

Ward 3 Trustee Pamela Gough's Update May 21, 2014

There is so much happening this time of year! I'm having a Ward Forum this week and an all-candidates meeting next week (details below) and that's just a start! Bike to School Day is coming up too!

Director Donna Quan has unveiled a major element of her Years of Action Plan: the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. This is a work plan for insuring that all students across the city have more equal access to the many high quality programs that TDSB offers. Annually, decisions about programs will be made in conjunction with decisions on space and capital projects. Community feedback will be sought to fine-tune the plan. Look for details coming soon in the Community section of the TDSB website.

I am speaking today on a panel at the Active Healthy Kids Global Summit, being held this week here in Toronto. I'll be talking about the need for Toronto to evolve into a city that is a better place for children to live, and how the planning process can contribute to increasing healthy lifestyles for today's families by encouraging better transit systems, and infrastructure for daycare, active transportation and urban green spaces.

With the school year rapidly coming to a close, many students will write EQAO (provincial) assessments over the next weeks. If you have children writing the EQAO, make sure they have a hearty breakfast, a good rest the night before, and some exercise before school. Stick to routines and make sure they get to school in lots of time so as to reduce stress. I'd give the same advice before track meets or any high-stakes (or perceived high-stakes) activity.

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1. Summer e-learning

High school students can take online credit courses through the TDSB this summer in July and August. The TDSB is offering 40 unique courses at the grades 10 to 12 level. Details can be found [here](#). An additional online summer program for adult learners will begin July 2. This six-week e-Credit summer course is a pilot project to re-engage adults (learners 18+ years of age) and give them the opportunity to earn credits towards an OSSD or upgrade marks within an adult learning environment. Details can be found [here](#).

2. TDSB/City of Toronto school zone safety strategy

The TDSB and the City of Toronto have worked together to develop a proposed action plan to improve safety for pedestrians in school zones. The multi-pronged plan includes safety audits, better sidewalk connectivity, increased traffic and parking enforcement in high-collision areas, and support for the TDSB's Charter for Active Transportation. More details can be found [here](#).

3. Ward Forum with child anxiety expert Dr. Suneeta Monga May 22

At the request of Norseman's SAC, I have invited a renowned expert on child anxiety, Dr. Suneeta Monga of the Anxiety Clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children, to be our next Ward Forum guest. Dr. Monga will give a presentation aimed at helping adults discern the signs of anxiety in children and youth,

what to do to handle it, and where and how to seek help. All welcome; free child-minding and refreshments will be provided.

Where: Norseman JMS Library, 105 Norseman St. (Islington and Norseman area)

When: 7 pm to 8:45 pm, Thursday May 22 2014

RSVP: please register for child-minding at Debbie.wagdin@tdsb.on.ca

4. **Bike to School Day May 26**

Next Monday, May 26th, is the **TDSB's first Bike to School Day!** TDSB's EcoSchools office is issuing a challenge to all schools: get your kids on bikes May 26th! In each TDSB quadrant, the school with the highest percentage of students biking on May 26th will **win a free bike rack**. School Councils, it's time to work with your principals to plan your school's campaign. Not sure how to go about organizing a Bike to School Day? Find out details [here](#).

5. ****NEW** Education Day provincial all candidates meeting May 27**

The upcoming provincial election on June 12 is rapidly approaching. Before you cast your vote, hear what the candidates have to say. Education is the second-largest spending line in the provincial budget, after health care. The education platforms of each of the major parties are very different from each other, offering voters clear choices in their decision-making.

I'm holding a non-partisan Etobicoke-Lakeshore all-candidates meeting with a focus entirely on education on May 27. Kate Hammer, an award-winning education reporter from the Globe and Mail, will moderate. All welcome.

Where: Library, Lambton-Kingsway Junior Middle School, 525 Prince Edward Drive N (south of Dundas)

When: Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 7:30-9:00 pm

6. **Shooting for the Stars LAMP youth group fundraiser May 27**

SEYA, (South Etobicoke Youth Assembly), a youth group sponsored by LAMP, is organizing a fundraising lunch at a very pretty location: Mimico Cruising Club in Humber Bay Park. The event will be headlined by some of SEYA's alumni who are making a name for themselves in exciting careers that in some cases they have created for themselves. Funds raised will go towards supporting SEYA youth leadership activities. All welcome.

Where: Mimico Cruising Club, 200 Humber Bay Park Road

When: noon to 2 pm, Tuesday May 27

RSVP: to buy tickets, click [here](#)

7. **ESA student wins top placement at Poetry in Voice nationals**

Etobicoke School of the Arts student Ian Hogeboom-Burr has won an amazing second place in the national Poetry in Voice competition in Vancouver. "Students participating at the Canadian finals were excellent. The judges and the audience were inspired by their performances, which speak to the importance of poetry and the place it should occupy in our cultural lives," said Scott Griffin, founder of Poetry in Voice and the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry. Read more [here](#).

8. **PIAC Parent involvement conference May 31st**

The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) will be holding its 7th Annual *Parent Involvement Makes a Difference* Conference on Saturday, May 31, 2014 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue. To register, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference.

9. **James S. Bell holding Bellapalooza event**

James S. Bell Jr. Middle Sports & Wellness Academy is hosting its 7th annual Bellapalooza fun fair! This event has fun and games for the whole family. Come enjoy the BBQ, bake sale, carnival games, dunk tank, bouncy castles, yard sale, silent auction, raffle, car wash, live music and more! Community yard sale tables are still available for \$25; to book, please email sweetie17@bell.net. See attached flier.

Where: 90 Thirty-First Street (Lakeshore Blvd. West/Thirty-First Street)

When: Saturday, May 24th from 11 am to 3 pm. Rain or shine.

10. **Legislative page program student recruitment**

The provincial government is currently recruiting Grade 7 students from across Ontario to come to Queen's Park and serve as Legislative Pages. This is a unique educational enrichment opportunity open to Ontario students who demonstrate responsibility and an interest in government. For more information click [here](#).