

Trustee Update

Jennifer Story • Ward 15: Toronto-Danforth

Toronto District School Board

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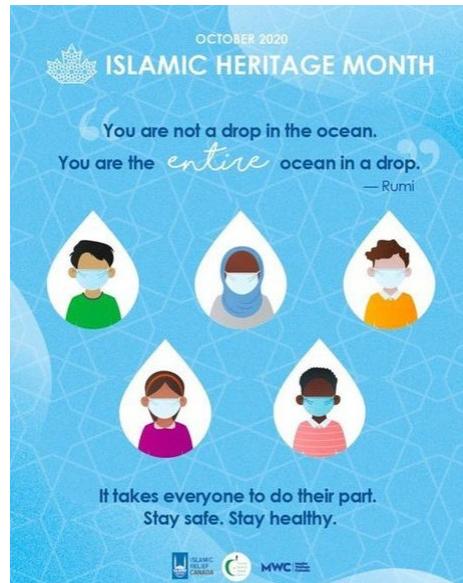
As you know, a new Bluetooth-based COVID-19 contact tracing app developed in Canada was rolled out for testing in Ontario on July 31. Although the app is strictly voluntary, I urge everyone to download it. Privacy is respected.

Learn more about [Canada's free exposure notification app](#).

COVID-19: Reduce Virus Spread

The best way to keep our kids in school right now is to ensure everyone is following public health guidelines to prevent community spread. This is the most critical thing we can do. Let's all do what we can. **Watch your distance. Wear your mask. Wash your hands.**

This year the Islamic Heritage Month Planning Committee has released a poster to encourage everyone in our schools and communities to keep each other safe. They have included a couplet from the poet and scholar Rumi.... **"You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop".** This quote reminds us that we should recognize that there is something greater than ourselves and that we all have a unique part to play by working together as a community to keep safe against COVID-19.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Update on School Reopening

At the Committee of the Whole meeting last Thursday, staff provided updates on a number of issues of importance of students, staff and families. For more information, please read the [presentation deck](#).

Please note that we have another opportunity to hear from staff at a Special Committee of the Whole meeting this Tuesday.

Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to ensure our students are learning both in-school and virtually.

Current Enrolments - In-School and Virtual School

- Of the projected total number of students in the TDSB - 242,323, 83,828 are learning virtually which represents 35% of all students in the Board - our Virtual School would be the 6th largest school board in Ontario
- Overall enrolment of projected to be down 3,619 primarily due to JK/SK enrolment
- Impact on the board's budget as we are funded by our enrolment is estimated to be \$41.8M

School Budgets

- Student funding for In-Person and Virtual School are funded at the same level
- School Budgets for In-Person schools will be adjusted to their revised enrolments
- Virtual Schools have been provided school budgets to support learning. Budget for Virtual School - staff have loaded \$150K for secondary and \$400K for elementary (\$100K per LC) and the SOs are currently assessing needs to distribute to 2,700 teachers - information to teachers will come shortly

Elementary Reorganization

- Unfortunately, the school year began with a shortage of teachers at the Elementary Virtual School and we know that it has been a frustrating experience for some students and families as they wait for a teacher
- At this time, the reorganization process has been completed and all teachers have been transferred from in-person schools to the Elementary Virtual School. We continue to staff daily to fill vacancies as they arise
- In-school, all reorganizations have been completed
- Following the reorganization process, all classes (English and French Immersion/Extended French) in Virtual School now have a teacher assigned and learning should be underway for all students
- In elementary virtual school there are a total of 2,579 homeroom teachers of which 226 are French Immersion/Extended French and there are 145 Core French/Resource/Special Education teachers
- That said, 48 classes for French still have English teachers - staff are working on options as noted in their last communication referenced below
- 41 VPs have been redeployed to Virtual School to bring the total number of administrators to 66 to support staff and provide more effective communication to families; senior staff are

