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TRUSTEE REPORT, OCTOBER 2015

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

TDSB Integrity Commissioner

TDSB is the first school board in Ontario to create an independent Office of Integrity Commissioner who will offer an independent, transparent and accountable process for dealing with complaints and enforcement. Posting for the position is currently up and necessary ethics policies and procedures will be developed.

Destreaming in Grade 9 and Gifted Program

Reports are presented at the Program and School Services Committee on the potential of de-streaming at the Grade 9 level. The Committee also received a report to expand secondary school gifted options by adding more programs and making access to programming based on home address.

Labour Negotiations Update

Job action is currently being taken by teaching staff represented by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents support staff. Both unions are in ongoing province-wide labour negotiations with the Government of Ontario and public school boards, represented by the [Ontario Public School Boards' Association](#) (OPSBA).

Members of ETFO are participating in a work-to-rule campaign and members of CUPE are taking part in a partial withdrawal of services, both of which will impact our schools. [Read a full list of ETFO's job actions.](#) [Read a full list of CUPE's job actions.](#)

At this time, schools remain open and instructional programs continue to run. As always, student safety and learning remain the top priorities of all TDSB staff, and superintendents are in daily contact with our schools to assess any concerns. As you can imagine, principals and vice-principals have had to take on additional tasks as a result of the ongoing job action and we appreciate your patience. During this time, there may be some delays when trying to contact your school office.

The TDSB will continue to update parents and guardians on the implications of the work-to-rule and partial withdrawal of services in our schools. [Read the latest letter to parents.](#)

For more information and updates visit www.tdsb.on.ca/labour.

Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum

In February, 2015, the Ministry of Education released the revised Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum to all school boards in Ontario for implementation beginning September 2015. The TDSB began implementation this fall with staff training, followed by delivery in the classroom. Parents/guardians are encouraged to learn more about the curriculum by visiting the [TDSB website](#), which has recently been updated to include additional information, resources, links to informative web sites as well as a message from the Director. The Ministry of Education has also prepared very comprehensive resources on the curriculum. Visit the [Ministry website](#) to find the full curriculum, parent guides and quick facts.

HOLD THESE DATES!

School Council Financial Information Sessions

At the School Council Financial Information session, you will learn about the funds available from the school budget to assist the council with operational cost; what is appropriate use of Non-Board Funds; how to properly collect and safeguard funds and much more.

Please click on [School Council Financial Information Sessions](#) for details.

Mon, Oct 26, 6:30 - 9PM

[Sir John A. Macdonald](#), Staff Lounge

High School Information Nights

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a high school, TDSB schools host open houses and information nights for parents and grade 8 students each year. Open houses take place between October and January and are an opportunity to learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses.

- Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute, November 19, 6:45 pm
- Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute, November 19, 7 pm
- L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute, November 26, 6:30 pm
- Sir John A MacDonald Collegiate Institute, Dec 2, 7 pm

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/OpenHousesandInformationNights.aspx>

French Programs Application Deadline

For families interested in the TDSB's French Immersion or Extended French programs, we offer an online process for applying to:

- Early French Immersion which begins in Senior Kindergarten
- Junior Extended French which begins in Grade 4
- Middle Immersion which begins in Grade 4 (available in a limited number of schools)

Offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. Transportation is provided as per the Board's Transportation policy. Please note the timelines for applying for these programs for September 2016:

- Applications for Early French Immersion (for a Junior Kindergarten aged child), must be completed online between **November 2 and December 3, 2015**.
- Applications for Junior Extended French or Middle French Immersion (for a child currently in Grade 3), must be completed online between **January 4 and January 28, 2016**.

Further information on French as a Second Language programs and the application process is available online at www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

People for Education – Making Connections 2015 – Saturday, November 7, 2015

Rotman School of Management, 105 St. George Street, Toronto - Special Guest. Dr Allan Sears, Professor of Social Studies Education at the University of New Brunswick, and the lead researcher for the citizenship domain in People for Education's Measuring What Matters project. Click [here](#) for information and to register.

PIAC – 9th Annual Parent Conference – November 14, 2015

TDSB's Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) is currently organizing the 9th annual Parent Conference. This is a wonderful conference for parents – you have the ability to attend a variety of workshops that can help you understand your child's school and the system. PIAC meetings are public – the next one is October 13 at 5050 Yonge.

tdsbCARES: Refugee Crisis Appeal

TDSB schools are participating in the tdsbCARES: Refugee Crisis Appeal to support the Canadian Red Cross as they provide assistance to the hundreds of thousands of people who are fleeing war and hunger in countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Schools will be collecting donations of cash or cheques, which will be forwarded through the TDSB to the Canadian Red Cross. Cheques can be made payable to "Red Cross—Refugee Crisis Appeal." The charity will issue tax receipts for all online donations as well as donations via cheque (minimum value of \$20).

