

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I hope you and your family are doing well and keeping safe during these challenging times. This past March Break was like no other. I know it has been a challenge to remain at home and adhere to social distancing guidelines, especially for your children, who are accustomed to playing with friends and being out of doors. However, these measures will help to minimize the impact of the epidemic and hopefully keep our families and friends healthy. The Percy Williams' staff members very much miss seeing their students, and I know they are concerned for all our families and the local community. Just try and remember that we'll get through these difficult times together. As parents, I know you are also concerned for the missed time in the classroom, and there is no substitution for quality teacher instruction.

Here are some resources and sites that you can use with your child to keep them engaged and involved in educational exercises. Some staff members are also reaching out to parents and students on platforms like RAZ Kids, SeeSaw, and Google Classroom, so be sure to check these notifications as well.

### **TDSB Educational Resources**

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Health-Active-Living/Coronavirus/Learning-Resources>

### **Ministry of Education Learn at Home Resources**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home>

Also, I have been retweeting resources, activities and ideas shared on Twitter from various educational sources and sites as well as information from Toronto Public Health and the City of Toronto. *As always, when students are accessing online resources and sites like YouTube, be sure so supervise your child and ideally have them work in the same room of the house as you, the parent.*

The government of Ontario announced there would be a second phase of resources to support virtual learning across the province. Remember, learning can be fun, and activities like baking, doing puzzles, playing board games or LEGO, trying art or STEM activities as a family are all opportunities to learn.

### **Toronto Public Health Resources and Questions Regarding What to do if you Feel Sick**

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/>

I know these are very stressful times for parents and families. Financial concerns and job security are putting additional strain on families in addition to the closure of schools and child care facilities. Students or parents experiencing stress or crisis and requiring emotional support related to COVID-19 can access the following community resources:

- [Distress Centre of Greater Toronto](#)  
Call 416-408-4357, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
Text 45645 between 4 p.m. and midnight  
Translation is available in many languages for crisis calls only
- [Kids Help Phone](#)  
Call 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
Service is available in English and French
- [Gerstein Crisis Centre](#)  
416- 929-5200, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
Translation is available in many languages

As I said earlier, we will get through this together. If I can support or assist you or your family in any way, send me a message and continue to check your email for letters and correspondence from the school board. I will be contacting families today for whom we currently do not have an email contact to ensure you're getting the necessary information. Also, follow us on Twitter @PercyWilliamsPS and look for updates on our school website

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/percywilliams/>

We miss all of our students and families, and we look forward to when we can safely see you back at school. Until that time, stay healthy and take care.

Jason Donaldson  
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