

École Sir Adam Beck Junior School Newsletter

December 2023

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

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

Upcoming Events

December 4: Council Parent Math Workshop with Trevor Brown, 6PM

December 8: PA Day – No School

December 11: School Council Meeting
6:30 – 8:00pm, Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/ptb-fbuj-tgd>

December 15: Council Pizza Lunches

December 15: Council Poinsettia Pick Up

December 20: WOW (Walk On Wednesdays)

December 22: Pyjama/Comfy Clothing Spirit Day & Last day of School

December: 25 - Jan 7 Winter Break

January 8: Classes Resume

January 15: Skating Begins

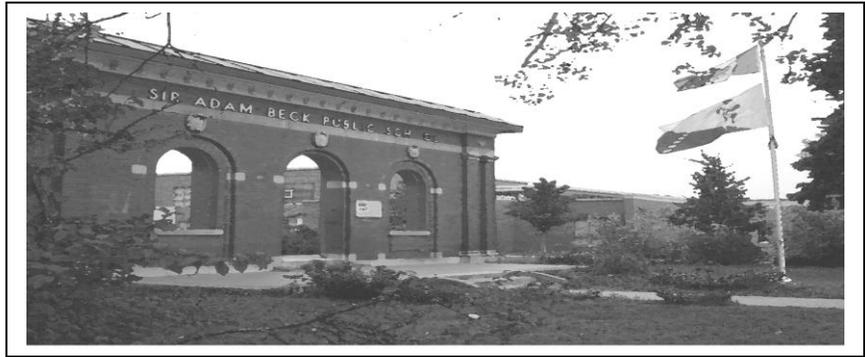
Reminder:

Grade 1- 5 Students will need skates and helmets. The school has a limited number of skates/helmets available to borrow if required. Please connect with your child's teacher

*****Happy Holidays*****

Character Attribute for December is Kindness & Caring

Principal Michael Kanalec
Superintendent Dr Debbie Donsky
Trustee Patrick Nunziata
School Council Co-Chairs
Japmeen Johal, Sara Chow
Title Photo Credit: Steve Burazin



Will your child be absent from school?
Call our Safe Arrival Number.
NEW ** 1-833-250-2290 **

Principal's Message:

We all took time to remember at our school wide Remembrance Day ceremony. Thank you to the Remembrance Day Committee for hosting a wonderful assembly. The ceremony reflected the Calls to Action of Truth and Reconciliation while ensuring the contributions of all Canadians were acknowledged and appreciated.

Student-led conferences were a big success. Thank you to the parents/guardians of all our students who participated by attending with their child. We look forward to helping our students become more independent learners and confident communicators as they develop an awareness of their own strengths and needs while planning next steps for their learning with their caring adults.

As we head into the colder months of the year, we will continue to introduce fresh air into our learning spaces by having windows opened slightly. We will continue to head outside for recess, DPA (daily physical activity) and physical education classes through the winter months. Proper boots, splash/snow pants and gear are essential. Please keep this in mind as your child gets ready for school each day by considering an extra layer of clothing to ensure comfort throughout the day.

This winter season students in grades 1-5 will have the opportunity to participate in recreational outdoor skating at the Sir Adam Beck rink. Please take time to check your child's equipment and connect with your child's teacher if there is a need to borrow skates or a helmet. Homeroom classes will notify families of their skating days/times and permissions forms will be emailed to families in the coming weeks

Our school remains a mask friendly environment. Thank you for the continued support in helping to slow the spread of the "triple threat" illnesses this cold and flu season. We appreciate everyone's effort in keeping their children home when they are not feeling well and having them return when symptoms have resolved. Arriving to school on time, healthy and ready to learn each day supports an uninterrupted instructional day.

From all of us here at SAB, we would like to wish all of our students and their families a joy filled and healthy holiday.

