

Newsletter

École
Sir Adam Beck
Junior School

October 2022

544 Horner Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M8W 2C2
Tel: 416-394-7670
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<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck>

Upcoming Events

October is Walk to School Month
Every Wednesday will be a WOW day
Walk on Wednesdays

October 6: Council Welcome Back BBQ
(5-6:30PM) and Meet the Staff
Evening (6:30-7:30PM)

October 7: PA Day

October 10: Thanksgiving – **School Closed**

October 17: School Council Meeting, 6:30 PM

<https://meet.google.com/nrn-yumv-bqd>

October 31: Costume Spirit Day
(details to be announced)

October 31: Early Immersion JK Entry
Online Applications Open

**Character Attribute for October
Responsibility**

TDSB Islamic Heritage Month

TDSB Somali Heritage Month

Important Notice School Newsletters

Please remember our newsletters will be emailed out and available at the beginning of each month on our school website.
Please let your child's teacher know if you are not able to access the online version so that a hard copy can be sent home.

Principal Michael Kanalec
Vice-Principal Lauren Rovas
Superintendent Dr. Debbie Donsky
Trustee Patrick Nunziata
School Council Co-Chairs
Paul Younger and Cori Frey
Title Photo credit: Steve Burazin



Will your child be absent from school?
Call our Safe Arrival Number.
**** 1-833-250-2290 ****

Principal's Message:

Welcome back once again to all our returning and new families. September has whisked by and we have all settled into our new routines. Thank you to the families that have returned the SAB hard copy and TDSB online data verification packages. If you are still not able to access the online forms please contact the office for assistance.

During the first month we held two practice fire drills. Over the next two weeks we will complete our rehearsals by holding our final fire drill as well as our fall lockdown drill. Discussions around the importance of these rehearsals every fall and spring are discussed in each homeroom classroom in an age-appropriate manner.

Our Terry Fox walk/run on September 28th was a huge success. To date we have raised over \$2000 dollars. Thank you to the parent/guardian volunteers who came out to help supervise the event. Donations are still being accepted at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/SirAdamBeckJuniorEtoBicoke>

On September 30th we wore Orange to honour the second annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. By wearing orange we acknowledge the legacy of residential schools in Canada and we honour the survivors. Our primary and junior students participated in *Si l'heur chi la chwiiziin Michif! It's time for a Michif kitchen party!* A presentation celebrating and exploring Métis culture in both French and English. We all enjoyed learning some basic Western Michif songs, Red River jigging, spoons and clogging.

September also included an active athletics calendar. The running and kilometre club kicked things off and helped to prepare our cross country athletes who will be heading to Centennial Park to compete in the West Conference meet on October 3. The grade 4/5 boys and girls soccer teams have also been training and awaiting details of their regional tournament. Please see the attached flyer for more SAB athletic news.

We continue to navigate COVID-19, cold and flu season. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms and keep students that are not well home until their fever has broken and symptoms have improved for 24 hours.

The home and school connection as well as the relationship with our families and our Alderwood Centre partners has always been the strength of our community. This year we are thrilled to be hosting our in-person Council welcome back bbq and open house on Thursday October 6, 2022.

We continue to promote the health and safety benefits of being outdoors, this means rain or shine - warm or cold. Please make a point of checking the daily forecast in order to assist your child in selecting the appropriate outdoor gear for that day.

On behalf of all the staff at SAB we would like to wish all our students and their families a wonderful Thanksgiving long weekend.

Continue to keep well and safe,
M. Kanalec

PR - 728 - Reporting and Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in School

Over the past twenty years, the Toronto District School Board has had a long-standing commitment to promoting equity. More recently, concerted efforts have been made to address racism and hate and to work to find new ways to identify and eliminate barriers for a more inclusive and just education system. At Sir Adam Beck, these principles are at the root of all that we do to ensure that we are creating safe spaces where students feel comfortable expressing themselves and feel a strong sense of pride and belonging.

The TDSB has adopted a Student Centred Strategy to combat hate and racism with five pillars: Student Leadership, Classroom Instruction, Cyber Safety & Digital Citizenship, Tools for Response and Educational Partnerships for Learning. On our September 6th professional development day we were able to engage staff in training and discussion on implementing this strategy at both the classroom and school level.

