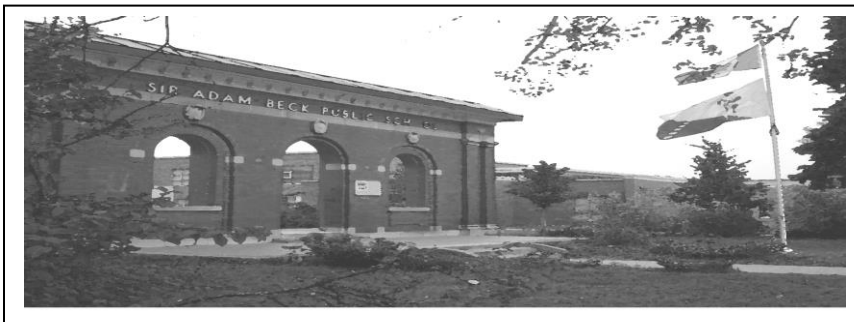


Newsletter

École
Sir Adam Beck
Junior School



February 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

February

- 4: National Sweater Spirit Day
- 8: Report Cards Sent Home
- 8: Council Meeting, 6:30
Join via Google Meet:

meet.google.com/jko-ctgr-sgb

- 11: Red and White Spirit Day
- 12: PA Day – Reporting to
Parents/Guardians
- 15: Family Day Holiday – No
School
- 17: School Council Webinar
“Talking to your kids about
race and anti-racism”
- 24: WOW
(Walk On Wednesdays)

**Character Attribute
Fairness**

**Chinese Heritage Month
African Heritage Month**



Principal's Message:

Hello SAB families,

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the mid-way point of another school year. The uncertainty we face with regards to pivoting between remote and in-person learning continues to be a challenge we all face. We are all working extremely hard and putting forth our best efforts for our students. It was appropriate to end the month of January by recognizing Bell Let's Talk day. For anyone living with a mental illness, stigma is one of the biggest hurdles to overcome. There is no better time to be reminded that talking is the best way to start breaking down the barriers associated with mental illness and accessing mental health support. Mental health and well being resources during COVID can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19>. The provincial stay at home order has also resulted in the postponement of the administration of the CCAT for our grade 3 virtual school students. Toronto Public Health has strongly recommended not to proceed until the provincial emergency order has ended on February 10th. The recommendations of TPH are being followed and plans are being made for after the emergency order is lifted. Information will be communicated directly to the students/ families affected. Reports cards and student IEPs (Individual Education Plans) will once again be distributed electronically. Please look for messaging from the board with regards to dates and how to access these documents. We will be opening up our online booking system on Wednesday February 3rd – please be sure to book your parent/guardian- teacher conference. A separate email will be sent out to all families with instructions next week.

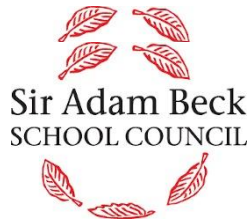
Please check out our new website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck>
Up to date news, dates and information can be found here. Over the next few weeks we will continue to make upgrades.

Kindergarten registrations will take place in February. If you have a child who was born in 2017 or know a family that is interested in registering please have them register online: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>
Lastly, we would like to remind you of the extra-long weekend coming up. Friday February 12 is a PA Day and Monday February 15 is Family Day. Please take this time to enjoy with your immediate family. The purpose of this holiday is emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families being together.

Keep well and stay safe,

M. Kanalec

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



Sir Adam Beck
SCHOOL COUNCIL

February 2021 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

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

Introducing the 2020/2021 School Council

We welcomed several new members to the School Council this year. Have a look at the section below to “e-meet” the new members.

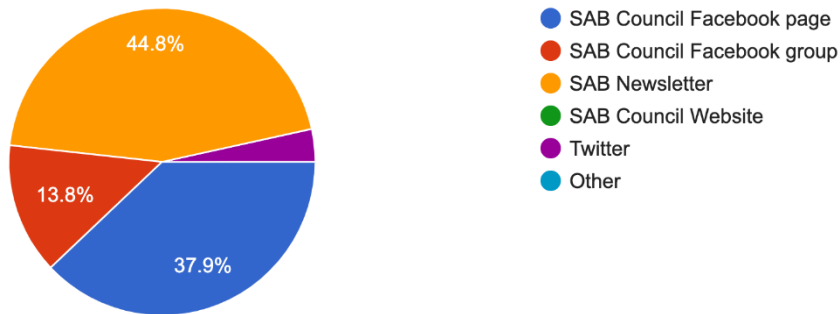
Parent engagement survey results:

We would like to thank all of the parents who completed the Parent Engagement Survey that was circulated at the end of December 2020. This survey provided an important opportunity for the School Council to hear about the topics that parents are most interested in learning about over the coming year, as well as parents’ preferences for how to receive information from the Council. We received 30 responses to the survey and have summarized the results below:

Topics of interest for an upcoming SAB parent webinar (respondents could select more than one response so percentages do not equal 100):

Raising anti-racist kids:	60%
Raising resilient kids:	57%
Emotional intelligence:	47%
Internet use and safety:	47%
Mental math strategies:	37%
Dealing with COVID-related anxiety in kids:	3%

Preferences for how to receive information from the School Council



**Note: the “Other” category included: email, email blasts and Facebook as open responses.*

In response to these results, we have planned two parent webinars (details below). We will also continue to use the SAB newsletter and our Facebook page and group as the main communication forums.

