



FRIDAY FILE – Jan. 22th, 2021

KINDNESS. RESPECT. PRIDE.

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School Website Link <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/zionheights/>

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Another rewarding week where Zion students work in partnership with their teachers during our remote learning experiences. Students continue to follow their schedules of their regular school day and timetables successfully. The familiarity and consistency has been working well for all staff and students. IPRC reviews for our grade 8 students transitioning into grade 9 are now completed successfully. Offers of placements for these special education programs will begin starting next week. Please email the school if you have not received your child's offer of placements. Deadline for Optional Attendance for grade 8 students is January 29th. Specialty programs will begin to give acceptance letters on February 12th.



My Blueprint and Course Selection:

Teachers have been starting to discuss course selections with students. Some students have begun or have completed their course selections and are awaiting for approval. Teachers will be working closely with high school Guidance Counselors to ensure that grade 8 students are actively working on their course selections. Deadline for all course selections for Zion is **Monday February 22nd**. All students should have their course selections completed by this date, so that I can approve and ensure all students have success for the Board deadline on February 26, 2021.



Devices:

Parents are reminded that if your child is having difficulties navigating any online platforms or if their device is still not working, first please contact the *Student Virtual Learning IT Support*. If issues still continue, please contact your classroom teacher or the principal to provide next steps.

Mental Health & Well-Being:

Last week I had the pleasure of attending Trustee Li's virtual Ward Forum, where the topic of discussion was on Mental Health and Well-Being. This was a very informative session with guest speaker, System Leader of Mental Health and Professional Support Services Shameen Sandhu. What resonated with me and what I would like to share with you is that each and all of us need to find ways to ***feel, think, act*** in ways that enhance our ability to enjoy life and deal with the challenges we face. Feeling, thinking and acting about something has a big impact on yourself. When you feel well, life is more balanced and we

are able to see things in a more positive and constructive way. Student mental health and well-being is an important part of student success and a priority at Zion.



<https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/news/1254/bell-let-s-talk-day-2021-give>



Bell Let's Talk on January 28th, promotes conversations around mental health to dispel the stigma surrounding it. It's an opportunity to highlight how important mental health is to the well-being of the person. Every day, staff at Zion focus on creating learning environments that are safe, welcoming, caring and inclusive for each and every student, because we know that good mental health and well-being play a critical role in the success of our students. You can join the conversations around mental health and wellness and [@TDSB](#) [@TDSB_MHWB](#) on Twitter



Absences and Lates:

We continue to ask that if your child is not attending class please assist in connecting with the classroom teacher first by sending an email, and then immediately email or call the school. When calling the school to report an absence, press 1 for Safe Arrival. Being remote has some challenges, for example some students are present during the morning attendance and then will leave at various times in the day for an appointment.

This becomes problematic as some students have left unknown to the classroom teacher or the school. If your child needs to log off from learning mid morning or mid afternoon, please also notify the classroom teacher and the school. All students need to be accounted for during all periods of the school day. Thank you for your support.

The Get REAL Movement Virtual Workshop For Students



We are excited to have TDSB partner "The Get REAL Movement" to run their virtual Anti-Racism Workshop with our students! Get REAL Speakers Chris and Saidat will share lived experiences navigating anti-Black racism in their lives, as well as historical context,

answers to student questions, and actionable items that we can all do to better support our peers, and show up as an ally 365 days a year! All students will be attending the virtual workshop on **Monday 25th**. There are 2 sessions. Workshop 1 and Workshop 2. Each teacher will have a scheduled workshop for their class to attend. Each classroom teacher will provide the link to their students in the Google Classroom before or on the morning of Monday January 25th. Both workshops are in the afternoon. Workshop 1 is at 1pm and Workshop 2 is at 2pm.

*****IMPORTANT*****



We ask that all students are on time for the workshop. This means using the link 5 to 10 mins before to enter the ZOOM waiting room in preparation for the guest speakers to allow entry. We are asking that students are not late. The link will only be active for 5 minute after the start time. If students are late, there will be no access to the workshop session. Parents, please help your child with a reminder to access the link prior to start time.

