

### School Address

330 Lansdowne Avenue  
Toronto, M6H3Y1  
Tel: (416) 393-1500  
Fax: (416) 393-8172

### Principal

Cynthia Abernethy

### Vice Principal(s)

John Helston  
Marcia McCurdy-Fagan

### Administrative Office Staff

Lina Menssen  
Sue Smith  
Danni Lay

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### School Council Chair(s)

Terri Breaks

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### Ward 9 Trustee

Maria Rodrigues  
(416) 397-3069

### Superintendent

Manon Gardner  
(416) 394-2044

### Director of Education

Chris Spence

## OUR SCHOOL

West Toronto Collegiate is a small, welcoming community high school that offers both unique and mainstream programs in a state of the art facility. Graduates go on to many pathways including college, university, apprenticeship or the workplace. West Toronto provides a climate in which every student can excel through individualized programming and differentiated instruction. Smaller class sizes, school support and extensive community resources ensures success for all students.

Our school has a social justice focus that ensures all students become critical thinkers through curriculum that is rigorous, innovative and is implemented through meaningful school relationships. Our unique "house structure" facilitates the creation and maintenance of community in which all students and staff are invested not only in themselves, but in the well-being of all its members.

West Toronto prides itself on the careful attention that is paid to the needs of each individual student. We have built-in mentoring relationships and created individual accountability through the development of smaller communities within the school learning environment. As a result, leadership opportunities are expanded to encourage all students to get involved.

## Special Features

- ✦ Monthly Social Justice Student Conferences throughout the school year involving the entire student body. These conferences are led by school and community members and focus on specific social justice themes.
- ✦ "Head Start" Course - English and Math preparation course for Grade 9 students to ensure strong literacy and numeracy skills in high school.
- ✦ Steps to University - a specialized course that allows students to earn a University of Toronto Sociology Credit (1st Year). The course is team taught by a West Toronto teacher and University of Toronto Sociology Professor.
- ✦ W-Pod - a self-directed learning program, facilitated by a West Toronto teacher, which allows students to use computers to complete courses independently and at their own pace.
- ✦ Technology Courses/Programs in: Business, Carpentry, and Culinary Arts and Hospitality (delivered in a newly renovated food preparation facility).

## OUR STUDENTS (As of spring 2008)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
✦ Total number of students:	<b>290</b>	
✦ Gender:		
Female	144	50%
Male	146	50%
✦ Primary language other than English:	179	63%*
✦ Students born outside of Canada:		
Students living in Canada for 2 years or less	34	12%
Students living in Canada for 3 - 5 years	30	11%

\* Calculation does not include students for whom language information is missing.

## THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB), in partnership with students, parents, teachers and all our communities, is committed to taking responsibility for continuous improvement of schools. This is achieved through:

- ✦ **Relevant Curriculum**
- ✦ **Equity**
- ✦ **Accountability**

### Regular Instructional Programs

In addition to the regular instructional program mandated by *The Ontario Curriculum*, our school offers optional programs. Details of these programs can be found in the Choices document available on the TDSB web (TDSB.on.ca). A hardcopy is provided to students and parents in January of each year to assist them in choosing courses for the following school year.

### Special Education Programs

A variety of special education programs and services are offered to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities, such as behavioural, communication, intellectual, physical and multiple learning disabilities. Students' exceptionalities are identified through a formal review process undertaken by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

## OUR SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS:

### Co-Curricular

#### Arts Programs

- ✦ Dramatic Arts:  
Drama Workshops, Dramatic Arts Festivals, Live Production/Play
- ✦ Visiting Artists:  
Visual Arts
- ✦ Visual Arts:  
Crafts, Excursions, Film/Video Workshops, Photography, Showcase/Competitions, Visual Arts Workshops

#### Athletic Teams

- ✦ Badminton
- ✦ Baseball
- ✦ Basketball
- ✦ Cricket
- ✦ Cross Country
- ✦ Soccer
- ✦ Swimming
- ✦ Track and Field
- ✦ Volleyball

#### Clubs

- ✦ Board Games
- ✦ Environmental
- ✦ Sound, Light and Stage Crew
- ✦ Student Newspaper Club/Yearbook Club
- ✦ Weight Lifting Club

#### Leadership

- ✦ Athletic Council
- ✦ Student Activity Council:  
Peer Leadership
- ✦ Student Conferences
- ✦ Student Leadership:

### WTAC

#### Competitions

- ✦ Mathematics Competitions:  
Pascal
- ✦ Ontario Business Contests:  
DECA
- ✦ Science Competitions:  
Roller Coaster
- ✦ Sears Drama Festival:  
Drama Club

