



## Weekly Update – January 4, 2015

### Items of Interest

#### Happy New Year!

“May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art -- write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.”

- Neil Gaiman

#### Ward Forum – January 22, 2014 at Davisville Jr Public School from 7-8:30 – Topic TBC

##### Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

- **March 3 – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter!**
- **May 21 – Topic TBC**

#### What should be on School Trustees Christmas Wish list?

Michael Barrett, President of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association sent this over the holidays... It captures the sentiments for the times...

“At this time of year it is tradition to prepare a Christmas list. I was thinking that as Trustees we should do the same. So my thoughts are as follows... what is on our Christmas list this year?

- First, a can of licorice all sorts. So we may always be forever be reminded that our system is diverse, and every child is welcomed and more importantly, wanted.
- Second, a big picture window. So we may always be reminded that we must always be able to see the broad strategic and community wide view.
- Third, a crystal ball. So we may always have help in being able to be aided in our responsibility of planning for the future in opposition to those who think they know best.
- Fourth, a big anchor. So that we don't lose sight of who we represent and unlike other self-appointed critics of public education that we have a constituency, responsibility and accountability.
- Fifth, a steel rod. So we can attach it to our backbone so we can strengthen our resolve when faced with criticism and anger.
- Sixth, a package of Fisherman's Friend throat lozenges. So we never lose our voice advocating for our students, our children and our community.
- Seventh, a Pearly's Road Map. So we never lose our way, so we can navigate the system and we know where we are going.
- Eighth, a new teensy, tiny leather change purse. So we can guard the few farthings that are given to us to incent and encourage us.
- Ninth, a copy of Alistair Simms's Christmas Carol (the non-colourized version) so we remember the past, know today, fear the future and never lose the spirit of Education and how to live it to its fullest.
- Tenth, a package of Fairy Dust. So that we can always continue to create magic for our children. And perhaps if there is a little left over we can spread a few sprinkles on ourselves to help us when we are vilified, disrespected, ignored and taken for granted.



- Eleventh, a yellow brick road. So that we conquer our fears, are grounded to our homes, seek higher learning and always look for our hearts.
- Lastly, a mirror. So we can insure that we are always reminded that as individuals we are public servants, that our egos are not the priority, that our service should be for others and not of ourselves and that we reflect our communities and our voices should always be respectful.”

### **Optional Attendance (from the TDSB Website)**

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The "[Find Your School](#)" section of the website identifies the designated schools for each residential address. Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the [Optional Attendance Policy](#) and the [Optional Attendance Operational Procedure](#).

Each year in January, schools are classified as **limited** or **closed** to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year. A school classified as **limited** can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program. A school classified as **closed** cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted. **Please note that the optional attendance status is updated every January for admission in September. Please confirm if a limited school has space available by calling the school directly.**

### **Application for Secondary School Program**

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=177>

**(a) Applications must be received by Friday, 30 January 2015.**

(b) A lottery, if necessary, will be held the first week in February 2015.

(c) Parents/guardians or students 18 years of age or older will be informed of acceptance or non-acceptance prior to Friday, 13 February 2015.

(d) Parents/guardians or students 18 years of age or older must confirm the offer of admission by completing a course selection sheet by Friday, 27 February 2015.

(e) No student will be admitted into a junior high level for grade 9 and at all secondary grade levels through optional attendance after Friday, 27 February 2015 unless the student does not have a timetable at another school.

### **Application for Elementary School Program**

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=177>

**(a) Applications must be received by Friday, 13 February 2015.**

(b) A lottery, if necessary, will be held the last week in February 2015.

(c) Parents/guardians will be informed of acceptance or non-acceptance prior to March Break and no later than Thursday, March 5, 2015.

(d) Parents/guardians must inform the requested school of their acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, April 7, 2015.



(e) No student will be admitted into an elementary program through optional attendance after Friday, May 1, 2015 unless the student does not have a timetable at another school.

**Note:**

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to deliver this application to the school or schools of choice.
- Priority of placement in the requested school will be based on a lottery if applications exceed the space available at the requested school.
- If admitted, a student is expected to continue at the requested school until graduation.

**Grade 4 and Grade 7 Extended French Programs**

Applications to the Junior Extended French program are made the year your child is in Grade 3 for entry in September of Grade 4. It is an entirely online process. **The extended application process opens – January 5, 2015 and closes – January 29, 2015. Note: Registration is for entry in September 2015.**

Applications are done on [PARS](#) (on-line) – except for Grade 7 Extended which is a paper process as in the past. Information night and information is posted on the TDSB French Programs [page](#).

