



Winter, 2020

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International Education Newsletter



Wrap-Around Support

Every year the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) welcomes students from around the world to experience our leading educational programs; from kindergarten to grade twelve. Our self-funded TDSB students come from over eighty different countries. These students bring rich cultural practices, languages and traditions to our schools — internationalization of our TDSB schools.

The TDSB is committed to providing wrap-around support for international students with Orientation/Summer School, Guidance Counsellor support and custodian collaboration. In August 2019, new high school students participated in our first ever Orientation and Summer School Program at Monarch Park Collegiate Institute. This innovative program offers interactive activities outdoors, discovery trips around Toronto and the amazing opportunity to build lasting friendships with classmates and schoolmates. In addition, students enrolled in a high school course to jumpstart their academic programming. The TDSB is the only Canadian school district offering such opportunity to transition and integrate incoming students. Our students also receive direct support from Guidance Counsellors for International Students (GCIS); who provide counselling support on matters such as academic, transition, integration and enculturation and more.

Additionally, we have four dedicated Admissions Assistants to assist with questions via telephone, face to face and email. Continue...

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We maintain close relationships with custodians so that we can collaborate and support our TDSB students. Each semester we provide a comprehensive workshop to support custodians.

We have concluded the first half (semester one) of the 2019-2020 school year. Every student is encouraged to participate in the many student-focused activities - athletics, arts, the clubs. Student participation in extra-curricular activities fosters development of friendships and leadership skills. I encourage each student to be an active contributor at her/his school.

Recently we welcomed a group of new students from Mongolia, our first cohort, we look forward to sharing and learning with them.

Throughout this newsletter you will witness many activities students have participated in and the amazing support that is provided to each and every international student at the Toronto District School Board.

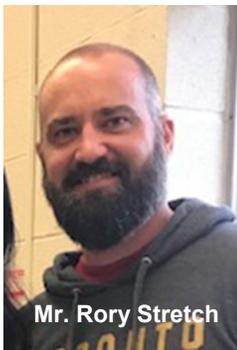
Sincerely,

Kien Luu
Centrally Assigned Principal

Meet Our Guidance Counsellors for International Students



Mr. Fei Chan



Mr. Rory Stretch



Mr. Patrick Chui



Ms. May Chang



Ms. Christine Gillespie

Access Notices, Events And Resources

TDSB Google Classrooms provide collaboration opportunities for staff and students. Students can obtain updates, news and important information in this virtual environment. In addition to face-to-face interactions, this tool provides another platform for students to communicate with GCIS.

Visit Google Classroom at:

<https://classroom.google.com/a/tdsb.on.ca>



Contact Guidance Counsellors for International Students

Our five Guidance Counsellors for International Students (GCIS) provide a repertoire of supports to assist international students with their transition, integration, enculturation to become active members of the Toronto District School Board. GCIS have been working closely with school staff, custodians and parents to ensure a smooth transition for students. The counsellors also host lunch meetings to build rapport with students and to provide workshops on topics such as: course selection, post-secondary options and self-care etc.



Welcoming students from Mongolia

Exploring @ Hillside Outdoor Education Centre

On my last trip, I have learnt many things that I have never done before. Including hiking, catching fish, etc. There are three moments that I love the most. They include eating wild fruits, having a long hike in the forest and finally grilling food such as marshmallow and apples with maple syrup with everyone.

I have never eaten wild fruits before especially fruits that are hand-picked. So when I tried it for the first time, I was really excited because the taste and the size of the fruits were definitely different from the fruits that are store bought.

Second, was hiking in the forest. I explored many different things that I have never seen before. I know a lots types of plants and what are the characteristics about them, like if I touch certain red leaves my hand would get itchy.

Third, after a long hike and everybody was tired, it was nice to grill food over a camp fire. Canada is very famous for maple syrup and this was the first time I tried it. It tasted better than I expected. We roasted apples with maple syrup, marshmallows, and dough.

Overall, it was an amazing trip for me and I hope we can have more and more trips like this again!

Author: Jessie Tran – Grade 9 TDSB student.
George S. Henry Academy



Student Panel Discussions: how to support international students



Teacher Learning...

In October 2019, TDSB GCIS facilitated teacher professional learning at Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute. There was sharing, learning and collaboration between school-based guidance counsellors, teachers and GCIS. Our ultimate goal — to better support self-funded TDSB students.

A highlight of the day was an International Student Panel; where students talked about their school experiences, what they enjoyed and what needs improvement. The Toronto Police Services provided safety tips and resources to better support our students. An engaging and informative discussion involved custodians, to shed light on issues faced by people who are responsible for our students in their parents' absence.



Roasting Marshmallow at Hillside Outdoor Education Centre Field

Cultural Immersion Participants at Kipling Collegiate Institute





Semester 2 Student Orientation, Georges Vanier Secondary School

Renewal Procedure Update

Starting February 2020, students need to consult with their Guidance Counsellor for International Students (GCIS) to submit their renewal request form. For schools without a GCIS; please consult with the school Guidance Counsellor.

Please refer to the Timeline: Tuition Renewal.



Meeting International Students @ Central Toronto Academy



Informational Lunch Meeting with GCIS @ L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute



Timeline: TUITION RENEWAL



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