

Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:

I hope that everyone in our Harbord family continues to be well, safe, and healthy. We've made it to the Winter holiday break --- woohoo! Together, we've done a great job looking after EACH OTHER since the beginning of the school year in September. Although the Omicron variant is a concern across our city (and globally), I know that our continued CARE for EACH OTHER, and desire to be safe and healthy will lead us through the challenges. Harbord: collectively we CAN do this! Let's all be safe and healthy during the holiday break and come back to Harbord ready to learn in-person together. Let's be even more disciplined now with our physical distancing (when needed) and masking. Stay the course...stay smart...stay safe.

Here are a few information items and reminders:

### ***Return to school in January***

As per the email sent earlier this week by the TDSB, with cases of COVID-19 continuing to rise in Toronto, the possibility of individual classes or schools moving to remote learning for a period of time does exist. Although the TDSB has not received indication from either the Ministry of Education or public health officials that schools will close, it is important to be prepared to implement any decision they may make as smoothly, effectively, and efficiently as possible. Towards the end of the holiday break, please pay particular attention to the news, follow the TDSB's Twitter account, and Harbord's Twitter account @harbordci for the most updated information. Also, make sure your child is checking their online classroom platforms Brightspace and/or Google Classrooms for communication from their teachers.

### ***Semester Two Learning (starts Feb. 3)***

At this moment, the TDSB has not finalized our Semester 2 schedule. The Board has determined that we will be returning to a more traditional 4 course/class school day however, the length of the instructional periods and lunch time have not been confirmed. More information will come in January.

At Harbord, we will have 48 virtual learners in Semester 2. Every attempt will be made to reduce the number of simultaneous learning classes by grouping virtual learners as much as possible and forming 'hubs' with other schools where the opportunities present. This means that virtual learning students may be taught by a teacher from another TDSB secondary school as students are shared across schools in a simultaneous and/or fully virtual class (if possible). Again, stay tuned for more information.

Student engagement is enhanced when students see one another as they interact with their teacher and peers. Students learning virtually in Semester 2 are expected to have their cameras on during class time. Zoom Backgrounds are available to students for privacy. By having cameras on, we will build human connection with one another which supports learning and a strong sense of community. Students can speak with a guidance counsellor, Vice-Principal or Principal if there are concerns.

### ***Reminders***

#### **STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES (SAC FEE)**

This fee collection is an integral part of Harbord's extracurricular programming and opportunities. Although many of our activities and clubs have started up in November and December, our SAC fee contributions have fallen short of previous years. Typically, over 80% of our student body contribute to Student Activity Fee collection however, we have only approximately 40% of students have paid the fee. Again, the SAC fee helps support the clubs, councils, and sports teams at our school to run activities and

events for our students. Included in the fee is both the Yearbook and your Student Photo ID. This year's fee is \$45. Parents can pay the fee via School Cash Online. Click this link to School Cash Online Harbord Student Activity Fee payment: <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/110514/153/False/True>

**January 3-14**

Monday, January 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First day back!</li><li>• Week 2 classes</li></ul>
Wednesday, January 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photo Retake Day</li></ul>
Thursday, January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grad photo sessions begin</li></ul>

***Lastly...***

Enjoy the holiday break with family and the important people in your lives. All the best in the new year. As always, please continue to practice the health and safety protocols and follow the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives. Have a FUNomenal holiday!

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

Steve