

Email & Voice Communication to Parents/Guardians & Students

Update May 6th, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Shortly after 2:00 pm this afternoon, staff noted smoke coming from a room on the ground floor. The emergency evacuation bell was rang and an announcement made for everyone to exit the building promptly. Toronto Fire Services (TFS) quickly arrived on the scene to find a fire in the auditorium. No serious injuries were reported, though one student required treatment for minor smoke inhalation. Her parents were contacted by paramedics on site and, thankfully, we are told that she is fine.

We were advised to remain outdoors for the afternoon while firefighters worked to contain the situation. At about 3:30 pm, after receiving clearance from TFS officials, we released students. Those who needed bus tickets to get home were escorted to George Harvey CI where they were provided tickets. Others were permitted to go home directly from our school.

TFS have confirmed that the fire is extinguished. However, students' are not able re-enter the school to retrieve belongings at this time. We will be working with Fire officials and with TDSB Health and Safety staff to further assess the situation tomorrow. **As a result, for Tuesday, May 7, all students and staff with the exception students going to the AGO should report to George Harvey CI at the usual time.** Grade 10 students attending the AGO tomorrow should meet along Yorktown Drive at 8:50 am and wait along the side walk beside the entry to the school parking lot (the road at the back of the playing fields/ parking lot).

Once again, we understand that many students have their belongings in the school and will like to retrieve them, however this must be done in a coordinated fashion and only once we have received an update and clearance from TFS. Until then, we thank you for your patience, continued cooperation and understanding. We will continue to share more information as it becomes available. You can also visit our school web site for updates: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/yorkmemorial>.

In closing, the response and cooperation from our students and staff today was exceptional and I want to commend them for that. Our staff calmly lead students out of the school in an orderly way and worked to ensure everyone was safe. I also want to acknowledge Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police, Emergency medical Services and the TTC for all their incredible assistance. It was a challenging situation and we felt in good hands with their presence. Finally, thanks to our friends at George Harvey CI for hosting some of our students and staff today. We felt welcomed today and know that will be the case tomorrow as well.

Thank you.

Donna Drummond (Principal)