Our goal at Sir Adam Beck is to empower all of our students and staff, through education and professional development, to become allies within our communities. Over the course of the first few weeks of school, Mme Rovas and I have been able to visit all classrooms to discuss our school expectations and discuss the role each and every one of us play in creating a safe and inclusive school community. Through these talks the meaning of the term racism was discussed and how we must all be vigilant and report any instances of this to one of the many caring adults at school.

Learning about racism and hate is important to ensure an understanding of why we must create more equitable learning environments. It is critical to ensure that students have an opportunity to share their identities and learn about others' identities in positive and affirming ways rooted in one of the pillars of the Student Learning Strategy.

Once an adult has been made aware that an incident has occurred they are to report immediately to an administrator who is then responsible for logging the incident in the TDSB Race, Bias and Hate Portal. The administrator will then undertake an investigation and collaborate with the TDSB Caring and Safe Schools Dept, our school Social Worker, our Superintendent of Education, as well as others to create an action plan. At the discretion of the Superintendent, an Organizational Response Team will be convened to discuss the incident and subsequent action plan.

We also recognise that all parents and caregivers are partners in creating a community free from racism, classism and hate both intentional or unintentional. Over the next few months we will continue to work actively with our staff and Parent Council to seek out opportunities for families to interact with our school to continue promoting inclusion and education for all.

As a school, we have also committed to celebrating the work that is happening both at the classroom and school level during monthly assemblies. On September 29th Grade 1 – 5 students were invited to participate in an assembly Exploring Métis Culture where they learned traditional songs, stories and history of Métis people in Canada. We look forward to continuing our learning journey throughout the course of the year.

Collectively our moral purpose is clear and our resolve unwavering. Our mandate and message to the Sir Adam Beck community must be that hate and racism in any form has no place in schools. Working in line with the Student Centered Strategy to Combat Hate and Racism allows us to take an important step forward towards this goal.



September 2022 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/sabschoolcouncil

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

Join the School Council Executive!

School Councils are an excellent way for parents/guardians to become engaged in the school. The purpose of the Council is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. *You are automatically a member of Council if you have a child enrolled at SAB* and we encourage you to participate in Council activities throughout the year.

If you would like to have a stronger voice on Council, consider becoming a voting member. There are 12 vacant positions available for a one-year term, including an Equity Liaison position to ensure equity is embedded into our work and that we are nurturing an inclusive and safe environment for all of our children. Complete the nomination form within this package or email sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com for a copy. Please submit your nomination form by October 14th 2022. Voting will take place during the Council meeting on Monday, October 17th, 2022.

Upcoming School Council Meetings

We usually hold meetings on Mondays once a month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are held in-person in the SAB staff room. We will also accommodate a hybrid option which will allow members to join virtually using Google Meet. We share the meeting link in advance of each meeting three different ways:

- In Mr. Kanalec's Newsletter (emailed to all families)
- Posted on the Council website (<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck>)
- Posted on the School Council's Facebook group (École Sir Adam Beck Junior School - SAB School Council Group)

Our fall meeting dates are:

- Monday, October 17, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 21, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

SAB Council Welcome BBQ

On **Thursday October 6th**, join us for a BBQ and Bake Sale before meeting the teachers! This is a first-come, first-served event with proceeds going to our School Council. The BBQ will be held in the SAB Yard and will be a cash-only event. In case of rain, it will move indoors into the gym/concourse area.

MENU:

Hamburger + Drink	\$5.00
Hot Dog + Drink	\$5.00

To ensure the success of this BBQ, we need help with a few areas.

- STAFFING: We need volunteers for a couple of hours to assist with barbecuing, serving, selling bake sale items, cleaning up, etc. Sign up for a shift and task that works for you.
- BAKERS: We really need nut-free and ready-to-sell items for the Bake Sale. Drop off your items in the school office before or after school on Thursday, October 6th, in reusable containers. Clearly label your containers so they can be returned.
- DRINKS: We need donations of pop/water/juice. Drop off cases in the office every day leading up to the BBQ. Thanks in advance for your participation and support!