Michael Kanalec
Principal

Lunchroom Supervisors Needed

Do you have an hour to spare in the middle of the day? We are seeking energetic, reliable and trustworthy individuals with a love of working with children that are interested in becoming Supply Lunchroom Supervisors. If you are interested, please contact the school at 416-394-7670 for more details.

A School Council Presentation: Mad Science

Thank you to our School Council for sponsoring the Mad Science presentation. Sir Adam Beck students welcomed Scientist Element also known as Scientist Ella to the school on Wednesday, November 22nd. She came in full of energy to show the students a magic trick and plenty of science experiments.

Scientist Ella showed examples of high and low air. She showed how using one breath can fill a plastic bag because of low pressure. She then showed high pressure by keeping a small ball floating over a straw, then she wowed the students using a hair blow dryer and finally an impressive leaf blower to keep a large ball floating above, all thanks to high pressure!

Next, Scientist Ella used the leaf blower using high pressure to blow toilet paper in an exciting scene until it moved out of the path of the source of wind and fell to the ground.

After that, a hovercraft made an appearance! Scientist Ella showed how friction slows down the hovercraft causing it to stop. Then, using air from the leaf blower and causing less friction, Scientist Ella was able to glide around the floor of the gym on a hovercraft board!

In the grand finale, Scientist Ella used carbon dioxide pressure to spray water over the audience. Thanks to the support of Sir Adam Beck's parent council, students learned a lot about high and low pressure as well as friction.

December - Library News



The book fair was a **huge success!** Thank you to all the families who visited the event and purchased books. A special thank you to all the wonderful parents, families and students who volunteered throughout the week. All the proceeds from the book fair go directly back to the SAB library and classroom libraries. It was great to see so many of you at the Book Fair and so much enthusiasm for new books and reading!

December's read alouds will focus on the character trait of Kindness and Caring and the cultural celebrations of Kwanzaa, Christmas and Hanukkah. With each read aloud, we focus on reading strategies and understanding the text. So far, we've worked on reflecting on the author's purpose, characters, setting and vocabulary.

Toronto Public Library Update

As you may be aware, the Toronto Public Library (TPL) experienced a cyberattack at the end of October. As a result, our students have not been able to sign-out books during class time. They now expect the systems to be down until January 2024 (please see the TPL website for more details). I have been working with the TPL staff and we have come up with an internal process to sign-out books so book exchange will thankfully begin soon. The first order of business is to return all the books students signed out in October. Many of these books have been housed in your child's classrooms. Please help by making sure your child's library books are returned. Then, students will be able to sign-out only one book at a time during this process. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions about the library, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: kathy.botham@tdsb.on.ca

Happy reading and have a restful, happy winter break!



NOVEMBER'S ARTS UPDATE!

The first few weeks of November were spent further exploring the Elements of SHAPE and COLOUR (and the Principles of PROPORTION and BALANCE). Kids, inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's incredible poppy paintings, created poppy pieces of their own. From there, we jumped over to the Element of SPACE (and were blown away by the works of M.C. Escher). Kids created works that demonstrated their understanding of both Positive and Negative Space. Next, we've recently segued over to the artist Keith Haring (who just so happens to be headlining at the AGO right now!). Stay tuned for our own playful and colourful works!

Mme Mahaney

Life is Like A Tree Workshop

In this workshop, students from Mme Brown and Mr Breaw's classes explored traditional glue making and created collages with words, pictures and found materials. We learned, through an Anishinabe lens, that the sap of the tree can be understood as the blood that flows in our bodies. We are living life that is fluid, flowing and running, always changing.

Through "Life is Like a Tree", artist Alexandra Iorgu and Knowledge Keeper Alan Colley, in partnership with Nadijah Robinson of Lakeshore Arts, welcomed students to the New Toronto Library Branch. The lead artists invited participants to deepen their understanding of trees and the trees' connections to self, history, and community. Funding for these programs was made possible with the support of Toronto Arts Council, in partnership with Toronto Public Library, as part of their Artist in the Library programs.

