

MAY 1st – URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY NEWSFLASH

***As we were putting out this week's edition of NewsFlash, our Director just emailed a letter to all parents covering the following items of interest as well as additional items. To ensure everyone has a copy of the letter, we have included it in the NewsFlash as well. Please follow the link below to the full text.*

[Parent Letter - May 1, 2020.pdf](#)

Items In The NewsFlash

1. An Invitation to a Ward 7 Video Conference with Robin Pilkey our Trustee Information Regarding Key Items and Events at the Close of a School Year
2. Information Regarding Key Items and Events at the Close of a School Year
3. Clarification of the Assessment Policy and Expectations Regarding Student Participation in "Remote Learning" at UFA.
4. Reminder re TDSB and UFA's Codes of Conduct
5. Mapping Your Education: An Evening for Students and Parents of Grade 9 to 11 Students
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7. Sunnybrook Injury Prevention and Safety Awareness Webinar
8. From the Ursula Franklin Health and Physical Education Department – Well Being Scorecard

1. An Invitation to a Ward 7 Video Conference with Robin Pilkey our Trustee (submitted by: Sanja – SAC Co-Chair)

The agenda for the meeting will be loose, more of a Q&A session. If you have questions or concerns, please send them to Sanja, SAC co-chair at ssanja@gmail.com by Sunday evening, May 3. Your questions will be forwarded in advance to Robin. Robin will also take questions from the floor. Superintendents Sandra Tondat and Tracy Hayhurst will be in attendance and available as well.

2. Information Regarding Key Items and Events at the Close of a School Year (message from: David)

We recognize that students and parents are very concerned about the viability of significant events that normally occur in the last two months of school. We have delayed making any decisions in the hopes that we would be able to run these events, however as time moves on we have had to make some hard decisions – mostly based on avoiding hefty cancellation fees that would have impacted our ability to provide the students with a refund if the events were ultimately to be cancelled. Here is a rundown of what is and what is not happening.

Yearbook: The Yearbook *is a go* – a significant portion of the Yearbook is complete and submitted to the publisher. We need to thank the Yearbook Staff and their teacher Adviser, Andrea for all the hard work they put into the book. In an attempt to finish the book and also make it reflective of the whole year, the Students are looking at creative ways to add material to the book that would capture the essence of the April to May time frame. Unfortunately – given time constraints with printing the book we will not have it available for pick-up in June. We expect delivery of the books in Sept and all graduating students will receive an email indicating that the books are ready for pick-up. This will entail – at some point in June having the graduating students provide us with a non-TDSB email address as their current Student TDSB email will expire.

Prom: Unfortunately, the Prom has had to be cancelled. We delayed making this decision in the hopes that we could arrange to have it go ahead – but we have reached a point where the cancellation deposit penalty would impact our ability to provide full refunds to the students. Students who paid for their Prom ticket through **Cash Online** will be getting their refunds through that program. If a student brought in cash or a cheque, the refund will occur via **EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer)**. As we finalize the process, students and parents will receive an email with information.

Athletic Awards Banquet: Our banquet that was scheduled for the end of May will now be held in the fall at a date to be determined in consultation between the Admin and The FAA next fall. As with the prom refunds, students who paid for their athletic banquet ticket through **Cash Online** will be getting their refunds through that program. If a student brought in cash or a cheque, we will use **EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer)** to make the refund. As we finalize the process, students and parents will receive an email with information. The additional money that was fundraised, this year, for the Banquet will be used to order food and other items for the fall event. The FAA has been meeting regularly using “**google meet**” and are working on the PowerPoint to celebrate the year and the program for the fall event.

Sports Uniforms Deposits: as we get closer to the end of June we will be in a better position to make arrangements for the students to return their uniforms and get their deposit back.

3. **Clarification of the Assessment Policy and Expectations Regarding Student Participation in “Remote Learning” at UFA.** (message from: **David**)

I thought I would take this opportunity to explain/clarify the expectations around Assessment and your continued engagement in your learning over the next two months. When we were forced to close the school as part of the Province and the Nation’s response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, a policy was developed that was trying to re-assure students that the work and effort they put into their studies leading up to the closure would not be lost and that going forward you would have every opportunity to continue your academic studies so that you were prepared for the next step in your education.

