

# Trustee Update

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**HAPPY 2021!!!**

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and have kicked off this year with hope and optimism as we enter into another provincial wide shutdown. I would like to once again thank everyone in the community for your continued support and understanding towards our work. I would also like to thank all our TDSB staff members for coping so well in these times of change and uncertainty. As long as we continue to support each other in the same way as we are now, I am confident that we will come out the other side of this pandemic not only safely, but also stronger and more resilient than ever.

If you ever need support or consultation on the mental well-being of a student or even for yourself, the TDSB has a large team of highly qualified social workers who are available to help you along the way. Please reach out to your school principal to connect with one of our support staff.



## MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION

Applications Open: Jan. 4, 2021 | Deadline: Jan. 29, 2021

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION**

There is an important deadline coming up for students looking to participate in TDSB's French language programs.

The deadline to apply to our Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry) program is January 29th, 2021. Grade 3 is the only time your child may apply to begin the Middle French Immersion program and there will be no other opportunities to enter this program.

### **WHAT IS MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION?**

Middle French Immersion programs are designed for students who do not speak French at home. The Middle French Immersion program (Grade 4 Entry) offers 100% model of French instruction in Grades 4 and 5 in most schools (with the exception of a PREP

providing subject that may be delivered in English if required). English is introduced in Grade 6. The model of instruction for Grades 6 - 8 is 75% French and 25% English with Science and Language taught in English.

Please note: This program will replace the Junior Extended French program as the Grade 4 entry program in TDSB.

The subjects taught in French from Grade 4 through to Grade 8:

- Math
- Social Studies (Geography/History)
- French Language

After Grade 8, students continue the French Immersion program at designated secondary schools. Students who successfully complete a minimum of 10 credits in French at the secondary school level are eligible for a Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French within the TDSB.

For information on the Application process or how to find your associated Middle French Immersion school for your area, please visit the website below and/or access the Frequently Asked Questions under Application Process – left menu bar:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs>

\*Catchments are based on the student's home address and may change in accordance with TDSB procedures.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Application process opens: January 4, 2021

Deadline for applications: January 29, 2021

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN/COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS:**

For information on specific sessions, please visit our FSL website regularly for updates:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions>

The scheduled information sessions are as follows:

January 21, 2021 – 7 pm

January 27, 2021 – 7 pm

Please note: To participate in a live scheduled web chat, please visit the web page above and a link will be available to join on the dates/times as outlined above.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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## International Languages Elementary/African Heritage Online Classes

### INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES AND AFRICAN HERITAGE

In an increasingly globalized world, it is important to set our students on the path to being active global citizens. The TDSB takes great pride in providing International Languages and African Heritage programs to all students from K to Grade 8. No background knowledge is necessary and we encourage students to explore all languages.

This fall, the International Languages - Elementary/African Heritage Program will be offering language classes to students (TDSB and non TDSB) Kindergarten to Grade 8. Students will take part in a remote/at home learning. One day each week, they will have live face-to-face interactive lessons with their instructor and other students for approximately 30 minutes. Activities will be focused on building student's abilities in oral communication, reading and writing.

Please note that a minimum of 23 students is required to open a language class.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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# Tamil Heritage Month



Artwork by: Kavinaya - Grade 10 - Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute

## January 2021

### TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH

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.

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.

[Click here to learn more](#)

# PowerUp Mentorship

Going into the field of health, life, and biological sciences can be intimidating to pursue, especially during the transition from high school to post-secondary. For this reason, Prospective Medical Professionals and Stem Fellowship have created a FREE service to help Grade 11 and 12 students better understand everything they need to know once they graduate.

## How Does it Work?

University students from across Canada will conduct a one-time virtual meeting with you to share university application advice. These mentors will be ready to answer all your questions about life sciences beyond high school.



LEARN MORE

<https://stemfellowship.org/powerup/>

STEM Fellowship PUMP

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