



**Weekly Update – April 19, 2015**  
**Items of Interest**

As you may be aware, labour disruptions are currently impacting other school boards across the Greater Toronto Area. Please note that TDSB schools are not affected by these disruptions and all schools continue to operate as normal. The TDSB will provide updates specific to our board when necessary. Check the website [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

**Administrative Professionals Week- April 19-25**

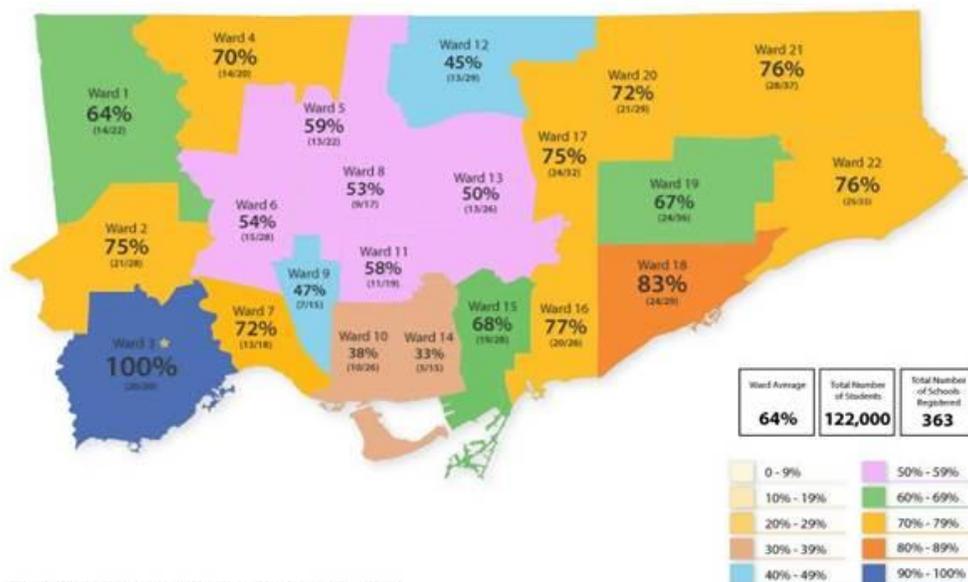
During this time, we recognize and celebrate the work of more than 1,000 administrative professionals – our front-line staff – who are the face of our organization. Each day, they welcome thousands of visitors into our schools and buildings, greeting individuals helpfully and respectfully. The quality service they provide shapes how people see us as an organization, but also sets an example to our students of professionalism, trust and respect.

**Clean Toronto**

Congratulations to the 363 schools and 122,000 students (and probably more!) across the Board who participated in helping to clean our city's green spaces by picking up litter in their school yard or neighbourhood park. I know more of you have planned activities during this **Earth Week**.



**CLEAN TORONTO TOGETHER**  
Registration by Ward (%)\* as of April 15th, 2015



I really am proud of so many schools in the Ward who participate in the EcoSchools program.

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: [www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin)



### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide**

I was proud to march with Trustee Gerri Gershon and Chair Shaun Chen representing the Toronto District School Board at the historic **Unity March against Genocide, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide**. I was proud when Premier Kathleen Wynne specifically mentioned the role of trustees in educating students about Genocide awareness. On the occasion of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, the Corning Centre has published two new resources and accompanying activities for educators. As we enter April, known widely as Genocide Awareness Month and the month during which the Armenian Genocide is officially commemorated (April 24), these resources will assist educators in teaching this history in their classrooms. [Click here to read more](#).

**Resource 1:** [Historical Thinking Concepts: The Georgetown Armenian Boys](#)

**Resource 2:** [Canada and the Armenian Genocide](#)

### **Grade 9 De-Streaming**

Last week **People for Education** released a new report “calling for the elimination of streaming in grade 9. The report points to extensive findings which suggest that dividing students between applied and academic courses early in high school contributes to lower achievement for many Ontario students.” To read a synopsis of the report and the press release, [click here](#). To read the report, [click here](#).