#### Curricular Enhancement

- ✦ Healthy Learning Communities (Ryerson)
- ✦ The Fourth R

#### Community, Culture and Caring

##### Community - Mentoring

- ✦ Community Based:  
Saturday Morning Mentoring
- ✦ School Based:  
Peer Mentoring

##### Community - Tutoring

- ✦ Community Based:  
BASE-West (Balancing Academics, Sports & Education)
- ✦ School Based:  
Homework Clubs, Peer Tutoring, Tutors In Our Schools (Secondary), Volunteer Tutors

##### Culture/Caring

- ✦ Camps:  
Leadership, Outdoor Education
- ✦ Caring:  
Change Your Future, Oolagen School Based Mental Health Services, Settlement Education Partnership Toronto (SEPT), Wraparound Project
- ✦ Fundraisers:  
CN Tower Climb, Local Business, Run for the Cure, Terry Fox Run

## THE SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDES:



- ♦ Nutrition Programs:  
Breakfast Program, Lunch Program, Nutrition Program
- ♦ Safe & Caring Schools:  
Crime Stoppers, ESP: Empowered Student Partnerships, Personal Safety and Injury Prevention
- ♦ Social Skills:  
Character Development Program

### **Equity**

- ♦ Assemblies
- ♦ Faith-based Clubs:  
South Asian Club, Tibetan Club, Muslim Students' Group
- ♦ Workshops

### **Student Success**

#### **Pathways Programs**

- ♦ School to Work:  
Job Fair - Work Connection 2009
- ♦ Schools to Future:  
Career Fair, College Liaison Grade 7/8 Career Conference, HSBC STEPS to University, Pathways to Education

#### **Transitions**

- ♦ SPIRE
- ♦ Transitions Guest Speakers

#### **Remedial Activities**

- ♦ Credit Rescue

#### **Specializations and Other Programs**

##### **Other Programs (Not deemed specialized)**

- ♦ Coop Packages:  
Parenting, Retailing

##### **Special Education Programs**

- ♦ ASD - Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ♦ DD - Developmental Disability
- ♦ LD - Learning Disability
- ♦ MID - Mild Intellectual Disability
- ♦ PD - Physical Disability

Information about the success of our programs comes from a wide variety of student assessments. These assessments are based on clear expectations for all learners, consistent with those described in *The Ontario Curriculum*.

The primary purpose of student assessment is to improve learning. Assessment has the greatest potential to improve learning when it is an integral part of classroom activities. Teachers assess student progress towards achieving the expectations on an ongoing basis by using strategies such as projects, class presentations, homework assignments, classroom observations, portfolios of student work, and tests.

Schools use assessment information and information from other sources to make informed decisions for school improvement planning. Schools identify areas of strength as well as areas that require improvement. Input is obtained from a variety of sources such as student assessments, teacher feedback, parent feedback, and community surveys. In this way, schools monitor, celebrate and improve their efforts in providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all their students.

## WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR

### Literacy

- ♦ "Head Start" Program - Grade 9 English/Math Transition Course
- ♦ Use of Technology to support Literacy - Language Lab
- ♦ Workbook / trial tests with remediation and feedback to prepare all students for EQAO testing
- ♦ Accommodations and supports for Special Education and Individual Education Plan students while writing the EQAO tests
- ♦ Inclusive and relevant classroom reading materials to increase student interest in reading
- ♦ Library services for reading and studying opportunities during the school day
- ♦ Improved stock of library resources to ensure relevant and appropriate materials are available for student use
- ♦ Literacy applications in various subject areas to increase literacy across the curriculum

- ♦ "Strive to Arrive" Attendance follow up program
- ♦ Expanded co-op opportunities for senior students
- ♦ Change Your Future, Successful Futures - The Learning Partnership
- ♦ Awards Assemblies
- ♦ Welcome Program, in partnership with the Settlement Program, for students new to Canada
- ♦ Scholarship and awards at the school level: G.H. Woods, I.O.D.E. (Toronto Chapter)
- ♦ "Start Me Up" Breakfast Program, a nutritious breakfast provided free everyday at 8:00am

### Numeracy

- ♦ "Head Start" Program - Grade 9 English/Math Transition Course
- ♦ Pre-testing, diagnostics and remediation of basic math concepts
- ♦ Small class support for those students at risk in math classes
- ♦ Full range of math programs
- ♦ Lunch time tutors

