



Gledhill News

October 2020

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



From the office...

We have nearly completed our third week of school, and learning in all classrooms is well under way. Teachers are in the process of setting-up virtual platforms (either Google Classrooms or Brightspace) to maintain a connection between home and school. Information about your child's class will be posted on these sites/ we encourage you to visit these platforms with your child so that you may become familiar with using them.

As we enter into October, we continue to remind families of the importance of following health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19. Keeping our school open and children safe is a community effort. In particular, in order to stop the spread of COVID-19, parents must keep their children home if they are experiencing any symptoms related to the virus. This is everyone's responsibility. We also remind parents/caregivers that they must wear a mask on school property at drop-off and pick-up times and maintain physical distancing.

On September 30th, we had "Orange Shirt Day" with students wearing orange shirts and discussing anti-indigenous racism in their classrooms. Classes also discussed the rights that they thought all children should have so that, "Every Child Matters". Orange shirt day supports student learning about how to be an anti-racist as well as supporting our students to speak up and share their voices to make a difference in society.



We encourage families to get involved in our school by attending the Parent Council meeting on Tuesday, October 6th. This first meeting of the school year will be virtual. Please see more details below in the newsletter. As always, don't hesitate to contact our school office if you have any questions or concerns.

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

MESSAGE FROM GLEDHILL SCHOOL COUNCIL

Back to School Q&A Thank you to those who have submitted questions for our inaugural virtual coming-together. We hope you will join us for our Back to School Q&A session on **Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm**. A link to the Zoom virtual meeting will be sent out on school messenger. There will also be a call in option to participate in the meeting.

2020/2021 School Council Elections Coming Soon! Feeling fired-up about creating safe spaces and enriching opportunities for our kids this year? Feeling energized about our collective ability to achieve amazing things? Feeling passionate about having a voice and working with others for change? There are SO many ways to be involved in the School Council. This year, more than ever, we need you! Nomination forms (and lots of other good information) for this year's council will be available soon. All parents/caregivers of Gledhill students, including those learning virtually, are welcome to participate, run for elected positions, sit on committees, and of course - vote! Stay tuned for more information in the days to come. Don't forget to check out our Blog and sign up to receive blog updates right to your inbox! It's the best way to stay informed! Just visit <https://gledhillguardian.com/> and enter your email address on the right hand side.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH IS PICTURE DAY Clear Images will be our photographers again this year. They will be following all Toronto Public Health guidelines when taking pictures this year. This will mean that there will be no class pictures. Only individual pictures will be taken and orders for pictures will be done online.



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM *Please contact the school before 9:30 a.m. at 416 393-1745* and leave a message in our school's safe arrival mailbox if your child will be absent from school for all or part of the day with the reason for the absence. When prior notice has not been given, the automatic call out will begin at 9:45 a.m. Students **MUST** obtain a late slip from 8:45 onward which will help to avoid callouts. Should your child become ill or require emergency medical treatment while at school, every attempt will be made to contact you. **Please make sure that the school has up-to-date and accurate information.**

RESPONSIBILITY is October's character trait. What does responsibility look like for our students?

- Taking care of ourselves and others
- Following rules
- Following through with commitments
- Asking for help when needed
- Doing chores at home and assigned tasks at school
- Taking responsibility for actions and not blaming others
- Staying organized and meeting timelines for assignments
- Taking care of the environment—for example by not littering and using reusable containers

Taken from *inspiremykids.com*.

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

SCHOOL TIMES: ENTRY BELL 8:40 am/ DISMISSAL 3:20 PM

Families are reminded that students must be at school by 8:40 or they will be marked late. Teachers are on duty at the beginning of the day at 8:30 am. Having your child arrive at school on time teaches responsibility and reliability. Students who are late must enter through the front doors. Parents are asked to ring the doorbell and wait until they are met by someone from the office. Students will be escorted to their rooms by a staff member (parents must remain outside the school). Parents are reminded to please be on time for pick-up at 3:20 pm.

"ON THE MUSIC CART" By: Mrs. Bailey Things are a little different in music this year, but we are trying out a bunch of great new ideas, while maintaining all health and safety measures. Ask your child what they have been trying the past couple of weeks! - All music classes will continue to learn the elements of music using Orff methodology, which focuses on movement, voice (chanting but no singing), and instrumentation. All junior grade students will be playing ukulele this year in 8 week sessions, beginning with Madame Martineau's class in October!

TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER Over the next couple weeks, classes will learn about the efforts of Terry Fox and how his Marathon of Hope has helped people around the world, in both areas of education and treatment of cancer over the past 40 years!

