

École Sir Adam Beck Junior School Newsletter

December 2021

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

Upcoming Events

December 3 – January 7
Elementary Switch Form Dates

December 15: WOW
(Walk On Wednesdays)

December 17:
Pajama Spirit Day & Last day of School

December: 20 – 31 Winter Break

January 3: Classes Resume

January 10: Virtual Council Meeting
6:30 – 8:30pm
Google Meet link:
<https://meet.google.com/wfp-tbty-cdd>

Happy Holidays

**Character Attribute for December is
Kindness & Caring**

Principal Michael Kanalec
Vice-Principal Lauren Rovas
Superintendent Dr Debbie Donsky
Trustee Patrick Nunziata
School Council Co-Chairs
Paul Younger, Corinne Frey
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:

This week all families will receive an important message for the TDSB regarding their choice of Virtual or In-Person for the next term/semester. Parents/caregivers and students who do not wish to make a change do not need to complete the form. A link to the Elementary Switch Form will be sent to parents/caregivers on **Friday, December 3**. The communication will be sent to the parents/caregivers of all students who are currently active or pre-reg in Trillium as of November 29, 2021. It will also be sent to the parents/caregivers of any child who has been demitted this school year to Home Schooling.

We continue to do everything we can to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Daily self-assessments, tracking Back to School Confirmation Forms, regular hand washing, mask wearing and physical distancing are some of the most important things we can do. In addition, according to Toronto Public Health, increasing fresh air is an important strategy in our schools and classrooms.

As we head into the colder months of the year, open windows will continue to be an important step to increase fresh air in classrooms and schools. Toronto Public Health is recommending that windows in classrooms should be opened for a period of time, at different points of the day to introduce fresh air into the space and increase air flow. While heating systems will be turned up, we still expect that schools will be cooler than normal. 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.

Please continue to model proper mask wearing and physical distancing at drop off and pick up times. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools safe for staff and students.

We will continue head outside for recess and physical education classes through the winter months. Proper boots, splash/snow pants and gear are essential.

We appreciate everyone's effort in keeping their children home when they are not feeling well and having them return with a signed *Back to School Confirmation Form*. Arriving to school on time and having your child's health pass signed each day supports an uninterrupted instructional day. Yours in partnership,
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.



December 2021 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/sabschoolcouncil

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

Fundraising

With the easing of COVID restrictions, the TDSB is now allowing some fundraising by Councils in TDSB schools. We are looking forward to hosting a fundraiser in the new year as these events have been key to supporting our children by supplementing classroom resources and supporting many educational and extra-curricular initiatives. If you have ideas about fundraisers that can be run virtually or require minimal contact, we'd love to hear about them! Please send all ideas to: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com. We will post details about the upcoming fundraisers soon.

In response to parent interest, we are also offering the option to forward a one-time fundraising contribution per family in lieu of participation in Council fundraisers. COVID-19 has impacted all of our families in unique ways, so please feel free to make any donation that your family is comfortable with. Donations can be made through School CashOnline: <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

When we think of the holidays, often it is one major holiday that can dominate the scene. In fact, there are over 21 major religious holidays celebrated by Canadians from November through January in what is traditionally considered the holiday season. In whatever way you celebrate, ask yourself how everyone can be included in the conversation when talking about holiday plans? Is there a way people may feel excluded? What changes in language or approach can I make? One easy shift is to begin with "I celebrate _____. How do you celebrate the holidays?". **Challenge:** together with your kids, commit to learning about three holidays that are less familiar to you. The library is a great place to start.

TDSB has designated days of significance throughout the year. Keep this list handy for reference.
(<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/DaysofSignificance-Jan2021-Dec2022.pdf>)

Our community is culturally and ethnically diverse. Have you ever been asked "Where are you from?"? Both the question and answer can be complicated. Here are some guides for [kids](#) and [adults](#).
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqaIE1Skn6Y> and <https://hbr.org/2020/10/whats-wrong-with-asking-where-are-you-from>)

Call for Parent Volunteers! The SAB Equity Committee is forming and we are looking for parent volunteers to join in helping to ensure we embrace and celebrate diversity, are equitable and are inclusive of everyone at SAB. If this interests you, or you would like to add your voice to this ongoing conversation, please contact sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com with the subject "Equity Committee".

Learning corner

The TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC) is hosting a free, two-day virtual event for all parents, guardians and caregivers on **November 27th and 28th**. The virtual workshop will provide an opportunity to engage with others from across the TDSB and learn about best practices to help our kids reconnect mentally and socially with ourselves, our schools and our communities. There is an incredible line-up of speakers this year.

View the [program](#) and [register](#) today!

Over the summer, *TDSB students 4 Wellbeing* curated a **Virtual Museum of Mental Health and Wellbeing**. You and your children can take a guided tour of the virtual museum using this [link](#) to view all of the art work and learn about each piece.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Sir Adam Beck Coat Drive in Support of Lifeline Afghanistan

As we head into preparations for the winter months we ask that you set aside any coats that you will no longer need and would be willing to donate. During the final week of December (13-17) we will be setting up a COVID safe and contactless way to collect coats to donate to refugees arriving to live in Toronto. Thank you to Noah Kanji (grade 5 student) for being the inspiration behind this ultimate act of kindness. Please stay tuned for details.



PET DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY



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. Mr Jasinski has worked hard with our ground crew to introduce signage around the property reminding our families and visitors of this TDSB Risk Management Policy. If you do enjoy walking your pet after hours please do remember to pick up after your pet.

LOST AND FOUND

In order to minimize movement within the school and reduce the handling of items between students we are not maintaining a lost and found this year. We are doing our very best to get misplaced items back to students as they are lost (items are mostly being left outside at recess). Please continue to remind your child to track and care for their belongings.

Important Reminder – Bussed Students and Bus Drop Off and Pick Zone

NO Parking Zone: Drop off/Dismissal Time

Please do not park on the North East side of the school (Eltham Drive) as it is our Bus Loading Zone at drop off and Dismissal time.

To ensure the safety of our bussed students we kindly request parents/guardians to remember to send a written note to school in the event that arrangements are made for your child to be picked up by yourself or by your designate on any given day.

Please refrain from picking up your child from the bus lines at the end of the day without prior notice.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

The Sick Kids COVID-19 Saliva Testing Program

The Hospital for Sick Children is pleased to provide the **COVID-19 Saliva Testing Program** in partnership with your school. Under this program, we offer COVID-19 saliva test kits for symptomatic staff, students, and household members, or those who have been identified by Toronto Public Health (TPH) as a high risk/close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 positive case. We also offer cohort and/or outbreak testing as recommended by TPH. Through participation in this program, we hope to provide a test that is painless and accessible, reduce COVID-19 cases in your school, keep schools open, promote healthy childhood development, and support the health and safety of your community.

<p>Where do I pick up my kit?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saliva kits will be provided to your school administration if testing criteria is met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1. Have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 o 2. High risk/close contact identified by TPH o 3. Cohort/outbreak management identified by TPH - You can bring a kit home from school OR a non-symptomatic member of the household can pick one up
<p>What is in my saliva kit?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saliva collection container (the blue liquid deactivates the virus) 2. Laboratory form (must be filled out to receive your results) 3. Saliva collection instructions (on the back of the laboratory form) 4. Instructions for how to access your results 5. A blank label for your saliva container (label with legal full name and date of birth as per your health card and stick onto the specimen container)
<p>When to use a kit?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The individual is experiencing at least 1 or more COVID-19 symptom - The individual has been informed by TPH that they are a high risk/close contact to a COVID-19 positive case - Cohort/outbreak testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Please follow the testing window dates provided by TPH in the close contact letter and include the outbreak number on the lab requisition. If you have symptoms, test right away. Otherwise, wait until the recommended DATE from TPH.</i>
<p>How to collect saliva?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you fit testing criteria, pick up a COVID-19 saliva kit - Collect and label your sample, fill out the requisition, seal it in the biohazard bag, and drop off at the designated school location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Only samples with a fully completed label and lab form will be processed. If you have a health card, the information must match the lab form. Include the outbreak number if provided.</i> - Saliva collection instructions: No eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum, brushing teeth, vaping 30 minutes before your test. Click here: Saliva Collection Instructions
<p>How to drop off the kit?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At your school, there will be a pre-designated drop off location, open Monday-Friday during school hours - For same day pickup, please have your samples dropped off by 9am or samples may be picked up the next day. - Please place your sealed saliva kit (containing your labelled saliva container and the completed lab requisition) inside the brown paper bag.
<p>When do I get my results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the sample is positive, <u>you will</u> receive a telephone call from SickKids within 24-48hours and Toronto Public Health to follow up on your result. - If the result is negative, <u>you will not</u> receive a call. - With OHIP - Access your results - Without OHIP – Please write your email on the requisition form for follow up
<p>Questions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please email mobile.outreach@sickkids.ca