### Safe Schools

- ♦ Safe School Committee
- ♦ Empowered Student Partnership - Toronto Police Service & TDSB Partnership
- ♦ Student Crimestoppers
- ♦ In the Driver's Seat Program
- ♦ Party in the Right Spirit Program
- ♦ Guest Speakers - "Break The Cycle"
- ♦ Theatre Arts Project on Conflict Resolution in partnership with other elementary and secondary schools in the SW2 Family of Schools

### Student Success

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Parent And Community Involvement

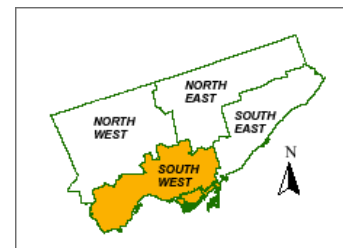
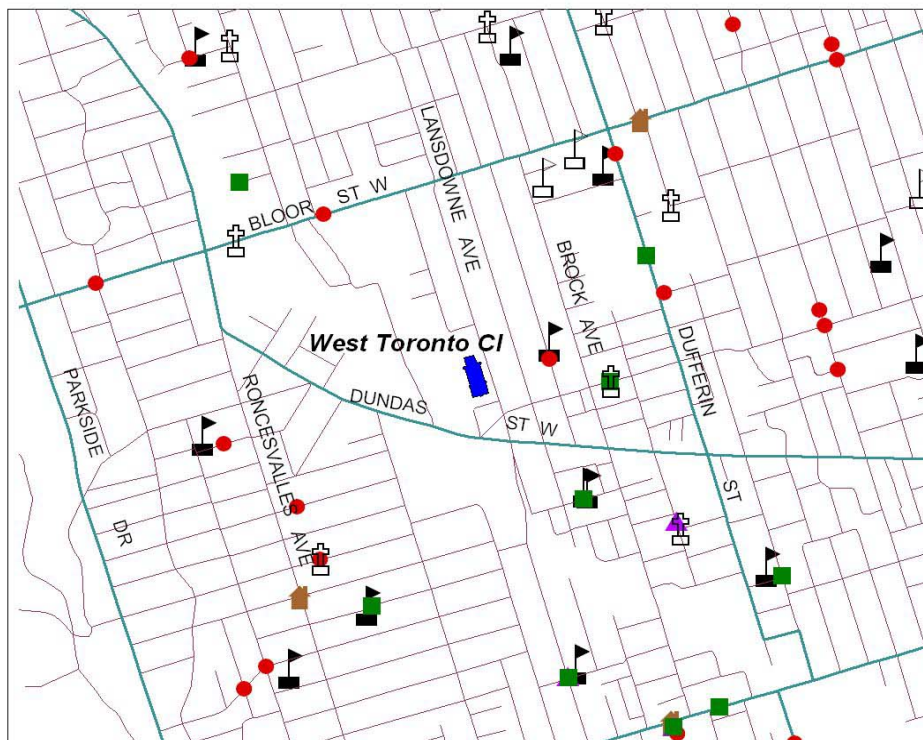
#### Parent Involvement:

- ✦ Parent/ School Council. Parents meet on a monthly basis, to discuss school and community issues with administration, teacher and student representatives
- ✦ Ward Council Meetings. Co-Chairs of the Parent /School Council attend Ward Council meetings
- ✦ Annual Tibetan Assembly and Pot-Luck Dinner - Celebrating the West Toronto Tibetan Culture and Community
- ✦ Winter Solstice Community Art in the Park Project

#### Community Links:

- ✦ WESTCO - A partnership between Oolagen Counselling Services and West Toronto Collegiate
- ✦ Settlement Program - Supports the settlement and education of new Canadians in the West Toronto Collegiate community
- ✦ ESP - Empowered Student Partnership - between Toronto Police Service and TDSB
- ✦ TOPPS - Osgoode Hall (York University) Law students Mentorship Program
- ✦ OISE - Student Teacher Inner City Mentorship Program
- ✦ Steps to University - A specialized course that allows West Toronto students to earn a University of Toronto Sociology Credit (1st year). The course is taught by a West Toronto teacher and University of Toronto Sociology Professor.
- ✦ No Frills - Rennie and Liz (Lansdowne Avenue) - Sponsorship and support of numerous school programs and events
- ✦ "Investing in your Future" - Sun Life Financial sponsorship of "Start Me Up" Breakfast program

### OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



- OUR SCHOOL
- TDSB Elementary School
- TDSB Secondary School
- Separate School
- Daycare/Nursery School
- Family Resource/ Parenting Centre
- Community/ Recreation Centre
- Public Library

Notes: The map shows the locations of local schools, community and social service facilities. For more information about these locations please contact the school. Sources: TDSB - Academic Accountability, Facility Services; City of Toronto - Children's Services, Toronto Land Information Services.