



Twentieth Street Junior School
3190 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
Toronto, Ontario

October 2021



FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK



It’s already October, and we’re one month into our new school year. With the changes in weather at this time of the year, students are reminded to dress in layers in order to be prepared for any weather. Fall can bring bright sunshine just as easily as rainy cold days, so please make sure that children are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. Indoor and outdoor shoes are important for inclement weather. We ask that students bring clean, dry indoor shoes to change in to if it is raining or wet outside.

START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR



September is an important month for schools. This year we continue to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic, but everyone is much more informed and prepared than we were a year ago. I am thrilled to report that we had an amazing opening. Everything has gone very smoothly, and the children have quickly learned the routines and all the safety protocols related to the pandemic.

I would like to thank you all for helping the children adjust extremely well to this new school year. We know that life brings many changes and how well we deal with change, often dictates success. Therefore, it’s important that parents and teachers reassure children and help them embrace the changes that not only come with school, but with life and to have a positive outlook. Our positive and reassuring responses to children will set them up for success.

We are all excited to be back and look forward to another successful school year!



SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL AND WORK:
DAILY HEALTH SCREENING



COVID-19 SCREENING & TDSB HEALTH PASS

Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority and everyone plays a role. The most important thing families can do to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, is to screen their children **daily** for any COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they are sick, have symptoms or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. All staff and visitors will also be required to

screen themselves before entering a TDSB building.

Before coming to school each day, all students and staff must conduct an active [health screening self-assessment](#)

If you answered **yes** to any of the screening questions, please stay home; self-isolate right away; call Telehealth or your health care provider and get tested.

If you answered **no** to all of these questions, please record the information daily on the Student Health Pass which will allow you to enter to your school or administration building.

The following link from Toronto Public Health contains a wealth of information for parents.

COVID-19: School Information for Parents & Caregivers

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-financial-social-support-for-people/covid-19-school-information-for-parents-caregivers/>

SCHOOL SCHEDULE



School Office Opens	8:30 AM
School Yard Closed	8:35 – 8:50
Line-Up Time	8:50 – 8:55
Entry Time	8:55
Instructional Time	8:55 – 10:15
Recess	10:15 – 10:30
Instructional Time	10:30 – 11:40
Lunch	11:40 – 12:30
Entry Time	12:30 PM
Instructional Time	12:30 – 1:50
Recess	1:50 – 2:05
Instructional Time	2:05 - 3:15
Dismissal	3:15
School Yard Closed	3:15 – 3:30
School Office Closes	4:00



LATE ARRIVALS

We encourage everyone to arrive between **8:50a.m. - 8:55a.m.**. At 8:55a.m. classes will enter the building. If your child arrives late, they must enter through the Main Entrance **ONLY**. They will need to ring the bell (buzz the office) and wait for an office staff member to meet them outside to complete the Health Screening and then proceed to their class. Younger children will be escorted to their class. If you do arrive late, you may need to wait if staff are busy with others and please remember to physically distance while waiting

Please be punctual. Thank you.



SAFE ARRIVAL ABSENCES & LATES

If your child will be absent from school, we ask that you call the school **before** school starts and leave a message on our **Safe Arrival Line (416) 394-7810, Option #1**. This is available 24 hours a day.

In your message please include your child's **First and Last Name, Grade, Teacher and the reason for the absence**. This year it's very important to be specific if the absence is due to COVID-19 Symptoms as we need to track and monitor all individuals with symptoms in order to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the building.



SCHOOL YARD

Thank you all for helping the children to learn the new routine in the morning and at the end of the day. The children have done a phenomenal job in adjusting to the new routine of arriving as close as possible to 8:50 a.m., lining up at their designated spot and waiting for their teacher to check their Health Pass. Similarly, at the end of the day, for waiting patiently for their parents in the same area and leaving the school yard promptly so that the different cohorts do not mix.

Children could play in all three sections of the school yard throughout the day. All classes are out a minimum of three times a day and most are outdoors more often than that.

Also, thank you for remembering that scooters, bicycles, skateboards or rollerblades are **not** to be used on school property during the school day (8:35 -3:30). Once your child arrives at school, we ask that students dismount from bicycles, skateboard or scooters etc. and “**walk**” in the school yard. Bicycles can be locked on the bicycle rack, but all other equipment should be taken back home by the parent. This way we keep everyone safe as there are often many people walking in the yard at the beginning and end of the day.



ANAPHYLAXIS NO NUTS PLEASE!

