

HAPPY  
**2021**  
NEW YEAR

# Gledhill News

January 2021

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

As we write this first newsletter of the New Year, all schools in Ontario are closed, with lessons being taught virtually. Although we were all looking forward to being back in school, Ontario has just announced that all schools will remain closed until January 25<sup>th</sup>. While this is not how we expected to start 2021, we are grateful to our Gledhill educators who spent their holidays ensuring that their virtual platforms were ready for students.

We also want to thank families for the incredible efforts you have made to support your children to be online and ready to learn. The virtual classroom environment can be challenging for children to navigate independently, and we know that parents have had to multi-task while supporting their child's learning. Here are some reminders to families for the synchronous sessions in virtual learning:

### **Synchronous Virtual Learning**

- Try to keep distractions during synchronous class time to a minimum;
- Let your child be the agent of their learning by providing their own answers and ideas to teacher prompts;
- Allow your child to make mistakes as this is part of how learning occurs;
- Parents should not talk to other children or the teacher during a live session (you can email the teacher to arrange a time for consultation);
- Avoid talking in the background to others, or on the phone within the computer microphone range, as it can interrupt synchronous learning for the entire class and your conversation can be heard;
- Students are asked to have their cameras on for synchronous sessions. **If there are extenuating circumstances (internet issues, no camera on the device etc.) please inform your child's teacher;**
- Students are asked to attend all synchronous sessions (both homeroom and rotary) and to be on time when they come back from recesses and lunchtime, just as they would in school. Again, **please contact your child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances for synchronous learning.**

We know that some families are juggling devices and time online between family members. Our staff are here to make accommodations and to help you navigate virtual learning until we can be back together in school.

### **Cathy McAleese & Janet Bambrick**

**TEAMWORK** is January's Character Trait. Teamwork is the ability of a group to work well together for everyone's benefit.

Qualities of teamwork include:

- working together peacefully to complete a goal
- listening and encouraging others
- inviting others to contribute their ideas, talents and skills
- treating others equitably and recognizing the needs of the group
- communicating calmly

Here is a short video about teamwork:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftPOy4yUGMQ>

You can help your child to develop teamwork skills at home by asking them to help to complete a household task with a family member.

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

**PARENT COUNCIL** Happy New Year! The Gledhill School Council wishes all our families a healthy and happy new year. A special thank you to our amazing educators and administrators who are working so hard to make the shift from in-school to virtual learning as successful as possible. We appreciate your hard work and dedication. And a big shout out to all the adults finding ways to overcome the many daily challenges at home. We see you! **Our next School Council meeting is on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30pm.** All in-school and virtual parents/caregivers are welcome. The agenda and meeting link will be circulated next week. **Virtual Learning Families** - Did you know you have a Virtual Learning Representative on the council? We would like to introduce Sandi King as our Virtual Learning Representative. As part of our ongoing efforts to create one school community, we invite all our virtual families to contact Sandi at [sandiking24@gmail.com](mailto:sandiking24@gmail.com) with your ideas, thoughts, or simply to stay connected.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION** Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. Children who will be four by December 31, 2021, can start Junior Kindergarten in September 2021. Families are asked to complete the registration online using the [Online Registration System](#). If you have questions or are unable to complete the online registration independently, please contact our school to make a virtual face-to-face appointment (via Zoom or Google Meet) to complete the online registration process.

Please note:

- Only parents or legal guardians can register a child for TDSB programs.
- There is a separate process to apply for [optional attendance](#). If you wish to register your child at an [elementary alternative school](#) or [elementary academy](#), please contact the school directly for more information about requirements and the registration process.
- Learn more about [Before- and After-School Programs](#) and [Extended Day Programs](#).

Please remember the following documentation is required for your child's registration:

- Proof of Address (2 pieces required; utility bill, bank statement, income tax form, rental or lease agreement, purchase agreement, etc.)
- Proof of Age (Birth Certificate, Baptismal Record, Passport)
- Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, Permanent Residence Card, Record of Landing, etc.)
- Health Card
- Immunization Record

Without these documents we will not be able to register your child. If you are not living in the Gledhill District, Gledhill is NOT your home school. Gledhill PS is limited this year for Optional Attendance.

