

Tavistock Public School

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November/December 2020

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Message from our Administrator

This week we celebrated the 50th Day of school. It was super to see so many students and staff dressed up like the 1950's. Our school reminded me of an episode of "Happy Days."

Please make sure to check school messenger and our new Facebook page for news of our upcoming events. One event starting November 30th is our Virtual Book Fair. All money raised will be going back into the Library. Stay tuned for further events.

Our School Council virtual meeting on Zoom will take place on Monday December 7th. Please contact Rachel Smith if you wish to join. We will be discussing fundraising and potential components of an outdoor learning space.

In just over three weeks, we will finish for our Winter Break. We are going to take this opportunity to send belongings home. A good opportunity to clean things out and start again in January!

2020 has been an interesting year to say the least. We have been forced to rethink many of our practices and look for new solutions.

I hope that each of you is able to make some time during the Holiday Season to cherish what we have, celebrate with family and friends and recharge. Enjoy!

Season's Greetings! Happy New Year!

Dates to Remember

November 23 – 50 Day of School (dress like they did the 50's)

November 16 to December 3 – Tree of Warmth

November 16 to December 9 – Food Donations

November 30th to December 11th – Virtual Book Fair

December 4 – Red & Green Day

December 7th – School Council Meeting

December 11 – PJ / Onesie Day

December 18 – Ugly Christmas /Festive Shirt Day

December 21 to January 1 – Christmas Break



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Tavistock Public School**
on Facebook



Daily Health Screenings

Please remember to go to [Southwestern Public Health Covid Screening](#) for your student's daily screening prior to coming to school each morning.

Every Student Belongs Survey

Students from grades 7 and 8 will participate in a board survey of Every Student Belongs during the school day in the upcoming month. Parents will be asked to fill out this survey for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. For information on this survey please visit the following link [Everyone belongs survey](#).

Absences, Late Arrivals & Early Departures

We ask the parents to use the School Messenger App for communicating with the office on late arrivals, early departures and absences. *Only parents/guardians* have access to the reporting absence app. The app can be downloaded onto your smart phone from the App Store or Google Play. To log into the app use your login email and password from your parent portal. **Late arrivals:** if you are dropping your child off after 9:00 a.m. call the school office to notify us you are at the door or ring the doorbell. **Early departures:** should also be put into the school messenger app prior to picking up your child. When you have arrived at Tavistock Public School please stay in your car and call the school, or ring the doorbell to let us know you have arrived. For your child's safety we do not accept texts from the student's phone for messages from the parents. If you need help with downloading the Messenger app please go to [Tavistock Website Attendance Reporting](#) for instructions.

Drop off and Pick up Parking Zones

Starting Monday November 30th, the bus and student drop off zone will be moving back to the front of the school at the Primary gate. When you are dropping and picking up your child(ren) please **park along the road and walk your child(ren) to the schoolyard gate**. Parents are not allowed in the schoolyard **so please walk them to the gate**. We are requesting that parents do not congregate at the Primary Gate. Once your child is on the school yard, please leave. Students are not to be dropped off before 8:45 a.m. Only those students arriving after the bell may enter through the front door. Unless there are special circumstances non-bus students do not exit through the front door. Students may also access the schoolyard from the gate at the arena. Please note that the path across the yard from the arena gate is not maintained in the winter. The circular drive must remain clear for the bus and emergency vehicles.



Figure 1: Look for the School Messenger Logo

Thank you 2019-2020 Grads



We would like to thank our 2019-2020 Graduating Class in their donation of funds from the Mint Smoothie Camp Celtic Fundraiser in purchasing new gym equipment and walkie talkies. We understand the disappointment of not going on their year end trip but appreciate their generosity in the donation.

Parent Council

Parent Council meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month. Next Parent Council meeting will be held on Monday December 7th at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held through Zoom.

We would like to thank the Parent Council for the purchase of additional Walkie Talkies from the Dance-a-thon fundraiser from 2018-2019.

Tree of Warmth and Food Drive

Thank you for your kind donations for the Tree of Warmth and Food Drive. Let's keep the donations coming in! Donations will be accepted until December 3rd for the Tree of Warmth and December 16th for the Food Drive.

Electronic Communication

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal provides parents with the following functionality:



- ability to view student attendance for the current school year
- ability to view student information
- ability to update Parent/Guardian Consent (re: release of student personal information during the month of September and the month of February). All other time periods during the school year, the parent will only be able to view the information on-line and will have to contact the school if changes are required.
- ability to view student report cards for the current school year
- if applicable, ability for parent to consent to view his/her child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) on-line. Once consent is given the parent can view available IEPs for the current school year, and provide comments on the most recent one
- links to forms

In order to access the portal, parents/guardians are invited to visit the [TVDSB Parent Portal](#) to create a login account using an email address.

SchoolMessenger

Parents/guardians are to report student absences using SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival.



Accessing SchoolMessenger online

Navigate to www.tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger (add to bookmarks/favourites). Click Sign Up and follow the instructions to set up your account. Within minutes, you will receive an email with a link to complete the sign up process.

Accessing SchoolMessenger using the Smartphone App (most time efficient option)

After setup up an account through www.tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger, download the SchoolMessenger app through the App Store or Google Play Store and log in using the credentials used after validating your account online.

Accessing SchoolMessenger by Phone

Parents/guardians who do not have access to a computer can access the system by calling 1-844-305-3756 (toll free) to report absences.

How to Report an Absence

Absences are to be reported prior to the start of the school day by selecting one of the following absence types:

- Full day
- Late
- Early departure
- Leave and return

- Multiple day

After selecting an absence type, you will then be given a list of options to choose for a reason. These options will vary by type of absence selected. *If reporting the absence by phone, it is necessary to remain on the line until you receive a confirmation number. This number confirms that the absence has been reported to the school.*

A confirmation email will be sent to parents/guardians containing the details of the reported absence.

Student safety is a priority and if a student is absent and a parent/guardian does not report it through SchoolMessenger, automated communication will be sent to the parent/guardian until a response is received from the parent/guardian. During this communication, the parent/guardian can interact with the system to provide a reason for the absence. Please remain on the line until a confirmation number is given. The automated system will continue to attempt to contact the parent/guardian until a reason for the absence is reported. The school secretary will make personal calls to those families who have not been contacted by the automated system.

School Cash Online

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees like special lunches and field trips. The portal allows you to:



- add your students
- make payments
- check current balances/account history
- view receipts
- receive notification about upcoming events.

How to Register:

1. Create your profile
2. Go to <https://tvdsb.schoolcashionline.com> and click on 'Get Started Today'
3. Confirm your email
4. Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details
5. Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details. You will need to know your child's student number (available on your TVDSB Parent Portal), last name and date of birth.
6. Stay in the loop by selecting 'Yes' to email notifications about upcoming fees. You'll receive email notifications