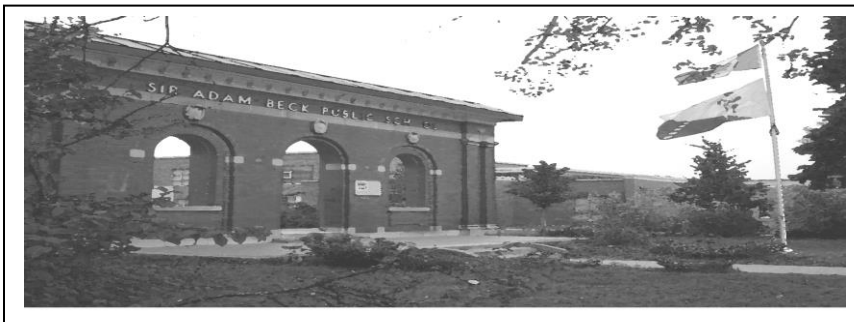


# Newsletter

École  
Sir Adam Beck  
Junior School



## March 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

### March

**4:** Council Webinar: Nine Ways Families, Schools and Communities Nurture a Child's Resilience, 6:30

**8-12:** Virtual School Grade 3 Student CCAT Pick Up (further details on page 2)

**17:** Wear Green Spirit Day

**26:** Crazy Hat/Hair Spirit Day

**29: New Date**

Council Meeting, 6:30  
Join via Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/deg-tenu-cyu>

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

**Character Attribute**  
**Honesty**

**Greek Heritage Month**



### *Principal's Message:*

Dear SAB families,

We would like to thank the entire school community for their 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 result in significant delays as this requires our office staff to call each family and carry out the screening questionnaire.

In an effort to further improve air quality and to help prevent the spread of COVID/Variants, this week schools were notified that every occupied classroom, portable and Wellness room will soon be outfitted with an institutional grade HEPA filter. Units will be distributed to schools, starting with elementary schools in areas of the city where there have been higher incidents of COVID-19. It is expected that all elementary schools will have units by the end of March.

Thank you to our School Council for hosting Jonathan Hood last week. Jonathan's webinar on Race and Anti-Racism was very well received by the 50 families that were able to attend. We look forward to Dr Michael Ungar's presentation on children and resiliency. Mark your calendar and we hope you can join us next Thursday night at 6:30PM.

Thank you as well to the School Council for purchasing 36 new Chromebooks. These new devices in addition to the borrowed devices returned by families after pivoting back have been re-deployed to each primary and junior classroom. This infusion of technology establishes a 2:1 ratio of students per device and provides our students with alternative ways to accessing the curriculum and showing their learning.

Each year, as we transition from winter into spring we are faced with some erratic weather. Warm days of thaw followed by intense cold spells often result in large icy areas on our playground and field. We appreciate Mr Jasinski for always working so hard and doing his best to keep the snow and ice clear from our walkways. We do understand there are extra challenges as parents/guardian are careful to avoid walking through classroom cohort reception and dismissal zones. Please do exercise extra caution as you navigate the school property at drop off and pick up times.

Keep well, stay safe and healthy,  
*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



Sir Adam Beck  
SCHOOL COUNCIL

## March 2021 Council Corner

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

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

### **Council Website update:**

The School Council website has now migrated to Sir Adam Beck's new webpage. It provides a one stop shop for copies of previous minutes, fundraising details and other resources from your School Council.

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

### **Recent School Council Webinar - Summary:**

On February 17th, we were delighted to host a webinar for our SAB school community, and neighbouring school communities, on the topic of "How to talk to your kids about race and antiracism". The webinar was facilitated by Jonathan Hood from Ahead of the Game ([www.aheadofthegame.ca](http://www.aheadofthegame.ca)).

We had more than 50 attendees online. The feedback has been quite positive:

- 92%: felt the webinar was engaging (36/39)
- 90%: felt the webinar was informative (35/39)
- 92%: have intentions of using the information discussed at the webinar (36/39)

The speaker focused this session on covering the foundations, including the importance of creating space and time for open discussions with your kids, to listen and to allow them to feel heard, regardless of the children's ages. Through these open dialogues, he argued, discussions about race and other topics will be easier to navigate. A video was used to reinforce the impacts of prejudice on behavioural interactions and perceptions of one's self and one's performance.

With 46% (18/39) of individuals indicating that they feel racism is an issue at their school (44% responded: "I don't know if racism is an issue at my school"), the comments reinforced a keen interest in having more focused and explicit discussions on the topics of race and racism. The Council is reviewing this feedback in detail and is working towards providing an update on next steps, including future parent engagements.

### **Upcoming parent webinar:**

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

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Ungar, Ph.D

Website: [www.michaelungar.com](http://www.michaelungar.com); [www.resilienceresearch.org](http://www.resilienceresearch.org)

Registration: [www.bit.ly/2NQOdqA](https://www.bit.ly/2NQOdqA)

*Description for this session:*

Resilience is much more than an individual child's capacity to overcome adversity. It is also the result of how well children, their families, schools and communities work together to help vulnerable young people navigate their way to the resources they need for wellbeing, and whether those resources are made available in ways children experience as culturally and contextually meaningful.

Dr. Michael Ungar will use many engaging examples from his clinical practice and research collaborations on six continents to explore the nature of children's resilience. His work challenges us to think about resilience as a child's capacity to be both rugged and resourced. In this fast-paced, story-filled presentation, Dr. Ungar will provide nine practical strategies parents, caregivers and educators need to help children heal, no matter a child's emotional, psychological or behavioral problems.

**Learning corner:**

A few resources that may be of interest to parents: Another Council in the GTA put together this toolkit that may be helpful for your families as we continue to get through the next few months of the pandemic: <https://humewoodcouncil.com/2020/12/17/family-health-wellness-toolkit/>

**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 March 29th at 6:30 p.m.** with Google Meets: <https://meet.google.com/deg-tenu-cyu>

**CCAT Update for Grade 3 Students in Virtual School**

All grade 3 Virtual School students, who have parent permission, will write the CCAT-7 test remotely supervised by their VS teacher. The test will be administered virtually during the week of March 15-19, 2021 under the supervision of the VS grade 3 teacher.

The VS grade 3 teachers will determine which day in the week of March 15-19, 2021 their students will complete the CCAT-7 assessments. They will communicate this to the parents and the Virtual School principal. Test sessions will be recorded by the VS teacher to ensure security and validity of the assessment. Parents will confirm with their Virtual School teacher if their child will participate in the CCAT-7 testing.

Parents will be required to pick up the test from their OSR school office the week of March 8-12, 2021.

## **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.

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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