



Ken Lister

TDSB School Trustee - Don Valley East
May 2018 Newsletter

I hope everyone is having a fantastic Victoria Day long weekend! I spent today at the playground with my children, and hope you and your family had the chance to go outside and enjoy the sunshine.

Trustees Approve Balanced Budget for 2018-19

I am proud that when I was Budget Chair two years ago, I worked hard with staff to eliminate our structural deficit by reducing central discretionary budgets and finding efficiencies in technology, and without making any cuts inside classrooms. Consequently, this was the second consecutive year where Trustees approved a budget plan for the 2018-19 school year that required no reduction in staff to balance the budget. The operating budget of about \$3.3 billion will continue to support the TDSB's commitment to equity, and the achievement and well-being of all students.

TDSB French Review

Parents, students, staff, Trustees and community members are invited to public consultations regarding all TDSB French Programs. Consultations will happen this May. Visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Public-Consultations/French-Review> for more information, including a list of dates, times and locations, and last year's report.

Director's School Visits Dallington and Forest Manor

Each month, Director of Education, John Malloy visits schools across the Board to see the innovative ways our staff are supporting our students. More recently, he has begun recording and posting short video updates from each visit. Watch the videos

Dallington https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=CO8TeC56G7M

Forest Manor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8tOtl0zcc0>

Revised Equity Policy

A revised equity policy was recently approved by the Board of Trustees to underscore the Board's commitment to the elimination of institutional discrimination and the promotion of fairness, equity, acceptance and inclusion. Visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity> for more information.

School Year Calendar 2018-19

The official 2018-19 school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board is now available online. This includes the first and last day of classes for all students, and every holiday and PA day for 2018-19. Check it out at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Calendar/schoolyearcalendar>.

Two Don Valley East Teachers Win TDSB Teachers Win TDSB Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Paula Burgess of Georges Vanier SS and Arianna Lambert of Shaughnessy Public School. Both teachers were among just 6 teachers board wide who were recognized with TDSB Excellence Awards. Very impressive!

Bike to School Week

Join students across the province in celebrating Bike to School Week from May 28 to June 1. The TDSB is a strong supporter of active, safe and sustainable transportation.

Smart Commute Bike Month

May 28 - June 30 is Bike Month in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Register for the Bike to Work Day Contest or join a Bike Month event to win one of three prize packages, which include: a \$500 MEC gift card and a \$500 voucher from VIA Rail.

International Child and Youth Workers' Week - May 7 to May 13, 2018

Every year, Child and Youth Services staff raise awareness about children's mental health and wellness during the first full week of May. As Child and Youth Care Practitioners, child advocacy is an important function of our role.

The first full week of May is also International Child and Youth Workers' Week. The purpose of this week is to recognize the child and youth care field and celebrate the workers, our unique skill set, and the commitment we have to caring for children and youth as a profession. Thank a Youth Worker Day has been a part of this celebration for the last few years and is being held on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

Child and Youth Services staff have been an integral part of Toronto Schools for over 20 years. At the TDSB, youth workers are known as Child and Youth Workers and Child and Youth Counsellors and are a part of Professional Support Services. These staff are members of the multidisciplinary mental health team providing services to focus on achievement, well-being and equity, and can be found in elementary, secondary, alternative schools and programs working with individual students and groups of students. Child and Youth Workers and Counsellors are engaged in relational practice with a focus on meeting students where they are at with the therapeutic use of daily life events and counselling. They assess the students' strengths and needs, help with social, emotional and academic growth by fostering effective coping skills, life skills and social skills. Advocating on behalf of our students and their families helps provide appropriate programming and support to individuals and groups. An effort is also made to work with others in the school team to enrich the school community and enhance student and school safety.

Please post the poster for Thank a Youth Worker Day in your schools and programs. Please visit <http://www.thankayouthworkerday.com/> for ideas about how your school or department can help us celebrate.

Every day is Earth Day For EcoSchools

Every year, schools across the TDSB join one billion people around the world on Earth Day to focus on creating a healthier more sustainable planet. Through this day of political action and civic participation, students are bringing their voice to the forefront, leading the way in raising consciousness about environmental issues and finding practical ways to reduce our collective impacts.

Celebrating Earth Day every April 22nd is about making a difference to the world we live in. However, to make deep changes in human behaviour and policy, one day or week of celebration is not enough. For schools engaged in the EcoSchools program, taking purposeful, meaningful action for a sustainable future is a year-long endeavour.

