



Virtual Schools



TDSB Elementary Virtual School Family Newsletter

Welcome to the March 2021 issue of the Virtual School newsletter. We hope that you are finding this monthly publication a good source of information and updates to help with staying informed about what's happening not only in the Virtual School but across the TDSB.

As you know, the Ministry of Education delayed the March Break so we are now looking forward to an upcoming break from April 12 to 16. We hope that all students and families enjoy some down time, as this has been a busy and challenging year for everyone.

For more information and updates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/virtualschool and follow along on Twitter @tdsbvs.

Supporting Mental Health and Well-being During the COVID Anniversary

The week of March 11 marked the one-year anniversary of COVID-19, of a global pandemic that has forever changed our lives. It has been a challenging year and we have faced great uncertainty and tremendous changes. The pandemic highlighted social inequities forging critical conversations about anti-oppression. Although we recognize the stress and weight of the pandemic, we also recognize the strengths, the building of community and our perseverance.

The changes and challenges in schooling that have resulted for our children allow us to reflect on how we have endured such times with resilience, compassion and care for one another and ourselves.

[Read the full message from the Director of Education and Associate Directors.](#)

REMINDER: Change to March Break Dates

The Ministry of Education has delayed March Break. The break is now from **April 12 – 16, 2021**.

Director's Annual Report

The Director's Annual Report 2020 highlights important work that occurred across the TDSB last year and progress made on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. [Read the report online.](#)

New Outdoor Learning Website

Getting outside safely is more important now than ever. To help students, families and staff get the most out of the outdoors in a safe and educational way, the TDSB has launched a new outdoor learning website. [Explore the new site today!](#)

TDSB Conversation Series

Families are invited to join us for a series of engaging and informative conversations on topics we heard you want to learn more about. Hear from leading experts and participate in question and answer sessions online.

[Dates and details about upcoming sessions.](#)

Toronto Public Health (TPH) Vaccine Update

As the vaccine rollout happens across the City of Toronto, please [visit the TPH website](#) to learn more.



Human Rights Annual Report

The TDSB recently released its first-ever Human Rights Annual Report. To read the report, report an incident, access policies and procedures and read a Q&A, [visit the Human Rights website](#).

TDSB Celebrates Greek Heritage Month

March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture. [Learn more](#).

The theme for this year is:

1821-2021

**Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα
Learning From Our Roots...Shaping Our Future**

Grade 8 Course Selection

Throughout January and February, students completed their course selection for 2021/2022 school year. We thank families for your support during this process. Please contact the Vice Principal responsible for Grade 8 classes in your Virtual School Learning Centre with questions.

Grocery Cards for Virtual School Students

Food insecurity continues to be a reality for many TDSB families, especially during COVID -19 and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) continues to support students in need and has funded and mailed out 17,000 \$50 gift cards to students learning virtually. Communities were prioritized by those students identified through the Food for Kids (FFK) initiative and those determined through self-identified needs. TFSS is working with Virtual Schools to continue support through the end of May (as funds permit) and to

secure support for summer school secondary students in prioritized communities. While TDSB schools are open, TFSS also continues to support in-school Student Nutrition Programs.

Parent/Caregiver and Community Volunteer Process

We have a wealth of expertise and resources among our family community. Several parents/guardians have shown an interest in supporting Virtual School classrooms. As with volunteering at in-person school, a "cleared" police check must be provided by volunteers prior to working with students. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete this form:

[Parents/Caregivers and Community Volunteers](#)

This form asks you to provide the Learning Centre, class code for your child and the teacher's name. If you do not have this information, please ask your child's teacher.

This form will include a question asking for confirmation and providing information regarding having a valid Police Reference Check. If you have any questions about the application you will need to contact the Police Reference Check (PRC) office at 416-393-0759 or email PoliceReferenceCheckOffice@tdsb.on.ca.

If you require financial assistance to offset the cost for the PRC (\$20), please speak to your in-person school principal to subsidize the cost. Alternatively, you can contact the Parent and Community Engagement Office at 416-397-3529.

If you have any questions, please connect with the Principal for your Learning Centre.



Community Engagement: Interactive Webinars

Throughout March, the Elementary Virtual School held webinars for families and community members, which included the following topics:

- Parenting in a Virtual World: An interactive session supported by psychologists, social workers and school administrators
- Internet Safety: How to keep your child safe online
- Adolescent Mental Health

Join us for the next interactive webinar on **Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m.** that will include topics such as managing screen time, identifying productive online tools and helping children make the best use of their online time.

[Addicted or Empowered? How to support your child's online learning.](#)

TDSB Parent Academy - April Schedule

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Anti- Racism Series: What Does Equity Look Like in Our School

Explore what equity look like in our schools; discuss equity goals and school improvement planning.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

How to Deal with Microaggressions and Human Rights Violations

Strategies to deal with oppression, we discuss how to deal with microaggressions and human rights violations.

Learn more at tsdbHUB.ca under Parent Academy.

Ongoing Professional Learning

Teachers continue to engage in professional learning to deepen their knowledge and practice of using digital platforms and tools to engage students and to promote deep learning.

Some examples of professional learning topics and sessions in March include the following:

- Developing Capacity to Integrate Guided Reading Strategies into Daily Practice
- Participating in Google Education Certification
- Participating in Virtual Fairs: Discovering Online Tools to Support Programs and Eliciting Student Voice and Promoting Digital Fluency
- Math Leadership Team: Using the developmental continua and noticing and naming mathematical thinking to provide next best instructional supports

Virtual Schools Staff Directories

Below are the Virtual School administrative team directories for easy reference. Principals and Vice-Principals in each Learning Centre have been designated by grade.

[Learning Centre 1 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 2 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 3 Virtual Elementary School](#)

[Learning Centre 4 Virtual Elementary School](#)