

[Join our COVID-19 Vaccination Town Hall for Parents Join May25, 26, 29.pdf](#)

[TPH Letter to Parents COVID-19 vaccine - May 19-2021.pdf](#)

Hello parents/guardians and students:

I hope that everyone in our Harbord family is continuing to be well, safe, and healthy. We have had some positive news this week from our Provincial Government about how our COVID situation is progressing and where things are headed with summer around the corner. This is wonderful news. It shows that our collective hard work to keep each other safe and healthy is paying off and we will be able to engage in some of our favourite summer activities outdoors. Although these activities will not look like previous summers, and we will have to continue our practices of physical distancing, hand-washing, and mask-wearing, it is nice to know that we will have some aspects of normalcy and social interaction back. Continue to be positive --- good for mental health and wellbeing. Please continue to enjoy the warm weather this long weekend but be disciplined --- and let's not have our hard work and sacrifice go to waste. Let's all be smart, mindful, careful, and respectful of each other. Let's be SAFE together!

A few updates and newsworthy items:

### ***TPH Letter to Parents/Guardians Re: COVID-19 Vaccine***

Although parents have received this information from the TDSB, I have attached letters from Toronto Public Health for parents/guardians with regard to vaccines, eligibility and how to book an appointment. I have also included the flyer which provides three town hall opportunities to hear more about the vaccine for students aged 12 to 17. Please have a look at this important information.

### ***September 2021 Selection Form for In-Person/Virtual Learning***

Reiterating some information that has been passed along to you recently by the TDSB, the Government of Ontario announced that school boards will provide In-Person and Virtual Learning options for the 2021-22 school year. The TDSB will be asking families to complete an online **Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning in mid-August**. At that time, families will have up-to-date information on the status of the pandemic and vaccinations for school staff and students, and will be in a better position to make an informed decision. The TDSB will also be in a better position to provide information about health and safety measures in schools for in-person learning and more details about how live, online virtual learning will be delivered. Please note that the Secondary Virtual School that is currently in place will not be offered for the 2021-22 school year. Virtual Learning will be provided through home schools and will include live, online instruction involving teachers, staff and students from the home school or a group of schools. Relationships and connections to our students are so important to us at Harbord and by mid-August, I expect and foresee higher levels of vaccination among Harbord staff, students and families ---- which in turn will result in more families selecting In-Person Learning (the best learning for most of our children!) More information about the Selection Form for In-Person and Virtual Learning will be emailed directly to families in August. All information and the selection form will also be made available on the TDSB website.

### ***Planning for September (Secondary Update)***

Additionally, parents have been informed of the current plans for September and the Quadmester structure. The TDSB is must follow the directives from Ministry of Education and they have stated to all school boards:

*"In secondary schools, school boards are to adopt secondary timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible and to limit the number of student-to-*

*student contacts. School boards will be required to limit schedules to two in-person classes (such as quadmestering) with exceptions for schools where contacts can be limited by cohorting grades or if the overall size of the school is small, making contact tracing manageable.”*

Messaging has come out this past week from the TDSB recognizing that some students have experienced challenges with the model, while some other students preferred it. The TDSB is continuing to explore ways to improve the model that was used this year, to better meet the needs of all students. The TDSB is planning for all in-person students to be attending school each and every day beginning in September 2021; however, direction from the Ministry may change, and decisions may have to be revisited. Again, we are all ‘crossing our fingers’ that as the number of COVID cases continues to decline, and with the accelerated pace of vaccinations, we will all be in a much better situation in the September with almost all Harbord Tigers back in bricks-and-mortar, in-person learning.

### ***Achievement Update***

During the week of May 25 to May 28, all teachers will communicate to students how their progress is at this midway point of Quad 4. Please speak to your students and/or contact the teacher for any questions. Teachers will also provide a detailed letter of concern for any students and parents/caregivers who are at risk of getting the credit. This letter will be emailed directly to the student and parent/caregiver during the week of Monday, May 31. Please contact the teacher for any questions about this letter too. As a reminder, only students in grade 10 who take Civics or Careers this Quad 4 will receive a midterm report card via email. This will take place also during the week of May 31.

### ***Digital Literacy Student-led learning***

On Wednesday May 19th this week, Harbord celebrated Digital Literacy Week! We had our first ‘Digilit Day’ where students participated in 11 different 40 minute student-led digital literacy workshop of their choice. As you may hear your teenager often say to their friends: ‘that was LIT!’ --- yes, the Digilit was LIT!!! We offered workshop choices ranging from "Intro to Coding", to "Digital Art", "Gif Animations" or "How to build a computer" and more... We even had 96 participants in one session (ESports)! Thank you to Ms. Schuster, Ms. McNeely, Ms. Park, Mr. Persad, and Mr. Witt for organizing and congratulations to the student workshop facilitators for the engaging activities. Watching all eleven sessions was super cool! See photos below.

[photo1.jpg](#)

[photo2.jpg](#)

[photo3.jpg](#)

[photo4.jpg](#)

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 long weekend!

Steve