considering additional resources to support students and teachers

Cancellation of November Elementary Opportunity to Switch

- While the original plan did allow for switching at multiple times throughout the year, the plan has to be responsive to changing situations - some of which no one could have predicted and as such the November switching date has been cancelled
- The decision to change the switching schedule is an operational one, based on the best judgment of senior staff and what is best to stabilize both schools and classrooms. In their view, further disruption in November (when the next switch date was to occur) is not in the best interest of student learning
- I support this decision. The vast majority of e-mails I received support this decision, but I do understand that some were hoping to transfer at this time
- As indicated in the parent/guardian letter about switching, there may be some unique circumstances that will be considered on a case by case basis. More information will be shared with parents/guardians next week on how we may respond to these circumstances.
- Staff are exploring different options for how virtual learning may be delivered for the next scheduled transition date in January

Secondary Reorganization

- There are 18,500 students and 800 teachers currently in Secondary Virtual School
- This includes 719 classroom teachers plus 86 Student Success/Guidance/Resource teachers for a total of 805 teachers
- Classes have now settled into their routines. Many teachers with the same course assignment are now collaborating with one another to ensure consistency in delivery. Student Success teachers are reaching to non-attenders and will follow up with families. Resource teachers have started developing IEPs for students with special needs
- Given the exceptional circumstances and the complexities of running exams in both a virtual and in-person setting, the TDSB senior staff has chosen to cancel exams for quadmesters 1 and 2 and final marks will be based on coursework and in-class end of quadmester assessment of learning. Further information will follow for the remaining quads, pending current local health and safety guidelines. There shouldn't be any impact on students with their graduating marks as they will continue to be assessed on their work and understanding during their year
- To provide more stability and consistency for students/families and teachers, senior staff have paused the October 15 switch date (Quad Two)
- Staff were concerned that students are able to achieve credits and be successful and to ensure courses are available in bricks and mortar, especially in smaller schools
- Staff are working on options after careful consideration of all challenges and complications and are currently working with principals, superintendents, and union to look at the best local school options to support both Virtual School requests and In-Person school needs
- At Thursday's meeting the Director confirmed that they are not looking at "live teaching" at this time

Adult Day School

- All current Adult Day School students, and newly registered students, were provided with an online pre-registration survey on Tuesday, October 13
- The Quad 2 survey asked: Do you plan to register for a specialty certificate program? What are your intentions for quadmester 2? In School, Online, or not attending in Quad 2
- The survey data will inform how best to meet the learning needs of adult students
- Course selections for Adult Day School students will begin next week

HEPA/Air Filters

- Updated Information from Toronto Public Health revised October 14, 2020 - Airflow and ventilation - In larger spaces, such as classrooms or businesses, good ventilation or airflow can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Open windows and doors in rooms without HVAC systems, weather permitting, and if doing so does not pose a safety risk. If a room does not have ventilation (i.e. no windows or HVAC system), a portable air cleaner/purifier can be considered, but make sure the air exhaust is not blowing directly at the people in the room
- With approximately \$6M in provincial funding, staff are purchasing approximately 6,000 institutional-grade HEPA air filters for use in classrooms that do not have operable windows and do not have mechanical ventilation (or have limited mechanical ventilation, exhaust only)
- They have analyzed TDSB schools and determined that these should cover all needed classrooms. The first order of 100 units will be delivered on October 19 with 1000 units per week being delivered after that
- The units will first be distributed to the schools in the highest COVID-19 and then to schools based on LOI and then to all others
- The 500 air purifiers donated from Danby will be replaced and the Danby units placed in offices and smaller rooms.
- At Thursday's meeting staff softened their position on school donations for HEPA filters - although they still prefer monetary donations for HEPA units to be directed to the COVID-19 Central relief fund for schools with greatest ventilation needs, they are considering allowing donations to schools as long as they may be matched with a central donation - units would be specified by the Board and advance approval would be required - details to come

