

Hello parents/guardians and students:

We're certainly getting close to the end of this school year --- But a lot is still happening and will continue to happen until June 30th (and maybe beyond too!) As most of you may know, we hosted a vaccination clinic in partnership with Women's College Hospital for our community this week. It was a very successful 3 days where we "did our part to help us all get back TOGETHER!" One story from our vaccination clinic on Tuesday stood out in my mind and I wanted to share with everyone. We had a Portuguese family come by the clinic and share that their 93 year old father was unable to leave the house to get his first shot. The family wondered if anything could be done to help him get his vaccination. Like any 'family member' would, staff members at our clinic jumped at the opportunity to help out and sent a nurse, doctor, and translator over to the house to give the 93 year old man his 'jab!' In line with this wonderful story, here's a beautiful song and video from a former alumni, Max Kerman, lead singer of the Arkells. I'm not going to lie, this could bring tears...

<https://twitter.com/arkellsmusic/status/1402663391018246149?s=21>

So proud to say we live in an amazing neighbourhood that CARES for EACH OTHER! --- And I am privileged to be working and serving the Harbord community.

A few updates, information items, and things to celebrate:

Upcoming School Council Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021

Our next School Council meeting is on Monday, June 21, 2021 (5:30pm – 7pm) so please come out and join us for the last time this school year (from the comforts of your home)! The School Council Zoom meeting link:

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/97411851845>

Virtual Commencement – Tuesday June 29, 2021 at 7pm

Our virtual Commencement celebration will be on Tuesday June 29, 2021. We will provide more information about the link and video in the days ahead. Please mark your calendars and have your family all watch together from the comforts of their sofas. Please note: the '**Virtual Graduation Ceremony- Parental/Guardian Consent**' form MUST be filled out as any graduating student who does not fill one out and give permission, will not have their photos included in the virtual Commencement video and celebration. We still have 73 students who have not replied. The link to complete the form is: <https://permission.click/vL9Gx/ca/EMn>

Congratulations to Li Von Kok

Earlier this year, the TDSB Chinese Heritage Month Planning Committee recognized students whose posters were selected as winners / honorary winners and our Harbord Virtual School student, Lik Von Kok was one of the recipients. This year's poster theme was **Year of the Ox: Loyal, Honest, Responsible, Hard-Working and Logical**. Congratulations! And because of the award winning poster, Harbord's library now has some new books added to our collection in celebration of Chinese heritage.

IODE Weston/Stewart Bursary

- The IODE has generously set aside a number of bursaries of up to \$1000 for Harbord students currently enrolled in grade 11 or 12. **This is real money to help in these tough times!!!**
- Students must be planning to pursue apprenticeship, college, or university after graduation and must be experiencing challenges that have impacted their education.
- If you are a grade 11 or 12 student who meets these criteria, apply for the Weston/Stewart Bursary by completing this very short [application](#) by Friday June 18th.
- If you have already applied, kindly reach out to your guidance counsellor to confirm your application was received.

Focus Group for families of Black students in French Immersion programs

The Centre for Black Excellence is looking for parents of Black identified students enrolled in French immersion. There are Focus group sessions devoted to families of Black students in Core French, Extended French, or French Immersion programs at TDSB. Families to join the conversation on either Thursday June 17th 5:00pm -6:30pm or Thursday June 24th 5:00pm -6:30pm.

Brief Description:

We will be having conversations with families of African, Afro-Caribbean, and Black Canadians (ACB) students and non-Black families raising Black children. Part of the discussion will be to share their experiences with the school community and, to think about how The Centre <<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/tdsb-launches-new-centre-to-combat-deeply-entrenched-anti-black-racism-1.5451958>> can strengthen their leadership and support their involvement. Please see below some information and registration link.

Here are the questions we will be asking families to think about for the focus group:

- * How has it been navigating the school system during the COVID-19 pandemic? For example, what has it been like to balance work-school-family life?
- * What can do educators to affirm the experiences and knowledge of African, Afro-Caribbean, and Black (ACB) students and families?
- * What are some factors that support (or prevent) parents /caregivers' involvement and leadership in their children/family member's school community?
- * In what ways can the Centre partner with ACB families to further support the school success of their children's /family member's? For example, how can the Centre better coordinate resources and services to support ACB students and their families?

To register for one of the dates please use the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQ3aG_J4oVq7KEc9DzJyZsQHtxcCoM01ZFERTxeOqrM/edit?usp=sharing
<https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/6UiNR_xoAR3EI9SIgh4AhE82am6snATX6H-MDCgWPKgrxl_qtm-6lKqGgqC29Qk9Sl6awR2aFJk=w1200-h630-p><https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQ3aG_J4oVq7KEc9DzJyZsQHtxcCoM01ZFERTxeOqrM/edit?usp=sharing>

(V2) The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement - Registration for Parent/Caregivers Focus Group <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQ3aG_J4oVq7KEc9DzJyZsQHtxcCoM01ZFERTxeOqrM/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in our focus group for parents/care-givers of African, Afro-Caribbean, and Black Canadians (ACB) students. The purpose of the focus group sessions is to engage all ACB families, including parents of students in French Immersion and non-Black parents raising Black children, in grounding the mandates of the Centre. These conversations will also serve as the starting point to discuss how the Centre can best serve you and explore ways for you to contribute and participate in the work of the Centre in meaningful ways. The focus group sessions will begin the week on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 4pm. Please respond on or before Sunday, June 13th, 2021. By completing and submitting this registration form, you are confirming your participation in this important initiative. Following this, you will receive a confirmation email with further details. If there are any further questions please contact: grace-camille.munroe@tdsb.on.ca
docs.google.com

Lastly --- as always, please continue to practice the health and safety protocols and follow the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives.

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

Stay safe and well everyone. Have a FUNomenal weekend!
Steve