Collage with Spruce Sap (glue was made with spruce sap, bear fat and wax, and it smelled so good)



FOOD DRIVE UPDATE!

SIR ADAM BECK'S DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE

We are pleased to announce that we will again be holding **Sir Adam Beck's School-Wide Food Drive**, in support of [The Daily Bread Food Bank](#). Students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food donations from [Monday, December 11th through Tuesday, December 19th](#). Yellow collection bins will be placed in front of the office. Donations can be sent down at any time throughout the day.

Although The Food Bank appreciates all donations, their most needed items include:

- canned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines)
- canned fruit
- canned tomatoes (whole, diced, crushed)
- canned vegetables
- oatmeal
- nut butters (peanut, almond)

We encourage families, friends (and staff) to donate what they can. Every little bit helps. Thank you. ♥

Health Physical Education and Dance Update

During the month of November the focus has been [Germs and Vaccinations for the Primary classes](#) and [Healthy eating for the Junior classes](#). We have been discussing the importance of ways to prevent and avoid germs (washing hands with soap and covering their cough or sneeze in the crook of their arm), as well as making sure to make healthy food choices using Canada's Food Guide.

The primary classes (grades 1-3) have also been learning about some of the elements of dance (Body, Space and Relationship). Students have been learning how to move around the space using a variety of locomotor and non-locomotor movements incorporating levels (high, medium and low), and interesting body shapes. Classes have been working in small groups to create choreographed dance pieces to perform in front of their classes.

Ms Giorgio

From The Office

In order to minimize class interruptions, we will be calling students down for pickup once you arrive. On the rare occasion that time might be tight, please call the school when you are about five minutes away and we will call your child down then. In addition, please email Maureen.huddleston@tdsb.on.ca if your child will be on vacation. Teachers are not always able to forward emails on to the office. Direct contact with the office will help ensure accuracy in attendance.

With thanks,

Ms. Huddleston and Ms. Monaghan



This is reminder that dogs are not allowed on school property during the school day (8:20AM – 3:25PM) Some of the members of our school community have allergies and/or are uncomfortable (uneasy) with dogs in close proximity. If you do enjoy walking your pet after hours please do remember to pick up after your pet.



December 2023 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290183431386941>

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

Poinsettia Fundraiser

For those who ordered poinsettias via our fundraiser, thank you for your support! The pickup day is December 15th from 12:00-6:00 pm outside of the school gym. If you are unable to pickup your order on December 15th, please send an email to fundraisingsab@gmail.com

Where does the money go? Last year, fundraising dollars went to:

- Leveled reading books for take-home reading in each classrooms
- Field trip funding / in-school field trip funding such as Scientists in School or Planetarium In-School Field Trip
- Teacher classroom funding for supplementary supplies
- Special ed support funding - Sensory items
- Play Day
- Author visits for literacy week
- Art program / craft materials
- Dot and Dash learning robots
- Jungle sport mobile climbing gym
- Courier bags
- Golden award gift cards
- Angel Fund - field trip / school experience financial assistance

Volunteers Needed! - Thanks in advance for your support

- Kiss and ride - [sign up to volunteer here](#)
- Pizza lunch - Email sabpizzalunch@gmail.com. Volunteers meet in the gym at 10:45 AM and aid in handing out pizza until approximately 12:15 PM The list of lunch dates is available here: [Calendar](#)

Police check / attestation - Valid police check on file required for in-school volunteering with students. While it can take a while for first timers, volunteers are always welcome for outside of school items (think: researching and helping with a fundraiser, shopping / pickup for an event, designing flyers, etc)

SAB is seeking Skate and Helmet Donations

Are those old skates and helmets taking up valuable space in your home? Bring them to SAB for a new lease on life! During the winter season, SAB students have the opportunity to utilize the outdoor rink beside the school. And we'd love for all students to have that opportunity even if they don't have skates/helmets of their own. So clean out that closet and bring those unused equipment to us! Just make sure they're in good working condition, and sizes for children (approximately) grades 1-5. SAB students will thank you! Drop off at the office.