Upcoming parent webinars:

In response to the survey responses, the School Council will be hosting two parent webinars. Details are provided below:

1. Talking to your kids about race and anti-racism

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Speaker: Jonathan Hood, MA Ph.D

Ahead of the game: www.aheadofthegame.ca

2. Nine Ways Families, Schools and Communities Nurture a Child's Resilience

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Speaker: Dr. Michael Ungar, Ph.D

Website: www.michaelungar.com; www.reslienceresearch.org

Please look out for more details regarding registration and how to join both webinars.

Fundraising Update

We are delighted to provide an update on our FlipGive fundraiser, which allows families to purchase Indigo gift cards online, with a portion of all sales supporting SAB. To date we have raised \$993. FlipGive runs year round so please consider using this site when purchasing gift cards (www.indigo.flipgive.com)

Our two new fundraisers are also still active. Both provide great products available for purchase from two Canadian companies. Check out the websites below and make purchases until May!

- 1) [Tru Earth](#) - Known for their eco-friendly laundry detergent, this company offers a variety of products. 20% of all sales will be given back to our school.
- 2) [Recipes in a jar](#) - Delicious meals and baked goods are only a jar away! These products also make great gifts for family and friends. Free shipping on orders of 6 or more. Consider partnering up with another family if you aren't able to make the minimum yourself. 1/3 of all sales will be given back to our school.

Learning Corner:

A few resources that may be of interest to parents:

1. Help Children Understand Race and How Adults Can Help

Speaker: [Erin Winkler](#), Associate Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Date and time: Saturday, January 30, 2021, 11 am

For more information visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conversations-Series>

2. Talking to your Kids about Race

Speakers: Tamera Irons and Gita Madan

TDBS Parents as Partners Virtual Conference (October 24th -25th 2020)

Youtube link to recorded session:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HJks0kr7XM&feature=youtu.be>

3. **Mental Math for all:** Some very cool mental math programs

<https://mm4all.thinkific.com/>

They also run live sessions on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MentalMath4All/>

Did you know?

Council is a great way to hear from the principal and discuss school activities/council initiatives with other parents and caregivers.

We look forward to seeing some new faces at the next Council meeting on **Monday, February 8th at 6:30 p.m.** with Google Meets: meet.google.com/jko-ctgr-sqb

Parent/Guardian Update: Requests to Move Between Virtual and In-Person

Prior to the Winter Break, we asked all elementary school families to indicate if they wanted their child(ren) to be considered for a switch from in-person (in-school) to virtual learning (at home) or from virtual learning (at home) to in-person (in-school) learning. This information helped us plan the last opportunity to switch for the 2020-21 school year.

With the help of this survey information, the lessons learned from previous switching experiences and following Toronto Public Health (TPH) guidelines, we have decided **to proceed with a final switching opportunity, where space is available, in February 2021 for those families who indicated interest in the December switching survey.**

We are committed to completing as many requests as possible, with priority given to students who live in neighbourhoods which are at higher risk for COVID-19 based on recent data from TPH. Schools will be working to find appropriate classroom spaces for students who requested a switch, however it is important for families to understand that it will not be possible to accommodate all requests. Additionally, we know that families need stability and we want to ensure as little disruption to learning as possible, including for those students who have not requested a switch.

We wanted to provide families with this important update today, but we ask for your continued patience while we finalize the process to complete this complex transition. We know that families have questions and we are aiming to provide more information next week to those who requested a switch.

Please be assured that if you indicated interest in making a switch in the December survey, we have this information and you will be contacted to confirm. No further action is required at this time.

While we recognize the changing circumstances with regard to COVID-19, families who indicated interest in a switch for their child in the December survey will be prioritized, if space is available. At this time, it is unlikely that we will be able to accommodate any additional switch requests. For more information, please speak directly to your child's current school principal (Elementary Virtual School or at their in-person school).

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Reminders

Reminder to parents/guardians/caregivers picking up their child up from school - 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 is signed in to their class.

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. Please contact the school office and we will carry out the annual declaration either over the phone or via email.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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