

October 5, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin

Twitter @shelleylaskin

World Teachers Day 2014 – Invest in the future; invest in teachers

http://www.worldteachersday.org/map/media/uploads/banner_1407252028.jpg

About World Teachers' Day: why the 5 of October?

In 1994, UNESCO proclaimed 5 October World Teachers' Day, in celebration of the great step made for teachers in 1966 when a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris in cooperation with the ILO adopted the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This recommendation sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and international standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions. It also contains many recommendations for teachers' participation in educational decisions through consultation and negotiation with educational authorities. Since its adoption, the Recommendation has been considered an important set of guidelines to promote teachers' status in the interest of quality education. In addition 5 October celebrates the adoption by the UNESCO General Conference in 1997 of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel.

Why a day for teachers?

World Teachers' Day held annually on 5 October is a UNESCO initiative, a day devoted to appreciating, assessing, and improving the educators of the world. The real point is to provide a time to look at and address issues pertaining to teachers. Strangely one of the most central, vital professionals to society does not receive the respect it deserves in some parts of the world.

Please take the time to thank teachers and all staff who support and inspire our students!

October is Skilled Trades Month

Message from Donna Quan, Director of Education and Associate Directors Lou Vavougiros, Gen Ling Chang & Carla Kisko

Electrician, carpenter and hairstylist are just some of the careers that come to mind when we think of skilled trades. But did you know chef, early childhood educator and help desk are also skilled trades? Skilled trades people, also known as journeypersons, practice in more than 300 occupations in the province of Ontario. This October, we are recognizing the TDSB's inaugural **Skilled Trades Month**. By increasing our awareness of skilled trades, understanding what skills are required, and learning about [opportunities TDSB students have to participate in](#), we help students prepare for post-secondary education and make informed decisions about career options. Opportunities for students include cooperative education, technological education courses, pre-apprenticeship experiences, dual credits and training programs with post-secondary college partners and training centres in multiple industry sectors. Schools are encouraged to highlight the skilled trades and explore how the apprenticeship pathway aligns with classroom learning... students will be able to better reflect on their skills and interests, formulate pathway choices and make solid decisions about the many post-secondary options and career opportunities available in our global economy. [Skilled Trades Month](#) joins International Walk to School Month, [Islamic Heritage Month](#) and [Women's History Month](#), this October.

October is International Walk to School Month

Celebrate International Walk to School Month and challenge your students to actively travel to and from school. Important Dates for International Walk to School Month:

- IWALK Week: October 6-10, 2014
- International Walk to School Day: Wednesday, October 8th
- Winter Walk Day: February 2015

For More Information, Registration, Ideas and Printable Resources, schools are encouraged to go to:

<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/international-walk-school-daymonth>

Students to get new bike racks as TDSB and Toronto Hydro Team Up for Green (from TDSB Media Release)

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited ("Toronto Hydro") and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) joined together today to launch Team Up for Green at James S. Bell Junior Middle Sports and Wellness Academy. The program is designed to help schools across Toronto fundraise for 500 new bike racks by encouraging Toronto Hydro customers to sign up for free green programs and services, such as paperless billing, pre-authorized payment and peaksaver PLUS®. The more friends and families that participate, the more likely Toronto Hydro and TDSB will achieve their goal of 30,000 sign ups. If sign up goals are met, the TDSB will receive funding for its bike rack program, and Toronto Hydro is able to promote its conservation programs, and lower its billing and printings costs... For more information about Team Up For Green, and support Toronto schools by signing up for green programs and services, visit www.teamupforgreen.com.

Quick Facts

- 30,000 sign-ups will result in 500 bike racks purchased and installed in TDSB schools across the city, for a value of \$250,000.
- The TDSB launched its Charter for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation last year, which reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School.
- The Team Up for Green campaign runs from October 1 to December 1, 2014 inclusive.

Parent Participation in Vice-Principal Interviews

Please know that we are looking for parents to participate in the upcoming interviews for vice principal in the TDSB. All information is on the PIAC website, <http://www.torontopiac.com/news.html> and Expressions of Interest will now be accepted until October 10, 2014. This is one great way to increase parental involvement and help parents really understand what administrators do and what teachers have to do to become administrators.