Math homework got you puzzled?

SAB School Council has organized a math workshop for parents and caregivers of SAB students: Mathematics for Human Flourishing - a Math Workshop for Parents and Caregivers

When: Monday, December 4th, 6-8pm

Where: SAB gym (please note: updated location from the library)

Led by Trevor Brown, Assc. Professor of Education at Tyndale University, this session provides a conceptual understanding of the math being taught at SAB to support kids in their learning. Aimed at math concepts taught in JK to Gr 5.

Take-home materials include: handouts, information on Canadian Math Kangaroo, a Rekenreck, Ten frames, and Base Ten games/learning tool to make math fun at home.

Child minding will be provided. Please use this [link](#) to register for the event.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCNJd60VnF2KiZp79tAdYKvU6d_nbKK9NpONN8qnmUIZ1MVg/viewform

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Corner

December brings with it many celebrations throughout the world. Many of these celebrations trace their roots back to winter solstice and the beginning of our journey back towards warmer weather and longer days.

Hanukkah – Dec 7-15 A Jewish holiday which reaffirms the ideals of Judaism. Candles are lit as a family for eight nights of remembrance.

Universal Human Rights Month (United Nations) - December 10, 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most ground-breaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

Los Posadas – Dec 16-24 - A mainly religious festival commemorating Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem. This celebration ends with pinatas filled with candy and toys for the kids.

Winter Solstice - December 21st is the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year, in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. As the solstice happens all around the globe, there are many different ways of celebrating this transformational time. The winter solstice is an important time of spiritual rejoice and celebration of the return of the sun, and many religious holidays in winter are rooted in this period of transformation.

Christmas – Dec 25 - A Christian celebration of the birth of their lord, Jesus Christ. The term Yule may date back to a few other words which mean feast of the winter solstice.

Kwanzaa – Dec 26 – Jan 1 - a seven-day celebration of African roots, observed by people of all faith backgrounds, since it's not tied to any religion. The African-American and Pan-African holiday is anchored by seven principles known as the Nguzo Saba which aims to inspire Black people to be united, self-determined, accountable for their communities, financially invested in Black-owned businesses, purposeful with their lives, creative and full of faith. While originated in the United States, the celebration draws its roots from the South African first fruit celebrations. South Africa being in the Southern hemisphere and enjoying the start of summer in December.

Funding for Education as part of Ontario 2024 Budget Consultation

SURVEY LINK: <https://www.ontario.ca/form/survey-2024-budget-consultations>

Do you want to list Education as a priority for Ontario's 2024 Budget? Part of every Ontario School Council's mandate is to support Student Achievement and as such, educational funding is an essential ingredient.

Ontario Budget consultations are now happening. You can have your say regarding the province's plans for its 2024 Pre-Budget Consultations. In addition to the online survey, Ontarians can also submit written submissions by January 31, 2024. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will be conducting public meetings across the province during December 2023 and January 2024.

When you complete the online survey - please see Question 5 that asks, *When you think about your community, what services or resources could use more government support? Please choose the top 3 priorities that you feel are the most important.* One of the options is ***“Education supports (like before and after school programming, special education and developmental support programs).”*** We encourage you to list this priority should you wish to support public education.

Written email submissions can also go to:
Melissa Ouzas, Manager, Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto Ontario
M7A 1Z1
Email: MOFconsultations@ontario.ca

Happy Holidays from your SAB School Council!

Early French Immersion (JK Entry)

The Early French Immersion program begins in Junior Kindergarten (JK). Families who wish to have their child participate in an Early French Immersion Program **must** apply in **November**. To apply, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/pars.

For September 2024 entry, **the application process will open on November 6, 2023 and close on December 1, 2023**. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will be marked as late and accommodated if space in the program is available.

In February, only those families who applied in November and have accepted an offer of placement for their child via the [central application process](#) can register in Early French Immersion.

