



Trustee  
**Chris Tonks**

Ward 6, York South-Weston



## Ward 6 October 2018 Newsletter

### New Ward Boundaries

On Dec. 1, 2018, new ward boundaries will come into effect for the Toronto District School Board.

These changes are a result of the Government of Ontario's decision to reduce Toronto City Council from 47 to 25 councilors and realign the City of Toronto's ward electoral boundaries to reflect provincial electoral ridings. By law, the TDSB is required to align its ward electoral boundaries with the City's.

To view the new map and to see which schools will belong to each ward, please visit [New Ward Boundaries](#) on [tdsb.on.ca](http://tdsb.on.ca).

### 2018 Municipal Election

The next municipal election will be held on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018. This includes election for the office of school board trustee. For more information, including key dates and resources, visit the TDSB webpage: [Municipal Election 2018](#).

### TDSB Launches Health & Physical Education Parent Guide

The Toronto District School Board has launched a [guide](#) to help parents and guardians better understand the Ministry of Education's 2010 re-issued Health and Physical Education Curriculum (HPEC).

The guide includes helpful information regarding the 2010 re-issued HPEC (Grades 1-8) including grade-by-grade highlights of what's being taught, comparisons to the previous curriculum and Questions and Answers.

For more information, read the full [news release](#).

## **Director of Education Letter to Teaching Staff Re: Health & Physical Education**

The Director of Education, John Malloy, issued a letter to all teaching staff at the Toronto District School Board with regards to the re-issued Health and Physical Education curriculum in the Province of Ontario.

The full letter is available [online](#).

## **TDSB Committed to Helping Increase Road Safety**

It's back to school time again and the Toronto District School Board is reminding drivers to be alert and slow down in school zones. In recent years, the Board has been working with community partners, including the City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health and Toronto Police Service to increase road safety for children and youth.

Read the full [news release](#).

[Learn more](#) about road safety and active transportation at the TDSB

## **October is Islamic Heritage Month**

The Government of Canada first established October as *Islamic History Month* (IHM) in 2007, recognizing, "the important contributions of Canadian Muslims to Canadian society, the cultural diversity of the Canadian Muslim community, and the importance of Canadians learning about each other to foster greater social cohesion."

This year, the TDSB's theme for IHM 2018 is, "Our Journey Continues..." We encourage all members of the TDSB community to join us in continuing to learn about the heritage and history, culture and ongoing contributions of our Muslim fellow-Canadians. A variety of IHM 2018 events and learning activities are planned throughout the month of October for students and staff across TDSB.

Please join us for a *free* screening of the CBC documentary [14 & Muslim](#), followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers. This special Islamic Heritage Month presentation will take place on Monday, 15 October 2018 at 7:00 pm, at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street West, Toronto. Please visit [www.14andmuslim.com](http://www.14andmuslim.com) to learn more about the film and watch the trailer. On-line registration is available on [Eventbrite](#), but space is limited, so please be sure to register early.

See the TDSB [IHM 2018 Resource Guidebook](#) and [IHM 2018 Poster](#).

Follow [@TDSB\\_IHM](#) on Twitter throughout October for the latest *IHM 2018* event information and photos.

## **October is Somali Heritage Month**

Somali Heritage Month is recognized at the TDSB in October. At the Regular Board meeting held on June 22, 2016, the TDSB Board of Trustees resolved that the month of October in each year, be declared as Somali Heritage Month. The TDSB affirms our commitment to celebrating Somali Heritage Month, and encourages students and staff to take this opportunity to learn about the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community.

The theme, "Educate Elevate Excel." from last year was selected one again, and activities organized were prepared in order to continue building on the foundation that what was created last year.

## **Safe Arrival Program: Reminder to Call Your School if Your Child Will Be Late or Absent**

One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed.

To learn more about this system and how it works, please visit the [Safe Arrival Program](#) webpage.

## **Halloween Safety Tips**

Hallowe'en provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties. Halloween is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Hallowe'en is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security.

If parents are concerned about trick or treating, here are some basic safety rules to follow:

- Children should NEVER eat any treats until parents have had a chance to go through them and inspect them. Parents should look for tampering of packages and discard any they believe to be unsafe or unknown.
- Have your child carry a flashlight.
- NEVER go into a stranger's house.
- NEVER trick or treat with people you do not know.
- Trick or treat only at homes you know.
- Children should always stay in groups if no parent is present.

- Younger children should ALWAYS be accompanied by an older person.
- Accompany your child when trick or treating.
- If you cannot accompany your child then know the route your child will take.
- Flame resistant (retardant) costumes are in order. 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. Cross only at corners. Do not criss-cross the road. Go up one side of the road and down the other side. Never cross between parked cars. Walk facing on-coming traffic if there is no sidewalk
- If adults are driving their children, drive slowly, with lights on and be cautious when pulling to the side of the road.
- Children should wear their own shoes when trick or treating. Wearing costume shoes/boots can be dangerous and uncomfortable.
- Remind children that not everyone celebrates Hallowe'en, and to avoid any homes that have no lights on. Also remind children not to run through neighbours yards or gardens.
- With older children, be sure to know what other events (such as parties) they plan on attending.
- Set time limits when children should return home.

## **Keeping Kids Safe**

Drivers are reminded to do their part to keep children safe near school buses.

Drivers should follow these tips:

- Stop and never pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing.
- Leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours.
- Always obey the rules of the road and watch for children, especially in school zones.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings.

Parents can also help keep their children safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings when they are on or near school buses.

## **High School Information Nights**

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a high school, TDSB schools host information nights for parents and grade 8 students each year between October and January. Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. The dates and times for all High School Information Nights are available online at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Open-Houses-and-Information-Nights>.

## **Continuing Education – Credit Programs**

The Continuing Education Department is offering a Saturday credit program in several international languages for current high school students. Classes run 3.25 hours a week on Saturdays beginning October 20 to June 15, 2019, depending on sufficient enrollment numbers. A minimum of 25 students are needed to run a course. Registration is now open. To view a list of locations and courses offered, please visit [www.creditprograms.ca](http://www.creditprograms.ca).

## **Early French Immersion Program Application Deadline**

The application process for the [Early French Immersion program](#) opens on Oct. 29 and the deadline is Nov. 26. Applications are made the year a child is in Junior Kindergarten (or is of Junior Kindergarten age) for entry in Senior Kindergarten. It is an entirely online process. For further information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and dates for Information Evenings, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french).

## **Follow the TDSB on Social Media**

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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Facebook

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