

Email & Voice Communication to Parents/Guardians & Students

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students

Update on school operations

Good evening, students and parents. While classes were cancelled for students today, York Memo and George Harvey CI staff were at Oakwood CI to be together and plan for the coming days and weeks. TDSB social workers were also available at Oakwood for any student or staff person who wished to speak to them. Some took advantage of that opportunity.

We know there is much work ahead of us as we consider what the final weeks of the school year will look like. I have been collaborating closely with George Harvey CI Principal Sam Miceli today on how we can support all of our students and staff to ensure a successful conclusion to the school year under unprecedented circumstances. We have been listening to school staff so that we are collectively focussed on how we best move forward together. Many other TDSB staff have also been instrumental in efforts to accommodate all our students and staff for the rest of the school year. Sadly, it is clear that will not be possible at our school.

So that we are well-prepared to receive students for the balance of the 2018-2019 school year, classes will be cancelled for Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10. We will re-open on Monday, May 13 at George Harvey CI, ready to welcome students and resume classes. This will allow us time to carefully think through the complex process of reconvening in a different space for the balance of the year, including consideration for issues such as student timetabling, preparing classroom spaces, making learning resources and essential supplies available, and a number of other important factors. On Monday, May 13, students will report to George Harvey CI at 9:00 am where we will welcome everyone back and review details of the plan for the final weeks of the school year. We will also be organizing a meeting for parents next week so that we can provide further updates and respond as best we can to any questions you may have. That will take place on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at George Harvey CI.

Toronto Fire Services report significant progress in their work and last night permitted those who were evacuated to return to their homes and businesses. TDSB crews have since ventilated George Harvey CI and conducted air tests. Following these tests, that building has also been cleared to re-open. Operating out of George Harvey CI on Thursday and Friday of this week from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, TDSB social workers will continue to be available to students and staff. We know that there will be concerns that some may have after such a large scale tragedy and **encourage anyone who needs support to visit with these caring professionals.**

Thank you again for all your kind support and understanding as we navigate this extraordinary situation. Please know that all our staff, including the wider TDSB family, are committed to helping our students succeed. Together, we will persevere.

Yours in partnership,

Donna Drummond (Principal)