

## JANUARY 2021

Principal: Lorelei Eccleston  
Superintendent LN20: Erin Alto Saar

Vice-Principal: Jemaine Wallace

Interim Vice-Principal: Miriam Zachariah

### UPDATE FROM MS. ECCLESTON



Hello Rawlinson Families,

Can you believe that we are already into week two of remote learning! I understand that families had varied start-up experiences and there are many factors that may have led up to these experiences. Thank you to everyone for your support while I navigated my way around the school community. The words of appreciation that I have received from the entire school community are greatly appreciated. I know that my families and community are stretched to the limit during this Pandemic time. I acknowledge that this is not an easy time for anyone. We know the stress and anxiety that this extended remote learning has caused and we endeavor to support you as best as we can. Please continue to reach out to us. We are doing our best to provide prompt replies, but our mailboxes have been 'exceeding the limit' 😊. Also, we have had numerous requests for technology and are trying to

accommodate every request. We do not want our students to lack access to their learning! We are down to the last few devices. Please be sure to let your child's teacher know if your child needs technology. Requests for technology at this time may take a couple of weeks to fill as we have distributed almost every working device in the school. Thank you for ensuring that your child is online for remote learning every day, for staying the course, and committed to being involved in school happenings. WE WILL MAKE IT THROUGH!

I am wishing you a wonderful week and month ahead. During 'off times' please take time away from the computer screen as much as possible. So far winter is giving us a 'break' and the outdoor temperatures are perfect for fresh air and winter walks.

The Government of Ontario announced new measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the province. As part of this week's announcement, the government has said that **all schools in Toronto will remain closed to students and staff until Wednesday, February 10**. During the closure period, remote learning will continue, as will in-person supports for students with special education needs who

cannot be accommodated through remote learning.

Our schools will continue to support all families to ensure that learning can continue as best as possible during the closure, although we recognize that everyone is trying their best to balance life, work, childcare, and remote learning, among other things right now. While we believe the continuation of learning is important, the mental health and well-being of our students is just as important. We would encourage parents/guardians to review these [important resources](#) that we have compiled that may help support your children during this challenging period.

We know the current situation is far from ideal for many of our families, but we will continue to support you as best we can during this time. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

**\$200 SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS  
PAYMENT— NOW OPEN TO  
STUDENTS AGE 13 to Grade 12;  
APPLY BY FEBRUARY 8!**

The province has launched the "Support for Learners" program, to help with additional school year costs during the second wave of COVID-19.

## Rockit News

**\*\*\*NEW: THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE STUDENTS FROM AGE 13 – GRADE 12**

Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

- \$200 for each child up to grade 12
- \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs

Please use link below to apply: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-learners>

The deadline has been extended to February 8, 2021

**Note that if you previously applied for funding in the Spring, you must reapply in order to receive these funds through the Support for Learners program.**

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### ECOLE RAWLINSON SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our next School Advisory Council meeting will be on Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Link on to the meeting from the comfort of your own home! No need to dress up or face the colder temperatures. We hope you can make it! More information will be coming your way. Stay tuned...

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### UNIVERSAL SCREENING

Grade 3 Universal Screening (CCAT-7) was administered to our brick and mortar school students. You will be notified results once they are returned to us. Virtual School students will have the opportunity to be administered the test at Virtual School in February. More to

follow. The TDSB does not allow for re-testing of the CCAT-7.

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### DEVICE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

As we've shared before, while the TDSB has distributed more than 70,000 devices to students, we know that some students may still require a device for this extended remote learning period. Unfortunately, we currently have no more devices available to share. For support with technology, the following links are available:

[Student Virtual Learning IT Support](#)

[Student Virtual Learning Technology FAQ](#)

[Brightspace Student Login Instructions for Parents/Guardians](#)

Live Webchat: Open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
[https://csdwebchat.tdsb.on.ca/StudentWebChat/servlet/AppMain?\\_FILE=ChatForm.jsp](https://csdwebchat.tdsb.on.ca/StudentWebChat/servlet/AppMain?_FILE=ChatForm.jsp)

TDSB Parent Phone Support Line: 416-396-9100: Open Monday to Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Note: "How To" questions about digital learning tools and classwork related questions should be directed to your teacher.

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### SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION:

#### Going to High School:

High School is an exciting time in a student's life, full of opportunity and a chance to explore a variety of programs as you start planning your experience. [This website](#) is a valuable resource full of information about the wide range

of learning opportunities available to you at the TDSB.

The [Beyond 8 Choices for 9](#) is an interactive guide for students and families to answer many of the questions that families may have about the transition from elementary to secondary school.

