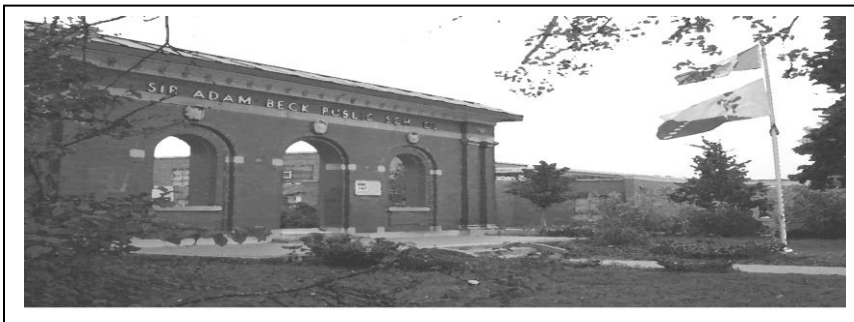


# Newsletter

École  
Sir Adam Beck  
Junior School



## April 2021

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

544 Horner Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M8W 2C2  
Tel: 416-394-7670  
Fax: 416-394-6142

Will your child be absent from school?  
Call our Safe Arrival Number.

**416-394-3884**

**Toronto District School Board website**

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca>

## Upcoming Events

### April

**2/3:** Easter Long Weekend,  
No School

**9:** Pink Shirt Day

**12-16:** New Spring Break,  
No School

**28:** Walk on Wednesday (WOW)

**Character Attribute  
Cooperation**

**Hispanic Heritage Month  
Sikh Heritage Month  
Latin America History  
Heritage Month**



### *Principal's Message:*

Dear SAB families,

We would like to thank the entire school community for their continued support and diligence in using the updated TPH screening tool and student health pass. Please continue to monitor the symptoms and close contacts of the entire family. It is so important that your child's health pass is signed and dated each day. Forgotten forms or signatures results in significant delays as this requires our office staff to call each family and carry out the screening questionnaire. Unfortunately, the warm weather has seen an increase in families congregating in our playground after school. Our staff continues to work incredibly hard at providing the safest possible environment for our students each day and we depend on our families to support the messaging of mask wearing, distancing and cohorting after school. Let's continue to work together to curb the spread of the variant and keep our students in school.

As we head into the final stretch of the 2020-2021 school year the planning and organization process for next September has already begun. I want to reassure parents that staff and administration put a great deal of time and thought into the organizing of classroom groupings each year taking into account the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size which places a 'hard cap' of 20 students in Primary classes (Gr.1- 3). Teachers will meet with school administration to discuss the needs of each student. The following factors are taken into consideration:

- The academic needs and learning style of the child
- The social/emotional/behavioural needs of the child
- Support programs - care is taken when placing children who are supported by special programs i.e. Special Ed., ESL
- A range of ability levels of the students in the class
- The class size (primary caps)
- Parental input shared with the teachers regarding the following:
  - i) Academic needs and learning style of their child
  - ii) The social/emotional/behavioural needs of the child;(Please note requests for specific teachers will not be entertained)

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the Principal.

March came in like a kitten with warmer than expected temperatures. April showers arrived earlier than expected. Please ensure your child has the appropriate spring weather wear – splash pants, boots and rain jackets along with a spare change of clothes.

Wishing all of our students, families and staff a wonderful Easter long weekend and spring break.

***M. Kanalec***

**Principal** Michael Kanalec  
**Vice-Principal** TBA  
**Superintendent** Dr Debbie Donsky  
**Trustee** Patrick Nunziata  
**Council Co-Chairs** Paul Younger,  
& Corrine Frey  
**Title Photo Credit:** Steve Burazin



## April 2021 Council Corner

Email: [sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/sabschoolcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/sabschoolcouncil)

Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck/School-Council>

### Council Statement on Anti-racism

Our School Council is committed to being supportive of the diversity of cultures, systems and experiences in our community and to nurturing a more inclusive, equitable and just world for our kids. We condemn all forms of racism, including the rise of targeted acts of violence against Asian communities and ongoing anti-black violence. The webinars that the Council is hosting on this topic, and additional classroom resources supported through FlipGive, are important initial steps. We look forward to working together to develop further initiatives and welcome feedback and suggestions to help us move this important work forward.

### New Books for Classrooms

Council is pleased to support the purchase of books for classrooms focussed on topics related to diversity and inclusion. Teachers were consulted on which English and French books they required in order to use funds raised through the Indigo FlipGive ongoing campaign.

### Look out for our next anti-racism workshop in May

Guest speaker Jonathan Hood will return for a second workshop on anti-racism in May, date TBC. This is a follow-up to the significant interest the parent community expressed at the first workshop on this topic in February. Council acknowledges the receipt of a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant from the Government of Ontario for engagement on this important topic.



### Feedback on recent Resiliency Workshop

On March 4th, we were pleased to host Dr. Michael Ungar Ph.D, who shared his research findings and personal anecdotes related to nurturing resilience in our children. A copy of the presentation is available online and is worth a read as it provides a very practical list of Nine Ways Families, Schools and Communities Nurture a Child's Resilience:  
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck/School-Council/Events>

All attendees who provided feedback indicated that the information presented was informative and that they will be able to apply it. Key take-aways included:

- Our kids will be ok after the pandemic with our support
- Give children freedom and responsibility (don't over-parent them)
- It's never too late to start using resiliency training with your child.