IT Devices

- The Board distributed approximately 60,000 devices to students last Spring during emergency remote learning. Students were allowed to keep them for their use this year as long as they were still TDSB students. For this school year, approximately 10,000 students have requested a device
- Approximately 10,000 devices are currently on back order. Currently, we have approximately 2,000 virtual school students waiting for requested devices. Staff anticipate to have those and additional requests covered by the orders that have been placed
- IT is spending \$15M more than provincial funding on Chromebooks and iPads - we are replenishing devices borrowed from schools - that first replenishing happened in August - more details will come at our meeting Tuesday with regard to further replenishing devices

back to schools and distribution of devices for students

Virtual Resources

- The Central Math Team has secured access to Mathology licenses (English or French) for Kindergarten and Grades 4-6 Virtual School teachers, as well as MathUp licenses for Grades 1-3 (English or French) and Grades 4-8 (English only) Virtual School teachers. These products are teacher licenses, and are not issued on a per student basis
- Mathology: Teachers will have access to the Mathology.ca (English) or Mathologie.ca (French) platform, which includes curriculum-aligned lessons, activities, little books, assessment tools, and just-in-time professional learning videos
- MathUp: Teachers will have access to the mathup.ca platform, with grade-specific pathways containing rich lessons, activities, suggestions for differentiation and professional learning resources. Student activities, such as number talks, brain benders, and digital games are also included. French is available for Grades 1-3 only
- We are also exploring digital resources for early and adolescent readers and providing a number of tools for assessment of our students

For the latest communication to parents see below -

[Elementary Switching Update](#)

[Elementary Virtual School Update](#)

[Update re Secondary Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting for 2020-2021](#)



Returning to School Links

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>

For more details, please click on the links below that will bring you right to the information

[Elementary Reorganization](#)

[In-Person Elementary](#)

[Revised Screening Guidelines](#)

[Elementary Virtual School](#)

[In-Person Secondary](#)

[Secondary Virtual School](#)

[Exemptions - Request to be Exempt from the Minimum Requirements of Synchronous Learning](#)

[Switching Between In-Person Learning and the Virtual School](#)

[Daily Health Screening](#)

[Mask/Face Coverings Required](#)

[Daily Checklist - Elementary](#)

[Daily Checklist - Secondary](#)

[Resources for Preparing for Back to School](#)

[Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#)

[Questions and Answers](#)

[Response Plans for COVID-19 Cases](#)

[TDSB Return to School Video](#)

[Learning and Instruction](#)

[Health and Safety](#)

[Operations - Transportation and Before and After School Programs](#)

20th Anniversary - CCW & ECE Appreciation Day

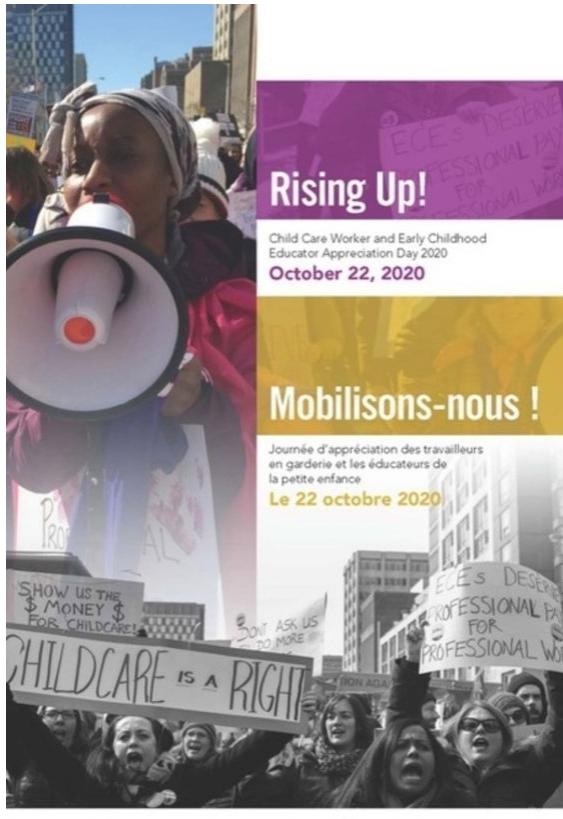
On October 22nd, 2020, the Toronto District School Board will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

This year's theme of **Rising Up!** is reflective of the amazing commitment of Child Care Workers & Early Childhood Educators who support children, families and communities each and every day.

