

Trustee Update

Jennifer Story • Ward 15: Toronto-Danforth

Toronto District School Board

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Welcome 2021

I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year.

As the new year stretches out in front of us, we all anxiously await the time when, with the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination, we can start the path back to normalcy, including the return to pre-COVID school and work conditions.

The extended restrictions, distancing, remote learning, virtual school and so on, are certainly taking a toll on all of us. If you are in need of support, please, do not hesitate to reach out to your school admin team, your school's Community Support Worker (Model Schools only), online at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Well-Being-and-Supports> or via the City of Toronto at 211 - <https://211central.ca/> .

Incidents in the US

Last week the world, including TDSB staff, students, and families, witnessed hateful and unlawful acts in the US capital involving white supremacy, multiple forms of racism and bigotry, and rioting against the results of a democratic election. [Chair Brown has issued a statement](#) on behalf of the TDSB condemning the actions of these groups and individuals. Discussions at home or in class about these incidents and related issues can be challenging - staff are actively working on resources for schools to support students. In the meantime several existing resources can be accessed by families:

[Talking about Race - Resources for Families](#)

[TDSB Genocide and Holocaust Resources](#)

Remote Learning - Extended

The TDSB issued [this statement](#) today following the Government of Ontario's [announcement](#) of a State of Emergency.

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, schools in the following public health units (PHUs) **will not return to in-person instruction until February 10, 2021:**

- Windsor-Essex
- Peel Region
- Toronto
- York
- Hamilton

By January 20, 2021, the Chief Medical Officer of Health will advise the Ministry of Education on which public health units (PHUs) will be permitted to resume in-person instruction, based on the most up-to-date data and modelling. Before- and after-school programs can be offered when in-person instruction resumes. Schools in northern PHUs will continue to remain open. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59922/ontario-declares-second-provincial-emergency-to-address-covid-19-crisis-and-save-lives>

If the technology you have access to at home is not able to support your child's learning, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher or your school's Principal to request a device. This included access to wifi if that is also a barrier.

Additional resources for remote learning are available here: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Student-Virtual-Learning-IT-Support>

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Remote-Learning-Supports-and-Resources-for-Educators/Digital-Learning-Tools>



Virtual Schools Staff Directories

Please note that Virtual School administrative team directories are available online and are updated on an ongoing basis. A number of new staff have been welcomed to the teams this week.

[Learning Centre 4 Elementary School](#)

[Virtual Secondary School](#)



Joint Ward Forum

Reminder: Ward 15 and 16 school council chairs or designates, please join us at our next ward forum:

School Council Effectiveness: Current Realities

Thursday January 14, 2021

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

How to Join the Ward Forum

To be able to join, you must fill out the Registration Form at <https://forms.gle/iKfQS3EvsajxLZjR7> at least 24 hours before the meeting

When registering, you will be able to submit your School Council Effectiveness suggestions, comments, and questions in advance.

Meeting links and dial-in numbers will be sent to the email address that you used to register, on the morning of the ward forum.

Need more info? Email Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca or call 416-395-8787.



Joint Ward Forum

Ward 15 and 16 school council chairs or designates, please join us at our next ward forum:

School Council Effectiveness: Current Realities

NEW DATE Thursday January 14, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We are excited to be hosting a virtual "meet and greet" and session on school council effectiveness. What are the challenges in the COVID-19 context? How can we build strong partnerships and a successful school council? We will be joined by Ward Representatives from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee; and Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, Parent & Community Engagement.

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Opportunities for Discussion and Feedback | Attend from Wherever You Are



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Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

The TDSB has received funding under the 2020-2021 Ontario Priorities and Partnerships Fund for the PRO Grant. The TDSB was allocated \$131,563.00 for projects focus on the identification and removal of barriers that prevent parents and families from participating and engaging fully in their

children's learning and 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;

Following conversations with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) as stipulated by the Ministry, the funds will be allocated to support the following initiatives:

School Council Anti-Black Racism, anti-Indigenous and anti-oppression application initiatives
(\$52,500@1,500/Council)

Virtual Parent/Caregiver engagement tools and supports(\$20,000)

Conversation Series 2.0-Going Deeper (\$35,000)

Enhanced Multi-lingual Supports (\$24,063)

For further information please, contact Michelle Munroe, Coordinator of Parent and Community Engagement at michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca.

Updates due to School Closures:

Grade 3 - Universal Screening-CCAT 7 Update January 2021

Due to current Ministry of Education's closure of schools staff are unable to administer the CCAT7 test to Grade 3 students in-person on January 15, 2021. To avoid future disruptions, an alternate process is being established. All Gr 3 families will be sent a communication informing them of changes and updates to the testing process.

Student in grade 3 Virtual School (VS) will continue to have the opportunity to write the CCAT-7 test virtually.

The test to be administered remotely during the week of February 8-11, 2021 with the supervision of the Virtual School grade 3 teacher.

More information is [available here](#) or through your child's Gr. 3 teacher

Optional Attendance Applications

In case you missed it - a message was sent out to all families on Friday, January 8, 2021 regarding changes to the Optional Attendance application process due to current school closures. The letter is [attached here](#).

Upcoming Deadlines, Events, and Meetings:

New - Middle Immersion French (Gr. 4 start)

Please note: This program will replace the Junior Extended French program as the Grade 4 entry program in TDSB.

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide Middle French Immersion we offer an online process to apply. For details, please [see the downloadable information package](#).

Applications for September 2021 must be completed online **between January 4 and January 29, 2021**. An offer of placement in the program (a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants.

Virtual Web Chat Information Sessions for interested families are available dates and times listed below:

January 14, 2021 – 10 a.m.

January 21, 2021 – 7 p.m.

January 27, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Please note: To participate in a live scheduled web chat, please [visit the TDSB meeting site](#) for the live meeting link on the dates/times as outlined above.

Before and After School Programming Survey - January 15th

The TDSB recognizes that Before-and After-School Programs (BASPs) are an integral part of Early Years learning that play an important role in supporting our students, families, and school communities. More details regarding the policies and legislation that supports [BASPs can be found here](#).

The TDSB Child Care Services team will be conducting a parent BASP Interest Survey to determine if there is sufficient interest in developing a new BASPs in schools that currently do not have a program. They will also be gauging interest in existing BASP (e.g. childcare or Extend Day Programs). More information about the survey will be posted at www.tdsb.on.ca/BASP by January 15.

Parent/Guardian and Student Online Survey – Week of January 25

The TDSB will be surveying both parents/guardians (JK to Grade 12) and students (Grades 6 to 12) during the week of January 25 to learn more about experiences to date related to mental health and well-being, student engagement, and learning. Please watch for an email with a link to the survey and/or [check the TDSB home page for updates](#). Thank you in advance for your participation.

TDSB Meeting Schedule

All TDSB Trustee Committee meetings are publicly broadcast and open to public delegations. The live [webcast schedule can be found here](#) and [agendas with related documents are posted](#) publicly each Friday before the upcoming meeting. The January schedule is as follows:

January 13th - 4:30pm - [Governance & Policy Committee](#)

January 13th - 6:00pm - [Programs & School Services Committee](#)

January 20th - 4:30pm - Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee

January 27th - 4:30pm - Planning & Priorities Committee

Community Advisory Committees and Statutory Advisory Committees:

There are 12 TDSB Advisory Committees that provide advice to the Board on a variety of topics. All

TDSB Advisory committee meetings are held once per month and are accessible to the public. Parent and community participation is strongly encouraged. Please contact the assistant or staff lead for each committee if you would like to attend or would like more information: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees>



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