Starting in September, students take the lead on educating others in the school about sustainable ways of living including transportation and waste practices through assemblies, class presentations, and promoting viable alternatives. As colder days approach, EcoTeams evaluate the school's consumption of paper, energy and other materials to promote school routines and practices that bring attention to our collective impact on the Earth's natural and social systems. Ecoteams use campaigns, tools and events to make the invisible, far-reaching effects of human behaviours visible, mobilizing whole school communities to act in more life-affirming ways. All the while, students are learning how nature sustains all life and developing skills and capacity to identify and act on opportunities for social action and community improvement in response to local and global environmental issues that matter to them (e.g., biodiversity loss, climate change, social and ecological justice). With warmer temperatures and the return of spring migrants, students broaden their care and concern to include other forms of life found on school grounds, gardens, and nearby green spaces, participating actively in practising and promoting environmental stewardship. By engaging in this myriad of activities that focus on embracing sustainability as a community practice, certified EcoSchools are preparing our students to confront present and future social-ecological challenges, giving them the knowledge, skills, perspectives and practices, they need to be environmentally responsible citizens.

Elementary Summer School

Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. This summer, from July 4 – 27, we are opening schools across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/summer for a complete list of participating schools. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education - Summer High School Credit

This summer, there are two Adult Learning Centres serving adult students and 17 locations for high school students. Reach ahead or make up a credit towards your high school diploma. Registration opens May 2 at 10am. Classes fill up quickly so register early. All classes begin on July 3 and conclude on July 27. Visit <http://www.creditprograms.ca> for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education – Summer Music Camp

Add to your child's summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, DownTown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now
For more information, please visit www.tdsbsummercamps.ca. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education – Improve Your English with Us

This summer, adults can build literacy and English language skills from July 9-31. We offer a wide range of classes, from beginner to advanced, to help you improve your conversation skills, further your education, and prepare for citizenship and language proficiency tests. Adult ESL program is free for eligible learners. For more information, visit <http://www.ESLtoronto.ca> or call 416-338-4300. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education - Community Programs

Register for summer Learn4Life beginning May 16. Take up an exciting new hobby, learn a different language, and meet people in your community. Put your hands to work through art and cooking. Take up a sport and stay active this summer. Classes begin July 3.

Register at www.learn4life.ca. Facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life @TDSB_ConEd

Summer International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

Register your child in TDSB's half and full day international languages summer programs. Open to all students from SK to Grade 8, our language learning programs involve cultural activities like games, songs, dance, storytelling, traditional crafts and writing. Classes begin July 3 – 27.

Visit <http://www.ILEprograms.ca> for a complete list of participating schools and language classes.
@TDSB_ConEd

Asian Heritage Month

This year, TDSB celebrates Asian Heritage Month in May with the theme: "Let us surprise you. Learn who we are." I was pleased to speak at the launch event and bring greetings on behalf of all Trustees, and to congratulate students from Georges Vanier whose work was displayed as part of the celebrations. More than 40% of TDSB students identify as Asian and heritage months are a valuable opportunity to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Asian Canadians and recognize the narratives and wisdom of various Asian cultures.

To celebrate the month, students in Grades 2-12 were invited to participate in a photography exhibition and poster competition to bring this year's theme to life. The winning poster will be shared with all schools and the photography exhibit will be on display at 5050 Yonge Street until the end of May.

Jewish Heritage Month

In recognition of Jewish Heritage Month, the Jewish Heritage committee of the TDSB, which I am again a member of, in collaboration with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC), is pleased to make available for our grades 5 and 6 students the riveting multi-media presentation - Simon's Story – Heroes Among Us. Aimed at junior audiences, the goal of this 90-minute workshop is to introduce elementary school students to historical episodes of hate and injustice, including the Holocaust, slavery in Canada, and residential schools, in an age-appropriate manner. Students will learn techniques to deal with injustice and ideas for creating positive change through models like Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King Jr. and the everyday hero.

These workshops will be held at Northern Secondary School on May 22 and 23. Approximately 1600 students from 50 schools right across the GTA will participate.

The FSWC has also prepared a Jewish Heritage Month Resource Guidebook - a wealth of information and resources to support #JHM in our schools.

Ken Lister
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