We are happy to announce that Gledhill will still hold our yearly fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation on Friday, October 9th! Teachers will conduct an outdoor walk and physical activities with their class. We hope that you will help to make this another successful year of support from Gledhill by going to Terry Fox website at: www.terryfox.org (Please make sure to type in our school name when doing so, so it can be recognized as support from our Gledhill school community.) **We kindly ask that all support be made online by Friday, October 16th.**

As we continue to focus on safety measures, we will not have hard copies of pledge forms, stickers, or tattoos this year. Instead, we encourage students to wear Terry Fox t-shirts or Gledhill spirit wear on the day of the walk.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

- The Terry Fox Committee

OCTOBER IS SOMALI HERITAGE MONTH AND ISLAMIC

HERITAGE MONTH The TDSB affirms our commitment to celebrating Somali Heritage Month and encourages students and staff to take this opportunity to learn about the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community. The theme "Educate. Elevate. Excel." **Virtual Library to Learn More:** [CultureGrams](#) Articles: [Somali](#) and [PebbleGo](#) Articles: [Somalia](#); [Africa](#)

Islamic Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of October. Ontario established October as Islamic History Month (IHM) through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment." **Virtual Library to Learn More:** [Capstone](#) fiction & nonfiction read-aloud eBooks [Daily Life in the Islamic Golden Age](#), [Yasmin the Builder](#)

NEWS FROM HEALTH AND PHYS.ED



Hello Gledhill Tigers!

We are so happy to welcome you back to school this year. Our PE program will look a bit different and we will roll out information as we go along.

For the foreseeable future, Mr. Webb and Mrs. Pace's classes will be held outside. The students are already well versed in our new routines and everything is going well. We are asking that your child wears athletic shoes that they are able to tie up on their own. If you have an extra water bottle for PE only, please label it and have your child bring it with them. Please have your child dress for the weather in many layers. During PE time access to the school is limited. Please reinforce with your child the importance of layering clothes for temperature/comfort. When we all speak the same message to children, we maximize our fun, our time and our learning!

Ordering Spirit Wear: please refer to gledhilltigers.entripyshops.com to order your gear. It will be shipped directly to you!

Lastly, and most fun...we hope that you will take part in our monthly at Home Fitness Challenge. Please read the October Fitness Calendar and complete the activities. Once successfully completed, have your child give their name to Mrs. Pace. Students who have completed the fitness challenge will have their names read over the announcements at the end of month!

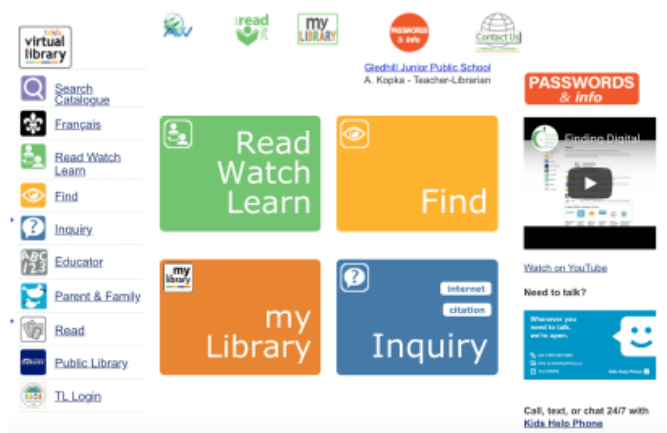
OCTOBER SPIRIT DAYS

On Friday, October 9th we will be having a "Terry Fox" spirit day. Students are encouraged to wear their Terry Fox t-shirt or something with a Canadian theme. We will also have a "Sun Flowers and Scarecrows" spirit day with the date TBD.



PARENT CONCERN PROTOCOL The TDSB's Parent Concern Protocol ensures that parent concerns about classroom or school-based matters are addressed to the appropriate school personnel, and cooperatively resolved at the appropriate level. Your child's teacher is the first person you should contact about a classroom matter, whereas a concern about a school policy, activity or situation should be brought forth to the Principal. Parents will be redirected, as needed, to the appropriate person, depending on the nature of their concern and its circumstances. This protocol is available on the TDSB website (www.tdsb.on.ca). It is important when resolving concerns that mutual respect for everyone involved is maintained. This will ensure that issues are resolved in a proactive, positive, productive manner.

TDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY During the 2020/2021 school year, students will have access to our Virtual Library (V L) ONLY. The Virtual Library contains a rich collection of resources for students of all ages and it can be accessed from home on any device. To access the Virtual Library go to <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/HOME/schoolNo/5228>
To access the VL resources from home, you will need a username and a password. To find the passwords click on the orange "Passwords & Info" button on the right-hand side.



FOR INFORMATION AND TO CONTACT US

School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gledhill>
Cathy McAleese-Principal, cathy.mcaleese@tdsb.on.ca
Janet Bambrick-Vice-Principal,
janet.bambrick@tdsb.on.ca
George Poursanidis, Office Administrator,
George.poursanidis@tdsb.on.ca
Dawn Russell, Secretary, dawn.russell@tdsb.on.ca
Marisa Silver, School Council Chair,
Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of Education
(LN24)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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 YOUR CALENDAR

October 6	Parent Council Meeting at 7 PM
October 9	Terry Fox Activity Day and Spirit Day
October 12	Thanksgiving-No School
October 15	Picture Day
November 20	Board Wide PA Day-No School
December 21-January 1	Winter Break