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Twentieth Street School is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send food and snacks with nuts in them to school.

Serious allergies are dangerous and potentially fatal because oils and residues from nuts can be spread so easily. Please check food labels carefully. If your child has a severe allergy, please inform the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL



Earlier this year, we shared with you the school organization model for the current year as well as teaching assignments. Although we always do our best to plan for the school year, there are always factors in September that might affect how classrooms are organized and in which class a child will be in.

I want to take this opportunity to outline our process for stabilizing our class sizes in elementary schools. Each spring, the Board projects enrolment for every school and for every division/grade within the school. At that time, the Board also allocates the number of teachers for each school. At the end of the third week of the new school year, schools report their enrolments by grade to the Board. For schools that experience an enrolment above their projection, there may be some reorganization of the school and/or they may be assigned additional teachers. Schools that report lower than expected enrolment may experience a reduction in their teacher allocation.

We have worked hard to organize for this year with the number of students we **expected** to have and are hopeful that our classes will require minimal changes. If any changes to classrooms are necessary, we will provide more information as soon as possible. This means that children may have a teacher other than the one they were placed at the beginning of September.

We regret any inconvenience caused by this uncertainty, however, funding for schools is strictly administered by the Ministry of Education and all schools go through the reality of possible reorganization each fall. Please bear

with us as we move into the new school year. Every effort will be made to ensure a minimum of disruption to all students and their families



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

At the TDSB, busing service may be provided for elementary students (K-5) residing 1.6 km or more from their designated school. TTC tickets may be provided for middle school students (grades 6-8) residing 3.2 km or more from their designated school. The health and safety of students is our top priority, and the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), working with school bus operators, has put a number of COVID-19 protocols and precautions in place to help ensure the safety of students and drivers on the bus. Here are some resources for more information:

- For information regarding COVID-19 safety protocols and precautions, visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Operations/Transportation>.
- To access information specific to your child's transportation, including route number, stop location, times and bus company contact details, visit <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>. Or you can contact the Toronto Student Transportation Group at 416-394-4287 or transportation@torontoschoolbus.org. For delay notifications, visit <https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>.
- Please review the Responsibilities and Safety sections of our website with your child <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/Kindergarten/Transportation>.

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation. Visit

the <https://www.tdsb.on.ca> or <https://www.torontoschoolbus.org/>, check Twitter @tdsb or listen to local radio or TV stations starting at 6 a.m. for bus cancellations.

Please note that the TDSB's Empty Seat Policy (PR504) has been put on hold for the 2020-21 school year to help promote physical distancing on school busses, as well as to help the TSTG and bus operators effectively plan bus routes and seating arrangements in line with the COVID-19 health and safety precautions. <http://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/101/276.pdf>

SCHOOL COUNCIL



All parents are invited to join us for our Annual General School Council Meeting (virtually) on Tuesday, October 5, at 7:00p.m. Join us to hear about the school, meet other parents, have your questions answered etc. All are welcome!!

If you'd like to attend, please send us your information using the link below, and the Zoom Link for the meeting will be emailed to you.

Looking forward to seeing you.
[School Council Meeting Zoom Link Request](#)

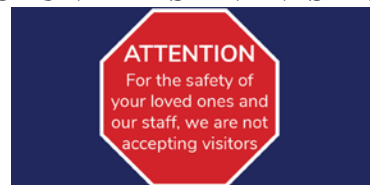


PLASP CHILD CARE

If you require child care before school starts or after school (3:15), we are very fortunate to have a child care provider in our school. **PLASP Child Care** is located in Room 136 (beside the

Parent and Family Literacy Centre) and they open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. and afterschool from 3:15 – 6:00p.m. **PLASP** is a private organization leasing space from the TDSB. They are not part of the TDSB, but we work in partnership to support children and families. If you are interested in before and after school childcare, please contact PLASP directly at 647-484-4372 (long distance: 1-888-739-4102) childcare@plasp.com.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS



To maintain a safe environment, the school will remain closed to most visitors. Those entering and exiting TDSB buildings will primarily be staff, students and other “*essential*” individuals such as Public Health, Health and Safety etc. Parents please book all appointment etc. **outside the school day** for your children to reduce the number of interruptions to the classes and reduce the risk in the school. If you require a meeting with a teacher, it can be scheduled virtually or by telephone. Please contact your child's teacher through email.



OCTOBER IS INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH!

