

Matias de Dovitiis

TDSB School Trustee Ward 4
Humber River - Black Creek



SUMMER 2023

NEWSLETTER

Dear neighbours,



With summer's end around the corner, I am sending out important information about the start of the new school year, and updates on school-related news. Since December 2022, I have had the privilege to serve as your TDSB Trustee.

My goal as your Trustee is to advocate for better public schools in our area and to fight for investments that will help to improve our community. Check inside the newsletter for details on how we are starting to rebuild and retrofit our schools to create better learning environments for students in our neighbourhood.

I am excited to share great news about two of our schools that have been awarded new significant program additions. Westview Centennial Secondary School has been approved to offer a new arts program starting in September 2024. The online applications will be open this coming fall for students going into grade 8. Gracedale Public School will also see the start of a new French Immersion program this coming September 2023. This is part of a strategy that will bring French Immersion to Humber Summit Middle School, and eventually Emery Collegiate Institute as well.

In February, I voted in support of a Board motion brought in by a student Trustee to require Grade 11 students to take a new English course called "Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Voices." This course has already been successfully taught in the TDSB for several years. This will ensure that future generations learn about First Nations and Indigenous culture and history in ways that have not been there before for most of our students.

Lastly, there are significant challenges faced by public education in Ontario, which are caused by the repeated budget reductions that have taken place over the last five years. The TDSB receives its budget from the Provincial government and it has been a challenge to meet the needs of our students within the existing funding structure. I will continue to advocate for our schools and our students, and I encourage you to join me in that process over the next three years as we strive to improve the school system in Toronto.

I cannot wait to see what the next school year has in store for our students and community and look forward to seeing you again at our local schools and events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matias de Dovitiis".

Matias de Dovitiis



For continuous updates, please sign up for my e-newsletter by emailing me at matias.dedovitiis@tdsb.on.ca or visiting my webpage at www.tdsb.on.ca/ward4

Indigenous Curriculum

In February 2023, the Toronto District School Board approved a motion requiring Grade 11 students to take a new English course called Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Voices. This course has been successfully taught in the TDSB for several years. It is supported by the Elders' Council, the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee, TDSB's Urban Indigenous Education Centre, and Indigenous artists.

The curriculum covers essential topics and will replace the mandatory Grade 11 English course. It will cover topics such as First Nations, Metis, and Inuit perspectives and text forms in Canada, Oral communication, reading and literature studies, writing, and media studies.

Addressing Islamophobia

In April, Trustees in the Toronto District School Board unanimously voted to create and implement a system-wide strategy to address Islamophobia. This new strategy aims to build on the TDSB Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism strategy that addresses all forms of racism, hate, and discrimination. This is a step forward for our school board to ensure that Muslim students, staff, and community members are treated with respect and dignity.

Throughout these past few months, staff have been preparing a report to present to the upcoming Planning and Priorities Committee in the fall to provide updates to the trustees on the development of the strategy. This initiative is important to me as every student, staff, and community member on the school board should feel safe in an inclusive environment.

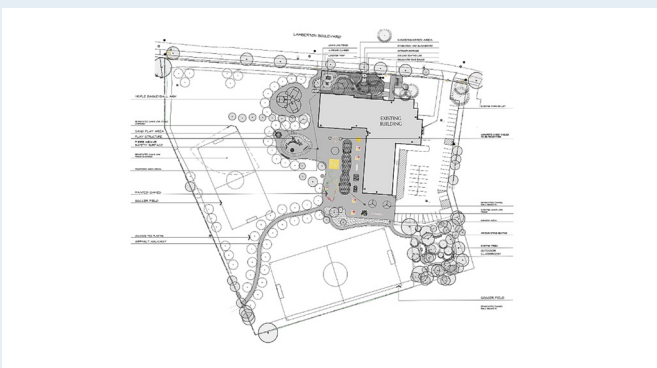
Building Envelope Renewal Project

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Over the summer, many schools in the neighborhood underwent construction to improve the infrastructure and additional outdoor amenities for students to use and enjoy. Some of the improvements include playgrounds, play structures, basketball triple hoops, mini soccer fields, bike racks, running tracks and more.

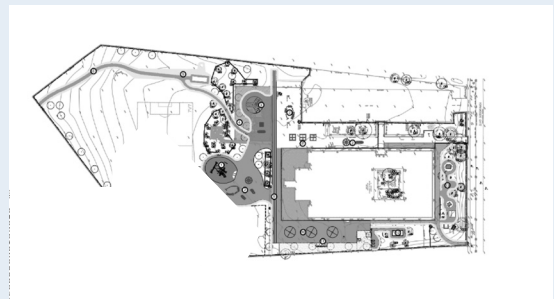
We will continue to expand the building envelope renewal project in 2024 to Firgrove Public School, Chalkfarm Public School and Brookview Middle School.

Lamberton PS



New kindergarten area and replacement of worn play areas, new play equipment, new tree planting, restoration of overgrown fence line to improve safety and restoration to the woodlot to provide outdoor learning space for students. Work to start in summer and to be completed when school schedule permits.

Yorkwoods PS



New kindergarten area and replacement of worn walkways and play areas includes new play equipment, new tree planting and improved outdoor seating areas for students. Work schedule not finalized yet.

