

Final Edition – NewsFlash – June 19, 2020

Good afternoon everyone. I know that at times we are so busy with various other life events that we sometimes forget to read the entire bulletin. This is a critical issue, with timely and important pieces of information that is relevant to the entire community.

David

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1. Message from our new Principal Cherilyn Scobie Edwards (Scobie)

Greetings UFA community. My name is Cherilyn Scobie Edwards (Scobie) and I am truly honoured to become a part of the UFA family. I met with staff and students this morning and I can say that I am excited and inspired. I welcome the opportunity to learn with you, learn from you, and grow with you.

Some quick facts about me:

When asked where I am from, my answer is Ontario. My father moved up the ranks of the OPP which meant that we moved often.

I love music, all kinds of music, and my music library is intense.

I love my family and I am thankful for them every day. My husband supports all things “Scobie”, which means that he sometimes feels like he is a principal with me as I talk his ear off about all things education.

Finally, my one year old daughter is my favourite human being. Every day she reminds me that life is short, life is special, and life is not predictable. She started walking yesterday and with that, I have joy.

I thank you for welcoming me and look forward to meeting you when the time arrives.

Be safe and well and please take time to breathe, as the world events continue to teach us that being alive means that we have the capacity to change the world, with our steps, with our actions, with our voices, and with each other.

Scobie

2. UFA Anti-Racism Resource Package (Living Draft) and Q & A

(Preamble: What follows is a draft that has gone to the Board's Equity Department for feedback. As a Living Document it will undergo change as discussion and feedback from the community continues. This is an important topic, and as a school with a strong Social Justice priority built into our program, we felt it important to share this Living Draft as the end of the year is fast approaching.)

Hello Ursula Franklin Academy Community!

We are the Ursula Franklin Anti-Oppression Movement (formerly Committee), a group of students and teachers who meet regularly to address structural oppression within our school and community, and work for justice. We develop curriculum, PD suggestions, program ideas, and more!

We continue to hold space for our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) students and staff, particularly our Black community members at this time. Over the past two weeks, we've been working on a comprehensive document that includes a statement, education resources, pledge and pathways to action for our community to take a stand against anti-Black racism and police brutality. Click on the link below to access the Living Draft Document:

[UFA Statement, Resources, Pathways to End Anti-Black Racism.pdf](#)

We have also developed a student-led Q&A based on critical issues connected to this moment which can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[UFA Anti-Racism Q & A with Additional Resources.pdf](#)

These resources are living documents -- as things shift and new understandings develop they will be modified accordingly. We hope you find them meaningful and useful. We also welcome feedback and resource suggestions via: ursulafranklinacademy@tdsb.on.ca we have also requested a special email account ufaaom@tdsb.on.ca which is in the process of being activated by the Board, try the latter first and if it comes back as invalid please use the first email address.

In solidarity,

The Anti-Oppression Movement

Resource Development Team (Students): Kendra G, Minna P, Nicole A-S, Noa P-B, Sanjana S, Julia G, Ethiopia D-S, Aela B, Clara D, Adina M, Kristina L

I (Seth) know that I can speak for the staff involved in this process that we are deeply appreciative of the commitment made by students on this writing team - they were incredible: reflective, fierce, sensitive, and ready to dedicate time and energy to work towards justice in our school and beyond.

Resource Development Team (Staff): Shafana, Yolanda, Matt, Mia, Shanna, Sharleen, Seth

3. UFA Anti-Racism Pledge

We would ask all members of the UFA Community (Staff and Students) to consider how you might address Anti-Black Racism in your daily lives at home, at school as well as within the larger Toronto Community. This Pledge will be re-introduced to the community at the start of the next academic year. Clicking on the embedded link , [The UFA Anti-Racism Pledge](#), will take you to a live Google Document.

4. UFA Summer Book Club Readings dealing with Anti-Black Racism

Summer Book Club -- Reading on Race: teachers are engaging in some summer reading to help us continue to build our understanding and capacity to discuss anti-Black racism. When we have a clearer understanding of how school will look in the fall, we will decide what form these book clubs will take. Teachers will be reading one of the following books:

- a) *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- b) *The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole
- c) *Policing Black Lives* by Robyn Maynard
- d) *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

Students are invited to also pursue some independent reading on these topics, these books or some of the many others. In placing our book orders, we have discovered that all titles are sold out everywhere, and we are awaiting new print runs. Waiting lists at Toronto Public Library are also quite lengthy, so we suggest you place your hold as soon as possible.