Open Houses and Information evening information for all of the high schools in the TDSB is available [here](#). Open Houses start at the beginning of November. Please connect with us or with your child's teacher if you have any questions or need further information.

### GRADE 8 TO GRADE 9 OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE FORMS

Parents, please complete the optional attendance form with the name of the requested school, sign and email, scan or fax it to Rawlinson. Principal Eccleston will sign all forms and the school will forward completed forms to the respective high school. Optional attendance forms must be received by January 28<sup>th</sup> latest date. They are due to the high schools by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We will send an optional attendance form to families through School Messenger.

### INFORMATION NIGHTS for SECONDARY SCHOOL and MY BLUEPRINT

Grade 8 parents, this is a very busy time of year when together with your child you are the best pathway for your child to continue their educational career. Grade 8 teachers are keeping you up to-

## Rockit News

date through their Google Classroom. There, you will find postings for upcoming high school information nights as well, the upcoming information night on ***My Blueprint*** (which all grade 8 students will complete). I encourage you to try to attend this virtual session. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.

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### FRENCH PROGRAMS APPLICATION DEADLINE

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Programs, we offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in Senior Kindergarten) and Middle French Immersion (begins in Grade 4). An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. The timelines for applying for these programs for September 2021 are:

#### **Middle French Immersion:**

Applications must be completed online between January 4 and January 29, 2021.

Offers of placement within your chosen program (not a specific school) will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window. Families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

**Virtual Web-Chat Information Sessions** (for the Early French Immersion (SK) application and placement process):

For more information about the Virtual Information Sessions, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions)

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french)

#### **Grade 7 Extended French**

**program:** students who have successfully completed three years of Core French the option to enter into a more intensive program in Grade 7. These students spend approximately 40% of their day in French classes at the Extended French school. While the TDSB has decided to phase out this program, the last cohort to begin the Grade 7 entry Extended French starts in September 2022. The Grade 7 Extended French program is offered in only 14 schools in the TDSB. The attendance area for an Extended French school is created by "associated" English feeder schools. J.R. Wilcox C.S. is your child's school for Grade 7 Extended French.

For more information about the Grade 7 Extended French program, visit the [TDSB site here](#). The application process is now open. Applications are to be submitted electronically to the local school by January 29, 2021. For J.R. Wilcox, applications are to be sent to [jrwilcox@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jrwilcox@tdsb.on.ca). We are hosting a Virtual Information session on **January 20 at 6:30pm**. The link to the session is [here](#) and on the TDSB site.

#### **Open Houses:**

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a school,

TDSB schools will host virtual open houses and information sessions (live or pre-recorded) for parents/guardians and students between November and January.

Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. Please note that some schools are hosting "live" virtual open houses that families can join in real time, during the specified date and time. Some schools have pre-recorded information sessions that you can view at any time by clicking the link provided.

If you have questions about a specific school or open house, please contact the school directly for more information.

Note: Please check this page regularly, as schools will continue to post information about virtual open house dates/times and available pre-recorded information sessions.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/OpenHouses>

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### JANUARY IS TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH!

Tamil Heritage Month is recognized nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest.

## Rockit News

This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights - Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members heritage identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self identity and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee. For more information please click on the following link: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1576/Tamil-Heritage-Month-at-the-TDSB-%e2%80%93-January-2021>

- Excerpt From TDSB web

### THE ART GALLERY OF RAWLINSON

Ms. Irvine and Ms. Lim's class has been doing 1 directed drawing per week, and drew a rabbit in honour of Buddy the Bunny, who Ms. Irvine have been fostering. Buddy leaves Ms. Irvine's care this week to be reunited with his human overseas,

so the kids got to say goodbye to him.



In Kindergarten, Room 119, we have been learning about bears (hibernation, coding and STEAM - creating dens or bear homes). We read the book "Going on a Bear Hunt", we went on a bear hunt through unplugged coding (as a class, teacher lead) and we discussed and created our own bear hunts/searches. Some examples were: one student drew a house with a key and a lock, one student made a cage, one student made a "lair", one student made a house that was connected to a computer, and one student made a shield and used bear spray. Here's a few slides we worked with. Ms.Schria and Ms. Theodorou

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vS0zv1L9BlyJXKLm9XY5yfMgRAHnsDI5hq8--v-fEoRsv0cDg0UauoMXnHLIFkxYp89BymGBWqe38bj/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000>

Mme. Armstrong's class created a lovely piece of artwork inspired by Mme Betty's idea of drawing penguins.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all students and staff celebrating a birthday in the month of January!



### DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

This is a reminder that dogs are not permitted on TDSB property. We appreciate all the community support to ensure that owners are cleaning up. Thank you for your cooperation.

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