



Gledhill News

April 2020

Principal Cathy McAleese
Vice-Principal Janet Bambrick
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From the office...

We write this in the third week of school closures in Ontario due to the COVID-19 virus. We know that this order has demanded a lot from our school community and our staff as we work to find new ways to engage in teaching through virtual platforms. We are all missing our daily connections with families and students. We are grateful for all of your patience as we work through what teaching and learning will look like in the coming weeks.

We are providing information in this newsletter that we hope will support you in understanding what to expect. Beginning today, Monday, April 6th, we have started the process of re-engaging in teaching and learning. Teachers have connected with families and students by email or telephone, and they continue to work on the best way to provide learning for their classes. The key to determining what will work best for students will be flexibility.

The Minister of Education announced on Tuesday, March 31st, that the expectation for learning for students in K-3 is five hours per week with a focus on literacy and math. The expectation for grades 4 and 5 is five hours per week with a focus on literacy, math, science and social studies. At Gledhill, teacher teams, including our specialist teachers, ECEs, EA and SNAs, have been working together to develop assigned work for students. We also want to stress that we are focusing on learning the essential skills for success in the future, not necessarily on evaluating all skills. Some students will need more individual support. Our teachers are working together to make sure we support those students who need extra help.

While teachers will be available to connect with families, there will not be scheduled class times that all students are expected to attend. There are many reasons for this, including the fact that some students may not have access to computers at all times because they need to share with family members.

We are also aware that some students do not have access to a computer/Chromebook/tablet to engage electronically. The TDSB is currently working on getting equipment to these students and helping students secure internet access. We hope to begin rolling these resources out soon, but this process will take some time.

We ask that parents please check your email regularly as this is going to be your direct connection to the school. As well, our Gledhill website will be updated frequently with resources and information. It can be found at: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill/COVID-19-News>.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cathy.mcaleese@tdsb.on.ca or janet.bambrick@tdsb.on.ca.

And finally, please click on this [link](#) (and press the play arrow) to see a message from Gledhill staff to our school community.

**Warmest regards,
Cathy McAleese & Janet Bambrick**

MESSAGE FROM GLEDHILL SCHOOL COUNCIL

We hope you are all doing well and staying safe during this challenging time. We miss being together and can't wait to see all your friendly faces again soon.

International Day of Pink

Even though we can't be together in person, we can still join forces virtually! International Day of Pink is celebrated worldwide on April 8th, 2020 to help create a more inclusive and diverse world. Together we can join this movement by wearing PINK, and stand in solidarity to continue fighting for equality and acceptance for all.

On Wednesday, we encourage Gledhill students (and adults!) to wear pink! Snap a photo and post it to the Gledhill School Council Facebook page

here: <https://www.facebook.com/GledhillSchool/> - just look for the Day of Pink post!

We can't wait to see your photos.

Yours in partnership,
The Gledhill School Council

ETIQUETTE FOR ONLINE/VIRTUAL LEARNING (Adapted from Cosburn Middle School)

As we move to online learning, we ask parents to remind their children that it carries the same responsibilities and expectations as a regular class in school:

1. Be polite in the online environment
 - o Follow rules and expectations for the online platform that have been set by your teacher
2. It is time to focus on the lesson or classroom activities:
 - o Ask relevant questions to clarify the material covered or assignments given when participating in a Virtual Classroom
3. Exercise internet etiquette at all times:
 - o Be polite and courteous to everyone
 - o Address your teachers and others in a respectful manner
 - o Contact teachers privately to discuss any personal matters rather than addressing them, as an example, in a google classroom
4. Be safe - do not share virtual links or personal information with anyone outside of the virtual platform.
5. Finally, participate! This is one of the ways we might learn together in the upcoming weeks, so let's make the most of it. Take part in the lesson, contribute and take advantage of the learning process. We are in this together!

APRIL IS HISPANIC, LATIN, AND SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month (in Ontario) is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province. Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

Online Resources to Learn More: Library of Congress. (n.d.). [Spanish's Gift to English.](#) (Require Flash). An online interactive exploring common English words with Spanish origins.