**Extended Grade 4 Information Evenings**

- Eglinton Jr PS 223 Eglinton Ave E, 416 393-9315 January 14, 2015 7:00 pm
- Forest Hill Jr & Sr PS 78 Dunloe Rd, 416-393-9335 January 21, 2015 7:00 pm
- Rawlinson CS 231 Glenholme Ave 416-394-3080 January 26, 2015 6:30 pm

**Extended Grade 7 Information Evenings**

- Glenview Sr PS 401 Rosewell Ave 416-393-9390 January 27, 2015 6:30 pm
- JR Wilcox Community School 231 Ava Rd 416-394-2388 January 22, 2015 6:30 pm
- Winona Drive Sr PS 101 Winona Dr. 416-393-1680 January 15, 2015 6:00 pm

**People for Education – [two new papers](#) to add to *Measuring What Matters* initiative**

**Why citizenship education matters**

In the 1970's and 80's, the vast majority (more than 80%) of 18 to 24-year-olds voted in federal elections. In 2011, only 39% voted. In a [new paper](#), University of New Brunswick professor Alan Sears argues that the "weak and fragmented" state of citizenship education in our schools may be one of the reasons for the plummeting voter rate. He says that developing clearer goals and success measures for citizenship education would help to turn around growing citizen disengagement among young people. Citizenship is one of five new domains that People for Education is proposing should be added to broader goals and measures for our public schools. [To read the paper and join the conversation, click here.](#)

**Strong school health programs = Long term success**

A [new paper](#) from Bruce Ferguson (Sick Kids) and Keith Power (Memorial University) shows that strong mental and physical health programs in schools have broad and long-lasting individual, social and economic impacts. But they say that despite the evidence, comprehensive school health programs are rarely implemented and are often squeezed out by other priorities. Ferguson and Powers review a wide range of programs and measurement tools and their findings provide strong support for broader measures of success that include physical and mental health. [To read the paper, click here.](#)

**Resources from "Tweets" you may find interesting**

@ONTSpecialNeeds: 6 Ways to Build Parent-Teacher Partnerships. #OntEd <http://t.co/aVAwflZ215>  
<https://twitter.com/ONTSpecialNeeds/status/550667915960532992>



@HowardGoodman: #Maths MT @ClassTechTips: Maths Terms Glossary great resource 4 teachers/students/parents <http://t.co/1Y5sILdNFJ> #MathEd  
@ONTSpecialNeeds: One place to access all English Ontario School Board Special Education Plans! <http://t.co/vYrG99Uy3R...> <https://twitter.com/ONTSpecialNeeds/status/551016370167885824>  
@ONTSpecialNeeds: age appropriate chores for children. <http://t.co/q0rk9IQN5x> <https://twitter.com/ONTSpecialNeeds/status/551027067354382336>  
@pennellspeeps: 27 Books Parents Should #Read To Their Kids Before They Grow Up: <http://t.co/4x1vNg03wS>. <http://t.co/sJIAH5wToU>

### 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](#) (FHCI and Vaughn Rd held earlier)

- North Toronto Collegiate Institute Jan 13 7:00 PM
- Northern Secondary School Jan 15 6:00 PM

#### 2014-15 Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools Nominations are now open!

Download a [nomination form](#) and start your submission today. Deadline: February 20, 2015 by 5 p.m. EST

#### 2015-2016 Minister's Student Advisory Council Applications are open for students in grades 7-12.

Deadline is February 28, 2015 by 5 p.m. EST

#### Let's Draw the Lines Together (from Councillor Matlow's Newsletter)

The Toronto Ward Boundary Review is currently being conducted to ensure that each resident in Toronto is being represented at Toronto City Council. In order to give feedback, residents can attend a public meeting or complete a survey online. **For Toronto and East York areas, the meeting will take place Saturday, January 10 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Trinity St. Paul's Church (427 Bloor Street West).** Learn more about the Toronto Ward Boundary Review project at [www.drawthelines.ca](http://www.drawthelines.ca)

### TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

#### Dates to Remember

##### 2014-2015 School Year Calendar

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

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

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



Trustee  
**Shelley Laskin**

Ward 11, St. Paul's

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](mailto:shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca)

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