Information from OPSBA (from Policy Working Group and Bd of Directors' Meeting)

- [2014 Mandate letter for Education](#) was released on September 25. This is Premier's instructions to the Minister of Education on priorities for the year. Priorities include:
 - Child Care and Early Years,
 - Implementing the Renewed Vision,
 - Respecting Collective Bargaining,
 - Investing in School Infrastructure, and
 - Developing A Community Hubs Policy.[Click here](#) for other ministry mandate letters. The Legislative Assembly of Ontario will resume on Monday October 20, 2014
- On September 24 – [News Release](#) announcing the appointment of four experts to counsel the Premier and Minister of Education on their renewed vision for education. They are:
 - Dr. Carol Campbell, Associate Professor, Leadership and Educational Change, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.
 - Dr. Jean Clinton, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster, division of child psychiatry
 - Michael Fullan, OC, Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto
 - Dr. Andy Hargreaves, Thomas More Brennan Chair in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College
- **Implementing Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)**

Over the last three years, school boards have been implementing the IASR in areas of information and communications, employment and student transportation, and have engaged in widespread awareness training for staff. Going into 2015, the requirements of the IASR for the broader public sector, including school boards, will focus on information and communications. Effective January 2015, school boards will be required, on request, to “provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and

communication supports for persons with disabilities: in a timely manner that takes into account the person's accessibility needs due to disability, and; at a cost no more than the regular cost charged to other persons. This includes a requirement to consult with the person making the request in determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support, and to notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports." Also by January 2015, school libraries "shall provide, procure or acquire an accessible or conversion ready format of print resources for a person with a disability upon request."

Resources

In the area of these information and communications requirements, the Accessibility Directorate has developed the following resources:

- [How to make information accessible to people with disabilities](#)
 - [Making school library resources and materials accessible](#)
 - With regard to resources to assist with the ongoing training of staff and volunteers, please visit: www.theteachableproject.org
 - [The "How May I Help You?" Customer Service training module](#)
 - www.accessforward.ca
 - [The Ontario Human Rights Code and Accessibility](#)
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- **Poverty Reduction Strategy**

It was reported that the government has released the next phase of its Poverty Reduction Strategy which will continue to have a focus on children and youth. There is an emphasis on mental health, nutrition programs, early learning/child care, and programs that enhance opportunity for Aboriginal youth and youth leaving care. [Click here](#) to see the full report.
 - **Revised Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Protocol**

The Provincial Model for Local Policy/School Protocol is updated every two years. The current proposed revision includes guidelines for developing and maintaining "bomb threat" procedures to assist with greater consistency across the province. A final protocol will be released to school boards this Fall so that they can use it to review their existing protocols with their local police services.
 - **OPSBA Election Year Projects**

OPSBA has developed a number of resources to promote the role of trustee and voter participation in the 2014 Municipal and School Board elections. This work has been done in collaboration with partner associations and with the support of government funding. The resources include an All Candidates Meeting Guide, Public Service Announcements and a dedicated website on the municipal elections. All resources are available for download from [the website](#). Candidates are continuing to provide information about their candidacy for the website by sending it to trusteecandidateinfo@opsba.org.

Resources from "Tweets" you may find interesting

@OPSBA_Official October 5 is World Teachers' Day - a huge thank you to educators across Ontario. We appreciate your contributions every day!

@ETFOnews: One Day...years from now...your child will talk about that teacher they'll never forget...

<http://t.co/UnsV5POiG7> #worldteachersday #ETFO

@michelelocke: Top 15 Things Your Middle School Kid Wishes You Knew <http://t.co/NAfv8ISeOC> via @HuffPostParents

@OttawaCSPA: How to get more parents involved at school? 7 Steps 4 Building an Engaged Community via

@PeopleforEd @jacquistrachan <http://t.co/rrKfFPChE8>

@gerrigershon Great resources for 'International Walk to School Month', Active & Safe Routes to School By [@CanadaWalks](http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/international-walk-school-daymonth) <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/international-walk-school-daymonth> ...

@PeopleforEd Why you should vote for school trustee in the municipal elections:

<http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/P4E-ParentTips-Trustees-2014.pdf> ...

#TOpoli #TDSB #trinspa

@coteau: Great opportunity for grade 7&8 student to join the Legislative Page Program
<http://educationportal.ontla.on.ca/en/page-program/>

In the News

[There's no room for Beijing in Canada's schools](#)

Globe and Mail (September 3) *Editorial*

Summary: The Toronto District School Board is right to have decided against outsourcing Chinese language and culture teaching to the Confucius Institute, an organization under the influence of the Chinese government.

Events of Interest

The 6th Congress of Education: Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics

Saturday November 8, 2014, 9:00 am at Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto District School Board, 35 St. George Street, Toronto Ontario

For information visit the Spanish Speaking Network (SSEN) at: www.SSEN.ca

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/>

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

Dates to Remember

- **Humewood is turning 100 years - and need your help to celebrate** Contact them at Humewoodcentenary@gmail.com **Save the Date – Saturday, October 18, 2014!**

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>

Thanksgiving	October 13, 2014
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