

November 16, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin

Twitter @shelleylaskin

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week <http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org/>
November 16-22, 2014 Theme: "Stand Up! (to bullying)"



From the Ministry of Education Website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/prevention.html> Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 16-22, 2014 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being. Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Please click on these Fact Sheet I have on my website for more information. [Bullying - Understanding the Problem](#) and [Cyber Bullying](#).

Suspension/Expulsion Data Re: “Weapons” and “Drugs”

This past week, you might have seen or read media reports focused on the release of suspension/expulsion data obtained under FOI with regards to “weapons” and “drugs. It’s important to note that “weapon” is defined as any object that is used to threaten, intimidate or injure a person. Although the numbers have gone up, many administrators feel the actual incidents really haven’t... the difference is that the numbers are indicative of students feeling comfortable to come forward and report concerns/incidents to staff and knowing that staff takes the safety and security of all students seriously. And although incidents occur, according to recent student census the overwhelming majority of students feel they feel safe in school. That said, the data does show challenges remain to be understand. We are hoping to learn more about how we can improve school safety when the Steering Team, established following the stabbing death of North Albion Collegiate Institute student Hamid Aminzada reports. An interim report will be presented to the 26 November 2014 Board and a final report by March 2015.

Toronto Parent Summit (from Councillor Josh Matlow’s Newsletter)

Toronto Children's Services will once again be hosting a Parent Summit- an opportunity for families to learn more about City services available to them, express their issues and concerns and provide feedback on how we can improve Toronto's child care system. The summit will take place Wednesday, November 19 at the City Hall Rotunda, 100 Queen St. W. There will be an information fair from 4-6 pm, followed by the consultation session from 6:30-8:30 pm. Representatives from Toronto Children's Services, Toronto Public Libraries and Toronto Public Health will all be on hand to talk to parents about programs and services available to them and their children. Parents can register online [here](#) or by calling 311 by Tuesday, Nov 18.

Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting

@Bullying_org: @ONTSpecialNeeds @Lorimeyermj Pls RT: 12th annual #Bullying Awareness Week will take place Nov. 16-22. See <http://t.co/N9TqBhnC4r> #BAW2014

@MEHRIT_Centre: Have you seen our CEO [Dr.@StuartShanker's](#) @TEDTalks video on self-regulation & learning? Watch here: <http://t.co/TfBnj204bA>

@edutopia: 10 helpful tips. MT @thenerdyteacher: How To YouTube Your Classroom: <http://t.co/QmyNBCITex>. #edvid <http://t.co/1rbUP24Acr>

@OttawaCSPA: [.@PeopleforEd](#) Measuring What Matters: Social Emotional Skills research paper by @StuartShanker <http://t.co/9kcO4eRc9n> @jacquistrachan #onted

@louisebrownstar Meet Ryan Storm; food activist, blogger, Twitter star, fearless critic of Big Sugar - and he turned 14 this week on.thestar.com/1H0LFsK

In the News

[Cheers for Rocco Fama](#)

CBC (November 13)

Summary: The entire Winona and McMurrich school communities gathered to honour almost 90-year-old Rocco Fama, aka “Rocky”, a fixture and legend in the community for almost 30 years. In 1985 Rocky and his wife, Doreen Fama, bought a pizza and convenience store directly across the street from both schools and have been serving the community ever since. Rocky employs our students at Winona, donates to McMurrich and Winona charity events such as Terry Fox, and keeps an eye out for our students while they are on lunch or after school. Rocky closed his doors last week and is moving on but the students and staff would like to honour his commitment to the community.

[Students salute Rocky the neighbourhood hero](#)

CTV (November 13)

[Student raises concerns about sugar association’s presentation at school](#)

Global (November 12)

Summary: A teenager at a Toronto high school says he was told by a group of presenters talking sugar at his school Monday that he couldn’t ask any more questions about the product. Ryan Storm, a 13-year-old student at Northern Secondary School, wrote in his blog that he attended a presentation by the Canadian Sugar Institute intended to talk about how sugar can be part of a healthy diet. He began asking questions about the dangers of sugars, and the studies which backed up their claims.

Worth Repeating

High School Information Nights

Parents are encouraged to attend their home school’s Grade 8 Information Evening as well as the Information Evening at other schools you are interested in. The information evenings are listed on the TDSB website. Click on [Open Houses and Information Nights](#).

Early French Immersion (SK entry)

Deadline for applications for this program is December 5th, 2014. Click

[https://secure.tdsb.on.ca/pars/\(S\(xvaj3t45nwodmm55vkb0ct45\)\)/public/welcome.aspx](https://secure.tdsb.on.ca/pars/(S(xvaj3t45nwodmm55vkb0ct45))/public/welcome.aspx)

For a complete list of Information Evenings, please click on:

<http://tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SchoolChoices/FrenchPrograms/InformationEvenings.aspx>

Note - The application period for Junior Extended French or Middle Immersion (Grade 4 Entry) is between January 5th and January 29th, 2015.

Events of Interest

Parent Evenings organized by the WR08 Community, Culture and Care Committee

- **Kids Have Stress Too** Public Health through Con-Ed
Davisville JPS on Thursday, November 20, 2014, 6:30-9:30 pm

▪ **Mental Health Parent Information Night**

Northern SS on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at 7:00 pm

TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Tue, Nov 18	5pm	Brockton	Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee
	6:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)
Wed, Nov 19	4:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Administration, Finance & Accountability Committee
Thu, Nov 20	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Equity Policy Advisory Committee
	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Inner City Advisory Committee
Fri, Nov 21	10:15am	5050 Yonge St	Early Years Advisory Committee
Mon, Nov 24	4pm	5050 Yonge St	Student Nutrition Advisory Committee
Tue, Nov 25	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee AGM
Wed, Nov 26	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Regular Board Meeting (Last of Current Term 2010-2014)
Mon, Dec 1	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Organizational Meeting (First of New Term 2014-2018)
Mon, Dec 8	4:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Audit Committee
	7pm	5050 Yonge St	SEAC
Wed, Dec 10	6:30	5050 Yonge St	PIAC
Thu, Dec 11	9am	5050 Yonge St	Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee
	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Equity Policy Advisory Committee
Tue, Dec 16	9:30am	5050 Yonge St	Inner City Advisory Committee
Wed, Dec 17	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Regular Meeting

Dates to Remember

2014-2015 School Year Calendar

TDSB's school year calendars are on Google Calendar (add to yours!). Elementary: <http://t.co/SRxsJzPYgL>

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

Board-wide PA Day	December 5, 2014
Christmas Break	December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015 (inclusive)
Last day of school	December 19, 2014
School resumes	January 5, 2015
Elementary PA Day	January 23, 2015
Secondary PA Day	(Semestered Schools only) January 29, 2015
Board-wide PA Day	February 13, 2015
Family Day	February 16, 2015
March Break	March 16 to 20, 2015
Good Friday	April 3, 2015
Easter Monday	April 6, 2015
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](#)

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