

Friday, October 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians;

I hope this email finds you all well. As we head into this long weekend, we would like to update you on a number of important items. Please scan the subject headings and read the information that is pertinent to you and your child. Should you have any questions, as always, feel free to contact us by phone at 905-723-8157 or email at eastdalecvi@ddsb.ca.

Mark Reporting and Parent-Teacher Interviews:

Please ensure that you have read and marked the dates that were outlined in the letter that was sent out this past Tuesday, October 6th. As a reminder, marks will be available starting on Friday, October 23rd through the parent portal. Parent-Teacher interviews will be over the phone through next week. Today you should have access to the booking software at <https://ecvi.parentinterview.com>. The parent code to book appointments is '20east20'. A copy of past letters can be found on our website under the newsletter portion at <https://eastdalecvi.ddsb.ca/en/our-school/newsletter.aspx>.

School Community Council:

We would like to encourage all members of the community to participate in our School Community Council. Our meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

All meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and run for about an hour. Meetings will be held virtually. If you would like to join any meeting, please email the school's general email address at eastdalecvi@ddsb.ca to request a meeting invite. There is no commitment required, any parent/guardian can participate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the following members of the executive for their commitment to our school. These positions have been acclaimed for the 2020-2021 school year:

Nicole Schoep – Chair
Jenn Kelly – Treasurer
Shannon Billings – Secretary
Tara Hathaway – Abilities Rep

Black Youth Helpline:

The following information has recently been shared with us:

The Black Youth Helpline (National Helpline for Canadian Youth) is pleased to provide this update to your School District regarding the continued expansion of Stay-In-School supports to youth, parents and schools across Canadian provinces!

Founded in Winnipeg, Manitoba, expanded into Ontario and then into four (4) provinces in 2017, the work of our organization is now national from coast to coast across Canada effective June 2020. Our goal however remains helping vulnerable youth remain and succeed in schools as key strategy towards effective citizenship.

Youth, parents & school districts are encouraged to reach out to our National Helpline for culturally appropriate support:

Time: 9 am-10 pm EST, X 7 days/week

Contact numbers: 416-285-9944 and Toll Free: 1-833-294-8650 or

Email us: Info@blackyouth.ca OR submit the Contact Us form on our website.

Durham Black Educators' Network:

With our continuous focus on *optimizing educational experiences*, Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) has created *Elevate and Expand: Coaching for Excellence*. This new initiative is our Culturally Relevant and Responsive, virtual tutoring support program, for Durham District School Board **students in Grades 6 – 12** who identify as a part of Durham's Black diaspora.

Strengthening our commitment to enhancing academic equitable outcomes, DBEN has partnered with DDSB's Student Achievement and Curriculum Department to provide *complimentary* tutoring support.

Virtual 1:1 support will be offered through Google Meet. Our gap closing initiative will provide students with sessions up to 3 hours per week. Students will be matched with tutors based on academic strengths and needs, and our tutors' teaching qualifications.

Elementary students' sessions will run throughout the year and Secondary students' sessions will be based on quadesters.

Families are kindly asked to complete the *Elevate & Expand: Coaching for Excellence Registration Form*, including the media release by October 15th. Our DBEN Tutoring Coordinator will be in contact to finalize the intake process.

[Elevate & Expand: Coaching for Excellence Registration Form](#)

Sessions will begin during the week of October 26th. For more information, please send your inquiries to DBENtutoring@gmail.com.

Commencement:

Our commencement is being held on Friday, November 6, 2020. Due to the alternative nature of this event, there will be no access to the school parking lot for afternoon pick up from the Harmony Road entrance. Please make alternate arrangements on this day or enter & exit at the Adelaide entrance. If you have a son or daughter who is graduating, you should have received details about the event. For access to the letter that was sent out, please refer to our website at the following link:

<https://eastdalecvi.ddsb.ca/en/students/graduation.aspx> and use the code: **east2020grad** to access the

booking times. As a reminder, bookings for this event will be available this weekend and any further updates will also be posted to this area of our website.

There will be opportunities for some quick photos. We will have staff taking a fun 'drive-thru' photo and there will be a photo booth for parents to get a picture of their graduate as well. Graduates can wear their formal wear that they purchased for prom if they wish or wear Eastdale swag if they have it. With graduates not having their own gowns, we are unable to provide gowns for the ceremony. Grads will receive their caps for the photos and will be getting their diploma, awards, composite (if had grad photo taken), and a gift from Eastdale. We will be moving forward with the ceremony rain or shine.

Photo's and video from our commencement ceremony for Grade 12 graduates will be included in a video where the names and/or images of graduating students will be recorded and published on the internet that can be viewed online through a public link. The video will be available to be viewed from Dec 1st – Dec 30th and may be shared with family, friends and others who may be interested. If you have questions and/or concerns with the creation and/or publication of this video, please contact the school office no later than Nov 6th, 2020.

International Trip 2021:

Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, we have had to cancel our trip to Greece which was scheduled for March Break 2021. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide similar opportunities in the future.

Health & Safety:

We thank everyone for their on-going support in encouraging our students to be following all of the health and safety protocols for in person learning. Please remind your son/daughter to wear their mask even when outside when they are unable to keep a safe distance from their peers. When walking to and from the bus students are passing each other in close proximity and in order to keep everyone safe it is important that students have their masks on during this time. In addition, the Durham Health Department has provided an excellent screening tool which helps guide you in deciding to send your child to school and what steps to take depending on the symptoms that are being show. Go to: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> .

IEP's (Individual Education Plans):

For parents/guardians expecting an updated copy of their child's Individual Education Plan, these will be placed in the mail by October 20th and therefore should be expected shortly after this date.

Virtual Academic Resource Support:

For students who are in need of extra help throughout the day, students may access the virtual academic resource support by using the following code: **mdjiocb**

Post-Secondary Planning:

Guidance has been busy preparing for upcoming Post-Secondary Pathways and Application Cycles. A wealth of resources including video tutorials and important dates can be found on our website: <https://sites.google.com/ddsb.ca/eastdale-guidance/post-secondary-information?authuser=0>

Grade 12 students have received updated status sheets this week and are asked to verify that they are on track to complete all graduation requirements and meet all eligibility requirements for their intended programs of study. We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our University and College Panels in a Virtual Format this year. Students can hear from a number of universities and colleges as well as attend a Question and Answer session and Individual Breakout rooms for the schools they are most interested in. Students must pre-register by completing the following form: <https://forms.gle/s9LHspexDSSD5Mvb6> (please note students must be signed into their mobile campus to access the form). Links to the sessions will be sent to pre-registered students.

Please note the College Application Cycle is now open at www.ontariocolleges.ca .

Timetable Changes:

All Eastdale students should have received their full year timetable from teachers in their morning classes. Students have had the opportunity to see the full scope of their year and understand when their courses will take place. Students were able to make timetable changes by accessing the Eastdale website and going into the Guidance Department area and filling out a Request for Timetable Change Form. As we approach Quadmester 2, we need to finalize timetable changes so that the administration can cohort students for Quadmester 2. Appointments for timetable changes will reopen soon after Quad 2 begins to allow for adjustment in Quad 3 and Quad 4.

My apologies for the length of this letter however, there is a great deal of information to share at this time. This letter will be available on our school website under the newsletter section should you need to refer back to the information in the future.

On behalf of the staff at Eastdale C.V.I., we want to wish everyone a very safe and healthy Thanksgiving weekend.

Sincerely,

Michelle Monk

Principal