The Toronto District School Board has over 1,500 Early Childhood Educators supporting quality early years experiences and student success in our Full-Day Kindergarten classrooms, EarlyON Child and Family Centres, Extended Day Programs and community led school-based Child Care programs.

Please join us in expressing our sincere gratitude for the dedication, skills and commitment of our Early Childhood Educators and Child Care partners.

We invite you to view the [attached message](#) from renowned Early Years expert and advocate Dr. Charles Pascal, in celebration of this day.





Local Government Week

From October 19-23, the Toronto District School Board, along with our partners at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), will be celebrating Local Government Week.

School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representatives in Ontario. Since 1807, generations of community-minded citizens have made decisions on

behalf of local, publicly-funded schools, building the foundation of our system today.

Trustees are elected by the public during municipal elections. As a Board, we work together to advocate for public education and the achievement and well-being of students and their families.

The TDSB has 22 Trustees, the largest representation in Canada, who represent the unique needs, priorities and educational requirements of our communities.

Trustees set the Board's vision, establish policies, allocate resources and set goals that lay the foundation for driving programs and operations. We also recruit and monitor the performance of the Director of Education.

The Board also includes three Student Trustees. Each year, two Student Trustees are elected along with the TDSB Student Senate Executive and an Indigenous Student Trustee is appointed by the by the Toronto Indigenous Youth Council. Student Trustees attend Board meetings and represent the voice of all students at the TDSB.

What do Trustees do and why are they important?

To learn more about trustees and board meetings at the TDSB, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Boardroom

Follow #LocalGovWeek on Twitter to see how the TDSB and other organizations are celebrating Local Government Week 2020.

Secret Path Week

Secret Path Week is a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack, and takes place annually from **October 17-22**. This is a meaningful week as October 17th and



22nd respectively mark the dates that Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack joined the spirit world.

We call on all Canadians to use Secret Path Week to answer Gord Downie's call to action, to "Do Something" by creating a #reconciliACTION and furthering the conversation about the history of Residential Schools.

Due to COVID-19, the bulk of activities taking place during the 3rd Annual Secret Path Week will occur online. For information click <https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/secret-path-week/>.

Committee Meetings This Week

The Toronto District School Board is committed to developing opportunities for our wider school community to connect and engage in conversations about education issues. Meetings will be broadcasted live to the public. Click here at the start time to view
- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings>.

Delegation requests will still be accepted during the closure of all schools and administrative sites at the Toronto District School Board; however, oral delegations to address a committee of the Board will be presented by phone. To submit a delegation request (written or oral), please refer to the information found here https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations_and_email delegates@tdsb.on.ca. If your request is approved, further details will be provided to you via email.

Special Committee of the Whole - Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:30 p.m. Electronic Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Board on COVID-19 related matters.

- 3. Delegations - To be presented
- 4. Report From the Director of Education - Oral update
- 5. Report From the Chair of the Board - Oral update
- 6. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health - Oral update
- 7. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association - Oral update
- 8. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School

- Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee - Oral update
- 9. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee - Oral update
 - 10. Reports From Student Trustees - Oral update
 - 11. Emergency Motions - To be presented
 - 12. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff - To be presented

Board Meeting - Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:00 p.m. Public Session - Electronic Meeting

15. Committee Reports

15.1. Governance and Policy Committee, Report No. 27, September 30, 2020

1. Information Flow Protocol: New Governance Procedure
2. P047, Naming Schools and Special Purpose Areas, Phase 2: Status Update
3. PR697, Promoting a Positive School Climate: Revised
4. Membership on the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee

15.2. Program and School Services Committee, Report No. 84, October 7, 2020

1. 2020 Summer Programs

15.3. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 59,

October 14, 2020

1. Contract Awards, Operations
2. Contract Awards, Facilities
3. Program and Sketch Plan Approval: Feasibility of a Classroom Additions to McKee Public School
4. Additional Funding for Kapapamahchakwew -Wandering Spirit School Community Hub: Update
5. Emergency Purchasing During Pandemic: Update
6. Pandemic Funding and Costs Update
7. Ministry of Finance Community Budget Consultations