**What is the TDSB doing?** The Director has confirmed “the Toronto District School Board has a strong commitment to identifying disadvantage and intervening effectively. The Years of Action sets “Student Achievement and Well-being” as a priority. Specifically, the Board Improvement Plan addresses “Improved student achievement, student well-being, and equity of opportunity and outcomes”. Ministry [PPM 119](#) with its emphasis on identifying and removing any barriers to student learning, as well as the Ministry of Education’s [Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy](#) and its focus on narrowing and working toward the elimination of the Opportunity Gap, provide the policy context.

Conversations have occurred over many years regarding the levels of study which exist within the Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines and the extent to which student outcomes vary depending on enrollment in Academic, Applied or Essential level courses. Board data clearly indicates that there has been a disproportionate number of racialized, low income, and other marginalized students enrolled in programs at the applied and essential levels. To begin to address this systemic reality, staff from Equity and Inclusive Schools have worked collaboratively with the Student Success and Guidance Departments to examine potential next steps in addressing this issue. This work involves courageous conversations and action regarding structural barriers that exist within our model of schooling and our role as leaders in education to disrupt a status quo of inequity. To date professional learning communities (PLCs) have been established to examine the processes by which TDSB students may be “sifted, sorted and selected” into various course types and how we are going to respond to the opportunity gaps and work toward creating more equitable and inclusive schools for all students.”

### **Reminder – Consultations on the Toronto District School Board**

“We want to hear your ideas and input on ways to improve the governance structure at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)”... as so it begins... again. Individuals can attend public sessions or share their thoughts online. For more information, please click <http://consultationsontdsb.ca/consultations-on-tdsb>.



### Fix Our Schools Update

Fix Our Schools is a parent-led campaign focused on ensuring all TDSB students attend school in safe, well-maintained buildings. They have concerns that the TDSB Governance Panel, launching its consultations today, is simply a distraction from the more urgent issue of funding and that this panel will not address the issues that really matter to parents such as the \$3.3-billion repair backlog, potential schools closures, cuts to special education, and overcrowding at 146 TDSB schools. You can see the latest newsletter sent by Fix Our Schools here: [TDSB students don't need an advisory panel](#) and can join their mailing list here: [www.fixourschools.ca/joinus/](http://www.fixourschools.ca/joinus/)

### TDSB SuperCouncil

Students are the *raison d'être* of our existence! Each year students from across the Board elect a new group of highly dedicated students to the TDSB SuperCouncil. This year's elections will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> – students will elect the Student Trustees and Super Council Executive who will serve as the voice for TDSB students for the upcoming year school. The audience will be comprised of delegates in grades 6-12 across our District. Congratulations to all who served on this year's Executive – thank you for ensuring your voice is heard. For your information, SuperCouncil has put together a **“Mental Health and Well-Being Summit – Taking Action Together”** for students in Grade 7 & 8 on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Commerce.

The Summit will:

- Increase Grade 7 & 8 student engagement and awareness of supporting mental health and well-being in schools
- Provide a base of knowledge from which Grade 7 & 8 student teams will be equipped to develop initiatives within their own school
- Provide an opportunity for high school students to develop leadership skills supporting mental health and well-being with Grade 7 & 8 students

Congratulations to all our students who actively work to raise awareness to “Stop the Stigma” every day in our schools supported by dedicated leaders, teachers and education workers.

### New Invitations

- **Ward 21 Community Environment Day taking place next Sunday April 26th from 10am until 2pm at Artscape Wychwood Barns along Wychwood Ave.** Come out and enjoy Environment Day and connect with the community after this very cold winter. It is time for some spring cleaning! You can drop off household hazardous waste, used clothing, used electronics, and a variety of other items for proper disposal or reuse. View the full flyer [here](#). Do you have a green thumb? Come and pick up free compost!
- **Mental Health and the School Environment Tuesday April 28th from 7 – 9 PM in the McMurrich School Library (115 Winona Drive)**  
Please join us as we welcome Debra MacRae, Psychotherapist. Ms. MacRae currently practices child, adolescent and adult psychotherapy in London and Toronto. She is a qualified expert in child development. She is a clinical member of The Canadian Association of Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists, and serves as a Board Member for The Canadian Institute for Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Therapists. Refreshments and Complimentary Childcare will be provided
- **Jane's Walk of Oakwood CI...** a chance to share the rich history of the school and its role in the community <http://janewalk.org/canada/toronto/school-gave-birth-community-oakwood-ci/>



