

HARRIET TUBMAN WEEKLY UPDATE APRIL 3, 2020



From Your Admin Team...

To say that the last month has been a bit of whirlwind of ups and downs would be an understatement. We hope that all of our families are remaining safe and healthy and maintaining a physical distance when out in the community. By now you should have been contacted by your child's teacher who has set up a platform (D2L, Google Classroom or email) to assign work to your child. We encourage you to review the assigned tasks with your child and to provide them with as much independence in completing the tasks as possible. If your child is struggling in any way please communicate with the teacher. Our support staff will assist you in any way we can "virtually".

By now you have heard the news that schools will be closed until May 4, 2020 as mandated by the Minister of Education. If anything changes in the world of education, we will let you know as soon as we know. You can always check out our board webpage for the most up to date information at dsbn.org.

We will be sending weekly updates to our community via email. As well, they will be posted on our website and Twitter page.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

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 COVID-19 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 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.

Did you know?







- ~Ms. Bonisteel does a "live" read aloud every day on our school Facebook page. Check it out! Afterwards she posts activities for students to do at home.
- ~we deployed computer technology to almost 100 students on Friday, April 3! Wifi for those requesting it will be arranged next week. You will receive a phone call with details.
- ~our teachers were able to connect with 90% of our students last week either by phone or email...our TEACHERS rock! If you have not connected with your child's teacher please email htb@dsbn.org or call 905-685-5489 and we will ensure a connection is made.
- ~our LRT's Mrs. Payne and Mrs. McLean are available to support students with their educational needs. Reach out to your child's teacher if they need help.
- ~our staff now meets virtually once a week on Microsoft Teams.
- ~in partnership with the City of St. Catharines we have locked the gates to our playground. We do not want to encourage the use of the playground during the pandemic.
- ~we can connect you with community supports. If you need help with accessing community supports (food, clothing, mental health) we can help. Please email htb@dsbn.org or leave a message at our school 905-685-5489. We will ensure to help you get the support you need.
- ~try to maintain some normalcy of events that happen regularly at school we will be having special days "virtually". We encourage your family to participate and share photos on our Facebook page or Twitter feed. Or, send your photos to htb@dsbn.org and we can add them to our next newsletter. Next week, we will have a spirit day every day of the week.

Make it Sow Fundraiser

Due to current circumstances the Make it Sow fundraiser orders will be coming within the next week or so. I will be personally delivering each order to the recipient's home. Please email me at sarahlmckie@gmail.com with your home address if you placed an order. I hope to have the orders sorted and ready to deliver by mid-April.

Thank you for your patience. Sarah McKie, School Council Chair

Harriet Tubman School - Spirit Week April 6-9

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Crazy Hair <u>NO</u> PJs Day</p>  <p>Or</p> <p>Bed Head PJ Day</p> 	<p>Sports Team Day</p>  <p>Show some love for your teams you are missing right now.</p>	<p>Favourite Character Day</p>  <p>Books, TV, Movies, Video games</p> <p>Anything goes!</p>	<p>North Star School Spirit Day</p>  <p>School Colours Or Spirit Wear</p> 

Is Your Child Struggling?

Students may experience a range of emotions during the COVID-19 situation. As well, changes in routine, including time away from school, may create challenges for some students. We also understand that young people with pre-existing mental health problems may find their symptoms increasing in light of the current uncertainties.

Below are some links and resources to help you and your child navigate emotionally through these difficult times. As always please reach out to your child's teacher or one of our admin team and we can help you find supports as well.

Pathstone has confirmed that walk-in services are closed indefinitely and individual therapy sessions are continuing to happen over the phone. They have increased the number of staff on the crisis phone line and are still able to respond to calls immediately, without wait times.

*For immediate support, parents and students may phone the Pathstone Mental Health Crisis and Support Line at 1-800-263-4944. Support from Kids Help Phone can be accessed by calling 1-800-668-6868, texting **CONNECT** to 686868, or live chatting at www.kidshelpphone.ca.*

Here are some helpful resources for parents that can be found on the DSNB website at <https://www.dsnb.org/coronavirus-updates/>

How can I support myself and my family in coping during COVID-19?

The National Association of School Psychologists has provided a link with tips for talking to your kids about COVID-19.

- o [A Parent Resource: Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
- o [Supporting Kids During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- o [Video: How to Talk to Kids About the Coronavirus](#)
- o [Mental Health and COVID-19](#)