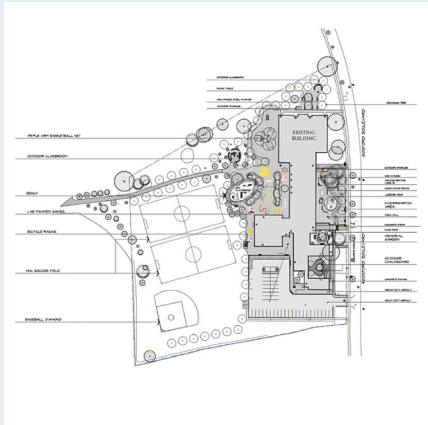
Elia MS



Replacement of worn walkways and play areas includes restoration of basketball play, new tree planting and improved outdoor seating areas for students. Work schedule not finalized yet.

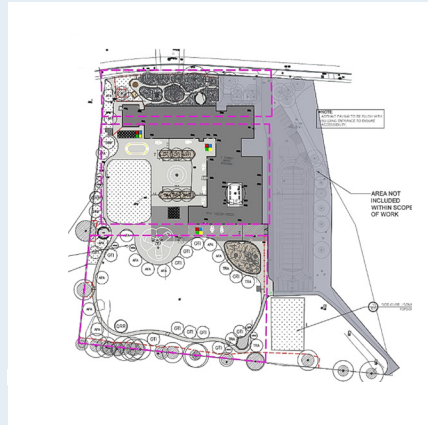
Building Envelope Renewal Project SUMMER 2023 (Cont.)

Gosford PS



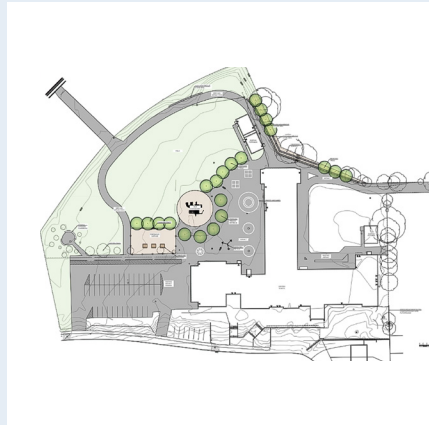
New kindergarten area, resurfacing of the parking lot to improve drainage, safety and circulation, replacement of worn play areas, new play equipment, new tree planting, restoration of the courtyard to provide outdoor learning space for students. Work to be completed in summer.

Driftwood PS



Restoration and safety improvements to outdoor kindergarten and junior play areas, playing field, new play equipment and tree planting. Work to be completed in summer.

Gulfstream PS



Replacement of worn junior play areas, new play equipment and tree planting, and restoration of overgrown fence line to improve safety and circulation. Work to be completed in summer.

Implementing New Secondary Central Student Interest Programs

French Immersion Program at Gracedale Public School

Starting in September 2023, Gracedale Public School will introduce a French Immersion program specifically designed for Junior Kindergarten students. The program will gradually expand each year until it reaches Grade 5, and the program will then be continued to middle school at Humber Summit and then to high school at Emery Collegiate Institute.



Arts Program at Westview Centennial Secondary School



The TDSB is expanding its Secondary Arts program for the upcoming 2024-25 school year at Westview Centennial Secondary School, with its first grade 9 cohort. This new program will provide students with greater access to arts locally, opening up new opportunities in dance, visual arts, drama, film and music. With a student-centered approach, the program will emphasize an inclusive curriculum and encourage students to explore their creative potential in culturally relevant settings.

In June 2023 the TDSB approved unanimously the expenditures of \$890,841 to implement the capital work required to start the program in 2024.

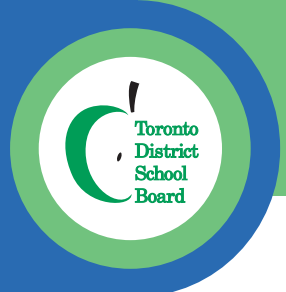
For more information, you can visit:

www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Beyond-8



Matias de Dovitiis

TDSB School Trustee Ward 4, Humber River-Black Creek



Tel: 416 395 8787 | Email: Matias.deDovitiis@tdsb.on.ca
Find your school and school Superintendent: www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School

Parent Concern Protocol

Step 1

Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, your classroom teacher is the first person to go to.

Step 2

School Principal

If you would like more information or have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

Step 3

School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have any questions that the Principal cannot help with.

Step 4

Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board Budget
- Collective Bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board Documents

Phone:

416 397 3000

Email:

generalinquiries@TDSB.on.ca

School Calendar for 2023-2024

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 4th 2023
Board-wide PA Day	October 6th 2023
Thanksgiving	October 9th 2023
Board-wide PA Day	November 17th 2023
Elementary PA Day	December 8th 2023
Winter Break	December 25th 2023 - January 5th 2023
Elementary PA Day	January 19th 2024
Secondary PA Day	February 1st 2024
Board-wide PA Day	February 16th 2024
Family Day	February 19th 2024
Mid-Winter Break	March 11th - 15th 2024
Good Friday	March 29th 2024
Easter Monday	April 1st 2024
Board-wide PA Day	April 19th 2024
Victoria Day	May 20th 2024
Elementary PA Day	June 7th 2024
Secondary PA Day	June 27th 2024
Secondary PA Day	June 28th 2024

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