



Sir Samuel B. Steele Junior Public School

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Ms. K. Kumar, Principal

Friday, January 15, 2021

Good afternoon Sir Samuel B. Steele Families!

Here are some updates:

Extended Remote/Virtual Learning

This week, the Government of Ontario announced that **elementary schools in parts of Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed to students and staff until Wednesday, February 10, 2021.** We know that this extended shift to remote learning presents challenges for a number of families, we have been working with families to ensure that learning can continue as best as possible given the circumstances. To ensure every student has a working device at home, Sam B. Steele staff members have been connecting with families and we have been providing them with a chrome book from our classrooms. While we believe the continuation of learning is important, the mental health and well-being of our students is just as important. We would encourage parents/guardians to review these [important resources](#) that we have compiled that may help support your children during this challenging period.

Student Verification Forms

In November, 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 email it to our office staff at Effie.Pallotta@tdsb.on.ca**. We are going through each student's profile to ensure we have the most updated information to keep your child safe in the school.

Important Information for Families of Grade 3 Students (NEW Middle French Immersion Program – Grade 4 Entry)

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide NEW Middle French Immersion Program (begins in Grade 4), we offer an online process to apply. Please see the attached file for an important information package. To apply for the Middle French Immersion Program (Grade 4 entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between **January 4 and January 29, 2021.**

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 a 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 Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) application process, please join us for a **Virtual Information Session** on one of the following dates:

- January 21, 2021 – 7 pm
- January 27, 2021 – 7 pm

For more information about Middle French Immersion Program, available in multiple languages, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/French-as-a-Second-Language-FSL-Programs>.

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

Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB - Recognizing Tamil Heritage Month through Creative Writing

The month of January is recognized by the TDSB as Tamil Heritage Month. This year's theme is உண்மை - உரிமை – ஒற்றுமை/ Truth - Rights - Unity. This coincides with one of the most important festivals celebrated by Tamils in South Asia and all over the world. Traditionally, during this month, Tamils, irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal, a harvest festival that offers prayers of thanks to the sun and nature for giving bountiful crops.

All TDSB students are invited to submit a creative writing piece (poem, short story, essay) related to this year's theme of உண்மை - உரிமை – ஒற்றுமை / Truth - Rights - Unity.

Please see the attached document for FULL details.

Deadline: All entries must be received by Friday, January 22, 2021 to tdsbTamilHeritageMonth@gmail.com

African Heritage Month at the TDSB

February is African Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. The school board recognizes African Heritage Month, and acknowledges the tremendous history and contributions of peoples of African descent within our school communities and is an occasion for all our schools and workplaces to renew our knowledge and understanding of the history, achievements and experiences of people of African descent in Canada and throughout the world. The African Heritage Month Planning Committee members are organizing a number of activities for students and will be sharing them once finalized.

Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB - Poster Competition and Video Talent Showcase

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February 2021. This year the selected theme is Year of the Ox: Loyal, Honest, Responsible, Hard-Working and Logical. We are excited to share with you that two of our initiatives will be a poster competition and a one-minute video talent showcase with prizes to be won. All TDSB students and staff are welcome to participate. Further information about these initiatives are currently available on our official CHM site <https://bit.ly/2021CHM>

Deadline for Poster Challenge: January 17, 2021 by 11:59 pm

Deadline for One-Minute Video Talent Showcase: January 17, 2021 by 11:59 pm

TDSB Greek Heritage Month Multi-Media Contest

March is Greek Heritage Month. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture. One of the highlights for Greek Heritage Month 2021 this coming March will be the TDSB Greek Heritage Month Multi-Media Contest, featuring original student & staff work in three creative categories:

- 1) Be graphic! Design a poster!
- 2) Sharpen your pencil! Write something!
- 3) Let's get digital!

The focus of this year's media campaign is:

1821-2021

Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα

Learning From Our Roots...Shaping Our Future

This year marks the 200th year of Independence for Greece.

Four groups qualify: K to Grade 3, Grade 4 to 8; and Grade 9 to 12; and TDSB staff. A winning submission will be selected from each of the qualifying groups.

Deadline for submitting entries is Friday, January 29, 2021. For more information, contest entry and submission guidelines, please see attached file or visit http://bit.ly/GHM_MediaContest and for the poster template:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DiqQ2DK8sqaNWTq1PR8SCFvZrzf4t7hC39fqpDXz2sU/edit?usp=sharing>

For information and resources about Greek Heritage Month visit:

https://bit.ly/GHM_TDSB

Thank you and have a great weekend 😊

Krishna Kumar