

YORK MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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May 10th, 2019

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

The York Memorial CI building remains under the active control of Toronto Fire Services (TFS) and Toronto Police, as they continue their work there. Heavy construction equipment excavated parts of the building to assist TFS in its efforts to suppress the fire and ensure no hotspots remained. This has resulted in a significant amount of debris on the property and it is not safe for anyone else to be inside or near the building unless authorized by TFS or police. Toronto District School Board (TDSB) security services also has a 24-hour presence at the school.

Once the site has been released back to the TDSB, crews will assess the safety of the building and begin a process of reviewing building contents. In the aftermath of this terrible event, we know that material items are just that and we are so thankful that no one was injured in the initial fire or the subsequent one that broke out early Tuesday morning. But we recognize that many of our students and staff had a number of important personal items that were left behind in the building. TDSB staff are in the process of devising a retrieval strategy, including contracting a crew to go into the building and systematically collect and inventory salvageable items. We will make every effort to locate and return personal belongings of students that have not been significantly damaged and are deemed safe to return.

We are asking for your help in this process. Students, please visit [this link](#) to identify personal items that may have been left behind on Monday afternoon after the first fire resulted in the immediate evacuation of the school.

Please keep in mind that it may be several days yet before the building is released to TDSB, and perhaps a week or more before the property can be safely accessed to identify student belongings.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and for your patience.

Sincerely,

Donna Drummond (Principal)