- **On May 9, 2015, the first annual Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Symposium, “Parents as Partners – Taking Action Together”** will take place at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The day will feature workshops for parents that will:
  - Increase parent engagement in supporting mental health and well-being of their children
  - Raise awareness regarding mental health issues
  - Provide an opportunity for parents to gain an understanding of what mental health and well-being supports are available within the TDSB and the communityTo register please [click here](#) or visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth).

### Upcoming Events

- **Humewood – Supporting Your Child Series - 15 Cherrywood Ave - Talking with Your Teen, April 23, 6:00pm, presented by Toronto Public Health**  
The Humewood community has invited parents in WR08 to join them for a series of info meetings: Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/nV26n95oc5> Child minding available upon request. Please email [Barbara.Sandler@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Barbara.Sandler@tdsb.on.ca) to register for child minding.
- **Model Schools for Inner Cities 2015 Parent Academy Conference - By Parents for Parents – Education, Empowerment and Employment; West – Saturday, April 25** at Thisletown CI 10:00-2:30 - Both locations will offer light breakfast, lunch, transportation, child-minding, interpreters. To register click on <https://surveys.tdsb.on.ca/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/887835/lang/en>
- **FHCI School Council: Please join us for our 2015 Educational Evening on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 pm** in the school library, featuring the distinguished Dr. Stuart Shanker, speaking on: “Help! My Teen is Stressed -- Innovative Ways to Help De-Stress Your Teenager”. Please RSVP to [fhschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fhschoolcouncil@gmail.com).
- **Registration is now open for the 2015 TDSB Healthy Schools 5k Run/Walk Saturday May 23, 2015, Downsview Park** –Register at [www.tdsb.on.ca/5k](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/5k)
- **E-Summer School** provides flexibility by being available 24/7 to fit students’ schedules. Get the details at: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/eLearning> and check out this video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftk7oRjdbI>
- **Legislative Page Program – Apply before June 15** The program is open to students who are in Grade 7 or 8, have very good grades (80% or higher), are involved with their school or in their community, have an interest in current events and get along well with other students and adults E-mail: [page\\_program@ontla.ola.org](mailto:page_program@ontla.ola.org).

### Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

- **May 21 – Topic TBC**

### Board & Committee Meetings

- FSLAC, April 21, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Human Resources & Professional Learning Committee, April 22, 2015, 5 p.m.
- Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee, April 23, 2015, 9 a.m.
- Equity Policy Advisory Committee, April 23, 2015, 6 p.m.
- Program & School Services Committee, April 29, 2015, 5 p.m.



### 2014-2015 School Year Calendar

TDSB's school year calendars are on Google Calendar (add to yours!).

Elementary: <http://t.co/SRsxJzPYgL> + Secondary: <http://t.co/s1sWVP0naB>

Victoria Day May 18, 2015

Elementary School PA Day June 5, 2015

Secondary School PA Day June 24\*, 25, 2015

Board-wide PA Day June 26, 2015

\* High School Semester Change: The first day of second semester is 30 January 2015. The seven days noted for secondary school include a PA day only for semestered schools on 29 January 2015 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on 24 June 2015.

Before scheduling events, please check the TDSB Days of Significance Calendar

[2014 - 2015 Days of Significance](#)

### School Year 2015-2016 Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)

Labour Day: September 7, 2015

First Day of School: September 8, 2015

Thanksgiving: October 12, 2015

Christmas Break: December 21, 2015 – January 1, 2016

Family Day: February 15, 2016

Mid-Winter Break: March 14-18, 2016

Good Friday: March 25, 2016

Easter Monday: March 28, 2016

Victoria Day: May 23, 2016

Last Day: June 29, 2016 (Elementary) June 27, 2016 (Secondary)

If you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails, please let me know at [shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca)