



Tuesday December 15, 2020

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PCEO UPDATES

School Council Shared E-mail Account Update

- School Councils impacted by the security breach have been notified and, accounts reset. The “automated forward feature” that enabled TDSB Outlook accounts to be forwarded to personal email addresses remains turned off. Therefore this feature will no longer be available to all TDSB account users. Over the next few days staff will be notifying users who have been directly impacted;
- Whereas in the past, School Councils, CACs, and PIAC member’s accounts have been accessible via webmail, all are now encouraged to set up the TDSB account on a personal device;
- Log in instructions for a School Council account can be found at <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/schoolcouncil>
- PCEO has been working with the Client Service Desk to provide requested Council account activation, login, and troubleshooting support. To date, we are backlogged with approximately 70+_ schools. PCEO is actively seeking additional staffing supports to address the backlog.

Inactive School Councils

- Approximately 400 schools responded to the call out for School Council chair contacts;
- Of the 400 20 had not yet hosted elections, however, 6 had elections scheduled to be completed before December break and 3 had them scheduled for January 2021;
- 13 of the 400 submissions indicated that they do not have an active (held election, hosted a meeting, elected executives) School Council for various reasons but only one indicated that they have parents who meet as a council but have not been elected to council;



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- PCEO will follow up with Superintendents/schools that have indicated that they do not have an active school council.

PIAC E-mail Accounts

Our records indicate the following status of PIAC accounts:

- 23 people who have at some point logged into their account;
- 7 people who have not yet logged into their account;
- 7 people are new without accounts (to be activated)

School Council Zoom & Messenger Update

- All School Councils have been assigned a zoom account for engaging members and parents/caregivers. Many School Councils have commenced activating their zoom accounts, however, there are still several councils who have not yet done so. Please note that the account can be accessed by contacting the Principal.
- School Messenger was approved for the School Council to enhance communication with members and parents/caregivers. School Messenger will be rolled out to the school and School Council in January 2021. The rollout will begin with school principals followed by School Council chairs

School Statement of Need (SSON)

- As a reminder Councils are required to update the School Statement of Needs (SSON). Please note that due to our later start this year, although our forms outline November as the deadline, School Councils may take up until **December 4 2020** to update the SSON document.
- For SSON supports visit: <http://www.torontopiac.com/school-councils.html>



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Elementary Switching Opportunity in January

- TDSB will be gathering feedback from elementary parents/guardians to help inform decisions about the next elementary switching opportunity in January. A letter and survey were shared with parents. The letter is attached.

Program Priorities Funding (PPF) –Parent Reaching Out Grant (PROG)

- TDSB was allocated \$131, 563.00 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences. All funds must be spent and reported to the Ministry by August 21, 2021;
- A report outlining the allocation of funds will be tracked to the Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) in January 2022.
- PIAC members interested in reviewing School Council applications should contact the PCEO

Parents as Partners (PasP) Conference 2020

- PasP workshops and presentations can be viewed at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/Parents-as-Partners-Conference>

School Council Insurance

While purchasing insurance is always optional and dependant on the risk appetite of the school council, please keep in mind that if you are engaging in multiple virtual activities the insurance is recommended. School councils that are not active in fundraising, for example, there only activity is a monthly meeting, insurance is not generally purchased. For further information on insurance visit: <http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/businessservices/insurance-and-enterprise-risk/school-council-insurance>



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2020/2021 School Generated Funds and School Needs Assessment

- The annual School Generated Funds Financial Plan and School Need Assessment are now ready for completion. The schools submission is due **on or before December 11th, 2020**.

The School Generated Funds Financial Plan is required as funds must be raised for the specific purpose(s) and spent according to the purpose(s) communicated to the school community. This document is your planning document that outlines the fundraising initiatives and the intended use of the funds. To begin planning **please click [here](#)**

INFORMATION SHARING

Elementary and Secondary Optional Attendance for 2021-2022

Students have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying for optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. Families and students in Virtual and Bricks and Mortar school who would like to apply, under Optional Attendance, to a school for September 2021-22 should visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Optional-Attendance>

Important Information for Families of Grade 3 Students (NEW Middle French Immersion Program – Grade 4 Entry)

- To register for the program visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Application-Process/Middle-French-Immersion>
- TDSB will be hosting Virtual Web Chat Information Sessions for families interested in the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 Entry). To register visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions>



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Government Support for Learners

This funding is to provide parents/caregivers with essential financial supports during these unprecedented times. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

<https://www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/SupportForLearnersWeb/public/index.xhtml>

TVO Learn and TFO IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison

- The Ministry of Education has announced the launch of two new portals developed in partnership with TVO and TFO. TVO Learn and TFO IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison will provide optional supplemental support for students who are self-screening, quarantining at home, or wishing to build their skills by accessing additional educational resources developed by Ontario certified teachers. These portals provide engaging and interactive ways to support students in furthering their learning in the Grades 1 to 8 Ontario curriculum from home.
- Secondary students can continue to access TVO's Independent Learning Centre (ILC) Open House and Portes ouvertes pour les cours TVO ILC in French-language, which provide access to 144 Grade 9 to 12 courses. These ILC resources are not for credit but are designed to provide flexible learning opportunities to help students keep up with their learning or deepen their understanding of a specific subject. In addition, French-language students also have access to French-language online courses available through the Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de l'Ontario.
- For further information visit: <https://tvolearn.com/>

Autism Ontario Events and Workshops

Autism Ontario has many events, workshops, and parent groups for December. To highlight include virtual coffee chats, Christmas sing-alongs, Hanukkah Cookie Kits, Kwanzaa Craft Kits, OAP sessions,



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and an OAP information session with Vietnamese translation. Visit:

https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_326=All&custom_325=Toronto&event_type_id=All

City of Toronto – Parks & Recreation Holiday Camps 2020

To register for holiday camps or reserve a skating rink **Call 416-396-737**. You can speak to a call centre representative to register and set up family accounts. You can also visit: efun.toronto.ca & click on find programs...Only programs available for registration, select camps, select locations.

Brightspace, Google Classroom and Other Virtual Information for Parent/Caregivers in Virtual Schools

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to [create a “Brightspace for Parents” account](#) which will provide a window into their child’s online classroom.

- The information available includes Upcoming Work, Recent Grades, Portfolio Items, and any items that may be overdue;
- Please note, to create a Brightspace for Parents account, the parent/caregiver must have an email address already on file in our Student Information System. If you already receive emails from TDSB and your child’s school, you are ready to create an account. If you do not, contact the school to provide an e-mail address.

For information on Google Classroom and other virtual supports visit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o2qPvYkLNGZoucHB_BmNTKjJDWsqlsv7yJXU8jCp3oE/edit

Helpful Links

- Information on Return to School Virtual & In-person <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/>
- Information on supporting your child www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/ForParents



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- Resources for [mental health and well-being](#), [homework](#), [safety](#), [curriculum](#) and other ways to [get involved](#).



December 14, 2020

Dear Elementary School Parents and Guardians,

Since the beginning of the school year, the TDSB has made parent/guardian and student choice of in-person or virtual learning, a priority. As you know, the last opportunity to switch in early October resulted in many students having to change classes and teachers, class sizes being adjusted, and the addition of more double and triple grades, etc.

With these challenges in mind, the November switching opportunity was limited to requests to switch based on compassionate grounds where space was available, resulting in significantly less change to student and teacher placement in both virtual and in-person schools.

The next opportunity to request a switch was originally scheduled for the end of January (to take effect on February 16th) however we are requesting this information sooner to help with decision making.

This week you will be receiving an email from your child's school asking you to indicate if your child wants to switch between in-person and virtual learning or between virtual and in-person learning. For those wishing to switch, it's important to note that this email survey will not guarantee that a switch will be possible. However, the information will help inform our decision making for this last opportunity to switch for the 2020-2021 school year.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's school prior to the Winter Break.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Witherow".

Kathy Witherow
Interim Director of Education