UFA is a unique school – it is one made up of students who made a conscientious decision to come to this school because you recognized that UFA’s unique program would provide you with the necessary skills/knowledge to continue your studies at the post-secondary level. Given that we were embarking on a new way to learn, as a result of the school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic – it was critical to reassure **you** (and especially the grade 12 cohort) that your hard work to date was not lost – since we could not know with any certainty how individual students would adapt to the new paradigm. Hence the guarantee, within the Assessment Policy, that your marks would not drop as you adapted to the new reality in April. Our Director of Education, Dr. John Malloy, followed the publication of the new policy with a video message that was emailed to all of the students in the TDSB. In the message he acknowledged the built-in Safety Net but he also emphasized that students should not take this as a sign that learning need not continue. He recognized, as do the staff at UFA, that we had only covered about 2/3 of the curriculum. There was still a lot of learning left to cover to ensure that you as a student had acquired all of the necessary skills/knowledge to be fully prepared to take the next step in your education.

We at UFA have undertaken to assess the curriculum that is left to be covered and ensure that over the next couple of weeks we provide you with the opportunity and the support needed to facilitate your acquisition of that knowledge. The Assessment Policy allows you to work at acquiring the needed knowledge without having to worry that “remote learning” will put you at a disadvantage.

I encourage you to make maximum use of the opportunities being offered, connect with your teachers, get yourself involved in the type of “remote learning” that your teacher has decided would facilitate your knowledge acquisition in that particular curriculum. Complete assignments and carefully digest the feedback you get from your teachers to better position yourself to do better on the next assignment.

As I said in the beginning, you are a unique bunch of students and I would be very surprised if you suddenly decided that ***“I’ve learned enough”***. It doesn’t fit your profile. Keep striving!!

If you want to explore this further with me – please don’t hesitate to email.

4. **Reminder re TDSB and UFA’s Codes of Conduct** (message from: **David**)

We have recently had several minor incidences of inappropriate behaviour that has occurred on-line. This note is just a reminder that as we continue with “remote learning”, it is important that students remember they are still governed by the expectations listed in the Boards Code of Conduct, as well as the expectations that UFA has with regard to student conduct in terms of both classroom behaviour (that also includes on-line classrooms) and peer to peer interaction, remotely or face to face. You need to be aware that the consequences for inappropriate behaviour whether on-line or face to face, are the same.

5. Mapping Your Education: An Evening for Students and Parents of Grade 9 to 11 Students (submitted by: **Ali**)

The University of Toronto Mississauga is hosting [Mapping Your Education: An Evening for Grade 9-11s](#), (*click the embedded link*) a special event for high school students in Grades 9 - 11, their parents, and anyone considering post-secondary education. The event is being hosted virtually on Wed, May 6 at 7:00 pm. The embedded link takes you to the registration site.

6. **Wednesday Sessions Continue On May 6th!** (submitted by: **Greg**)

This week sees some exciting developments! Student-led sessions return! As well a special guest speaker, genie-nominated Canadian director Renuka Jeyapalan will join Mia in conversation while students get a chance to pre-view her work and ask questions.

Please remember that the google form will be emailed out Sunday evening and will continue accepting registration until Tuesday morning. Students should expect communication from the host teacher as to the status of their enrollment.

Thanks everyone!

7. **Sunnybrook Injury Prevention and Safety Awareness Webinar** (submitted by: **Heather**)

At UFA, our Grade 11 Health and Physical Education students often go on a field trip to Sunnybrook Hospital to take part in this very informative and interactive presentation. The hospital has created this free webinar which will take place on Tuesday May 5th 2020, 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm. This webinar is directed to youth across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA); grades 9-12.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program @Home webinar is about injury prevention and safety awareness. Students will hear from experts in the field of medicine and professionals actively working within our community including: Doctors, Nurses, OPP, and Parachute. Focus will be on current safety concerns and how to prevent injury.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program @Home webinar is an informative event that will highlight safety precautions, coping strategies and achievable lifesaving actions whilst keeping the conversation going on how to prevent injury.

See the accompanying poster:

[PARTY @HOME.pdf](#)

To Register and participate Follow the instructions in the link below:

https://partyprogram_at_home.eventbrite.ca

8. From the Ursula Franklin Health and Physical Education Department – Well Being Scorecard (submitted by: **UFA's Phys Ed Dept**)

Our phys-ed students have been working on the UFA Well-Being Scorecard and creating their own personal scorecards over the past weeks. We thought we would share them with the whole school community if families would like to try them as well. Top score last week was 10,000 by a Grade 9 PPL1OF student.

Link to Weekly Well-Being Scorecard:

[UFA Well-Being School Wide Activity Card .docx](#)

Link to Your Personal Scorecard:

[Personalized Scorecard .docx](#)

Hope you have a safe and relaxing weekend. The weather forecast looks great – just be sure to observe proper social distancing and keep safe.

David