



*Dear Knob Hill families,*

### *Goodbye and farewell*

Winter Break is here! With the new year coming, there will be some changes of staff at Knob Hill. Our wonderful Vice-Principal Mrs. Siriram will be leaving Knob Hill to become a Principal at another TDSB school. She has been an integral part of the Knob Hill family for the past 3 years and will be truly missed. We wish her well in her new leadership position.



### **TPH Holiday Letter**

[TPH/TDSB Holiday Letter](#)

### **TDSB Survey for Parents/Guardians**



### **IMPORTANT**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Further to the email sent to all parents/guardians from the Toronto District School Board yesterday afternoon, I wanted to provide more information about the parent/guardian survey about elementary switching. As you know, the next opportunity to request consideration for a switch between in-person and virtual learning was originally scheduled for the end of January (to take effect on February 16). To help guide us in making a decision on switching that will best support student learning, please complete the following survey to indicate if your child wants to be considered for a switch between the two learning models:

[Transfer to Virtual Learning - Knob Hill Public School](#)

While this survey does not guarantee that a switch will be possible, the information will assist staff as they consider next steps in the process.

## Severe Weather Letter

Please see the attached letter from the Board regarding severe weather procedures.

[Severe Weather Letter - December 7, 2020.pdf](#)



## The P.A. Days:

Winter Break begins Monday December 21st and students return on Monday January 4th, 2020.

## Covid Update

Thank you to the community for assisting us in keeping everyone safe and well from **ensuring your child's Health Assessment is signed**, to wearing masks when on the property. Although we have had a couple of classes closed temporarily, as a result of parents and the school being proactive, the time in isolation was significantly reduced. If you know you are sick or might have been exposed to COVID-19 please remember to isolate and follow the directions of Toronto Public Health (TPH). **You must keep your children home depending on exposure and pending the results of your test.** Please keep Knob Hill in the loop.



Toronto Public Health just announced today it has updated its COVID-19 student screening tool to prevent further opportunities for virus spread. The TDSB follows direction from Toronto Public Health and the [new screening tool](#) was effective starting **Monday, December 7, 2020**. Please read the entire message from Toronto Public Health, below.

As part of this guidance, if a child has one or more new, or worsening COVID-19 symptoms, parents will now be required to:

- Keep their child home.
- Keep siblings and other children home, even if they do not have symptoms.
- Arrange for the child to get tested or contact their health care provider.
- Without testing, the child must stay home for 10 days.
- Monitor the family for symptoms. Adults must stay home if they have one or more symptoms.
- [TDSB Student Health Pass](#)
- [Back to School Confirmation Form](#)

### **Transitions to Grade 9**

At first glance, it may seem that transitioning to Grade 9 takes only a few minutes. However, the TDSB has many choices for students to examine. This year, we will be working directly with the students as our guidance staff have been re-deployed to support virtual school. Teachers are using the My Blueprint forum to plan as well as engage in virtual meetings with various High Schools. Please discuss your child's secondary school information with them. The TDSB also has a great deal of information on its 'Beyond 8' website to help with understanding the system and the deadlines for applications. Please to [Click here](#) to view the Beyond 8 portion of the transition to Grade 9 information portal.

### **Grade 7 and 8 Vaccinations**

All school immunization clinics are suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

Students in Grades 7/8 can still receive their vaccinations at Toronto Public Health clinics later, by appointment only. The three vaccines available for free are:

- Meningococcal-quadrivalent
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Hepatitis B

Toronto Public Health will be offering free community clinics for students, beginning in 2021, by appointment only at [www.tphbookings.ca](http://www.tphbookings.ca)

## **Important Information for Families of Grade 3 Students (NEW Middle French Immersion Program – Grade 4 Entry)**

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide NEW Middle French Immersion Program (begins in Grade 4), we offer an online process to apply. [Attached](#) to this email you will also find an important information package. Please note: This program will replace the Junior Extended French program as the Grade 4 entry program in TDSB.

To apply for the Middle French Immersion Program (Grade 4 entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between [January 4 and January 29, 2021](#).

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in a French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the "sibling option" within the online application.

For more information about the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) application process, please join us for a [Virtual Information Session](#) on one of the following dates:

- January 14, 2021 – 10 am
- January 21, 2021 – 7 pm
- January 27, 2021 – 7 pm

For more information about Middle French Immersion Program, available in multiple languages, please visit

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/French-as-a-Second-Language-FSL-Programs>.

## **Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 Entry) Parent/Guardian/Community Information Sessions**

This year, there will be three virtual (online webchat) information sessions for parents/guardians/community members interested in the NEW Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry) program.

Please note the following dates/times of the Virtual Information sessions below:

Session	Date	Time
Virtual (online webchat) Information Session	January 14, 2021	10:00-11:00am
Virtual (online webchat) Information Session	January 21, 2021	7:00-8:00pm
Virtual (online webchat) Information Session	January 27, 2021	7:00-8:00pm

In order to participate in a live scheduled webchat, please visit the web page below and a link will be available to join on the dates/times outlined above.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions>

For more information, please contact:

- Centrally Assigned Principal, Angela Caccamo at [angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca)
- FSL Program Coordinator, Kirsten Johnston at [kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca)

## Commemorations, Traditions and Celebrations

### Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. He founded the US, a cultural organization, and started to research [African](#) “first fruit” (harvest) celebrations. From there, he combined aspects of several different harvest celebrations to form the basis of Kwanzaa.



The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits” in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, families gather and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara, then one of the seven principles, values of African culture, is discussed. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31. Learn more about the principles of Kwanzaa [here](#).

### Christmas

One of the most widely known December holidays, Christmas traditions vary around the world. While Americans celebrate with Christmas trees, visits from Santa Claus, and dreams of snowy landscapes, Christmas falls during [Australia's](#) summer, where it is popular to go camping or to the beach over the holiday. Some Australians decorate a “Christmas Bush,” a native Australian tree with small green leaves and flowers during the summer.

In [England](#), Christmas traditions are the [United States](#), but instead of cookies for Santa Claus, children and brandy for Father Christmas.



Australian tree that turn red

similar to those in leaving milk and leave mince pies  
In [Iceland](#), capital city Reykjavik turns into a winter wonderland with its Christmas market and for the children, there is not one but thirteen Santas, known as Yule Lads. One arrives each night in the thirteen days before Christmas, leaving small gifts in shoes left in window sills. Read more about how Christmas is celebrated around the world [here](#).

## *New Years Day*

Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each new year for at least four millennia. Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the new year and watching fireworks displays.



## *Mental Health*



### [Get Support for Learners](#)

Click the link above to learn about one-time funding for parents to help offset costs during the 2020-2021 school year. Find out if you are eligible and how to apply.

Crisis Services Canada (CSC) is a national network of existing distress, crisis and suicide prevention line services. We are committed to supporting any person living in Canada who is affected by suicide, in the most caring and least intrusive manner possible.

[Canada Suicide Prevention Service | Crisis Services Canada](#)

### *Food Banks Locations for over the holidays:*

[Food Programs by Location • Daily Bread Food Bank](#)