To learn more about the TDSB's kindergarten program, including home tips on preparing your child for school, visit the [Kindergarten Links and Resources](#) page.

Below is a Q&A that may support some inquiries which you may receive from local parents/caregivers during this time period:

When the on-line application system (PARS) opens...

How do I apply to Early French Immersion?

- Please invite parents/caregivers to visit www.tdsb.on.ca/pars. They will select the program from a drop-down menu on the right (Early French Immersion) and follow the prompts. This process is not first come first served. In the weeks following the close of the application, offers of placement will be **sent to the email address provided** by the parent/caregiver. Please encourage them to check this email frequently and follow the prompts in the message when the offer is made.

My child is not in the TDSB and does not have an OEN. **ALL families will be non-TDSB families who have child(ren) born in 2020.**

- For non-TDSB students, the parent/caregiver selects the “Non-TDSB Student” option on the PARS site and follows the steps to generate an identification number. They must then continue the application procedure with this number.

I can't get on the website.

- Please reassure the parent/caregiver that the application is not handled on a first come, first served basis. If there is an internet issue, the parent/caregiver may try again. If there is a problem with the site, please let us know via email and assure the parent/caregiver that it will be taken care of and they should try again in the next couple of days.
- If the parent/caregiver cannot access the internet from home or has any other challenges using the on-line system, please offer them assistance at the school or have them call our office. With a DOB, anyone can submit the application for the parent/caregiver.

When will I hear?

- Offers of placement will begin in the days following the application deadline and they will continue for the weeks following. Not all families in a given area will receive their offers of placement at the same time, but all will receive one.
- Please encourage the parent/caregiver to check their email frequently (including their junk mail). Please do **not** offer a firm date when the offers of placement should be completed.

Is it a first come first served process?

- No. All applications received by the deadline are treated with the same priority and are guaranteed a place **in the program** (we cannot guarantee placement in a given school).
- All applications received after the deadline will be held on a waitlist *and considered subject to available space until the end of September of the entry year.*

Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Viruses

Dear Parents/ Guardians/ Caregivers,

You and your child play an important part in protecting our school communities to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses this fall and winter:

Reduce virus spread

- Stay home if sick or have symptoms of being sick, even if they are mild.
- Use the [TPH screening questionnaire](#) or the provincial [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) before attending school or work if there are symptoms of illness.
- [Clean hands](#) often.
- [Cover their cough](#) or sneeze with a tissue or their elbow.

- Wear a well-fitted, high-quality [mask](#) in crowded indoor settings with poor ventilation, especially if at higher risk of getting very sick

Get the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccine this fall

- Both vaccines are important to prevent serious illness.
- The updated COVID-19 vaccine targets the XBB variant and will better protect from the variants spreading now and [long-COVID](#).
- Everyone six months and older can get the updated [COVID-19 vaccine](#) and [flu vaccine](#) starting October 30th, 2023 at:
 - Toronto Public Health [fixed-site vaccination clinics](#). Book an appointment at [TPHbookings.ca](#). Only one appointment is needed to get both vaccines.
 - Participating [pharmacies](#) or health care provider's office.

It is also important to have your child up-to-date with routine vaccinations

- In Ontario, the [Immunization of School Pupil Act \(ISPA\)](#) requires all students to be up-to-date with certain vaccines, or have a [valid exemption](#). This includes vaccinations for measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, meningococcal and chickenpox.
 - Toronto Public Health (TPH) will be sending letters to some parents to ensure their child is compliant with the ISPA legislation.
 - Parents must report any vaccines not given by TPH through [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#).
 - Students who are not up-to-date can be suspended from school.
- Students in grades 7 to 12 can get the [hepatitis B, human papillomavirus \(HPV\) and meningococcal vaccines](#) through the [Student Immunization Program \(SIP\)](#).
 - How to get these free vaccines:
 - **SIP school clinics** will offer hepatitis b, human papillomavirus (HPV) and meningococcal vaccines during school hours to grade 7 and 8 students who attend the school. Visit the [School Immunization Program webpage](#) to see the school clinic schedule.
 - [TPH fixed-site vaccination clinics](#). Book an appointment at [TPHbookings.ca](#).
 - **A health care provider's office**. Ask your health care provider to [order these vaccines](#) for free from TPH and report it through [ICON](#).

