



# Harriet Tubman School Weekly Update

## April 17, 2020

### FROM YOUR ADMIN TEAM...

We hope your family enjoyed your long weekend. We know it was different this year but also know how important it is for us all to keep our physical distance right now so that we can get our lives back to normal as soon as it is safe!

On Wednesday, we were able to provide another 50 Chromebooks to our students who requested them. At this point we do not have another date set but if you find that you require technology at home please contact your child's teacher and we will ensure your name is added to our list for our next date.

Beginning this week, we will be including a section in our newsletter from our **Youth Counsellor**, Mrs. Mestek. We know that kids show stress and worry in different ways. We want to help you support your children at home. We will be providing you with some strategies that may help. All of the information and strategies shared should be familiar to our students as Mrs. Mestek teaches them to all of our classes throughout the school year.

We are also going to continue to include our **Frequently Asked Questions** but will add questions and answers as they arise.

Lastly, we would like to continue having **SPIRIT DAYS**. We enjoy families sharing the great things they are doing at home to keep connected with our school family. Please continue to share your wonderful photos from our spirit days as well as the great, creative work you children are doing at home. **WE LOVE SEEING OUR NORTH STARS!**

### NUTRITIONAL NEEDS

If you need any help accessing food items please email [htb@dsbn.org](mailto:htb@dsbn.org) and we will submit your name to our DSNB Cares program. We will ensure you get support. All inquiries and requests will be kept in confidence



### FROM THE LEARNING COMMONS...

#### Family Literacy Bingo

Our Family Literacy BINGO continues through to April 24th! Complete fun literacy activities and you could win a gift card to local book store, Someday Books.



#### Earth Day

Wednesday April 22nd is Earth Day! Tune into HT Live on Harriet Tubman's Facebook Group at 11:30 for a story and some fun recycling maker projects afterwards! Save up your milk cartons, plastic containers, plastic lids, bottles and plastic bags and get ready for some great Earth friendly Making together!

#### **\*\*NEW\*\* Ms. Bonisteel's Music Website**

Is your child missing Music class or Choir? Are you looking for something different that they may enjoy during their home learning day? Visit our HT Music page and consider using the resources that have been created. Your child can:

- sing a long with Ms.Bonisteel
- learn to sing in two-part round
- write their own music notation
- create their own beat boxing and rap using digital resources

Click on the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/htmusic/home>

Every Monday-Friday Ms. Bonisteel, along with some special Staff guests, are hosting HT LIVE from their homes at 11:30am via FB. Join us for a chance to say hello and listen to a story or share an activity together.








#### Make It Sow Fundraiser

Please email [sarahlmckie@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlmckie@gmail.com) with your home address if you have placed an order, so it can be delivered.

Harriet Tubman School- Challenge April 20-24

**Make Each Day Great!**

Please send your ideas and photos to [htb@dsbn.org](mailto:htb@dsbn.org) or post them on our school Facebook or Twitter pages

Marvelous Monday	Terrific Tuesday	Wacky Wednesday	Thankful Thursday	Fancy Friday
<p>What is something marvelous you can do for your family?</p> 	<p>Who is terrific in your world? Tell them why they are terrific.</p> 	<p>Do something wacky to make someone smile in your house.</p> 	<p>Thank someone for something they have done for you this week.</p> 	<p>Make an area in your home fancy for you and your family.</p> 



***Can I go into the school to clear out my child's locker?***

No, the Premier of Ontario has deemed educational buildings as “non-essential services” and have mandated us closed. We are not permitted to enter the building. Once it is deemed safe, we will allow students back in the building.

***We were supposed to have Pizza Day in April, will I get my money back?***

Yes, any purchases that you have made via School Cash Online for hot lunches or our PJ's and Pancakes event will be reimbursed within the next week.

***My child's class had a trip booked, will it still go on?***

At this point all trips have been cancelled. Once we return to school our primary focus will be on instruction in the classroom.

***Is grade 8 graduation cancelled?***

We don't know. At this point large group events are cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic. If the Medical Officer Health deems it safe to go ahead with large group events, we will go ahead with it. As with all schools in the DSBN, we will follow the directive from our Senior Administration team.

***The technology that we are borrowing from the school isn't working, who do I call?***

If you are having difficulty with your borrowed technology email [htb@dsbn.org](mailto:htb@dsbn.org) with your child's name, your contact information, the type of device they have (Chromebook, laptop, iPad) and the specific issue you are having. We will forward that information to our tech department who will contact you.

### **When will the WIFI I requested be coming?**

Our board staff are working diligently with a number of service providers. Our goal is to have WIFI to families by the end of the next week. If you requested wifi, please expect a phone call from one of our staff by the end of this week.

### **Can I opt out of the Learn at Home Program?**

We have had some inquiries from students and parents asking if the Learn at Home assignments provided by teachers is mandatory. It is an expectation that students engage in the assignments provided by their teachers. If your child is struggling with the assigned tasks, please contact your child's teacher. We have supports available to help our students. We also suggest that students work on their assignments during the day as this is when staff are available to help either online or on the phone. Please connect with us, we are here to help.

### **When are teachers available to speak with me or connect with me by email?**

Teachers continue to work from home and are available during school hours, Monday to Friday. If you would like to connect with your child's teacher please email them to arrange a time during the school day to connect by phone or email. Our website has a directory of staff email links.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOUTH COUNSELLOR~ Mrs. Mestek

We would like to start by saying: "families we applaud you!" Routines have been changed drastically and home is where we are for long periods of the day. With that comes a variety of feelings and challenges.

### **How can we help each other cope with all of these changes?**

Youth Counsellors have pulled together some resources that may help your families while you are learning at home. Part of a Youth Counsellors' job is to build students' mental health skills by delivering programs and interactive sessions focused on social and emotional core competencies. Even if a student has not had a particular program, the tips can still be helpful. Every week we will have some tips for you to share with your children at home. Much of the language is familiar to your child as it is used daily at school.

If you notice that your child is angry, anxious, worried, ask them what zone they are in:



Our goal is always to provide students with strategies to get them "back" into the **GREEN ZONE**. Here are some suggested strategies:

- ~Listen to music
- ~Read a book
- ~Get some exercise
- ~Take a nap/rest in a quiet space
- ~Draw or colour
- ~Talk it out with someone you trust

# OUR NORTH STARS HAVING FUN WHILE WORKING HARD!