Latin American Heritage Month: During the month of April the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize Latin-America History Month. In April 2016, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Latin-America History Month at the TDSB. Latin-America immigrants began arriving in large numbers in Toronto in the late 1970's. Latin America is generally defined as the countries south of the United States where people speak Romance languages (such as Spanish, Portuguese, and French). Across the TDSB, we have over 5000 students and representation from over 21 countries from Latin-America/Abya Yala.

Online Resources to Learn More:

TVOKids. (2018). [Ping and friends - Fiesta Fiesta.](#) 7:00 min. Gr JK-3

TVOKids. (2018). [Ping and friends - From Kickups to Samba.](#) 7:00 min. Gr JK-3

[Bookflix](#) (Gr JK-3) (username: tdsb password: trillium) e-books for kids, print and narration in Spanish. Select Espanol tab to open a book, then select Espanol tab again.

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of April. April is an important month for the Sikh community. In this month, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith. Sikh Canadians widely celebrate Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, across Ontario. "By proclaiming the month of April as Sikh Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario, recognizes the important contributions that Sikh Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Sikh Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Sikh Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario."

Online Resources to Learn More:

TVOKids. (2018) [It's my party - Lohri](#) Gr 1-6 22 min.

Cooperation is the character trait for April. Cooperating is about working together and helping others. When kids cooperate, they have more positive social interactions and are better able to make and keep friends. Here are some tips for growing cooperativeness in young children:

- Model cooperation skills at home, for example, asking for items politely at a meal, taking turns and sharing. When adults model cooperation it shows children what this character trait looks like.
- Role-play how to cooperate. Role-playing and “acting” what cooperation looks like in different scenarios helps children to practice this skill.
- Plan activities and games that require children to cooperate. For example working together to keep a ball from touching the ground.
- Watch a favourite show about cooperation, such as the *Arthur* episode “[Spar for the Course](#)”.

Information adapted from:

<https://www.kidsintransitiontoschool.org/5-tips-for-teaching-cooperation/>

TDSB Character Traits are an important part of learning, supporting students to achieve success in school.

NEWS FROM HEALTH AND PHYS.ED Please visit the [Gledhill Phys.Ed.](#) google site for activities for keeping children physically active at home. A monthly exercise calendar, games, lessons and videos, and information about the Coronavirus for Kids can all be found on the site.

TDSB RESOURCES FOR LEARNING AT HOME: VIRTUAL LIBRARY TO GO!

Here are two ways to access the Virtual Library:

1. Gledhill Library - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/HOME/schoolno/5228>
2. Generic Access - www.tdsb.on.ca/library

All resources are password protected when used at home. Passwords and resources are listed on the Virtual Library Learnmark.

More Websites for learning:

- Mini TFO - <https://www.tfo.org/en/mini-tfo>
- TVO Kids - <https://www.tvokids.com/>
- ABCya! - <https://www.abcya.com/>
- Math Learning Centre - <https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps>
- IXL - language and math - <https://ca.ixl.com/>
- StoryBird - <https://storybird.com/> (account required)
- Story Line Online - <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- Ontario Public Library Kids - <https://kids.tpl.ca/>
- Youcubed at Home (Math Activities) - <https://www.youcubed.org/resource/youcubed-at-home/>

Free Apps for Learning and Creating:

- Scratch Jr - <https://www.scratchjr.org/about/info>
- Math Centre - <https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps> (web-based or apps)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING DURING COVID-19

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, or the distress line or mobile crisis team in your area
 - [Kids Help Phone](#) at 1-800-668-6868 or texting CONNECT to 686868

General Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

Covid-19 Specific Resources:

- [Helping Your Kids in Changing Times](#)
- [Tips for Supporting Teens](#)

School Mental Health Ontario

- [How to Support Student Mental Health During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

Kids Help Phone

- [We're Here for You During Covid-19](#)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

- [Talking to Children about Covid-19 and Its Impact](#)

Children's Mental Health Ontario

- [Talking to Your Anxious Child about Covid-19](#)

World Health Organization

- [Helping Children Cope with Stress during Covid-19](#)
- [Coping with Stress during Covid-19](#)

FOR INFORMATION AND TO CONTACT US

School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill/COVID-19-News>

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