

École Sir Adam Beck Junior School Newsletter

November 2022

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

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

Upcoming Events

- October 31: PARS Early French
Immersion Application Opens
November 6: Daylight Savings – Clocks
turned back 1 Hour
November 7: Photo Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
November 11, 25 Council Pizza Days
November 14: Progress Reports sent home
November 14 – 18 Scholastic Book Fair
November 18: PA Day – Parent/Guardian
Conferences
November 21: School Council Meeting,
6:30PM Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/vwq-hphp-hni>
November 25: Movember Jersey Spirit
Day
November 25: PARS Early French
Immersion Application Deadline

Hindu Heritage Month
Indigenous Education Month

**Character Attribute for November is
Empathy**

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

Fall is the perfect season to go out for a walk/run. 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 helps to decrease the cars on the roads around our school and alleviates the congestion in our busy parking lot. If your child is bussed to school or you are unable to walk to school, please consider other creative ways that can be done at home to decrease automobile travel.

The month of October was a busy one for our SAB athletes. The cross country and soccer teams made strong showings in their tournaments and meets. For more details, please see the attached SAB Athletics update. Congratulations to our October athletes of the month: Marcus R (Room 122), Caeden F (Room 206), Vivienne C.S (Room 212), Mallory R (Room 207) and Josie R (Room 207).

Our first in-person monthly assembly was held last Friday. Mme Brown's and Ms. Paul's classes showcased their learning with presentations that focussed on inclusion, culture and diversity. More details can be found on pages 3 and 4. Earlier in the month we celebrated and learned more about Diwali. Thank you to volunteer parents, Purvi and Japmeen for organizing the school-wide craft and to visiting author Zenia for sharing her storybook with our primary grades.

Families who will be trick or treating are reminded to carefully review the Halloween Safety Tips in addition to being extra cautious on this rainy dark night. We ask that Halloween treats be kept at home and not sent to school with your child. Keeping Halloween goodies at home helps to keep our allergy sensitive students safe.

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.

Over the upcoming weeks teachers will be connecting with parents/guardians as part of the upcoming reporting cycle. Students will be encouraged to take on a more active role in the conferences. Details of the online booking system will be announced soon via an email sent to all SAB families.

We appreciate everyone's effort in keeping their children home when they are not feeling well. This year's COVID screening questionnaire is attached as a reference.

Yours in partnership,
Michael Kanalec

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.

Early French Immersion

Early French Immersion (JK entry) – October 31st to November 25th, 2022 – central application process

Early French Immersion – Application Process & Timelines

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's [Early French Immersion](#) Program, we offer an online process to apply. The entry point to Early French Immersion is **Junior Kindergarten**. An offer of placement in the program (**not** a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. While every effort is made to place students in the school identified as their area French Immersion school, this not always possible. **Students may be redirected to another school with available program space.**

Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. They are asked to select the “**sibling option**” within the online application.

[Virtual and In-Person Information Sessions](#) for the **Early French Immersion** application and placement process are available in November. For more information about French programs, the application process and important dates, interested families may visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french or click on [Application Process](#). Early French Immersion [flyers](#) are also available in multiple languages.

A few reminders about the process and questions you may be asked at this point:

- ✓ The deadline to apply to the program is **November 25, 2022**.
- ✓ If a parent/caregiver cannot access a computer, please reach out to the school.
- ✓ The process is **NOT** handled on a first come, first served basis. All applications received by the deadline are managed with the same priority.
- ✓ If parents/caregiver experience difficulties, they may contact us via email at:
PARS_FSL_Admin@tdsb.on.ca
- ✓ A parent/caregiver may still submit an application online after the deadline passes on November 25, 2022; the application will be marked as late and the application will be on a waitlist subject to available space until the end of September of the entry year; there is NO guarantee of placement.
- ✓ Placements in French Immersion are offered based on home address, not on location or enrolment in child care.

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 2019.

- 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.

Parent Teacher Interviews/Student Led Conferences Online Booking System

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

The system will open on November 7 – details will be announced soon via an email sent to all SAB families.

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.

Tutoring Program

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education announced funding for tutoring as a part of its Learning Recovery Response to the pandemic. Tutoring supports our commitment to engage students with their unfinished learning as they continue to develop and learn concepts and skills that were disrupted in recent years. Sir Adam Beck has been approved for a limited number of sessions.

Tutoring class programs will focus on Literacy, Numeracy or Foundational Skills and will welcome between 5 and 15 students. Families that are interested in participating will need to commit full participation in the program which will run from November 7th to December 23rd from 3:15 – 4:15. As there are limited spots, you will be contacted to confirm your child's participation.

Please [complete this form to indicate your interest.](#)



October Monthly Assembly

We brought the school together for our first in-person end of month assembly, on Friday, October 28th.



Mme Brown's class began the assembly with a focus on inclusion, culture and diversity. The grade 3/4 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 their definitions of culture and diversity.



The grade 3/4 French Immersion students also read «*Le chandail orange de Phyllis*» (*Phyllis's 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 didn't make it out. They are children and every child matters. Another message was that we can learn more about what happened in residential schools and make sure that what happened never happens again. A student also said that every child matters because children are our future.

Mrs. Paul's grade 3/4 class read *In Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race* by Jessica Ralli, Megan Madison and Isabel Roxas. They shared their definition of diversity and why they are proud to be themselves. Students said diversity means accepting others for who they are and welcoming our differences.

