

Trustee Pamela Gough

Ward 3: Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787
pamela.gough@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee Pamela Gough's Update: January 5, 2016

Happy New Year to all! Students from recently arrived Syrian refugee families have started in their new TDSB schools throughout the city. The TDSB is making the process of school entry as easy as possible for these students, many of whom have gone through the trauma of living in a war-torn country and in refugee camps. As the most diverse school board in the world, the TDSB is experienced in absorbing newcomers. In 2015 alone, the TDSB admitted 5,676 new-to-Canada students. A total of 26,855 TDSB students are newly arrived in the country over the past five years. These students contribute immensely to the rich and diverse cultural fabric of our Toronto public schools and many have gone on to astonishing levels of success. TDSB schools welcome them and will provide them with the supports they need to adjust and flourish.

For more information on TDSB's refugee resettlement programs, reception centres and adult English as a Second Language classes, please click [here](#).

In this issue:

1. Upcoming Ward Council on Special Education January 12
2. Junior Extended French Information Night January 6
3. LCI now a Centre of Innovation for Skills and Technologies
4. Ecoschools: Applying for bike racks, water refill stations, school greening
5. Public consultation on TDSB draft policies January 21
6. PIAC School Council Appreciation Dinner February 25
7. March Break experience for Indigenous students
8. Local specialized program application dates

1. Upcoming Ward Council on Special Education Tuesday, January 12

Next week's January ward council meeting's theme is "Special Education: Not one size fits all". Wendy Roberts, Vice-Principal of Special Education, will give a presentation outlining Special Education in the TDSB followed by a Q&A session. We will also hear updates on what's happening in the TDSB at the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee and the local Safe Routes to School Committee. Many thanks to ward council chair Christy Heath of George R. Gauld for her leadership.

This event is open to all TDSB parents. Ideally each school in the ward will send at least one school council representative (chair, co-chair, executive or member at large), as networking is an important role for the ward council. A stimulating child-minding program will be provided for a maximum of 20 children (4 years and over). If bringing children please register with Elizabeth at elizabeth@terradow.ca

When: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

Where: Library, Second Street JMS, 71 Second Street (near Dwight Ave and Lake Shore Blvd. W.)

2. Junior Extended French Information Night January 6

Students in the [Junior Extended French program](#) spend 50% of their day in French instruction from grades 4-8. Starting this fall, Second Street JMS will offer this program. Students will go on to Richview CI to continue the program to Grade 12. Upon graduation, they receive a diploma indicating they are able to speak and write in French to a high degree of proficiency. Applications are being accepted now to January 28th and are done [online](#). All eligible students who apply within the application window will be accepted. Bussing is provided for those not within walking distance. For more information, please attend the information evening:

When: Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Library, Second Street JMS, 71 Second Street (near Dwight Ave and Lake Shore Blvd. W.)

3. LCI now a Centre of Innovation for Skills and Technologies

Lakeshore Collegiate, which has just started the Advanced Placement program for highly academic students, is now one of a small group of TDSB high schools to be designated a [Centre of Innovation for Skills and Technologies](#) (CIST). This program allows students to customize their education to develop skills in a specific economic sector, while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. It gives students real-world learning through co-operative education placements and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and allows for advance course credits at university and college through dual credit opportunities. At LCI, the focus areas for CIST are: **Construction, Cosmetology and Aesthetics, Transportation, CyberArts and Hospitality and Tourism**.

Applications can be made now for next September's Grade 9 class. If LCI is not your home school, you can apply for admission [through the Optional Attendance program](#). The deadline to apply via Optional Attendance is 4:00 p.m. on January 29th. Call the school for more information or check the school website after January 15th.

4. Ecoschools: Applying for bike racks, water refill stations, schoolyard greening

The implementation of the TDSB Charter for Active Safe and Sustainable Transportation is underway. The TDSB Ecoschools Cycling Support program is developing new ways to help schools create a culture of cycling by providing infrastructure and programming support. Visit the [Ecoschools cycling supports website](#) to find out how to apply for bike racks to be installed this fall. Soon to come: opportunities to have a free skills-based cycling education program presented at your school.

Water Bottle Refill Stations: Plastic water bottles are expensive, take a lot of energy to make and transport, plus they last 400 years in landfill. The TDSB is encouraging students and staff to bring portable refillable water bottles. Send a message of environmental stewardship and go from landfill to refill by applying [here](#) for a free Oasis water bottle refill station in your school for fall 2016.

Schoolyard Greening: in March 2015, the TDSB approved new guidelines for schoolyard greening and landscaping projects. EcoSchools has resources to help schools with smaller projects such as building outdoor classrooms, or larger scale multiple-year partner-funded projects. Find out more and book a schoolyard design consultation at no cost [here](#).

5. Public consultation on TDSB draft policies January 21

Due to new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, the TDSB is revising its policies on Pupil Accommodation Reviews and Community Planning and Partnerships. Several public meetings are being held and feedback from parents and community members is welcomed. Draft policies will be posted on the TDSB website shortly and feedback can be sent to accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca. The local meeting will take place as follows and all are welcome:

When: Thursday, January 21, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: Martingrove CI, Library, 50 Winterton Drive, Etobicoke (Martingrove/Eglinton)

6. PIAC School Council Appreciation Dinner February 25

School council chairs and co-chairs, please hold the date of the evening of Thursday, February 25 for the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee's annual School Council Appreciation Dinner. This delicious and rewarding event is the TDSB's thank-you to our thousands of dedicated school council volunteer leaders. More details to follow.

7. March Break camp experience for Indigenous students

The TDSB's Aboriginal Education Centre invites Indigenous students in grades 4-8 to apply for a free March Break camp at Albion Hills Conservation Area. The theme of the week will be Zisbaakdoke Giizis or Sugar Moon. Students will learn techniques of pre-contact maple syrup production through Native Language, story and song. The deadline for applications is January 29. More information is available [here](#) or by calling Tessa Sill at the Aboriginal Education Centre at 416-393-9600.

8. Upcoming local specialized program application dates

Elementary Sports and Wellness Program

James S. Bell Sports and Wellness Academy (JK to Grade 8)

Entry grade: JK

Apply by: **January 29, 2016**

Junior Extended French Program (Entry grade: 4)

Second Street JMS (Mimico area)

Information night: **7:00 p.m., January 6, 2016**

Apply by: **January 4-28, 2016**

Enriched Secondary Academic Programs: Pre-Advanced Placement (Grade 9)

Lakeshore Collegiate (New Toronto)

Apply by: **January 12, 2016**

For more education news, go to my [website](#) or follow me on Twitter [@pamelagough!](#)

I welcome feedback.



Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

[View this email online](#).

5050 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario | M5N 5N8 CA

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.