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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Ward 5 is looking for a PIAC rep!

Come to the next Ward 5 Forum on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Tumpane Public School, 48 Tumpane Street, North York, ON M3M 1L8.

<http://www.torontopiac.com/index.html>

Purpose of Parent Involvement Committees (PICS)

In 2010 the Ministry of Education amended the [Ontario Regulation 612/00](#), by Ontario Regulation 330/10. This resulted in the creation of Parent Involvement Committees (PICS). For further information on the Regulation please click the above Regulation.

PIAC Mission Statement

To aid access to information and resources for parents, especially that of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and Ontario Ministry of Education, in support of more effective parent engagement in their child's learning to improve student achievement and well-being, and enhance accountability of the education system.

April is Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB

The TDSB is committed to preserving the rich cultures and traditions of those of Hispanic heritage. One way in which the rich artistic culture of Hispanic heritage is celebrated in Toronto is through dance. A recent documentary, *Hearts of Tango*, has been screened in many countries around the world with great reviews and success. This documentary, produced and directed by TDSB teacher Miguel Libedinsky, is about Tango in our city. The film has been screened in the USA, Spain, Japan, Sri Lanka, UK, Romania, Finland, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Germany. Learn more at www.heartssoftango.com.

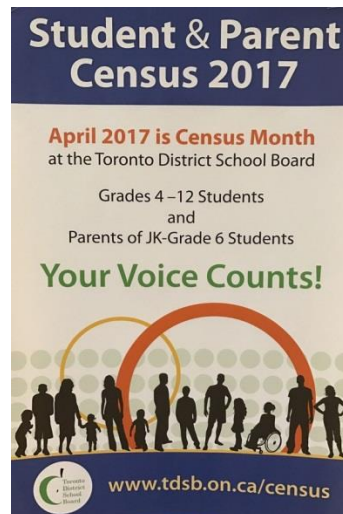
April is Latin-America History Month at the TDSB

Across the TDSB, we have over 5,000 students and more than 21 countries from Latin-America that will be represented as we learn about and celebrate the diverse ethnicities, nationalities, cultures and languages of Latin-America. This year, we will elaborate on the concept of Abya Yala, a decolonized term from the Kuna Language, which refers to the geographical region of Latin-America as Indigenous Land as explored through the Indigenous Prophecy of the Eagle and Condor. This diversity is not easily accessed in mainstream sources of knowledge nor the experiences of students from Latin-America. The TDSB is leading the equity work in transforming schools to equitable spaces where images, words and actions alike uplift students and families of Latin-America! [Learn more.](#)

April is Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB

On March 22, 2016, Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month, making TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so, and matching recognition by the Province of Ontario in 2013.

As Canada marks its 150th anniversary, it is a time to reflect on both the struggles and accomplishments of the many communities that contribute to Canada's rich cultural mosaic. From being turned away on Canada's shores during the historic Komagata Maru incident in 1914 to the many Canadians, such as Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, who serve the nation today, we must continue to progress. [Learn more.](#)



TDSB Student & Parent Census

April 2017 is Census Month at the TDSB!

We will conduct the third Student and Parent Census, which will include Grade 4-6 students for the first time, along with Grade 7-12 students. Students will complete the Census in class.

Parents of JK-Grade 6 students will also be invited to fill out the Parent Census. Forms will be sent home with students in April 2017.

Your voice counts! Complete the TDSB Census and make sure your voice is heard.

Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/census.

Continuing Education - Adult High School

Find a career path and meet your educational goals every year. New semester begins April 25, 2017. Tuition is free. Earn credits in nine weeks and gain Canadian work experience. Discover programs in business & technology, social science, mathematics and specialty programs such as accounting, office administration, Personal Support Worker (PSW), and more.

Visit www.adultschoolstoronto.ca for more information. [@TDSB_ConEd](#)

Be Safe Around Bodies of Water During Outdoor Play this Spring

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. Spending time outdoors keeps students physically fit, helps them stay alert in the classroom, increases positive emotions and provides unique learning and play experiences.

With the arrival of spring, it is also important for parents and students to exercise caution when they are spending time outside near bodies of water.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority monitor hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation.

As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning. During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high.

Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. Parents and caregivers are being asked to keep children away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.

Elementary Summer School

Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. This summer, from July 5 – 28, we are opening schools across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/summer for a complete list of participating schools. [@TDSB_ConEd](#)

Anne Frank exhibit coming to John Polanyi CI

With tremendous pride, the TDSB is pleased to announce that in May (Jewish Heritage Month) the board will host "Anne Frank- A History for Today" from Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. The exhibit will be housed at John Polanyi CI, conveniently located close to the Eglinton West subway station. The exhibit tells the moving story of teen diarist, humanist, and Holocaust victim Anne Frank, using images from the Frank family and quotations from the diary. Thanks to Heather Reisman and Indigo Love of Reading, all students visiting in school groups will receive a free copy of Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl. Schools are encourage to book early for this extraordinary exhibit. All schools have been sent booking information.

The exhibit is open to the public for free for two days:

When: Sunday May 7, and Sunday May 28 2017 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: John Polanyi CI, 640 Lawrence Avenue West (school library)



Anne
Frank_Exhibit_Poster

Summer International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

Register your child in TDSB's half and full day international languages summer programs. Open to all students from SK to Grade 8, our language learning programs involve cultural activities like games, songs, dance, storytelling, traditional crafts and writing. Classes begin July 4 – 28.

Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for a complete list of participating schools and language classes.
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