8. Exemptions From P076, Community Planning and Partnerships to Allow for a Capital Improvement to the Former Vaughan Road Academy School Building at 529 Vaughan Road

15.4. Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting), Report No. 28, October 5, 2020 (For receipt)

15.5. Committee of the Whole, Report No. 30, October 15, 2020

1. Profiles of Administrative Sites

15.6. Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting), Report No. 31, October 20,2020 - To be presented

16. Written Notices of Motion for Consideration
 - 16.1. [Procedure for the Election of Chair and Vice-chair of the Board {Trustees Maclean and Laskin}](#)
 17. Written Notices of Motion
 - 17.1. [Discharge of Committees \(Trustees Pilkey and Doyle\)](#)
 - 17.2. [Director Search Committee: Term and Membership \(Trustees Doyle and Brown\)](#)
 - 17.3. [Establishment of a Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee \(Trustees Laskin and Doyle\)](#)
-

Advocacy - Provincial Budget Consultation

On October 15, TDSB Chair Alexander Brown participated in the Ontario Ministry of Finance's Fall 2020 Ontario Budget virtual consultation and shared the TDSB's concerns about the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the TDSB's budget. The COVID-19 pandemic has, in many ways, changed the way that TDSB operates, and has had a significant financial impact. As we look ahead to next year, we have significant concerns about the residual impacts of the pandemic and the costs that we will continue to face. In his presentation, the Chair touched on the following areas that require additional funding so that students and staff can be fully supported: In-Person/Virtual Models of Education, Special Education, Mental Health and Well-Being, PPE and Cleaning Supplies, and Supply Teacher Costs.

The Chair also discussed the TDSB's continued advocacy in the areas of Renewal Funding and Access to Education Development Charges. Our current repair backlog is \$3.5 billion as a result of years of inadequate funding - it has not increased as the province changed the parameters of the analysis. We need predictable and sustainable funding for school repairs, especially in light of the pandemic and the need to improve HVAC systems in older schools.

We continue to advocate for access to EDCs as TDSB does not currently qualify because of overall excess capacity, even though significant capacity pressures in many schools. If we qualified, we could expect \$500M over 15 years to meet growth-related needs.

Please read [the Chair's written submission to the Ministry of Finance](#) for more details.

More on the Renewal Backlog

The Toronto District School Board's Renewal Needs Backlog (RNB) list identifies approximately 23,400 different types of repairs needed in our schools. The total value of those repairs was \$3.5 billion as of September 2020. This is unchanged from last year.

The Ministry hires external consultants to inspect each school every five years and provides the TDSB with updated information. This is equivalent to 20 percent of our schools. The consultant

assesses the condition of each school and determines what needs to be repaired or replaced (e.g. floors, walls, heating and ventilation systems) based on life cycle, the urgency of the repairs/replacements and Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating. Generally, the more repairs a school needs, the higher the FCI. In some cases, the FCI is so high that a school is rated for eventual replacement.

In recent years, when the Consultants have been assessing school buildings and components, they have been moving backlog requirements into future years, where they find building components still have capacity to perform as intended. The impact of this change has been a reduction in the backlog for the current year, but an increase to the backlog in future years. This is due to the movement of components for the current year into the 4 years following the current year. By way of example, for a low-priority repair such as the replacement of interior doors, the replacement date for this repair is pushed out by another five years, and not part of the current window of deferred maintenance backlog.

As a result, there is no significant change in the 5-year projected renewal needs backlog and it now stands at approximately \$5.1 billion. We need predictable and stable funding.



Registration Now Open - Partners Conference!

This year's conference takes place over two days – Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25. It includes two amazing keynotes as well as a host of breakout sessions that you can choose to tailor to your own interests and needs.

