



# Gledhill News

May 2020

Principal Cathy McAleese  
Vice-Principal Janet Bambrick  
416-393-1745



## From the office...

This is the second newsletter that we have sent home to families during our new reality of distance learning. Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, [announced](#) that all publicly-funded schools in Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed until at least May 31, 2020 as part of ongoing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. He also announced that the government will replace all remaining Professional Activity (PA) days and exam days with instructional time. As our Director, John Malloy has said, this announcement was not unexpected, but we recognize that continued social distancing and the closure of schools creates an enormous amount of stress and anxiety for our community. The well-being of our families at Gledhill is uppermost in our minds and we draw your attention to the following information that has been posted on the TDSB website: [Multi-lingual COVID-19 Resources](#); [Income Support](#); [Access to Health Services](#); [Food Access](#); [Housing](#); [Legal Supports](#); [Job Security](#); [Free Tax Clinics](#); [Refuge from Family Violence](#); [Family/Caregiver Parenting Supports](#); [Education and Employment Supports](#).

We are grateful to our Gledhill staff for their dedicated efforts to organize and teach on virtual platforms during these challenging times. Our staff and parent community has also created some very successful virtual events this past month including a Gledhill "Roar and Ride", a video created by our Kindergarten Educator team highlighting April's character trait of Cooperation (in lieu of our usual assembly), and a celebration of the International Day of Pink organized by the Gledhill Parent Council through their Facebook page. You will read in our "News from the Library" section that our librarian Ms Kopka has started two virtual clubs, "**Drop in and Read**" and **Makerspace Club**, for interested students. Mrs. Bailey is inviting interested students to participate in the first ever **Gledhill Virtual Spring Concert** (see more information below). Kudos to all for their creativity and innovation.

The first week in May (May 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>) is Children's Mental Health Week. Ms. Chitayat has shared resources for students and families to participate in this event virtually which can be found further down in the newsletter. One of the events she has shared is the #TDSBGoodEgg. A #TDSBGoodEgg is someone who: helps a friend in need by reaching out to them; is a ray of positivity; you can always count on; is inspiring, hardworking and never gives up, is genuine and goes above and beyond. The initiative encourages all of our students to be a #TDSBGoodEgg and share the acts of kindness that they have witnessed in their communities. With all that is going on with COVID-19, it is the acts of selflessness by our Front Line Workers, our neighbours and our community that continue to give us hope and make us grateful. We will get through this together.

Warmest regards,

Cathy McAleese & Janet Bambrick

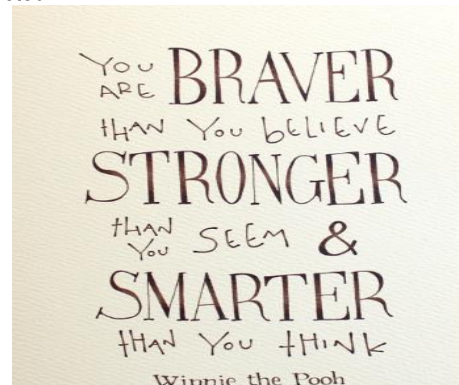
**Integrity** is the character trait for May. Integrity is defined as 'the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles'. Integrity is about making good choices. It is doing the right things for the right reason. It is about being honest with yourself and honest with others. We can support the development of this character trait in children by:

- Articulating your families' values
- Developing a moral vocabulary (e.g., words such as honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, courage)
- Teaching digital etiquette
- Being a role model and sharing meaningful stories about integrity

\*\*Taken from <https://www.rootsofaction.com/integrity/>

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

**MESSAGE FROM GLEDHILL SCHOOL COUNCIL** We can't wait until we are all back together again. Stay tuned for further communications from the Parent Council. Until then, stay safe, and stay connected.



**"IN THE MUSIC ROOM....AT HOME" -By: Mrs. Bailey**  
GLEDHILL VIRTUAL MUSIC CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT!!

