bottle if required.

### **LUNCH TIME**

- Any students who go home for lunch or who are permitted to go out for lunch off school property would be expected to remain off property until just before afternoon entry.
- Students who have performed the active screening in the morning do not need to be actively screened again upon re-entry during the day. They should be given the opportunity to practice hand hygiene at re-entry by using alcohol hand sanitizer.

### **ANAPHYLAXIS**

Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment. Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>

## **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: A PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES**

With a new school year ahead, 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).

### **SEPTEMBER'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:**

## **RESPECT**

*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 **RESPECT**.*

**What does respect mean to you?**

**Your child can show respect by:**

- being kind to other family members
- using polite language
- talking and spending time with relatives and/or other family members
- listening when someone else is talking

**Questions to discuss with your child:**

- What does it mean to be respectful?
- What are some different ways in which you can show respect: a) for yourself, b) for others, c) for nature and the environment?
- How can we speak to others with respect? Can you give some examples?
- How can we show respect for our belongings and the belongings of others?

**Projects to do together:**

- Watch a television show or movie together and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted respectfully or disrespectfully toward one another. Watch for put-downs, insults, and subtle forms of bullying.
- Interview a grandparent or other relative and take the time to get to know him or her better.
- Plan how the family can do more recycling or reduce wastefulness. Organize a family project around this.

**Encouraging respect in your child:**

- Praise and encourage your child when he or she is being respectful.
- Speak to your child with respect and answer his or her questions in a polite manner. Expect the same behaviour from your child.
- Share an example of how someone was respectful toward you, and how this made you feel.
- Encourage respectful manners and speaking politely to others in the community.

***Whether you choose online virtual learning or in person learning, on behalf of all staff, sincere best wishes for a terrific school year!***

***We look forward to welcoming back all our students on Wednesday September 7, 2022 at 9:15am.***



Trustee  
**Zakir Patel**

Ward 19, Scarborough-Guildwood

August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable summer.

As the elected public school board trustee for your community, my role is to advocate for you and your child, and to represent the needs of all students and families in the Toronto District School Board.

After more than two years of the pandemic, we are preparing to welcome students and staff to a more normal school year in September. While most COVID-19 measures have been lifted by the Government of Ontario, the health and safety of our school communities remains our top priority. The TDSB will continue to monitor the pandemic and follow the guidance and direction from the Ministry of Education and public health officials as needed.

We know that school can be an exciting and overwhelming time – for both students and parents/guardians. To help you and your child have a great year, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) for information on the school year calendar, transportation and getting involved, as well as resources for homework and so much more. The Toronto District School Board is also here to support you and your family's mental health and well-being needs. For a list of tools and resources, including those tailored for students and parents/guardians, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Mental-Health-Well-Being>.

Lastly, I want to thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and partnership as we work together to welcome both students and staff back to school.

To stay informed, please sign up for my e-newsletter and visit my webpage at [www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward19](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward19). For system-wide news about the Toronto District School Board, subscribe to TDSB Update at [www.tdsb.on.ca/TDSBupdate](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/TDSBupdate) and follow the TDSB on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You will also continue to receive important information and updates from your school and the system via email.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Zakir Patel'.

Zakir Patel  
Ward 19



# 2022-2023 Information

Your School Trustee

**Zakir Patel**

Ward 19, Scarborough - Guildwood  
416-395-8787 | Zakir.Patel@tdsb.on.ca

## Find Your School & School Superintendent:

[www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School)  
Board Office at 416-397-3000 or [GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca)

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 5, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	September 6, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	October 7, 2022
Thanksgiving	October 10, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	November 18, 2022
Elementary PA Day	December 2, 2022
Winter Break	December 26, 2022 – January 6, 2023
Elementary PA Day	January 13, 2023
Secondary PA Day	February 2, 2023
Board-wide PA Day	February 17, 2023
Family Day	February 20, 2023
March Break	March 13 - 17, 2023
Good Friday	April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	April 10, 2023
Victoria Day	May 22, 2023
Elementary School PA Day	June 2, 2023
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2023
Secondary School PA Day	June 30, 2023

First day of classes for students is September 7, 2022  
The last day of class for elementary students is June 30, 2023  
The last day of class for secondary students is June 28, 2023

### Days of Significance

[www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance)

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

### Follow the TDSB on Social Media



## Parent Concern Protocol

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Step One

### Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

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Step Two

### School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

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Step Three

### School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

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Step Four

### Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

### Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: [GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca)



August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Families,

The Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) would like to provide an update on student transportation for September 2022.

### Phased-in Start

As the school year begins, the TSTG will once again implement a phased-in start for student transportation to provide a more consistent service for families and to ensure that students with special education needs are prioritized to receive bus service beginning the first week of school. Both the TDSB and TCDSB will be following this phased-in start.

**From September 7 to 9 –students with special education needs (excluding those in the gifted program) who travel to school on minibuses, minivans, taxis and wheelchair-accessible vehicles will be provided with student transportation.**

**From September 7 to 9 – students at relocation schools, specific buses for new Canadians, The Island Public school, and those at Wandering Spirit will also be provided with transportation services.**

**From September 12 – all other eligible students will be provided with student transportation unless there are concerns with driver availability.**

### Driver Availability

As bus operators continue to face a province-wide driver shortage, the phased-in approach also provides TSTG with additional time to identify and address any potential issues so that when full transportation services are in place, they can run as smoothly as possible.

Throughout the summer, we have been in constant communication with our carriers who have provided ongoing driver status updates. Currently, new drivers are being trained so they are ready for the start of the new school year. At this point, we have been advised that approximately 20 routes (1% of our total routes) do not have drivers assigned to them. In addition, there is also a shortage of approximately 80 backup/spare drivers. We anticipate that the number of routes without a driver will decrease as these new drivers complete their training.

We will continue to work closely with all bus operators in the coming days to confirm driver availability for the start of school. Should driver availability impact service in September, we will update families as soon as possible.



## COVID-19 Protocols

Numerous safety precautions maintained during the pandemic will remain in place during school bus transportation.

Please remember that if your child is ill, please keep them at home – as a reminder, bus carriers will maintain this message. Weather permitting, bus windows will be open to allow for air circulation. Students will continue to be assigned seats. Our bus carriers will continue to maintain an accelerated cleaning protocol to ensure a safe environment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the TSTG at any time:

Call Centre – 647-790-3829

General Inquiries – [transportation@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:transportation@torontoschoolbus.org)

Safety Concerns – [safety@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:safety@torontoschoolbus.org)

Technology Issue with the Portal – [support@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:support@torontoschoolbus.org)

Sincerely,

Kevin Hodgkinson  
General Manager - TSTG