

David Hornell Junior School Newsletter

January 2022

Phone: 416-394-7690 Website: schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/davidhornell

Twitter: @dhornelltweets **January Character Trait – Teamwork**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year!

As we continue to adapt and change our routines to meet the safety protocols of this ever-changing pandemic, we appreciate your on-going support.

Our quick pivot to on-line learning brought along some challenges with technology and access to devices. Your patience is so greatly appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming students back to in-person learning on Monday, January 17. The screening has been updated and is very strict to ensure that we can all stay healthy and safe to enable us to keep schools open.

Please be sure to carefully screen your child using the updated questions that will be shared as part of this newsletter and sent home in paper format on Monday.

B. Tratnik

Principal



32 Victoria St.

Toronto, Ont.

M8V 1M6

Principal

B. Tratnik

Office Administrator

M. Flemming

Superintendent

D. Donsky

Ward 3 Trustee

P. Nunziata

School Hours:

8:50 Entry Bell

10:15 – 10:30 Recess

11:40 – 12:30 Lunch (1-5)

**11:30 – 12:40 JK/SK
Lunch**

1:55- 2:10 Recess

3:10 JK/SK Dismissal

3:20 Grades 1-5 Dismissal

School Council Meetings

The David Hornell School Council consists of a very dedicated, active group of parents who volunteer their time to support our school in many ways. January's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7 p.m. It will be a zoom meeting as we continue to follow public health guidelines. If you would like to attend, please email our parent council at dhparentcouncil@gmail.com for the link. Hope to see you there!

***NEW* David Hornell Traffic Safety Program – We Need Your help!**

The TDSB Sustainability Office has launched the School Traffic Safety Program to provide schools with traffic management assistance. As many of you know, traffic concerns have been on-going here at the school during drop-off and pick-up times each day.

The program is being delivered in collaboration with Green Communities Canada, the City of Toronto's Transportation Services and Toronto Public Health. We are pleased that David Hornell has been chosen to participate in this program!

We need to establish a Traffic Safety Committee comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, and members of the local community. **We are seeking parents to join the committee** to support the efforts of the program.

If you are willing to attend a few virtual meetings (during the evenings) and contribute to the efforts to improve traffic safety around our school and community, please let me know at Beverly.Tratnik@tdsb.on.ca

We all have a role to play in keeping our children and community safe!



Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children – especially now when we are spending so much time indoors due to the lockdown. It keeps them physically fit and helps them stay alert all through the school day. **Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots, and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.**

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the windchill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

****NEW* 2022***

As previously communicated by the TDSB, when we have severe winter weather and school buses are cancelled in the City of Toronto, all TDSB schools will be closed. If we have a severe weather event, please be sure to check with local media outlets to see whether schools will be open.

Sleep is Important!

Sleep plays a crucial role in good health and well-being for children and adults. When you are sleeping your body is working to maintain healthy brain function as well as good mental and physical health. Sleep for children also helps to support growth and development. Getting enough sleep at night is important for learning each day and helps with focus and attention.



February is Kindergarten Registration Month!

At the Toronto District School Board, our elementary schools offer Full-Day Kindergarten. Our educators recognize that children come to school with diverse backgrounds and rich experiences. Our Kindergarten programs will build upon these experiences and support your child to learn, grow, and succeed. At the TDSB, we believe our youngest learners benefit from engaging in a variety of rich and authentic learning, both indoors and outdoors. Our classroom programs are designed to bring The Kindergarten Program to life by providing children opportunities to learn through play, inquiry, and exploration. Throughout the two-year Kindergarten program, classroom educators support the children in developing their sense of belonging, well-being, and problem-solving skills. Throughout the day, children explore literacy, mathematics, science, physical education, and the arts.

Kindergarten registration will be a bit different this year. We are currently planning to make it as safe as possible and will be sharing further details soon!

Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season

As winter is upon us, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert always, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So, to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer



January is Tamil Heritage Month

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board. This year our theme for Tamil Heritage Month is: Our Histories. Our Legacies. Our Homelands. (எமது வரலாறுகள். எமது மரபுகள். எமது தாயகங்கள்).

Each one of us carries a unique story and experience that we either bring into this country or is shared to us by our families. As Canadians from many facets of life these identities shape who we are and build the foundation of this great nation. Our Histories/எமது வரலாறுகள் speaks to the lived or shared history each of us carry. Our Legacies/எமது மரபுகள் addresses what we either left behind in our native country or have created for ourselves that sets us apart from others. Our Homelands/எமது தாயகங்கள் recognizes that each one of us can have more than one homeland and each lived experience makes us stronger.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self and collective identities, and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee.

To mark Tamil Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board in January, various educational opportunities were offered to students to learn about the history, culture, and traditions. The offerings included a poster contest that invited all students to participate to submit an image that reflected this year's theme. The three selected images will be posted on our websites and will be shared with all our schools. Secondary students were invited to participate in a Poetry/Spoken Word challenge that also reflects this year's theme. Selected pieces will be shared digitally as well and presented at a virtual Poetry Night on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

For further information about Tamil Heritage Month, please view our power point on interesting facts on Tamil customs and traditions.

David Hornell Playground Use

As you are aware, we have a rotating schedule for classes to use our playground. As the colder, winter weather is upon us, the play structure is now closed until the warmer weather arrives again in the Spring.

This is the same procedure that we have followed in previous years as it becomes too cold to climb without mittens and climbing with winter boots and snow pants becomes difficult and dangerous.

We look forward to using it again safely, in the Spring .

Students are asked to remain off the play structure before school in the morning and after dismissal in the afternoon.

*** Sick Kids Mobile Testing Program – Change***

Prior to the holiday break Sick Kids hospital was providing us with PCR saliva test kits for students, staff, and families. When we return to in-person learning we will no longer be permitted to supply saliva test kits to parents, guardians, or household members. Unfortunately, we have a limited number of kits and they are for student and staff use only when symptomatic at school. All restock orders for kits have been paused until a complete inventory is received.

The Sick Kids Covid-19 testing centre will remain open for select groups including children with special needs.