

Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:

We've been back to in-person learning for 2 weeks now and it's been a joy seeing and hearing about the learning in our classes. Staff and students are doing their best to include our students who are learning at home. Whether it is doing a lab, having conferences, or writing a test... "TOGETHER is my favourite place to be!" Rather than words...I've attached a few photos of our FUNomenal learning in the classroom, in the gym, and on the field. Have a look! [Quad 3 student learning and Phys. Ed fun.pdf](#)

Some updates:

Welcoming new staff:

Please join us in welcoming a few new teachers to Harbord in Quadmester 3: Mr. Allan Kane (Music-band), Ms. Jessica Reis (Phys. Ed, English), and Mr. Michael Casola (Communications Tech). We also had Ms. Natasha Park (Computer Science) join us midway through Quadmester 2. I know they will be wonderful additions to our Harbord faculty...and family.

HEPA Filters and the TDSB:

The TDSB has shared with Principals that each occupied classroom within a school will soon be outfitted with an institutional grade HEPA filter. More than 235 schools have already received HEPA filters and following the province's most recent funding announcement, delivery of additional HEPA units will start by early March at a rate of 1,500 units per week to the balance of schools. Units will be distributed to schools, starting with elementary schools in areas of the city where there have been higher incidents of COVID-19. All elementary schools will have units by the end of March, and all secondary schools (including Harbord!) will have units by mid-April. As HEPA filters are one tool used to help reduce transmission of COVID-19, we will continue to focus on self-screening, mask wearing, physical distancing, enhanced cleaning, hand washing, increasing fresh air through mechanical ventilation and/or opening windows and other safety protocols to keep Harbord's family as safe and healthy as we can.

TDSB Connects App updates:

The TDSB Connects App school days have been updated. Because of the change to **March Break** (originally scheduled for March 15 to 19, 2021), the school days (DAY 1, 2, 3, 4) for Quadmester 3 are now reflective of the new **April Break (April 12 – 16, 2021)** and are accurate. As you recall, this delay the Break was done on the advice of public health officials with hopes of reducing community transmission of COVID-19.

African Heritage Month Assembly:

As a culmination to African Heritage Month, the student members of WACC (Whole of Africa and Caribbean Culture Club) created a virtual assembly that was shared with the entire school this week. WACC students worked very hard and had to overcome many challenges to put together this year's assembly. The result of their hard work is a 40 minute collection of song, dance, poetry, word and image --- all of which demonstrate the passionate excellence of the this year's African Heritage Month Assembly creators. A big thank you to the students, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Narula for putting it all together! In particular, I would like to put the spotlight on Mouna Aden, Mercy Ebifegha, and

Immaculate Adarkwa. These three young women were instrumental in leading, organizing, and making sure that it was 'FUNomenal'! Thank you girls...we couldn't have done this without you and your passion! Here is the YouTube link to our African Heritage Month Virtual Assembly : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ZIhiM3ADc&t=1234s>. (when viewing the video, please drag the video to the beginning of the assembly. The video wasn't originally uploaded to the beginning). Enjoy!

Appreciations:

Thank you for continuing to pass along your messages of appreciation for our teaching staff to Ms. Massey, Mr. Witt, and myself. We love to hear about the caring, positive, impact that our faculty has had on your children. Please continue to reach out to your child's teachers as well --- because messages of appreciation and gratitude are so welcomed and needed during these unprecedented times --- Harbord teachers ROCK!!! They really do...

Lastly --- as always, please continue to practice the health and safety protocols and follow the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives. Please limit your contacts to the people you live with in your household. Students: besides travelling to and from school for your morning class, you should not be congregating with other peers outside of school. Students should always have their masks on when they are within 2 metres of others --- regardless of whether they are inside or outside of our building. Let's keep looking after each other. We are definitely in this TOGETHER!

"Harbord, we CARE for each other. TOGETHER. We are ONE!"

Thank you and have a FUNomenal weekend!

Steve Yee
Principal