More Information

Visit [toronto.ca/health](#) to learn more about:

- [Respiratory Viruses: Information for Parents & Caregivers](#)
- [Childhood Vaccines – Quick Reference Guide](#)

Questions? Contact Toronto Health Connection at 416-338-7600 or PublicHealth@toronto.ca.

**WISHING ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND STAFF
A HEALTH AND HAPPY HOLIDAY**



December 2023

[CONTACT US](#)

Mme Mahaney
Mme Dibon-Smith
Ms. Giorgio

SAB Athletics



Boys' Volley Ball

Our Grade 5 boys' volleyball season is under way! All practices are held during the lunch hour. Our tournament is scheduled for Monday, December 4th at Sir Adam Beck. We are excited to be hosting another volleyball tournament at our school! Parents are welcome to attend.



Skating Program

We are happy to share that the skating program for grades 1-5 will begin in January! At the end of December, you will receive an online permission form with information about required equipment. Students who do not have skates or helmets at home will have access to the equipment we have at school. We will be using the permission forms to track the number of skates and helmets requested.

Looking for VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in volunteering for our skating program, please let your child's teacher know. This program is for grades 1-5. All parent volunteers are required to have a police reference check and must be in queue for school approval.



Coming Up!

We have so much to look forward to after the break, including the return of ball hockey, volleyball and badminton! Stay tuned for more information!



Sir Adam Beck Junior School

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

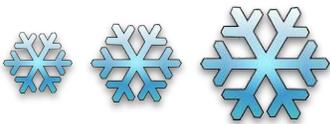
DECEMBER 11 - 19

in support of



Daily Bread
Food Bank

Join us in helping families who are experiencing hunger this holiday season.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS:



CANNED FISH
(TUNA, SALMON, SARDINES)



CANNED FRUIT



CANNED TOMATOES
(WHOLE, DICED, CRUSHED)



CANNED VEGETABLES



OATMEAL



NUT BUTTERS
(PEANUT, ALMOND)

The Food Bank also accepts DIAPERS, FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, PET SUPPLIES, SOAPS and DEODORANTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.



QUESTIONS? EMAIL: JESSICA.MAHANAY@TDSB.ON.CA

November Assembly

We brought the school together for our first monthly assembly of the year, on Friday, November 3rd.



Mme Brown's class started the assembly off with a focus on inclusion. The grade 4 French Immersion class read <<Bienvenue! Un livre sur l'inclusion>> (All Are Welcome) by Alexandra Penfold. The students spent time reflecting and learning about the book's message of inclusion. During the assembly, they shared how to make others feel welcome at both Sir Adam Beck and in the community.

The grade 4 French Immersion students also read <<L'histoire du chandail orange>> (The Story of the Orange Shirt) by Phyllis Webstad for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Students shared why they wear an orange shirt, how they can help and explained why every child matters. One message was that we wear an orange shirt to remember all of the students who went to residential schools and to honour the families who lost a loved one in residential schools. Another message was that we can learn about the truth of residential schools and make sure that what happened never happens again. A student also said that every child matters because children are our future.

Students also learned about the Witness Blanket, a piece of art made up of over 100 objects from residential schools, churches, government buildings and traditional structures and cultures from across Canada. Students shared that each object tells a story of loss, strength, and resistance. Through learning about the artifacts included in the Witness Blanket, students broadened their knowledge about the events that took place in Residential Schools.



Finally, students shared information about Sir Adam Beck's Walk on Wednesday, including the benefits of walking to school. Students noticed that when they walk to school they can concentrate better during the day. They also enjoy observing the nature along their walk and appreciate the benefits of walking to school on the environment. Remember, Walk on Wednesdays are happening every Wednesday this year! The Walking School Bus is happening on the last Wednesday of each month.