**FRENCH PROGRAMS** The deadline for Early French Immersion (Senior Kindergarten entry) has closed. Applications received after the deadline (November 27, 2020) will be placed on a waitlist for the program. Please note that admission to a specific school is not guaranteed.

**MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION (GRADE 4 ENTRY)-** Applications to the Middle French Immersion program may be submitted on behalf of students in the English program, the year the child is in Grade 3 for entry in September of Grade 4. It is an entirely online process. **All communication will be sent via the email address you provide. Please check your email regularly, including junk mail folders.** Please visit the application site [www.tdsb.on.ca/pars](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/pars). The application process is open now. The deadline for applications is **January 29, 2021**.

**TDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY** Here are two ways to access the Virtual Library: Gledhill Library  
- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/HOME/schoolno/5228>  
Generic Access - [www.tdsb.on.ca/library](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/library)  
All resources are password protected when used at home. Passwords and resources are listed on the Virtual Library Learnmark.

### **"IN THE MUSIC ROOM" From: Mrs. Bailey**

It was wonderful to be able to see your faces during our virtual time at home! It has been fun to sing, move, and even play recorder with many of you! Remember, all grades have a Google Music Classroom folder where students can access various songs, movement and/or body percussion videos in their grade folder. There are also numerous recorder and ukulele resources in folders located below the grade folders. All of these are available throughout the year. **A reminder: The Google classroom code is: wqi23oy**  
Happy new year!



**FROM PHYS.ED.** Hello and Happy New Year to all our families. If you have not already, please join the Pace HPE google classroom. The class code is at the bottom of this message. On the google classroom you will find the January Fitness Challenge. I will post messages, lessons, timetables and other important information. Thank you so much for your tireless commitment to supporting the success of your child(ren).

Class code  
bubbpzo

**JANUARY IS TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH** The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest. This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights - Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity. Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members heritage identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self identity and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee. Check out these videos on TVO about Tamil culture and heritage: It's my Party [Thai Pongal](#). (2019). Gr K-4. 22 min.; TVOKids Show [Thai Pongal](#). (2020) Gr K-4 (Thai Pongal dance at 9:55 min.)

உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை  
Truth - Rights - Unity

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST POSTER WINNERS!**

Congratulations to the following students who created posters for the Legion Branch 11 Remembrance Literary & Poster Contest 2020:

### **Primary Award**

Patrick McLean-Tied 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (B&W Poster)  
Haddie Schlombs-Tied 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (B&W Poster)

### **Junior Award**

Leila Watson Molero-1<sup>st</sup> Place (B&W Poster)  
Chidera Chiagozie Uniara-1<sup>st</sup> Place (Colour Poster)  
Poppy Peretti-2<sup>nd</sup> Place (B&W Poster)  
Maya Hebdon-3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tied (B&W Poster)  
Charlie McDougall-3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tied (B&W Poster)  
Naomi Lang-2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Colour Poster)  
Chelsea Truyens-3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tied (Colour Poster)  
Irina Puddefoot-3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tied (Colour Poster)

A special thanks from the Legion Youth Education Chair, Helen Pearce, to all students who participated.

## **TDSB MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

The Toronto District School Board has published a webpage with mental health resources curated specifically for the Covid-19 outbreak by the Social Work Department. You can access the page here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-Well-being/Resources-During-Covid-19>

Our school psychologist has shared resources for mindful breathing to relieve stress and anxiety: [Primary 4-7-8](#) [Junior 4-7-8](#)

Young children and children with special education needs may be having a hard time understanding COVID-19 and social distancing. Here are two social stories that may help:

[Social Distancing](#) (social story) [Germs](#) (social story)

## **COMING EVENTS**

*Please mark these dates in your calendar:*

January 15	Elementary P.A. Day- <b>No School</b>
January 18	Martin Luther King Day
January 29	Deadline for Junior Extended French Online Applications
February 12	Elementary P.A. Day- <b>No School</b>
February 12	Lunar New Year
February 15	Family Day- <b>No School</b>
March 15-19	March Break- <b>No School</b>

## **CONTACT US**

School Office: 416-393-1745

School Website:

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill>

Cathy McAleese, Principal

Janet Bambrick, Vice-Principal

George Poursanidis, Office Administrator

Marisa Silver, School Council Chair

Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of Education (LN24)

Michelle Aarts, Trustee (Ward 16)