It is unfortunate that there will not be an opportunity to hold our annual Spring Concert at school, but there's **no reason why we can't perform for each other in the comfort of our own home!** This is an invitation to students in grades 1-5, to create a musical performance, as a soloist, together with their siblings, or through the magic of video, perform with your friends! I have posted a sign-up sheet in a new file called "GLEDHILL SPRING VIRTUAL CONCERT" in the GOOGLE MUSIC CLASSROOM.

**If interested, note the important deadlines below:**

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Sign the names of students performing in your act, list what you are going to perform (for example, Mrs. Bailey singing/playing ukulele to "Zipadeedoodah").

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** - Each person in the performance video must download a copy of the media release form from the Google Music Classroom and have it signed by a parent/guardian and returned to Mrs. Bailey. Email the media release form(s) and a video of your performance to Mrs. Bailey at: [heather.bailey@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:heather.bailey@tdsb.on.ca) no later than your bedtime on June 1<sup>st</sup>! **(No late submissions will be accepted as I have to assemble all of the videos into a video concert!)**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** - Gledhill Virtual Spring Concert will be loaded on the Google Music Classroom! (Depending on the number of entries, the video may be divided into smaller grade shows... We'll have to see! : )

**If you have any questions, please email me at the address listed above. I'm excited about this idea! I hope that you are too!**



**FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (FSL) RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES** This week, the FSL Department launched a [FSL Resources for Families Google Site](#) for parents, guardians and families of students in French as a Second Language programs. The site provides information about how to support students during remote learning, including guiding principles, considerations for remote learning in FSL programs, links to resources, how to support at home, and more.

**GLEDHILL VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**  
**MAY 4-8, 2020**

**Activities**

Welcome Gledhill Families! Here are activities for your family to think about during Children's Mental Health Week.

- #TDSB Good Egg
- Share the Virtual Love @home
- Self-Care for Students 101 - from School Mental Health Ontario



**#TDSBGoodEgg**-This week, reach out to someone with a happy picture or message to help build and strengthen our community relationships. You might try this by:

- Leaving little works of art in your neighbourhood, such as a painted rock, when you go for a walk. Small gestures like this help make people smile.
- Writing a message to your friends and neighbours on the sidewalk or fence in chalk, or send them an email or text.
- Posting messages and pictures in your windows. Use any materials you have – a cereal box, paper towel roll, anything works! #TDSBGoodEgg

**Share the Virtual Love - A Chance to do something nice, @home!**

Take a moment to ask your family, and yourself, what would make today even better than yesterday. Then listen, really listen, to what your family members have to say. Think about what your family is asking you to do to help out around the house. Then do something nice @home. Have fun and remember, we are all in this together!

**Self-Care 101 for Students (From School Mental Health Ontario)**

Self-care is an important part of wellness and even more important when we go through difficult and stressful times in our lives. Take time to look after yourself so that when difficult situations happen, you will have the necessary energy, resources and strategies to help you get through it! [Self-Care 101 for Students](#)



**NEWS FROM THE PHYS.ED. DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Webb and Mrs. Pace (along with Ms. Bailey and Ms. Ahmed) have been doing the Wednesday 'Roar and Ride' around the streets of Gledhill. We will continue to do this ride on Wednesday's, please make sure you make a poster of a tiger and hang it in the window where you live. We have loved seeing our students and enjoyed the posters very much! We have been doing our best to reach out to all our families during this ride. The ride has taken us longer than expected (because we love to chat from a distance with you!) So, if you haven't seen us, it's probably because we have been much slower than posted. Also, please continue to visit the Gledhill Tiger's website, Mr. Webb and Mrs. Pace are updating it regularly

**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY** Hello Everyone! The Library Program is now available via the "Library at Home" Google Classroom. It's not too late for your child to join the classroom!



