

November 2, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin

Twitter @shelleylaskin

Ward Forums, PIAC and FSLAC Reps

With the election over, plans for future Ward Forums are underway – I hope to announce the dates as soon – One of the first orders of business will be to confirm our Ward Representatives for the [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee](#) and the [French as a Second Language Advisory Committee](#). Please click on the links to find out more and please let me know should you be interested in representing our Ward.

November is Aboriginal Education Month (from the TDSB website)

November is Aboriginal Education Month at the TDSB. This year's theme is "Aboriginal Presence in the War of 1812." Throughout the month of November, the Aboriginal Education team will be hosting and presenting various events throughout the system. "By commemorating Aboriginal Education Month, we respect the enduring place that First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples hold in contemporary Canadian society." For information on celebrations, click on

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/AboriginalEducation/AboriginalEducationCelebrations.aspx>

Information from OPSBA on Revised Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum

On October 30, the Ministry of Education announced that they will be moving forward with parent consultations around the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum, following through on their commitment to further engage with parents on this topic. Highlights from the news release pasted below. Below is a high-level timeline that lays out how the curriculum will be finalized and released.

- November 2014:
 - Online survey to a parent representative at each elementary schools (~4,000)
 - In person sessions with parent organizations from our partnership table (P4E, OAPCE, Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, Parents partenaires en éducation) and students
- December 2014 – January 2015: Curriculum content finalization
- February 2015: Curriculum release
- February-August 2015: Training, resource development
- September 2015: Curriculum implementation

Quick Facts

- The Growth and Development section of the elementary Health and Physical Education curriculum has not been updated since 1998 – before the widespread use of social media and smartphones.
- This current round of consultations builds on the earlier consultations and focus groups with students, teachers, parents, faculties of education, universities and colleges, as well as other organizations and stakeholders. More than 70 health-related organizations submitted reports for consideration and more than 2,400 people provided feedback on the draft curriculum.
- Studies have shown that girls as young as 7 and 8 years old are entering puberty, which is significantly earlier than in previous generations.
- The World Health Organization has found that providing kids with comprehensive sexual health information helps prevent early sexual activity and negative health outcomes.

Learn More

- [Background Information for Parents](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada's [Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education](#).
- [Achieving Excellence: Ontario's Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario](#).

NTCI Wellness Committee:

I am very proud of our secondary schools who all offer training opportunities for students to become leaders in wellness activities in support of other students, supported by staff. This week I am highlighting North Toronto Collegiate's training that over the next week provides students with the following topics/initiatives:

- Create Your Own Beliefs / Create Your Own Future
- You Are the Most Important Person in Your World - Self Esteem & Self Worth
- Emotions: Express Don't Suppress / Overcoming Fear
- Understanding Perspective
- Special Guest workshops on yoga and movement
- Brainstorming wellness initiatives for the upcoming year
- An opportunity to mentor students at Deer Park & Hodgson around wellness

This training, supported by a grant from the Youth Advisory Board of State Farm, is free and open to all NTCI students in any grade. Should you wish me to highlight something at one of your schools, please send it to me!

WR08 EcoSchools – Proud! www.ecoschools.ca

EcoSchools is a school greening program with a very broad scope. It addresses what is taught, how we run our schools and how we design and use our schools grounds. Its central focus is supporting students and staff in caring for and protecting the environment where they spend so many hours every week. EcoSchools asks us to examine the decisions we make in our schools, inside and out — from modifying practices in our classrooms, offices, and boiler rooms to designing the school ground as a place for healthy, enriched learning. 10 schools our Ward were certified last year as bronze, silver, gold or platinum EcoSchools. In this program, schools not only have to apply or re-apply each year, but they are also audited before receiving their certification level. In total the TDSB has certified 379 sites inclusive of schools, Outdoor Education Centres and Administration Centres in 2013-14, up from 188 the year before during the work to rule. All certified EcoSchools have shown leadership and good environmental responsibility. The kick-off to this year's program was held at Cedarvale School this past week with a 2½ hour working session designed to help get off to a good start.

About #HEW2014, November 2-9, 2014

From the website – “**Holocaust Education Week** 2014 explores the distinct ways in which individuals, groups and governments collaborated during the Shoah. This inclusive program will address many forms of collaboration: from the experiences of those who purposely chose to collaborate with the Nazis in genocide and crimes against humanity—precipitating events such as Kristallnacht and the Hungarian deportations—to those who defied the Nazis and collaborated instead in resistance and even rescue, as in the Kindertransport, and by those now designated as Righteous Among the Nations.” There are a number of events daily – click <http://www.holocaustcentre.com/HEW/General-Information> for details.

Northern is hosting a program on Monday, November 3, 2014, 7:30pm – The “T4” Program

“In the interwar period, Austria had several schools for deaf students and Vienna had a vibrant deaf community where Jews and non-Jews mixed freely. The rise of National Socialism and the Anschluss of Austria, however, created perilous times for deaf people and people with disabilities as the Nazis attempted to implement their “racial hygiene” theories that led to the murder of mentally and physically handicapped individuals, including those with deafness. In conversation with Dr. Carson Phillips, Educator-in-Residence Martin Hagmayr delves into the history and the legacy of Hartheim Castle as one of the six Nazi killing centres of the T4 “Euthanasia” program. Particular attention is paid to its role today as an educational forum for students, teachers and the general public. This program will be spoken, with American Sign Language interpretation provided.”