A Brief History of Academic Streaming in Ontario

What is Academic Streaming?

What is its History in Ontario?

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

Academic streaming is a discriminatory and oppressive system in Ontario that separates students into distinct educational pathways based on perceived ability. This practice can be traced back to pre Confederation. To learn more about the history of streaming in Ontario, read Restacking the Deck: Streaming by Class, Race and Gender in Ontario Schools:

<https://crpstem.files.wordpress.com/2...>

By Jason To (TDSB Secondary Math & Academic Pathways)



Tamil Heritage Month is recognized nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the Toronto District School Board since January 2016.

The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest. Here is a Powerpoint to learning more about [Tamal Celebrations](#).

This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights – Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.

Student work form Mr. Dykshoorn's Class

These are some art samples of 3 point and 1 point perspective that students have been working on.

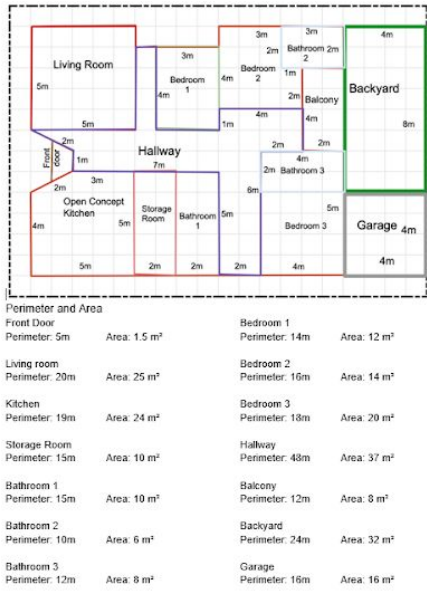


Aspen Liu (3 point)

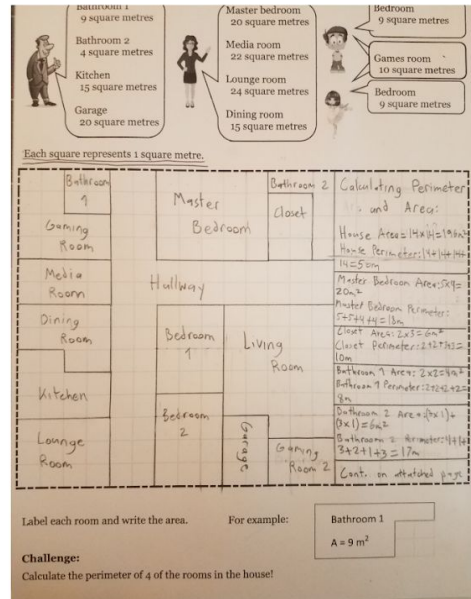


Lola Wang (1 point)

In addition, in math, students have been designing their dream house using area and perimeter to determine the sizes of the rooms inside the house.