Your child can join the classroom in three easy steps:

1. Go to the AW site <https://aw.tdsb.on.ca/> and choose "Classroom" from the Google Apps menu.
2. Tap on the "+" in the right-hand corner and choose "Join Class".
3. Type in this class code **owjd3kh** and click "Join"

In our virtual classroom you will find:

- Weekly activities and reading assignments for different grade levels
- Drop-In and Read Club with access to books in English and in French
- BRAND NEW - Remote Makerspace Club (RMC for short)
- Virtual bulletin boards

#### Drop In and Read Club

 KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 2 - Drop In... Edited Apr 27

 GRADES 3 TO 5 - Drop In and Read! Edited Apr 27

#### RMC - Remote Makerspace Club

 Grade 3 to 5 Remote Makerspace ... Edited 11:45 AM

 Kindergarten to Grade 2 Remote M... Edited Apr 27

#### CONTACT US

School Website:

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

Cathy McAleese-Principal,  
[cathy.mcaleese@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:cathy.mcaleese@tdsb.on.ca)

Janet Bambrick-Vice-Principal,  
[janet.bambrick@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:janet.bambrick@tdsb.on.ca)

George Poursanidis, Office Administrator,  
[George.poursanidis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:George.poursanidis@tdsb.on.ca)

Dawn Russell, Secretary,  
[dawn.russell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dawn.russell@tdsb.on.ca)

Marisa Silver, School Council Chair,  
Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of  
Education (LN24)

Michelle Aarts, Trustee (Ward 16)

#### **MAY IS ASIAN AND JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH**

**Asian Heritage Month:** is proudly recognized during the month of May at the Toronto District School Board. More than 40% of TDSB students self-identify as Asian. The selected theme for this year is, "**Discover. Share. Celebrate**". The inclusive and broad definition of *Asian* used by the TDSB *Asian Heritage Month* committee includes, but is not limited to all people whose ancestors came from the following: **East Asia** (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan); **South Asia** (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan); **Southeast Asia** (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines); and **Central Asia** (Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

This year's Asian Heritage Month activity includes the Asian heritage impact to the liberation of Holocaust survivors to recognize the 75th Liberation Anniversary. The two individuals being highlighted are: Ho Feng Shan, Chinese diplomat, and also Dr. George Bluman who shares his family's escape from the Holocaust due to the action of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara. **Online Resources to Learn More: Ho Feng Shan, Chinese diplomat:** Mr. Ho Feng Shan was a Chinese diplomat who passed away in 1997. Upon his death, his action to help Jews escape Holocaust camps came to light. He was the 'Chinese Schindler' who saved thousands of Jews. For more information, please read the following:

<https://www.cnn.com/2015/07/19/asia/china-jews-schindler-ho-feng-shan/index.html>

**Dr. George Bluman,** Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of British Columbia: Dr. George Bluman recently shared his family history in January 2020 at the 15th annual Raoul Wallenberg Day commemoration. He shared that his parents fled to Lithuania after Germany invaded Poland in 1939. His parents received transit visas from Chiune Sugihara and their journey to Canada began. An estimated 15% of Sugihara survivors became Canadians, many of them remaining in Vancouver. For further information, please read the following: <http://www.jewishindependent.ca/tag/george-bluman/>

**Jewish Heritage Month:** This year the Jewish Heritage Month Committee of the TDSB acknowledges 75 years since liberation from the Holocaust. Because of Liberation75 the Committee embarked on a comprehensive Holocaust and Genocide Education program which included many important programs, including a special *One Book Event* in partnership with Indigo and Second Story Press for the true story *Hana's Suitcase* by author Karen Levine. On January 27th, a special webcast featuring Heather Reisman and Lara Hana Brady (niece of Hana) was broadcast to thousands of TDSB students and teachers. The webcast of the event can be seen here:

[https://video.isilive.ca/play/tdsb/Others/2020-01-27-](https://video.isilive.ca/play/tdsb/Others/2020-01-27-HannaS.mp4)

[HannaS.mp4](https://video.isilive.ca/play/tdsb/Others/2020-01-27-HannaS.mp4) **Online Resources to Learn More:** Author Karen Levine has produced a video specifically for TDSB students (**recommended for grades 4 and 5 students**) on how she learned about the extraordinary true story of Hana Brady and Fumiko Ishioka, and her process for writing the multiple awards-winning book *Hanna's Suitcase*. You can see the video here:

[https://youtu.be/z\\_WOSPacYEA](https://youtu.be/z_WOSPacYEA).