

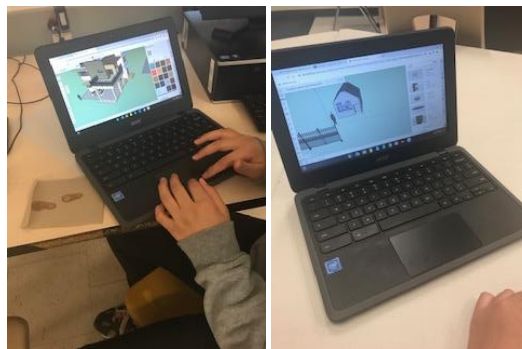
Friday, December 11, 2020

Happy Friday Sir Samuel B. Steele Families!

Here are some updates:

Coding

As part of their Mathematics program this year, the Grade 5 and Grade 6 students in Mr. Drakos' class are learning how to use a variety of computer coding tools. The class started by learning how to use the Sprite Lab, Game Lab and App Lab of Code.org. Using these tools, every one of our students has generated computer "games" which, in turn, they have shared in their Google Classroom. The class, then, can view the computer code that was used by their classmates in order to improve their own programs. Currently, the students are using "Sketchup for Schools" (it's available in every T.D.S.B. student's Google Drive account) to design, create and share 2-D and 3-D structures that can be viewed by their peers and parents/guardians online. Interestingly, students have been discovering "hidden" features of "Sketchup for Schools," which they have then taught to their classmates as "special guest teachers." Finally, we were also very excited to be participating in the 2020 Hour of Code event this year.



Social Justice

Mr. Kim's class participated in a six week program led by Child and Youth counsellors. Modules focused on self, identity, boundaries, building community, inclusion, and communication. Each weekly session lasted for approximately 60 minutes. Here is an example of a session:

The students engaged in an activity whereby they explored how limiting making assumptions can be; they were asked to choose who they would interact with after being given only one piece of identifying information. This illuminated the unconscious stereotypes and biases they hold and supported them to recognize and discuss the harmful impact this has on us and the classroom community.

Now that Mr. Kim's class has successfully completed their six week program, the Child and Youth counsellors will begin engaging Mr. Drakos' class in similar weekly sessions to focus on identity, lived experiences, biases, stereotypes and discrimination.

Spirit Days

We are very excited about Dress-up Day- Friday, December 18th



Student Verification Forms

This week, we sent home hard copies of **student verification forms**. It contains important information about your child. Please take the time to check through it carefully, **make any necessary corrections and send it back to the teacher**. We are going through each student's profile to ensure we have the most updated information to keep your child safe in the school. If you need support in completing them, please contact the school office.

Important Toronto Public Health Update

Toronto Public Health has **modified the student screening tool** to include an additional question regarding siblings showing symptoms. The following changes took effect on Monday, December 7th.

- **If the student is symptomatic, their household siblings must isolate as well.**
- **If the student has symptoms and has an alternative diagnosis, siblings do not need to self-isolate.**
- **If the student has symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19, siblings can return to school.**

Transitions Dates (Virtual/In-School Learning)

To maintain stability in our schools, the next opportunity for elementary students to switch between in-person and virtual learning will be in January. Students will no longer be able to switch in November.

Opportunity to Change	Deadline for Requesting a Change	Dates the Change of Class Would Take Effect
Following the First Report Card	January 29th	February 16 th (day after the Family Day holiday)

Please call the school to request a change before the deadline.

Thank you and have a great weekend 😊

Krishna Kumar