

École Sir Adam Beck Junior School Newsletter

November 2020

544 Horner Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M8W 2C2
Tel: 416-394-7670
Fax: 416-394-6142
<http://siradambeck.ca/>

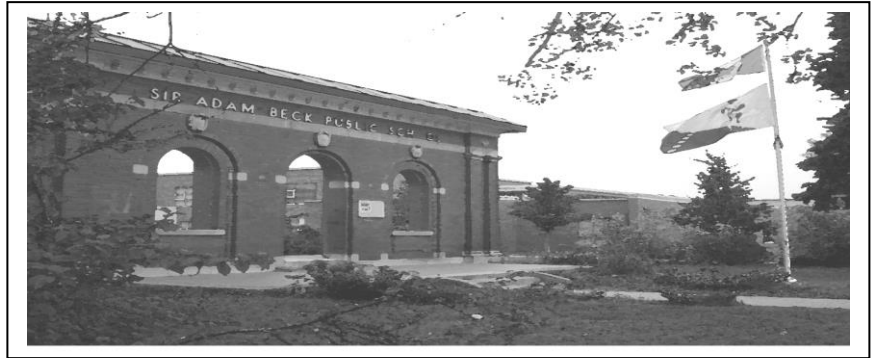
Upcoming Events

- November 1: Daylight Savings – Clocks turned back 1 Hour
- November 2: PARS Early French Immersion Application Opens
- November 6: Council Nomination Forms Due
- November 9: School Council Meeting, 6:30PM
- November 11: Virtual Remembrance Day Celebrations
- November 16: Progress Reports sent home
- November 20: PA Day – Parent/Guardian Conferences
- November 27: November Jersey Spirit Day
- November 27: PARS Early French Immersion Application Deadline

Hindu Heritage Month

Character Attribute for November is Empathy

Principal Michael Kanalec
Vice-Principal Amira Kamel Zia
Superintendent Dr Debbie Donsky
Trustee Patrick Nunziata
School Council Co-Chairs Paul Younger, Kristen Fox
Title Photo Credit: Steve Burazin
Website Credit: Tim Gard



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

416-394-3884

Toronto District School Board website

Principal's Message:

Fall is the perfect season to go out for a walk/run. We are very pleased to have raised \$850 to donate to Cancer research through our Toonies for Terry online campaign. Thank you to Ms Vucinich, Mme Dibon-Smith and Mme Rovas for supporting the event through their phys. ed. programs. We encourage our families to continue walking to school as much as possible each week in support of our Eco schools *Walk to School* initiative. This will decrease the cars on the roads around our school and alleviate the congestion in our busy parking lot.

October's orange and black spirit day was a big hit! Families who will be trick or treating are reminded to carefully review the Halloween Safety Tips in addition to the extra COVID precautions published by Toronto Public Health. Thank you for enjoying your Halloween treats at home and not sending treats to school with your child. Keeping Halloween goodies at home helps to keep our allergy sensitive students safe and supports the healthy eating messages delivered by our phys.ed team.

Fall and winter weather conditions will be arriving shortly. Our classes will continue to go outside regularly throughout the day. Please check the forecast daily and help your child select the appropriate outerwear. Our operational guidelines have been adjusted to include the controlled and staggered use of student lockers. Teachers in adjacent classrooms will work together to ensure students are able to access their assigned lockers in a safe and physically distanced way.

We appreciate everyone's effort in keeping their child home when they are not feeling well and having them return with a signed *Back to School Confirmation Form*. Together we are doing our part to flatten the curve.

Yours in partnership,
Michael Kanalec
Principal

Progress Reports Are On Their Way

This year teachers will be connecting with parents/guardians in a variety of ways (virtually, teleconference etc) as part of our upcoming reporting cycle. Students will continue to work with their teachers to reflect on their areas of strength, areas of growth and next steps in their learning. Students will continue to take on a more active role in the conferences and as such are asked to participate in the meetings if possible.

What is a School Council?

