

## Email & Voice Communication to Parents/Guardians & Students

### Update May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

As you know, students and staff reported to George Harvey CI today because of the fire at our school yesterday. Early this morning, another more serious fire broke out at the school. That quickly became a six-alarm event and Toronto Fire Services (TFS) have been there all day today. Because of the smoke generated, all students and staff were evacuated from George Harvey CI, including our own, and students were dismissed for the day. **As a result of this situation, classes for Wednesday, May 8 are cancelled. Staff will report to Oakwood CI. TDSB Social work staff will also be available at Oakwood CI to support students and staff as needed. Students [lease feel free to come along to Oakwood to access the support.**

This is a difficult time for the entire YMCI community. We are all deeply saddened by the events that are unfolding before our eyes. York Memorial CI was built in 1929--11 years after WWI--in memory of youth in the community who gave their lives for our country. The school featured a number of architectural acknowledgments of the first and second world wars, including stained glass windows, eleven steps leading into the school from a broad landing which symbolize the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month when peace was reached, and the oak-panelled Roll of Honour inscribed with the names of soldiers who gave their lives. This is a special place for all of us, and for all those who came before us. At this point, we don't know the entire impact of the fire on the building and its contents. But we know that the York Memo family, like our legacy, will remain strong whatever the future may hold.

Our understanding is that TFS are making progress in suppressing the fire. We are continuing to monitor the situation closely and are in regular contact with TDSB and TFS officials. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available, both on the efforts of TFS and on the status of school operations for the coming days and weeks.

I want to thank you for your thoughts and support as we manage this challenging situation. We are so thankful that no one has been seriously injured. Once again, I want to express my sincere gratitude to TFS and Toronto Police for their tireless work, and to TDSB staff for all their support.

Heartfelt gratitude

Donna Drummond (Principal)