Send us an email to you are able to assist with any of the above areas:

sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Fundraising

Fundraising by Council supports meaningful resources for students that might not be covered through the school budget. This includes extra technology, funding for teachers to use in classrooms, resources for the classrooms, a musical performer at a school assembly, extracurricular activities, such as Scientists in School, parent workshops and sports equipment, to name just a few. Based on the needs identified, the Council will vote on how the funds will be budgeted and spent throughout the school year. We encourage all members to come out and have a say in how these resources are used. Below are a few campaigns that are currently running.

Ongoing fundraising:

- Mabel's Labels: Visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com, click the "Support a Fundraiser" button at the top right of the website and select Sir Adam Beck.

Parent engagement workshops:

We aim to engage parents in a number of different ways throughout the year. Over the last few years we have been able to offer several virtual parent engagement workshops on topics that were selected by our school community. Some of the topics identified included:

- Mental Math Strategies
- Raising resilient kids (offered: March 2021)
- Raising anti-racist kids (offered: February and May 2021)

- Building emotional intelligence
- Internet use and safety (offered: January 2022)

To support planning for this year, please let Council know what topics would be of interest to you and your family. Post suggestions to our Facebook group or send them by email to: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

September 30 is **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, as well as Orange Shirt Day. Families and staff can recognize the legacy of Canada's residential school system and continue to uncover the truths of these institutions and our shared history in Canada. Students may wear orange shirts to honour this day and acknowledge the generations who were impacted by this cruel system.

Celebrating Diwali

Diwali, or the festival of lights, is celebrated each fall by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs around the world. The exact day varies from year to year, as it is based on the lunar calendar. This year, Diwali falls on Monday, October 24. Diwali signifies the victory of knowledge or goodness over ignorance or evil, which is symbolically represented by light dispelling darkness.

Parent volunteers will be joining students at SAB to learn about Diwali and its traditions, such as Diya (clay lamps), rangoli (home decoration), puja (prayers), fireworks, gifts, feast, and sweets. If you are interested in volunteering, please send us an email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Islamic Heritage Month

In October, we recognize Islamic Heritage Month, which is a great opportunity to learn about the rich history of Islam, the vast diversity within Islam, and to break down stereotypes and beliefs that interrupt our goals of inclusion. Islamophobia is defined as the fear, hatred and prejudice toward Muslims and Islam more generally. Islamophobia leads to violence and a general lack of safety for people who are or who are perceived to be Muslim. Islamophobia and racism often intersect and can be experienced differently by people who have been targeted. Attacks on Islamic places of worship often occur when there is a rise of anti-Islamic sentiment in society, which have happened very recently in Canada. It is important to continuously question stereotypes that depict Islam in a negative light. These ideologies are often used to justify the maltreatment or exclusion of Muslims. As school community, one step we can take is to educate ourselves on Islam and the vast diverse people who are Muslim.

Somali History Month

October is also Somali History Month. This week-long period covers significant dates in the history of the Somali community. Somalis from regions throughout the Horn of Africa celebrate

their independence during this week, as June 26, June 27 and July 1 mark important anniversaries relating to the independence of these regions. Today, several celebrations also take place across Ontario during the week of June 25 through July 1 that highlight the rich culture and heritage of the Somali people. Many of these celebrations reflect the traditions of the Somali people and celebrate independence, liberty and freedom.

Learning corner

Sign up for the upcoming Parents and Caregivers as Partners virtual conference to hear from a range of speakers on different topics to help you better support your child(ren).

Dates: October 22 and 23, 2022

Website: <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

Free Tutoring - Did you know your kids can get free online tutoring and homework help through the library or TVO? Extra homework help and tutoring can be a time and cost barrier for many families, leading to greater inequities.

The [Toronto Public Library](#) offers free online Homework Help Grades K-12 - Daily 2pm to 11pm

https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMEADB0193&R=EDB0193&fbclid=IwAR10DfzzR-R64Eje1aUGgFqCdZC6XdMtpx2UXtfGC7H0_JN51UzxwzT-G8o

This also includes practice tests, support for adult learners, writing assistance, skills building and more.

We hope to see you at the BBQ on October 6th!

Walk to School Month

Did you know October is Walk to School Month? For the month of October, the EcoSchools Team will be counting how many students walked to school each Wednesday of the month. There are many benefits of walking to school, such as the benefits of moving before school, how students are better able to concentrate and learn when they walk to school and the fact that they can enjoy observing and listening to nature as they walk. Did you know a total of 154 students walked to school on September's Walk to School Day? That's a huge accomplishment! If you can't walk to school on Wednesdays, try to go for a walk with your family after school to show your support and to enjoy the benefits of walking outdoors! Also, you can join the Walking School Bus on the last Wednesday of every month! Please send photos of your child walking or wheeling to school to Mme Brown at AmandaN.Brown@tdsb.on.ca The photos will be added to a Walk to School Month video that will be shared at our October Assembly on Friday, October 28th.

Library News

Hello SAB families!

Students have all had their first visits to the library to have an opportunity to choose a book to bring home! Students are encouraged to read these books throughout the week and return them on their library book exchange days to take out new ones! Each child also brought home a newsletter with some information about the book exchange program.

A reminder that students must have a Toronto Public Library card in order to take out books. We keep a copy of each child's card at the school. If your child has not yet brought home a book, please check to ensure we have a copy of your child's card.

One important way to foster a love of reading is to share books with each other, so we encourage all families to spend time reading together.

In September, students read books about Terry Fox and Orange Shirt Day, as well as heard stories that involved our monthly character trait of "Respect". In October, we will be reading stories about Islamic and Somali Heritage, Gratefulness, Halloween, and our character trait of "Responsibility".

Miss Katherine from our Alderwood Library Branch will be organizing additional story times with Kindergarten to Grade 2 students that will have a fall theme and will occur during the regular school day.

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

Happy reading!

Allergies in School

We feel that all parents would like to be aware that there are children in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may or may not affect your child or your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from these products. The Toronto District School Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If you are interested further information is also available through the Anaphylaxis Network of Canada (416) 785-5666. If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safest environment.



MEDICAL FORMS

In addition, please ensure that you have filled and submitted the on-line SAB medical record form for your child. Each family should have received a link via email to be completed on-line. This information will help us to be aware of any special medical needs or concerns your child may have. If you have already submitted this form, thank you! If you have not received this on-line link or have had difficulty submitting it, please contact the school immediately for assistance.



Social Media

If you didn't already know, Sir Adam Beck has a Twitter account. It is used to showcase and inform our local school community about the latest and greatest at Sir Adam Beck. We would also like to use our Twitter account to keep our school community aware of what's going on in real-time. In other words, if you want to stay in-step with the community at Sir Adam Beck as it's happening, join Twitter and follow us!

Twitter: @siradambeck or twitter.com/siradambeck



Arrive on Time

The best start to each school day is one that starts with arriving at school on time. In order to provide the best possible program for students, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly and on time. This means students should arrive a few minutes before the bell rings and have their Health Pass out ready to be checked. The Education Act states that it is the responsibility of the parent (or guardian) to ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time.

One measure of keeping our students safe is to ensure we can account for **any absences or reasons for being late** to school. We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent or late for any reason, we ask that you contact the school immediately and report the reason for the absence. If we are not informed about the absence, we will make attempts to contact you through our automated call-out system to determine the reason for the absence. To find out how this automated system works please visit

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/CaringSafeSchools/SafeArrivalProgram.aspx>

Please let the office know by calling our NEW Safe Arrival Line: 1-833-250-2290.

If your contact information, including phone number, changes at any time throughout the school year, please notify the office promptly.

Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your children safe and accounted for.

Visitors in School

Visitors are required to check in with the main office upon arriving at the school. Please call the office to make an appointment if you need to connect with a staff member – 416 394 7670



Signing Students In and Out

Parents and caregivers that are bringing students to school after the morning announcements or are removing them from school before the end of the day are asked to connect with the office (call in or signal the office via the main door intercom). If your child will not be riding the bus at the end of the day, please let your child's teacher know by writing a note or sending an email.



Parking Lot Safety Reminders

The parking lot is an extremely busy place. Please follow the Kiss N Ride rules and do not park your car in the drop off lane. Older students can be dropped on Eltham Drive which runs along our north field. Students can walk to colas safely from there.

Please **Do Not Park** in our 2 designated Handicap Spaces – vehicles may be fined and or towed.

Safety on the Play Scape

During school hours the students are asked to follow rules designed to enhance the safety of the play scape. We encourage the students to also use these rules when using the equipment outside of school hours.

- **WALK while using the equipment, running and games like Tag make it unsafe**
- **Safe FOOTWEAR:** Your shoes need to have closed toes.

- **KEEP HANDS FREE** things in our hands, even mittens can get in the way of a safe grip
- **ONE AT A TIME:** Only one person at a time on the monkey bars, slides, rock wall and rope ladder. Remember, to keep your hands to yourself.
- **FEET FIRST DOWN THE SLIDE**

Early French Immersion (Junior Kindergarten (JK) Entry)

The entry point to Early French Immersion is Junior Kindergarten. It is an entirely online process. All communication will be sent via the email address you provide. Please check your email regularly, including junk mail folders.

Please visit the application site www.tdsb.on.ca/pars.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Application process opens: **October 31, 2022**

Deadline for applications: **November 25, 2022**

[Learn more at an Information Session!](#)

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions>

For children born in 2019:

- Please select the “Non-TDSB Student” option and follow the steps to generate an identification number. You must then return to the PARS site and follow the application procedure with this number.
- Once in PARS, please select the Early Immersion Program from the drop-down menu, and complete the application process.
- On-time applicants will be offered a placement via the email address you have provided.
- You **MUST** take action to reserve a spot by the deadline requested when you are offered a placement

On-time applicants will be offered a placement via the email address you have provided. You **MUST** take action to reserve a spot by the deadline requested when you are offered a placement.

Offers of placement will be ongoing throughout the weeks and months following the close of the application period. ***Please check your email regularly, including junk mail folders, and follow any instructions.***

Please note:

- *While every effort will be made to place students in the school identified as their area French Immersion school, this is not always possible. In cases where the number of applications in a given area is greater than the number of allotted program spaces in the school, **students may be redirected to schools with available program space.***
- *Placements are made based on the child's primary home address of record prior to the application deadline. If the address changes between the application deadline and the fall of the entry year, there is no guarantee of placement in the new area.*
- *Late applicants will be held on a local school waitlist and considered subject to available space until the end of September of the entry year.*



Halloween – Please follow the advice of Toronto Public Health with regards to having your child participate in trick or treating

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

For families that celebrate Hallowe'en, it provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family time. 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.

Homework Tips

Homework is an important part of a student's academic program. Research shows that students do better when parents are involved in their child's education. You can help your child improve his or her academic performance by being involved daily in homework assignments. If your child is in elementary school, ask the teacher at the beginning of the year what topics, areas, and skills will be covered. Keep a folder of your child's work (writing, drawing, book list, quizzes, etc.) and take them to the parent-teacher conference.

Suggested Time Guidelines:

The amount of time a student spends on homework depends on the student's needs, age and grade, subject, schedule, proximity of tests, examinations and project due dates. The following chart is suggested as a general guide only.

JK - Grade 3: 10-30 minutes **Grade 4- Grade 6:** 30-60 minutes

Tips: These tips will help your child in developing good study habits:

- Set a consistent time when homework will be done every night.
- Provide a quiet place away from distractions such as television and telephone.
- Have your children practise mathematics, reading, and writing skills daily.
- Talk to your children about what they are learning in school.
- Read together with younger children.
- Let your children help you in reading and writing, recipes, newspapers, letters, shopping lists.
- Encourage your children to ask the teacher for help if they find the work difficult or confusing.
- Keep in touch with the teachers and call when you have a question or a concern.
- Check that homework is completed.
- Praise and encourage your children

KEEP WELL AND STAY SAFE