Some of the sessions offered include special education, mental health and well-being, anti-Black racism and virtual engagement. In the breakout sessions – led by both TDSB experts and panelists from outside organizations – you also get a chance to connect in a more intimate way with other

parents, ask questions and participate in discussions.

We hope you find this new format as useful and engaging as we do!

Registration is now open!

Saturday Keynote Speaker -- Kim Katrin

- Kim Katrin is an internationally acclaimed award-winning educator, consultant & social entrepreneur. Recognized as one of The Root's 'Young Feminists to Watch', celebrated as Canada's National Youth Role Model. Since 2012, Kim has spoken on equity and social entrepreneurship at institutions across Canada and the US both on and offline to millions. Collaborating with brands like Makeup Forever, Squarespace & Lululemon she has worked both internally and externally to innovate around inclusion.

Sunday Keynote Speaker -- Dr. Sloane Freeman

- Dr. Sloane Freeman, an expert consultant for Lysol, is a pediatrician and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, with particular expertise in developmental/school issues, health care delivery and care of the medically complex child. Her keynote will focus on keeping kids healthy at home.

Panel Discussion on TDSB School Year Update on Sunday, October 25 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

- Hear directly from TDSB senior staff -- including Dr. Kathy Witherow, Interim Director of Education; Manon Gardner, Associate Director, School Operations and Service Excellence; and the Executive Officer, Facility Services -- on what's happening in elementary, secondary and virtual schools. Ask questions and learn about health and safety practices in place to keep students and staff safe.

Registration is open - please click here <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2020-parents-as-partners-conference-tickets-123331865931>

Workshops here <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/Workshops>

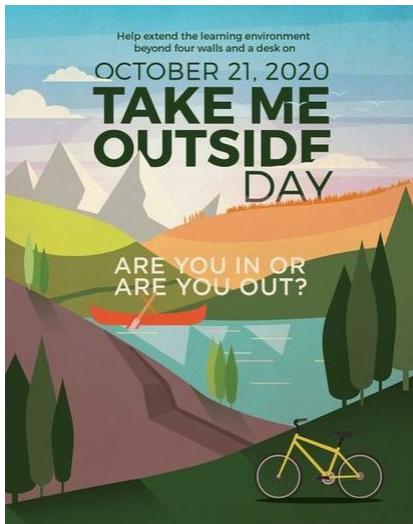
Learn more at www.parentsaspartners.ca

Take Me Outside Day

Take Me Outside Day is October 21, 2020.

To celebrate 10 years of Take Me Outside Day we will be organizing some special activities as well as giving away prizes, make sure to sign-up to stay in the loop!

It's time to get outside Canada! We are a nation known for outdoor pursuits and having one of the best backyards in the world, but the reality is we are spending less and less time



outside, including younger generations. That's concerning on so many levels, not least because it's taking a toll on our health and well-being.

Take Me Outside Day is a reminder to do just that. It's an invitation to schools to extend the classroom beyond four walls and a desk and engage with school grounds and natural areas.

[Learn more and sign up.](#)



TDSB Ward 15

SAVE THE DATE

School Re-Opening Update,
Virtual Ward Forum

**Monday November 2, 2020
7:00 pm**

School Year Calendar 2020-2021

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1 to June 30, inclusive and has now been approved by the Ministry.

- The last day of class for elementary students is June 29
- **Secondary Quadmester Calendar**
- **Quad 1: Sept. 17 - Nov 19**
- Quad 2: Nov. 23 - Feb 4**
- Quad 3: Feb 8 - April 20 + exams April 21 & 22**
- Quad 4: April 23 - June 23 + exams June 24, 25 & 28**

PA Days & Holidays Remaining

Board-wide PA Day	November 20, 2020
Winter Break	Dec 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021
Elementary PA Day	January 15, 2021
Secondary PA Day (Semestered Schools Only)	February 5, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	February 12, 2021
Family Day	February 15, 2021
March Break	March 15 – 19, 2021
Good Friday	April 2, 2021
Easter Monday	April 5, 2021
Victoria Day	May 24, 2021
Elementary School PA Day	June 4, 2021
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2021



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