The assembly also showcased student work from around the school. The virtual assemblies will take place on the last Friday of each month. We can't wait to share what other classes are learning about next month!



November Library News

Hello from the library! Lots of news this month!

We have begun our author of the month- October featured Itah Sadu who is a local author. Not only does she live in Toronto, but she owns a bookstore here called [A Different Booklist](https://www.adifferentbooklist.com/). Students listened to her stories in both English and French and were quite amused at her character Christopher! If you would like to check out the books offered at Itah's store, here is the link to her shop: <https://www.adifferentbooklist.com/>
In November, our author of the month will be Robert Munsch.

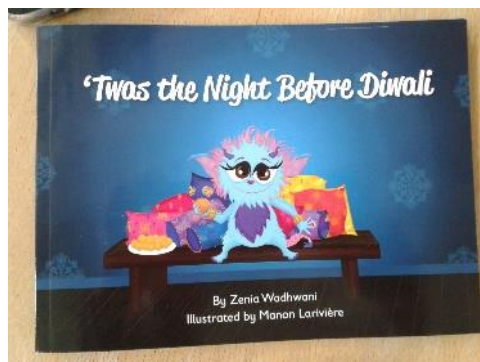
November 2nd is "I Read Canadian Day". The purpose of the event is to raise awareness that there are so many great books out there written by Canadians that offer so much diversity and experiences. During the week of October 31st-November 4th, students will be hearing many read-alouds by Canadian authors, and our goal is to have each class read a Canadian book for 15 minutes on November 2!

Scholastic Book Fair is back in person! Save the date for the week of **November 14th-18th!** Students will have the opportunity to purchase their favourite books to bring home. Parent-teacher interviews are taking place in the evening of the 17th and the morning of the 18th, so parents be sure to stop by too! Maybe you are looking for a few books to celebrate and reward your child's achievement this term. If you would like help grow your child's classroom library, you can also purchase books from their teacher's wishlist. Every purchase earns our school credit that we will be able to use to

The library was proud to host our first author visit in October! Kindergarten to Grade 2 students met Zenia Wadhwani, author of "Twas The Night Before Diwali". They enjoyed a read-aloud of her book and learned many interesting facts about the celebration. Students also met the Mithai Monster! Parent Council will be sharing follow up activities on their facebook page. For more information about Zenia or her book, visit:
<https://www.zeniawadhwani.com/>

We are looking forward to hosting another author visit for our Grade 3-5 students in the near future.

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





Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 11th, students and staff at our school will mark Remembrance Day with classroom activities and by participating in our Remembrance Day Ceremony. As students learn about the importance of 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.

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.

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 14, 2022. 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 via an email sent to all SAB families. Thursday November 17 after school and the morning of Friday November 18 (PA Day) are the dates 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.

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.35.



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. If you do enjoy walking your pet after hours please do remember to pick up after your pet.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found has already accumulated many misplaced items. Please be sure to drop by during parent teacher conference week to have a look and reclaim any missing items. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local clothing drive when we break on December 23rd for the holidays.

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.



November 2022 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

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

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

Meet your new School Council Executive!

We'd like to welcome the parent volunteers who were voted in at the last Council meeting as our executive and will be voting members for this new school year.

Position	Volunteer
Executive Co-chair	Beverley Essue
Executive Co-chair	Corinne Frey
Executive Secretary	Japmeen Johal
Executive Treasurer	Lindsay Norman
Equity Liaison	Christie Carson-Ginger
Communications Coordinator	Purvi Acharya
Communications Coordinator	Sara Chow
Voting member	Meaghan Lau
Voting member	Jessie Singh
Voting member	Isabel Hellyer
Voting member	Brooke Hilditch
Voting member	Tracy Saunders
Voting member	Corinne Harper Jones

The purpose of the Council is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. If you have questions or ideas, please approach any of us or come out to a Council meeting yourself. The next hybrid meeting is on **Monday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

We are always looking for members at large to help with various initiatives. Email sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com if you are interested.



Join our Facebook group!

Take a moment to join our Facebook group to stay up to date on all school and Council initiatives.

Scan the Code and ask to join!

School Lunch program

Pizza and hot dog lunches were brought back this year for the first time since before the pandemic. This is a Council volunteer-led initiative and we thank you for your patience as we work through some of the nuances of the online payment system. A quick reminder that **payment for hot dog orders is open until today, November 1** and can be made using School Cash Online (<https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>) Please ensure you pay so your child can participate on December 14, 2022 and May 17, 2023. Additional details were provided in the Council welcome package emailed out in September.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Disability Awareness 101

“Disability is not a bad word” is a phrase often used in the disability advocacy community. It speaks to the fact that disabilities are not inherently negative and that when you avoid using the word (think: using substitutes like “differently-abled” or “handicapable”) it can contribute to creating stigma. People with disabilities are often not restricted by their impairments, but by the thoughts, misconceptions and prejudices of others.

Disabilities can include physical/mobility, sensory, development, learning disabilities, mental health, and more. It’s also important to understand that disabilities can be permanent, temporary, situational, and that you can be born with them or they can develop at any time.

Days of significance

TDSB has designated November as Hindu Heritage month and Indigenous Education Month. Check out all designated days of significance with [this handy reference](#).