5. Report Card Distribution (this was centrally distributed yesterday by the Board)

Dear Families,

Due to the current school closures resulting from COVID-19, final report cards will be distributed to TDSB students and parents/guardians in a digital format using School Messenger, an email communication system currently used by schools. Individual Education Plan (IEP) Summaries will also be provided and distributed in a digital format, if applicable.

As per Ontario Student Records (OSR) guidelines, a signed, printed copy of the report card will be filed in the OSR when schools reopen.

The TDSB will take the following steps to deliver a report card for each student in a secure manner:

1. You will receive an email with the report card attached as a password-protected PDF file.
 - Secondary report cards will be emailed to both parents/guardians and students' TDSB email address between July 3 - 8.
2. The password will be unique for each report card.
3. The password format will be communicated in each email, not the password itself.

If you prefer not to receive your child's report card via email, please use the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this message. To adjust your preferences, deselect "Report Card" and click "Update Preferences" to save the changes. Parents/guardians who opt out of an email delivered report card will receive a printed copy upon request when schools reopen.

Please contact Barbara, our Vice-Principal, (Barbara.wagner-heim@tdsb.on.ca) with any questions.

6. TDSB Information Technology Services (ITS) Reminders For Students

[Student accounts](#) will remain active over the summer and their passwords will not expire. As a result, student account passwords will not be centrally reset for school opening. Students also have access to Password Manager to reset forgotten passwords, but they must set up and then answer their challenge questions in advance. Should students require assistance, please direct them to [Student Password/Device Help](#).

TDSB accounts for graduating students or students leaving the TDSB **will be made inactive after the summer**, in September. To prepare, students will need to either move/download your content using [Google Takeout](#) or use [Google Transfer](#) to move your content to your personal Google account. This information (ITS) has already sent out to all Grade 12 students through an email.

7. Ministry of Education Announcement (this afternoon)

Please find attached a parent/guardian letter that was sent out this afternoon with regard to today's [announcement](#) by the Government of Ontario about plans for September. Follow the highlighted link to see the entire announcement.

8. TDSB Short Survey on School Reopening

Dear Students,

COVID-19 has impacted all of us. To help us support you, students in Grades 7 to 12 and adult high school students are invited to complete a [short survey](#). This anonymous survey asks about your well-being so we can better support you; your experience in remote learning so we can continue to improve; and your concerns and expectations, so we can help you feel safe.

We have been planning for our return, focusing on student and staff safety and well-being. While we don't fully know what our return to school will look like, we know that it will look different. Your feedback will help guide our conversations and ensure student voice is front and centre in our re-opening plans.

Please share your voice by completing this [short, anonymous survey](#) by Tuesday, June 30.

9. Wednesday Program! (Organized by Noa and Sanjana)

Graduating Class Special Wednesday Session – A MUST ATTEND EVENT

Hey Grade 12's!!! You thought the Wednesday Program was finished?!? Guess what, we have ONE MORE SESSION just for you! Sanjana and Noa are leading a Grade 12 Reflections session.

"Hey Grade 12s! Missing each other? Missing your teachers? Want to celebrate the four, three, or two years you had at UFA? Join the Grade 12 Reflection session! It will be a chance to remember the good times we've had together, reflect on how far we've come, and to say goodbye as the school year comes to an end. Hope to see you there!" - Noa and Sanjana

The UFA Community Helps Alleviate Food Insecurity in Toronto

We, the community of Ursula Franklin, are aware that the impact of the pandemic is not being felt equally within our own community, and across Toronto, and we feel a responsibility to help in the spirit of what Ursula would have done.

Please help us reach our goal of \$10,000 (500 boxes) by the end of June. Thank you to all the current UFA students and alumni who helped us raise \$6,000 in 3 weeks! There is only 1 week left to meet our goal - click on the link below to show your support. Your donation provides fresh produce for TDSB families that need help via *Food for Thought Toronto*.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/ursula-franklin-academy-community-fundraiser-for-f/>

Thanks in advance,

Shafana and Seth

I hope that everyone has a Safe and Rewarding Summer Break and that you come back in the fall to either continue pursuing your academic studies at UFA or at whatever Post-Secondary Institution you are attending in the fall.

Good Luck.

David