

# TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

Toronto District School Board - Scarborough Southwest



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## Season's Greetings!

Dear Parents,

On behalf of my family & I, and the TDSB, please accept my warmest greetings to you and your family. It has been my privilege to represent you and our community of Scarborough Southwest at the TDSB. It has been a pleasure working closely with our Parent Councils to ensure your voice is being heard at the Board.

Since starting office, our new Board faced big challenges to our system. In response, we implemented a new governance structure that has provided greater transparency. We were also the first school board in Ontario to create an Office of the Integrity Commissioner, which will ensure respect and adherence to good governance and oversight. We also reduced Trustee expenses by over 55%. We drafted a new whistleblower policy that allows all to come forward and report wrongdoing without reprisal.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me this incredible privilege to serve our school communities in working for change at the TDSB. It has been a very busy year; however, I truly enjoy the work of improving public education.

Warm Regards,

## Ward Forum – Speaker Series: Trevor Brown

Mr. Trevor Brown is a renowned and interactive speaker on Mathematics for children. He is an Associate Professor at Tyndale University College, a Course Director at York University Faculty of Education Additional Qualification Courses, and a Co-Author/Consultant for the popular “Math Makes Sense” series.

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 7 – 9 pm**  
**Robert Service Sr. P.S. 945 Danforth Road**

Trevor’s presentation will make math exciting as he explains why math is being taught the way it is today, the tools being used to teach math, and how we can help our children think about math.

## French Immersion and French Extended Timelines

A reminder that the TDSB guarantees an offer of placement in the Early French Immersion or Junior Extended French program (not a specific school) to all on-time applicants. Timelines for the application process to French Immersion and Extended French programs for September 2016 are as follows:

- Early French Immersion: Families must apply online (for a JK child) by **December 3rd 2015**;
- Junior Extended French or Middle Immersion: Families must apply online (for a child currently in Grade 3) between **January 4th and January 28th 2016**. For further information, please visit: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SchoolChoices/FrenchPrograms/ApplicationProcess.aspx>

## Community Programs

Take up a new hobby, learn a language, and meet people in our community. Put your hands to work and decorate and glaze your own pottery or sculpture. Stay active with co-ed basketball, volleyball, tennis and golf. Gain knowledge on how to invest in the stock market or prepare your taxes. Registration for Winter Learn4Life is open! Visit [www.learn4life.ca](http://www.learn4life.ca) for more information.



On Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, students and staff at schools across the city marked Remembrance Day with classroom activities and school assemblies. Remembrance Day marks the date and time when fighting stopped on November 11th at 11am in 1918.

This year, it was my honour and privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of the TDSB at the Cenotaph by Kingston Road, at the annual ceremony organized by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258. To the right is a picture of our veterans and children from the Board's Remembrance Day.



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## Safety in Our Schools

The TDSB through the Chair wrote a letter to the Mayor of Toronto, City Council and Toronto Police Services to encourage the City of Toronto to investigate all options to increase safety in school zones. This letter included but was not limited to: greater traffic enforcement, better signage, lighting and active speed control signs to encourage drivers to drive more cautiously.



In our last Ward Forum Speaker Series, we had the privilege of hosting Karl Subban, a retired TDSB teacher and principal. Mr. Subban spoke in an engaging and inspiring manner on the topic of parent and education leadership and improving school communities.

Also, if the name is familiar, he is the father of NHL star P.K. Subban, as well as two TDSB teachers. I had the fortune of meeting Mr. Subban at a conference. Impressively, when I asked him to speak to our ward, he enthusiastically and unhesitatingly agreed.

## Ongoing TDSB Programs

### Night School

Night school credit courses in areas such as math, science and international languages are offered by the TDSB in locations across the city. Upgrade a mark, reach ahead or make up a credit towards your high school diploma. Registration for the winter semester is open now. Classes begin the week of February 22, 2016. Visit [www.creditprograms.ca](http://www.creditprograms.ca) for more information.

### International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

As the world continues to move towards connectivity, learning languages becomes critically important. Encourage your child's natural curiosity and enroll them in our JK to Grade 8 International Languages and African Heritage program. Spaces are still available. Visit [www.ILEprograms.ca](http://www.ILEprograms.ca) for more information.

### Adult High School

Find a career path and to meet your academic goals every year. Tuition is free. Earn credits faster and gain Canadian work experience. Explore programs in business and technology, social science, mathematics and specialty programs such as accounting, office administration, personal support worker, and more. Visit [www.adultschooltoronto.ca](http://www.adultschooltoronto.ca) for more information.

### Adult ESL

Adults can build literacy and English language skills. Learn about your community and the services available. 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. Registration is open. For more information, visit [www.ESLtoronto.ca](http://www.ESLtoronto.ca) or call 416-338-4300.

**Community event notice:** Councillor Gary Crawford's Annual Community Tree Lighting will be held on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015** at **Variety Village** (3701 Danforth Ave.) from **6 – 7pm**.

There will be caroling, treats, & a guest appearance by Jolly Old St. Nick, and a performance by the H.A. Halbert Jr. Public School Choir!