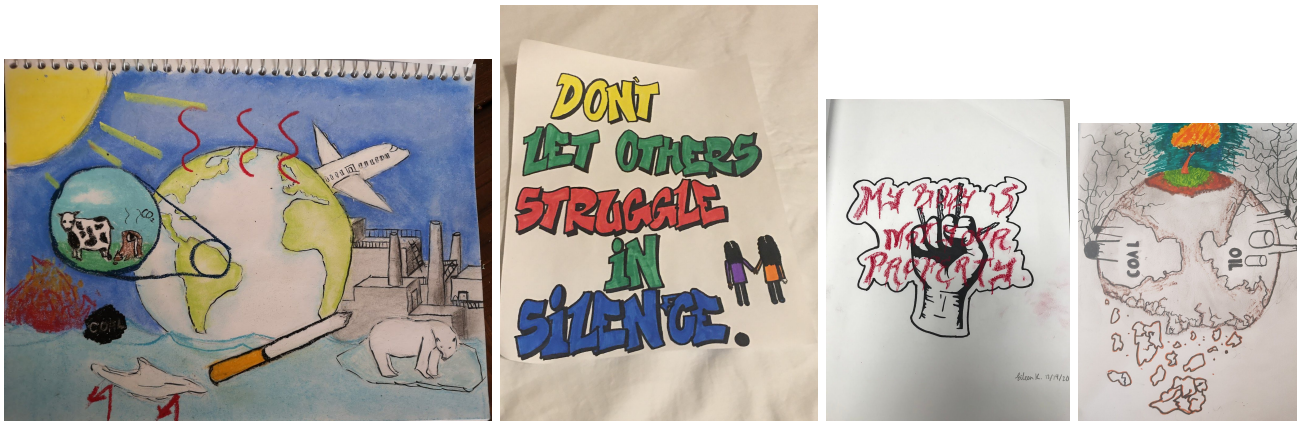


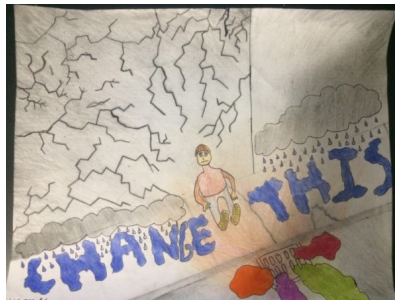
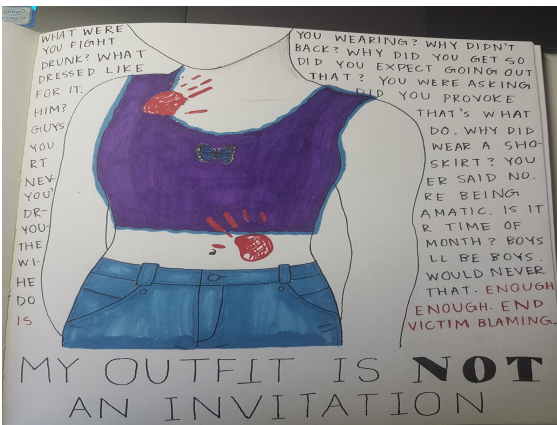
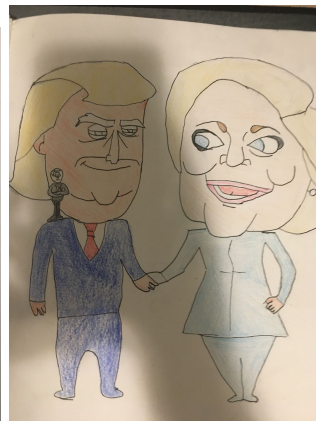
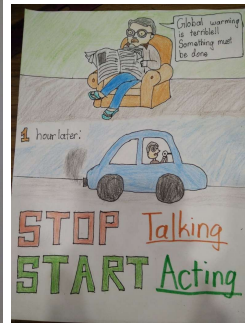
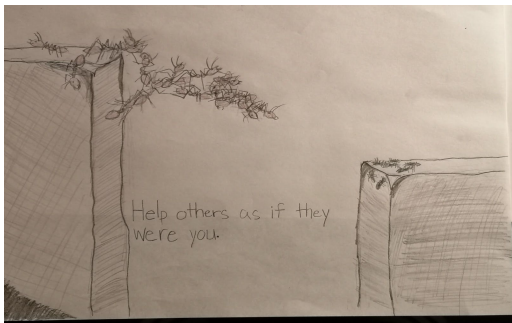
Emma Li (house)



David Santavy (house)

Ms. Cattle's Class - Express Yourself Social Justice Graffiti







LOOKING AHEAD @ ZHMS

January 25 - School Wide Anti-Racism Workshops for all classes Get Real Movement (board partners)

January 29 - [All Optional Attendance forms due at secondary schools](#)

February 9 - Elementary Term 1 Report Cards sent home at the end of the day

February 11 & 12 - Elementary PA Day for Parents - Teacher Conferences

February 22 - Zion grade 8 students course selections due

February 26 - Board grade 8 course selections due (Ms. Gillard, Ms. Barlas, Ms. Rabin)

Andrea Gillard
Principal
Zion Heights Middle School