### Shop from home and raise funds for our kids!

Go shopping online for high quality products from retailers such as Recipes in a Jar and Tru Earth, while contributing to Council fundraising campaigns. Find details on all current campaigns here:  
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck/School-Council/Fundraising>

### Learning corner

Help your children take healthy risks and be try being a "lifeguard parent":  
<https://activeforlife.com/lifeguard-parenting/>

## **Volunteer Annual Offence Declaration**

We acknowledge all of our amazing volunteers even though volunteering in the school has been put on hold. If you are listed on our volunteer data base it is important for you to carry out your annual Offence Declaration. All volunteers currently on our Volunteer Database with an approved police reference clearance are required to carry out an annual offence declaration. This can be done by contacting the main office (416 394 7670) or virtually during the COVID restrictions by emailing [Michael.kanalec@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Michael.kanalec@tdsb.on.ca) to initiate the process.

## **Alderwood Action After School (AAASI) Summer Camp**

Alderwood Action After School (AAASI) is happy to announce that we anticipate hosting a 2021 Kindergarten (Junior and Senior Kindergarten) and School Age (Grade 1 to 5) Summer Camp for current AAASI families, and students of Sir Adam Beck P.S. Beginning in May 2021, AAASI will initiate offering available summer camp spots to Kinder and School-Aged siblings of currently enrolled children. Any remaining spaces will then be offered to the Sir Adam Beck P.S. community.

At this time, information on what the camp may look like is unavailable due to the changing regulations around COVID-19. Quality programming and safety of our participants and staff are our top priorities and we will ensure that all our enhanced safety protocols continue to be followed when the camp program commences. A notice allowing registration will follow in early May with more information and a detailed program plan.

It is important to note that enrolment in summer camp does not guarantee placement in our kindergarten and school age before and after school programs in September of 2021. AAASI will continue to use our established waitlist for these September placements.

We thank you for considering us for your summer childcare needs.

## **Student Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders**

Just a reminder that our FDK School day ends at 2:50PM. The supervision team on call from 2:50-3:05 is responsible for rounding up students that have not been picked up and accompanying them to the main office. If you are going to be late, please let either the classroom teacher or office know.

### **Early Pick Up**

Students must be signed out with the main office staff. This also applies to students organized in the bus lines at the end of the day. Please provide a note for the teacher/office if your child is leaving early. They will be called down to the office to meet you. Also, when returning during the day, please notify the office so that your child may be signed into their class.

## **Outdoor Gear**

Parents/guardians are asked to monitor daily weather conditions and to send their child to school dressed so that they are comfortable participating in all aspects of the school day. Daily outdoor activities require boots, splash/snow pants, jackets, toques and glove mittens.

## **Important Notice of Teaching Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations**

The Ministry of Education released The Ontario Curriculum for Health and Physical Education, Grades 1 to 8, in August 2019. At the same time, the Policy/Program Memorandum entitled - Exemption from Instruction Related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in the Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1 to 8, was also publicly released for implementation by November 30, 2019.

TDSB acknowledges the importance of a child's understanding of human development and sexual health and that students are best served when schools and parents work together to support learning about healthy living.

Education related to Human Development and Sexual Health will be taught in a developmentally appropriate manner and delivered to meet the learning needs of students at different ages. The goal of this learning is to help students build the skills they need to develop personal responsibility for lifelong health, contribute to an inclusive school culture and make responsible choices that protect themselves from potential harms.

Procedure 727 has been created based on the specific requirements outlined in PPM 162. [PR727](#) provides a specific process with forms, letters and checklists attached to be followed by staff and parents which allows for students to be exempted at the request of a parent/guardian from all of the expectations related to the Human Development and Sexual Health found in Strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education. Please note that this component of the Health Curriculum is normally taught anytime after the March Break. Parent/guardians must be given a minimum of 20 (school) days notice prior to the teaching of any of the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations.

Parent/guardians have until 5 days prior to the first day of teaching Human Development and Sexual Health to request an exemption. The 3 options that can be selected are the following:

Option 1: remain in the classroom without taking part in instructional activities related to Human Development and Sexual Health. (I understand that my child's activities unrelated to Human Development and Sexual Health during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher.)

Option 2: leave the classroom and remain in the school under staff supervision. (I understand that my child's activities during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher or principal. Note: While the school will make every effort to accommodate your request, a school's ability to effectively supervise students may not be operationally feasible.)

Option 3: be released into my care as parent/guardian or the care of my approved designate.

This school year, we have had to deal with additional challenges that are outlined in the TDSB Operational and Program Guidelines. Please remember, that option 2 has the following caveat:

While the school will make every effort to accommodate your request, a school's ability to effectively supervise students may not be operationally feasible.

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## **Indoor Shoes**

Please make sure your child has indoor shoes at school at all times. The colder weather brings with it snow or mud and students are asked to change their footwear when they enter the school in order to keep their feet dry and warm and to keep the hallways clear of snow and dirt. Indoor shoes should be proper shoes with soles, appropriate for indoor activities.

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## **Lost and Found**

Reminder that we are not maintaining a Lost and Found this year. Please support your child with reminders to track their belongings at school. We will do our best to return misplaced items on a daily basis.

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## **Cancellation of Busses during Severe Weather**



From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in 582 schools, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB web site, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe Weather: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>

**Please remember that if buses are cancelled in the morning they are always cancelled in the PM also so if you choose to bring your child to school you must also make arrangements to take your child home.**

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## **Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season**

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions

can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer