



Sir Samuel B. Steele Junior Public School

131 Huntmill Blvd., Scarborough, Ont. M1W 2Y2

• Tel: (416) 396-6580 • Fax: (416) 396-6582

Ms. K. Kumar, Principal

Friday, January 22, 2021

Good afternoon Sir Samuel B. Steele Families!

Here are some updates:

Spirit Days

Although we are in remote learning, we are excited about continuing with our school spirit days. Today, we are having a lot of fun engaging in our Beach Day activities and hoping to feel a little warmer as we get into colder temperatures this weekend. Please see the attached file for the upcoming spirit days.

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 date:

- 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 tdsbamilheritagemonth@gmail.com

African Heritage Month- Know Your Worth Conference

Empowerment, Excellence and Resistance

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize African Heritage Month during the month of February and many activities are being planned to celebrate and mark this important and relevant month. This year, our theme is "Kujichagulia: Self Determination" and we are excited to share with you one of our initiatives taking place on February 27th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, called, **Know Your Worth Conference.** It is a chance for Black students to attend workshops that will empower, educate and create community throughout the day. The theme of the Know Your Worth Conference this year is Black Resistance. We recently sent out a survey to a number of schools across the TDSB and overwhelmingly saw feedback indicating the students needed to feel hope and encouragement right now above anything else. Even though our conference will be held virtually using Zoom, this feeling of hopefulness is precisely what we wanted to achieve with this conference. Speakers and workshops will focus on several different issues including systemic racism, experiences of LGBTQIAP2+ youth, mental health, activism, financial literacy, identity and self-love. Attached to this email is a poster with information about the conference and a [registration google form](#) that will be open until registration closes on February 5th, 2021. Students interested in performing in our talent show will need to complete ALL questions from sections 3-7, in order to register their act by February 5th, 2021.

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

Adult ESL – Online Courses - Important information for adults wanting to improve their English (as a second language) skills

The Adult ESL program in the Continuing Education Department is offering free* virtual English language instruction to qualified adults 18 years of age and over. Part-time and full-time classes are offered at various times during the day, evening and Saturdays at all language levels.

Our online program offers:

- High-quality instruction
- Flexible schedules: part-time, full-time, evening and Saturday classes
- Continuous enrollment
- All levels and specialty classes

For more information, please visit: www.ESLToronto.ca or call 416-338-4300.

* Free for eligible learners, please check our website for more information. Funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

Thank you and have a great weekend 😊

Krishna Kumar