This TDSB fundraising appeal will run until December 11. The federal government has announced that they will match all eligible donations made by that date (up to \$100 million) and set aside each dollar in its own Syria Emergency Relief Fund.

For more information or to make a donation online, please visit the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca and click on the Refugee Crisis Appeal banner.

With thousands of people impacted by this ongoing crisis, the need is great. With that in mind, we are asking students, staff, parents and our school communities to do what they can. No gift is too small or insignificant. Your donations are much appreciated.

OSSLT Scores Remain High at TDSB

On September 23, the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) released results for the 2014-15 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The TDSB continues to see strong performance, with the percentage of students who were successful in the OSSLT remaining steady at 82%. The board has sustained this high level of achievement over the past five years and is in line with the overall provincial proportion of 82%. As part of the [Years of Action plan](#), the board continues to implement a number of initiatives and strategies to support all students working towards achieving the provincial standard and beyond. To learn more and for [specific school results](#), please visit the TDSB website and read the [English and Literacy Fact Sheet](#).

Days of Significance

The TDSB posts a [Days of Significance](#) calendar lists major days of significance and is provided as a resource for schools and others for observing holy days that should be considered when planning events, tests or exams, and other activities. The calendar is not comprehensive, but a selected representation. Every attempt has been made to ensure its accuracy. Please also note you can check the [School Year Calendar](#) for your planning purposes.

Hallowe'en Safety Tips

Hallowe'en is an exciting time for families to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins and planning trick or treat activities. Schools take part in Hallowe'en celebrations by participating in parties, creative activities and art programs. As we approach October 31, it is also important to review some Hallowe'en safety rules to help ensure it is a fun and safe night for all.

- Children should not eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any that they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- Don't go into a stranger's house.
- Don't trick or treat with people you don't know or at homes you don't know.
- Younger children should always be accompanied by an older person.
- If no parent is present, children should always stay in groups.
- With older children, set time limits when children should return home.
- If you can't accompany your child, know the route your child will be taking.
- Ensure that costumes are flame resistant (retardant). Keep costumes short and remind children to stay away from pumpkins with candles in them.
- Remind children to stay away from pets they do not know.
- Remind children of road safety rules.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en and to avoid any homes that have no lights on.

Continuing Education Programs

Learn more about the wide variety of programs offered by the TDSB's Continuing Education Department:

Night School

Night school credit programs such as math, science, Japanese and Spanish are offered by the TDSB in locations across the city. Reach ahead, make up a credit or work towards your high school diploma. Registration for the fall semester is now open. Classes begin the week of October 5, 2015. Visit www.creditprograms.ca for more information.

International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

As the world continues to move towards connectivity, learning languages becomes critically important. Encourage your child's natural curiosity and enroll them in our JK to Grade 8 International Languages and African Heritage program. Registration is now open. Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for more information.

Adult High School

Find a career path and to meet your academic goals every year. Tuition is free. Earn credits faster and gain Canadian work experience. Explore programs in business and technology, social science, mathematics and specialty programs such as accounting, office administration, personal support worker, and more. Visit www.adultschooltoronto.ca for more information.

Learn English with Us

Adults can build literacy and English language skills. Learn about your community and the services available. We offer a wide range of classes from beginner to advanced to help you improve your conversation skills, further your education, and prepare for citizenship and language proficiency tests. Registration is now open. For more information, visit www.ESLtoronto.ca or call 416-338-4300.

Community Programs

Take up a new hobby, learn a language, and meet people in your community. Put your hands to work and decorate and glaze your own pottery or sculpture. Stay active with co-ed basketball, volleyball, tennis and golf. Gain knowledge on how to invest in the stock market or prepare your taxes. Register today at www.learn4life.ca. Registration for winter Learn4Life will begin November 19, 2015.

International K – 12 Students

Over the coming year, the TDSB will welcome 1,700 international students into schools across the city. The majority of international students continue to come from China, followed by South Korea, Vietnam and Japan. This year, students are also coming to the TDSB from Turkey, Western Africa, Latin America and India. We expect our numbers to grow as we increase our recruitment programs. For more information, visit www.studytoronto.ca.

International Adult Students

For the first time in Ontario, TDSB has opened up Adult Day Schools and ESL programs to welcome 30 adult international fee-paying students. We are proud to announce that seamless entry agreements have been signed with two post-secondary institutions and we expect to finalize three more in the coming months. For more information, visit www.tdsbinternational.ca.