

Friday, December 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe that we are into December already. These are times that can bring a variety of emotions and challenges. Please reach out to the school if there is anything that we need to be aware of in order to support your child in achieving success. We are all working hard to support each other as we continue to navigate these unique circumstances. Below is a list of information, school updates and resources that will help you as you work with your child at home and for you to be aware of what is happening in the school.

Student Council:

Student Council is still collecting for our Holiday Drive. We are accepting non-perishable non-expired foods, new unwrapped toys, or Walmart gift cards in any denomination in support of Simcoe Hall Settlement House and Eastdale families. Items can be dropped off each morning as students enter the building.

We are also still looking for student contributions to the Eastdale Gazette. All details are available on the Eastdale SAC website. Here is the Gazette link: <https://sites.google.com/ddsb.ca/sac/the-eastdale-gazette?authuser=0>

Quadmester 3 & 4 Timetable Changes:

With a number of students leaving to go to DDSB@Home (Virtual School), there will be a change to our staffing for Eastdale as teachers are redistributed to teach those students at the virtual school. As a result, we will unfortunately have to cancel a number of in-person classes and guidance will be making changes based on student needs. We are working very hard to find solutions so that each student will still be able to get the courses required to support their post-secondary plans. Please understand that this will potentially create some conflicts in student timetables. All options will be explored and addressed individually by your child's guidance counsellor.

Diversity Club:

Diversity Club's December Guest Speaker is Liza Serra from PFLAG Durham. This workshop will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 3 pm via google meet. Anyone interested is encouraged to sign up. Topics include PFLAG & 2SLGBTQI. The google form link to sign up is <https://forms.gle/JTpj2yTYREaNnd9N9> Students need to be logged into their DDSB account in order to complete it.

P-T Interviews and communication of progress.

As we progress in quadmester 2, teachers will continue the practice of communicating student progress with families through a variety of means.

Classroom teachers will be reaching out to the parents/guardians of any students that the teacher identifies as needing support with achieving the expectations of their course. As there will be no formal quadmester 2 conferences, any parent/guardian that does not hear directly from their child's classroom

teacher may still reach out at any point to engage the classroom teacher in a conversation about their student's progress and to discuss next steps.

Quadmester 2 Progress Reporting:

A formal sharing of student progress for quadmester 2 will take place following the Winter Break. Families will be able to access updated marks on January the 7th via the Parent Portal. This will also include final grades for any term courses such as Civics, Careers and the Grade 9 technological rotation courses. Further information and reminders on how to access the Portal will be forthcoming.

Commencement:

We wanted to share the video of our 2020 commencement speeches which includes some footage of parts of the day of our drive-thru ceremony. We were able to capture approximately half of the graduates who came. In total we had over 160 graduates participate in the drive-thru ceremony. We were very thankful to have had beautiful weather for the day as well. We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Sivitilli for all of his time and effort in taking the video footage and capturing some of these moments. We apologize that we were not able to capture everyone's moment on video this year and will look at ways to include everyone should we decide to do a video again for future ceremonies.

<https://youtu.be/TRVzCmPTarM>

DDSB Mental Health Team:

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of daily life and we want you to know that we're here to help!

Staff from DDSB Psychological Services and Social Work Services are available to speak with students or their parents/guardians when there is a need to talk things through or to seek more immediate advice about directions for support.



This is not a crisis service.

If the need or risk is imminent, contact 911 or call [KidsHelpPhone](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca) at 1-800-668-6868.

Access to DDSB Psychological Services and/or Social Work staff will be provided through an online format or by telephone, during regular work hours (Monday-Thursday).

If you are interested in speaking with one of our clinicians, click below to fill out a short form. One of our team members will contact you as soon as possible. <https://forms.ddsb.ca/Mental-Health/School-Based-Mental-Health-Support>

Have a safe and healthy weekend!

Michelle Monk - Principal