SIR ADAM BECK JS
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTS



MATH HOMEWORK GOT YOU PUZZLED?

**A math workshop for parents and
caregivers of SAB students**

Led by Trevor Brown, Assc. Professor of Education at Tyndale University, this session titled “Mathematics for Human Flourishing” provides a conceptual understanding of the math being taught at SAB to support kids in their learning. Aimed at math concepts taught in K to 5

Take-home materials include: handouts, information on Canadian Math Kangaroo, a Rekenreck, Ten Frames, and Base Ten games/learning tools to make math fun at home.



**DECEMBER 4TH, 2023
6 TO 8 PM
ALDERWOOD LIBRARY**



CHILD MINDING WILL BE PROVIDED.

THIS IS A SESSION FOR PARENTS OF SIR ADAM BECK JS STUDENTS

scan to sign up



Trustee Update

Patrick Nunziata • Ward 3: Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • Patrick.Nunziata@tdsb.on.ca



Ward 3 Update - November 2023

Celebrating Good News

I encourage you to read about some of the recent events, initiatives and great things happening across the Toronto District School Board, including:

- [Danforth CTI Celebrates 100th Anniversary and Time Capsule Reveal](#)
- [Dream Serenade for Beverley School: A Celebration of Inclusivity and Music](#)

Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Viruses

Please remember, as we head into the cooler months and respiratory virus activity increases, I encourage you to review this [information from Toronto Public Health](#) about how to prevent the spread of infections in schools and communities.

Central Student Interest Programs

I encourage you to look at the variety of [elementary central student interest programs](#) and [secondary central student interest programs](#) offered at the TDSB! Applications for these programs opens on **Monday, November 6, 2023 and close on Friday, November 24, 2023 at 4 p.m.** To learn more about each program, review program and application requirements, get dates for upcoming

open houses and view webinar recordings, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/csip.

Coping During War & Conflict: Video Series and Culturally Responsive Resources

I know our community is going through a period of unprecedented challenges, and we understand that it's crucial to find effective ways to manage our well-being. A video series and related resources have been developed by TDSB staff and expert facilitators to offer coping strategies during war and conflict to support the emotional and mental wellness of students, parents/guardians/caregivers, staff, and the broader community. [Visit the Affinity Wellness webpage for videos and resources.](#)

Status of Child Care Services (Funding)

This week the Chair of the TDSB sent a public advocacy letter to the Minister of Education regarding our significant funding concerns related to child care services across the city. For more detailed information regarding the Board's concerns, please [review the letter posted on our public webpage.](#)

High School Open Houses and Information Nights

Please join us between November and January for organized open houses and information sessions aimed at aiding your decision in choosing the right school for your child. These events are tailored to provide information for parents/guardians/caregivers and students. I encourage you to visit our website, where you'll find detailed information on dates and times for the upcoming [Open Houses and Information Nights.](#)

Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten)

Entry) Application Deadline

If your family is interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program, we are pleased to offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (which begins in Junior Kindergarten). To apply to the Early French Immersion Program for September 2024, please complete the online applications between **November 6 and December 1, 2023**. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. For more information, please visit: [Early French Immersion](#) or the [Application Process](#).

November is Indigenous Education Month

We are proud to celebrate Indigenous Education Month throughout the month of November. Students, staff, and community members are encouraged to honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. It is important to remember to center First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. Please visit [the UIEC website for more information](#).

Hindu Heritage Month

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), we are proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. This is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion. This year's theme is *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum: The World is One Family*. [Visit the Hindu Heritage webpage for more information](#).

Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns

Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal,

the school superintendent, and me, your Trustee! For more information, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. For a list of upcoming meetings, please click on the [calendar](#) at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

- [X \(Twitter\) @TDSB](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram @Torontodsb](#)
- [Threads @Torontodsb](#)



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