Ontario Special Needs Road Map

This is a wonderful resource... and their tweets are even better! Follow them @ONTSpecialNeeds

“The creators of the roadmap for the Ontario Special Needs Roadmap for school are two special needs parents from Ottawa with young children attending local elementary schools. Our children both have Autism

Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We have been work colleagues for 12 years and this relationship has developed into working together to help empower other special needs parents through knowledge.” For more information, click on <http://www.specialneedsroadmaps.ca/>

Wrap-up to Skilled Trades Month – First Ever Skilled Trades and Technologies Summit

On Monday, November 3rd, more than 800 students in Grades 7-12 will participate in the first-ever Skilled Trades and Technologies Summit at the Ontario Science Centre, a wrap up to Skilled Trades Month in the TDSB. The students will gain an understanding of the apprenticeship/OYAP pathway; identify the relevance of scientific principles, technology, engineering design, and mathematics (STEM) through peer-led interactive activities and from industry and college partners; acquire a greater appreciation for skilled occupations as a viable career pathway; and develop awareness of courses that can assist to prepare for future careers in skilled trades and technologies. Students will meet with industry experts and skilled trades professionals to explore potential career options and see students from technological education programs and OYAP as they demonstrate skills employed in apprenticeable occupations.

For information to prepare for Parent-Teacher Interviews, please click on [Fact Sheet-Parent Teacher Interviews](#)

Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting

@edutopia: A parent's perspective: <http://t.co/oQctKN3Use>. #ptchat <http://t.co/zS0V0X9Yzx>
@jism2272: What parents need to know about Instagram - MediaSmarts <http://t.co/jau927k4dN> via @MediaSmarts @tanyaavrith
@TLPCanada: Please share with all Early Childhood Educators as we celebrate their contributions #ECE Via @JimEarlyYears <http://t.co/OVA3UNqGB9>
@EcoSchoolsTDSB: Year round clean-up schedule-keep the yard clean, build responsibility! #ecochooolsIDEAS @ON_EcoSchools @CedarvaleCS <http://t.co/gCKpqmwTCQ>
@ONTSpecialNeeds: oppositional defiant disorder. Great info graphic to pass on. Knowledge is power. <http://t.co/ofXFfGtKtD>
@TVOParents What do kids need to succeed? Read tips for parents, teachers & principals: <http://tvoparents.tv.org/article/what-do-kids-need-be-successful> Video clips, too! @PeopleforEd #p4e2014

In the News

[Departing Toronto school board drops Confucius deal](#)

Toronto Star (October 30)

Summary: Meeting for one of the last times before half of them are replaced with new trustees, the Toronto District School Board scrapped its controversial Confucius Institute deal Wednesday night, to applause from crowds who came largely to protest the partnership with the Chinese agency. Trustees voted to finally cancel the Chinese-sponsored educational resource centre after postponing its September launch over opposition to China’s human right record.

[TDSB votes to officially cut ties with Confucius Institute](#)

Globe and Mail (October 30)

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)

The Early Immersion Program begins in SK. The application system for Early French Immersion (SK Entry) will open on November 3, 2014. 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)

Information Nights are scheduled as follows:

- Brown PS 454 Avenue Rd 416-393-1560 November 19, 2014 7:00 pm
- Davisville PS 43 Millwood Rd 416-393-0570 November 4, 2014 7:00 pm
- Humewood PS 15 Cherrywood Ave 416-394-2383 November 18, 2014 6:30 pm
- John Fisher PS 40 Erskine Ave 416-393-9325 November 18, 2014 7:00 pm
- Rawlinson CS 231 Glenholme Ave 416-394-3080 November 17, 2014 6:30 pm

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

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

If you would like more information or would like to receive the FSLAC newsletter please email

FSLACtoronto@gmail.com

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

Holocaust Education Week 2014 - 2-9 November

For more information, click on <http://www.holocaustcentre.com/HEW>

People For Education's 18th Annual Conference

Saturday, November 8, 2014, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

This year's Making Connections conference features keynote speaker Paul Tough, the author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*, as well as a range of panels and workshops covering financial literacy, education funding changes, entrepreneurship, community schools, sex ed, and more. Register <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/events-workshops/come-to-our-conference/>

If you are an interested parent but can't afford registration fees, please let me know.

St Paul's Summit – "Supporting Families" on Sunday, November 9, 2014, 2-4pm

With Carolyn Bennett, MP, Eric Hoskins, MPP, Councillor Josh Matlow, Councillor Joe Mihevc, Councillor Josh Colle, TCDSB Chair Jo-Ann Davis and TDSB Trustee Shelley Laskin

Leo Baeck Day School, 501 Arlington Av (N of Vaughan Road)

PIAC Presents: The 8th Annual Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference

Saturday November 15, 2014, 8:30 am at Earl Haig Secondary School

For information visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

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

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|------------|-----|---------------|--|
| Mon, Nov 3 | 7pm | 5050 Yonge St | Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) |
| Tue, Nov 4 | 7pm | 5050 Yonge St | French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) |
| Wed, Nov 5 | 7pm | 5050 Yonge St | Operations & Facilities Management Committee |
| Thu, Nov 6 | 7pm | 5050 Yonge St | Alternative School Advisory Committee |

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| Wed, Nov 12 | 5pm | 5050 Yonge St | Program & School Services Committee |
| | 7pm | 5050 Yonge St | Planning & Priorities Committee |
| Thu, Nov 13 | 9am | 5050 Yonge St | Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee |
| 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/SRsxJzPYgL>

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

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|--------------------------|--|
| Board-wide PA Day | November 14, 2014 |
| 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