The purpose of a School Council is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. Council holds regular monthly meetings and activities/fundraising initiatives through the school year. You are automatically a member of Council if you have a child enrolled at SAB or in virtual school and we encourage you to participate in Council activities throughout the year.

Why should I attend Council meetings or become a voting member?

It's a great way to connect with the principal and other parents/guardians on matters that impact your child's education, which is even more important in a pandemic environment.

Beyond just attending and staying informed, you can become a voting member. You must commit to attending each monthly meeting and helping out with planned Council initiatives throughout the school year.

There are 12 vacant voting positions available for a one-year term. **Please complete and submit the self-nomination form by Friday, November 6, 2020 at 4 p.m.** to the SAB School Office or via email at sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Eligibility:

- All parents/guardians with children in our school, whether in-person or virtual, are eligible to be elected.
- A person is not eligible if employed by the Toronto District School Board, unless reasonable steps to inform about that employment have been communicated to the people who are qualified to vote in the election.
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Election process:

- You must have a child(ren) registered at our school or in virtual school to vote.
- The election shall be by an in-person advance poll at the school or by a hybrid in person & virtual meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020.
- The list of candidates and brief biography (if provided) will be shared at the advance poll or at the meeting.
- If there are not enough interested candidates, all nominees will be acclaimed.
- Successful candidates will be notified at the meeting or via email if absent.
- Following the election of 12 members, executive positions such as co-chairs, secretary and treasurer will be nominated and voted in from the floor.

Connect Online

This is a good time to connect with friends and family online. We encourage you to join the [Council Facebook group](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest Council initiatives.

Parent Teacher Interviews/Student Led Conferences Online Booking System

This year we will continue to use an online booking system for our families.

Details of when the system will open for bookings will be announced soon and each families will be receiving a link.

1. Follow the link to the booking site
2. Enter your details – please use full names
3. Select the teacher(s) you wish to see
4. Select the appointment time that suits your family.
5. Please contact the teacher directly by email or school phone (416 394 7670) if you have any special circumstances regarding scheduling an interview time.



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.



Remembrance Day

On Wednesday, November 11th, students and staff at our school will mark Remembrance Day with classroom activities and by participating in an online Remembrance Day Ceremony. During Remembrance Day, our teachers make connections between global events and students' lives by promoting peace within our school community.

John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

Early French Immersion Program - Application Information

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's [Early French Immersion](#) Program (begins in Senior Kindergarten), we offer an online process to apply.

[Attached](#) please find an important information package.

To apply for the Early French Immersion Program (SK entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between November 2 and November 27, 2020.

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in the same French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the “sibling option” within the online application.

For more information about the Early French Immersion (SK) application process, please join us for a [Virtual Information Session](#) on one of the following dates:

- November 2, 2020, 7 p.m.
- November 12, 2020, 7 p.m.
- November 19, 2020, 10 a.m.

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

For additional inquiries, please contact:

- Centrally Assigned Principal, Angela Caccamo at angela.caccamo@tdsb.on.ca
- FSL Program Coordinator, Kirsten Johnston at kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca

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.

Claude Watson School of the Arts
Grades 4 - 8
Annual Open House (Virtual this Year)

Date: Thursday, Nov. 12.
6:00 pm Drama & Music
7:00 pm Dance, Film & Visual Arts

Here is the CW Open House link for Thursday, November 12th

<https://forms.gle/yoFXmd8jE6eLwu4k6>

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Regular parent-teacher communication is an important part of student learning. Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled throughout the year after report cards are sent home. Progress Reports are scheduled to be sent home on Monday November 16, 2020. Homeroom teachers will schedule a conference with parents/guardians. In keeping with tradition we anticipate that Thursday November 19 after school and the morning of Friday November 20 (PA Day) are the dates that will be set aside by the Board for these conferences to take place but they may also take place at another mutually agreed upon date/time determined between the family and teacher.

These interviews are your opportunity to ask questions about your child's progress and to discuss any issues. In addition to regular scheduled parent-teacher interviews, you can request a meeting at any time during the school year by contacting the school or your child's teacher directly.

Student Led Conferences

Student-led conferences offer authentic opportunities for students to share their learning with their parents/caregivers. They engage and motivate both students and parents to participate enthusiastically in the teaching-learning process. Student-led conferences strengthen the relationship between home and school and also bring students and parents closer together. Students feel empowered to take ownership of their learning and teachers receive valuable feedback that impacts on their instructional decision making. Parents see their children through a new lens – in action in their classroom environment – and gain insight into their thinking and behaviour.

One of the main goals of education is to help students become independent learners and competent communicators who are eager to participate in society and make the world a better place. Such students and future citizens need to be aware of their own strengths and needs. They need to be self-motivated problem solvers and action-oriented, creative thinkers. Preparing for and participating in student-led conferences teaches students to be reflective, to self-assess, to set goals and to communicate effectively.

A block of time is scheduled for the conference. The student actively leads the conference and is accountable for effectively sharing evidence of his/her learning. Students feel safe because the teacher is present in the room to assist on an as-needed basis. Several conferences may be in progress at the same time. The environment is safe and welcoming.

Students learn to assess, select, reflect on and talk about the work in their portfolios. As students prepare for the conference, they learn to monitor their own progress and refer to the task-related learning intentions and success criteria to guide them. They collect artifacts that demonstrate their learning and set goals to move their learning forward. The work samples take many forms, including photographs, recordings, video clips

and print, and may be assembled for sharing in a variety of ways, including the traditional portfolio or an electronic folder.

Students choose what work to share and how to share it with their parents. They have many opportunities to practise various conference roles with their peers, younger students and the teacher. Because they are sharing with a real audience, students are motivated to do their best. All of the learning in preparation for the conference is relevant and authentic. Plenty of time for talk and interaction helps students become comfortable taking the lead and talking about their learning.

During the conference, parents/caregivers are empowered as partners in the education of their children. Student-led conferences strengthen the relationship between home and school. Parents discover what their child is learning and how he/she is learning. They also discover their child's perception of him/herself as a learner and how they might help their child at home.

The collaboration among staff, students and parents leading up to the conference builds a common understanding and common language relating to assessment and learning and results in a deeper understanding of the teaching- learning process. Parents and students develop a common vocabulary to discuss the learning. Students learn how to set goals and use success criteria to monitor their progress. They also learn how to communicate their ideas effectively. The assessment becomes the learning, and the feedback that occurs throughout the process and during the conference itself becomes an important component that drives the learning forward.

At the end of the conference, parents are asked to complete a reflection form. This form helps teachers and students assess the effectiveness of the conference. Based on the reflections, issues are discussed in relation to improving next year's conference experience. This webcast offers a glimpse of student-led conferences through the perspectives of one elementary school's teachers, students, parents, principal and support staff. We thank them for so generously sharing their experiences with us.

Mary Jean Gallagher is the Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division, Ministry of Education.

Research and experience reveal the following as benefits of student-led conferences:

- greater accountability in students for their own learning
- increased pride in achievement among students
- increased confidence by students to take on leadership roles
- increased learning independence in students
- more positive student-teacher relationships
- increased parental participation in school life
- improved communication with parents, resulting in deeper understanding of and confidence in what happens at school

Kinney, Patti. (2005) Letting Students Take the Lead. Principal Leadership, p.3

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties. Hallowe'en is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Hallowe'en is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security.

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY

If parents are concerned about trick or treating, here are some basic safety rules to follow:

- Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.
- Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
- Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- If you can not accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- Remind children of road safety rules. Cross only at corners. Do not criss-cross the road. Go up one side of the road and down the other side. Never cross between parked cars. Walk facing on-coming traffic if there is no sidewalk
- If adults are driving their children, drive slowly, with lights on and be cautious when pulling to the side of the road.
- Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en, and to avoid any homes that have no lights on. Also remind children not to run through neighbours yards or gardens.
- With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- Set time limits when children should return home.



