

Hello Harbord parents/guardians,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful, warm, spring-like weather! For the next couple of days, it looks like the sunshine and warmer temperatures are staying so get out there and enjoy the outdoors (but keep in mind our health safety measures of physical distancing, good hand hygiene, and of course, wearing a mask when needed!)

As we fast approach the end our first quadmester, I would like to thank our students, staff, and parents and guardians for their patience with the many changes and adjustments that have been required of us all this school year. We definitely have a FUNomenal school community who care for each other. We are simply the best!!!

Here are some updates:

Communication and Progress:

As you have likely heard already from the TDSB through a previous email, we did not have our usual experience of Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences that we have had in the past. Students and parents should have received mid-term marks during the week of October 19-23 through available digital tools (e.g. MarkBook, BrightSpace, Google Classroom, email). As always, if you have concerns and would like to connect with your child's teachers we ask that you contact them directly via email.

Quadmester 1 Completion:

The last day of instruction for Quadmester 1 is Tuesday, November 17. November 18 and 19 are "Credit Rescue" virtual classes from 8:45 to 12:30. This time is dedicated only for students needing to complete missing work that will support them to pass a course. More information will be provided around the specifics for the Credit Rescue dates in the coming days. Keep up the hard work Tigers! Please note: November 20 is a PA day and students are not required to attend school. Quadmester 2 begins on November 23, 2020.

Quadmester 2 Virtual Learning at Harbord:

We are working feverishly to create a Virtual Learning model for current face-to-face Harbord students who requested virtual learning for Quadmester 2. The TDSB had decided that the Virtual School can not accept any new students for the next quadmester due to staffing reasons and system stability. As we have 797 in-person students at Harbord and 80+ students requesting Virtual Learning, our efforts have been focused on creating a model to provide some Harbord students the opportunity to learn virtually while continuing to provide the majority of students who would like to have the face-to-face learning experience. We will have our model finalized and approved by the TDSB early next week. A BIG THANK YOU to our passionate teaching staff for their continued understanding, professionalism, dedication, flexibility, and care for our learners as we adjust, prepare, and teach our students in Quadmester 2.

Any current face-to-face in-person learner who had submitted their request for virtual learning by our deadline will begin Harbord Virtual Learning on November 23, 2020. Virtual School students from Quadmester 1 who have requested to return to in-person learning at Harbord will be contacted individually. Their acceptance into Quadmester 2 courses will depend on course and space availability. If a timetable can not be created for the Virtual School student at Harbord, the student will continue their studies at Virtual School.

Guidance and Student Services message:

Reminder from Guidance that all students (those in the Virtual School and in-person) should join our Guidance Hub Google Classroom to receive important info and updates throughout the year. **code: lti3ch**

COVID-19 Information:

Thank you for your collective efforts to keep everyone healthy and safe at Harbord. As we continue our 'bricks-and-mortar' Harbord learning, please be aware of updated Health and Safety information that is pertinent school attendance. Of note, Covid Tests and the new Parent Attestation Form should be emailed to the appropriate VP. Here are a few links with information: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety/COVID-19-Guidance> and <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety/Daily-Health-Screening>

Indigenous Education Month in the TDSB:

November is Indigenous Education Month in the TDSB. Throughout this month, various HCI staff will be integrating aspects of Indigenous learning throughout their courses. This learning will help support our school's commitment to deepen our knowledge, learn about our shared history and to build stronger relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples in Toronto and in Canada. Also, every Thursday in November, staff will be wearing Orange Shirts to recognize and commemorate the legacy of the residential schools system for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. By wearing orange shirts, we acknowledge that history in Canada --- and we honour survivors. Our school made a donation to the Wenjak fund as well. Check out our staff photo yesterday on twitter @harbordci...

Upcoming School Council Meeting:

We had our first School Council meeting on October 26, 2020 and it was great meeting parents! Our next school council meeting is this upcoming Monday, November 9, 2020 (5:30pm – 7pm) so come out and join us from the comforts of your home! The School Council Zoom meeting link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/96246907364>

Welcome Back Information from Admin:

This week, teachers shared 'welcome back information' from the admin via video. Usually, we would have a school-wide assembly to share this information but because of the COVID-19 situation, we did things differently... have a peek if you like!

<https://youtu.be/wtYcaT3eVwE>

Lastly, enjoy the sunshine and warmth that it brings. Have a FUNomenal weekend Harbord!!!

Steve