



# CLAUDE WATSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 8, 2021



## General Alert

The Government of Ontario has announced that elementary schools across Ontario, including those at the TDSB, will remain closed to students and staff until at least Monday, **January 25, 2021**. Secondary schools will remain closed until Monday, January 25 as was previously scheduled. During this extended closure, remote learning will continue.

## Tamil Heritage Month

Tamil Heritage Month is recognized nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest.

This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை – ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights – Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members heritage identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self identity and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month volunteer planning committee.

## Continuing Education - International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

The International Languages – Elementary / African Heritage Program is offering online language classes to students (TDSB and non TDSB) Kindergarten to Grade 8. One day each week, students have live face-to-face interactive lessons with their instructor and classmates for approximately 30 minutes. Activities are focused on building student's abilities in oral communication, reading and writing.

Visit [www.ILEprograms.ca](http://www.ILEprograms.ca) for more information. @TDSB\_ConEd