Please join Twentieth Street School in this global event, which gives children and parents an opportunity to celebrate the many benefits of walking. Walkers from around the world, walk to school together for various reasons -- the

environment, physical activity, safety and fun -- all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk.

Did you know that of Canadian children and youth:

- Only 1/3 walk or cycle to school
- Over 60% spend their free time being inactive, which is harmful to their health
- Over 25% are overweight
- They are more at risk for the health effects of poor air quality due to car emissions

Walking to school can...

- Increase physical activity
- Reduce stress
- Teach safety skills
- Save money
- Make our street safer and cleaner

THANKSGIVING



Monday, October 11th is Thanksgiving. We would like to wish all staff and families a happy and safe Thanksgiving.



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION



Every year Twentieth Street School has a Halloween School Wide Parade for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 5. Students are able to wear their costumes to school as classes parade around the school. Due to COVID-19 restrictions for large group gatherings and the requirement that cohorts NOT mix, unfortunately, we will not be able to hold a Halloween Parade safely this year. Having said that, each class will recognize this day with some celebrations or activities. More details will follow.



ROAD SAFETY

It's back to school time and we would like to remind drivers to slow down in school zones.

In recent years, TDSB staff has been working closely with the City of Toronto's Transportation Services, Toronto Public Health and other community partners to improve road safety for school aged children and youth in the City of Toronto. In 2017, the TDSB launched its Traffic Safety Program (TSP) which helps schools identify travel issues and develop workable solutions. The TSP program aligns with the City of Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan – a plan

aimed to reduce the number of traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Toronto's roads.

Please also adhere to all signage outside our school. Drop off students at the appropriate locations **ONLY** and stop/park **ONLY** in areas indicated. Pylons are out to indicate a **NO-STOPPING Zone** near the cross-walk. Please stop to pick-up and drop-off before or after the pylons on **WEST** side of the street. We also encourage all, whenever possible, to **WALK** to school. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, children get exercise before and after school and it's safer as we will minimize the number of cars around our school. Please remember that the school parking lot is only for staff members and we discourage parents and caregivers from parking in the lot for many reasons, but mainly because it's a safety issue to have many young children in and around the parking lot. Thank you in advance.

Together, we can keep school zones safe!

To learn more about road safety, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Road-Safety>

IMMUNIZATION



If you received a letter from Toronto Public Health, please update your child's immunization record with Toronto Public Health using one of the following options:

- Phone: 416-392-1250
- [Online reporting](#)
- Fax: 416-338-2487

If your child does not have all the needed vaccines, please contact your doctor.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: A PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some tips for supporting Character Development in the home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media and entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/character



RAISING A GOOD STUDENT

Catherine Rondina, City Parent

With a new school year here, families are geared up for another crack at the books. Children may be filled with anxiety over what the new school year will bring, while parents ponder the challenges their children will face. One thing is certain - not all kids start the school year with a bang. Some children struggle with academic skills, while others try to deal with developmental and emotional issues. So how can you give your child a head start on doing well in school?

Research indicates that your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is the key to his or her success in school. As a parent you are your child's number one role model and your participation in school life is essential.

The time you spend with your child away from school is very important. This time allows you both to relax and be together doing things that you both enjoy. Spend this time reading together, playing games, doing projects and just being a family. These family times help your child build self-confidence and self-esteem, in addition to building a strong relationship with you.

To keep involved in your child's school life, visit the school on a regular basis and make yourself known to the teachers and staff. Attend parent/teacher interviews and request a meeting yourself if you deem it necessary.

Make the most of your interview time with your child's teacher. Come prepared with questions you'd like answered and don't be afraid to speak up. Discuss with the teacher how you can help your child do better in the classroom and set up a

plan of action that you both feel will work for him or her.

Schedule additional time to meet with your child's teacher if necessary. You may even want to arrange to talk on a steady basis over the telephone or correspond via email. It's important to let your child know that you in contact with the teacher and you're all working together to help him/her succeed.

Use your child's report card as a tool to help you both understand what's happening in the classroom. The report card acts as a guide to achievements, progress, areas that need improvement and any behaviour or attendance problems. You can use it to help your child set goals for the next term.

Be open and honest with your child about progress in school. Discuss what the teacher has told you and talk about how to improve. If you have expectations for your child, make them clear. For example if you are happy with your child's effort and she continually brings home B's let her know that you won't intervene unless you see a decline in her grades.

If your child is having troubles and your discussions with her teacher don't seem to be getting the results you wish, ask to see the principal. Sometimes switching classrooms or even schools may help your child flourish.

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accounts.

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