

## **First Update of 2014-15**

**August 31, 2014**

**Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11**

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

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

Twitter [@shelleylaskin](#)

## **First Update of the School Year!**

Welcome to a new school year... if you are receiving this e-mail update, you were either on my distribution list at the end of last school year or signed up to receive electronic messages from Ward 11 through the board website. I understand that situations change and should you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails, please let me know by e-mailing me at [shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca) and I will take you off the list. As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the items covered or on any other topic of interest.

## **Find What Inspires You... TDSB**

While the media tends to be filled with negative education stories, I know all of you involved in your local schools understand the many, many positives happening within the building that support student achievement and well-being... Centrally, TDSB staff decided to promote this excellence through a short video clip now uploaded to YouTube... if you haven't already, please take a few minutes and click on <http://youtu.be/bfcljMSBVy8>. The key message "... there are more choices for students and more opportunities for success..."

## **Facility Projects over the Summer**

This September, Forest Hill Jr/Sr PS and Oriole Park Jr PS will be welcoming FDK students joining the rest of the schools in the ward. In addition, there were additional FDK renovation projects at Brown Jr PS, Deer Park Jr./Sr. PS and McMurrich Jr PS and some renovations needed at Davisville Jr PS due to flooding issues. In total facilities staff were working on 128 FDK projects! We also have Section 37 Funded school ground renovations projects happening at Davisville, Eglinton and Northern Secondary School this September/October and at Deer Park in the spring. Please appreciate that there may be some adjustments to regular routines as projects finish up. Special thanks to school caretakers for everything you have done over the summer to get school sites ready; to Principals for scheduling "Plan B" accommodations; to the office staff in last week dealing with the many calls and registrations, and to all staff who took courses in the summer, came into the schools to get your rooms ready... it is much appreciated.

## **Announcing School Bus Delay Portal**

I am very pleased to announce that effective September 2, 2014, there will be a school bus delay portal available on the website ([www.torontoschoolbus.org](http://www.torontoschoolbus.org)). This is an idea I discovered during one of the conferences I attended and very pleased that staff acted on it... "Information on delays will be on the top bar of the website. When this bar is selected, the user will be taken to a page that will reflect all school bus delays within the last three hours. The next step (date to be announced) is a parent portal where parents will be able to log in to see the transportation information specific to their children and will be able to subscribe to receive an email or text message to smart phones to advise them of any delays specific to their child and route. Delays will also be reported through the consortium twitter account. There will be a new consortium phone number for one point of contact by the public **416-394-4BUS (416-394-4287)**. Existing phone numbers are still in effect, but the one number will allow easy advertising to parents and other users. The consortium is also producing an information brochure for each school which will show the areas around the school that are within a 10 minute walking and a 3 minute bicycle ride with information and tips supporting active travel."

**Traffic safety tips for parents and drivers to help keep kids safe** (The following tips are from <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/icbc-traffic-safety-tips-parents-and-drivers>)

### **Tips for parents and students:**

Consider posting these safety tips somewhere in your home and review them with your kids—even older children need to be reminded about road safety.

1. Remove your headphones; put away your phone, MP3 player or other gadgets when crossing a street. Focus your full attention on the road so you can see, hear and respond safely.
2. Use designated crossing points and follow pedestrian traffic signs and signals. Make eye contact with drivers, so you both know you see each other. The most common road safety error made by kids is not finding a safe place to cross. Teach your child to cross at intersections that have a pedestrian crossing light or a marked crosswalk whenever possible.
3. Dress to be seen. Wear bright or light coloured clothing. In dark or bad weather, wear reflective material on clothes or accessories.
4. Always walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk—away from the road. This way, you're further away from the traffic. If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles and drivers can see you.
5. Be aware of parked vehicles in parking lots and on the road. Drivers may not see you between parked vehicles and you may not see them moving. Before crossing or walking through a parking lot, stop and look left-right-left around the parked vehicle and avoid taking unnecessary shortcuts through parking lots.

### **Tips for drivers:**

When school is in session, a 30-km/h school zone speed limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every school day, unless otherwise posted. Also, remember that vehicles approaching from both directions must stop for school buses when their lights are flashing.

1. Plan ahead and be alert. Driving routes with less traffic in the summer may now face congestion, so give yourself extra time to get to your destination. Take your time and don't rush - especially through intersections. Look for children especially near or around crosswalks and intersections.
2. Always yield to pedestrians (it's the law).
3. When dropping off children in a school zone stop and allow them to exit onto the sidewalk side of the car. Never allow a child to cross mid-block.
4. If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian, so be prepared to stop.
5. Always watch for pedestrians when you're backing up. Before you get into your vehicle, make it a habit to walk around your vehicle to ensure no small kids are behind it. And remember, children will notice your driving behaviour, so set an example and drive smart.

### **Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO Grants) for School Councils**

“The commitment to parent engagement reflects a growing body of research that demonstrates strong and direct links between parent engagement and student achievement. Strong parent engagement means improved student achievement. Good schools become better with engaged, involved parents.” That is a direct quote from the Ministry of Education in their announcement that the TDSB will be receiving \$327,685.00 in Parent Reaching Out Grants for School Councils. I am very proud to announce the following Ward 11 Schools received Grants – Brown, Davisville, Cedarvale, Eglinton, Forest Hill Collegiate, Forest Hill Jr/Sr, Hillcrest, Hodgson, Humewood, JR Wilcox, Maurice Cody, McMurrich, North Toronto Collegiate, Winona and West Prep!

### **2014 Young Leaders & Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement**

Ontario Heritage Trust is seeking nominations for the 2014 Young Heritage Leaders program and also for the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement. The program showcases youth achievements in conservation across the province, including cultural heritage, public education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and natural heritage stewardship. The individual who receives the award for Youth Achievement also receives a \$2,000 scholarship that may be applied toward his or her post-

secondary education. The nomination deadline is 30 September 2014. Click on the following for more information [www.heritagetrust.on.ca/recognition](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/recognition).

### **From the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

#### **“First-of-its-kind Online School Board Elections Resources Launched**

Municipal and school board elections will be held on Monday, October 27th throughout the province. In every town, city and region, voters will choose school trustees for 72 school boards. That's why the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association -- along with L'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario and L'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques – have come together to create a unique new website that profiles school board trustee candidates in all 72 school boards. The site is unique because for the first time, the public can easily access information about trustee candidates based on where they live and what school board they support. This will help voters make informed choices on Election Day.

The comprehensive website, <http://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/en/index.html>, also features:

- Brand new videos promoting the role of trustees and school board elections
- Downloadable guides on Running for School Board Trustee or Hosting an All Candidates Meeting
- Printable posters for download to promote the election
- Information on school boards and the public education system in Ontario
- Backgrounders on trustee responsibilities, becoming a trustee, time commitments, election finances, key dates and candidate FAQs
- Details on why, how, when and where to vote

The project's goal is to help Ontarians understand what trustees do, promote school board elections and encourage new candidates to run.”

#### **Please note –**

Under our TDSB Policy and Procedures trustees must operate under restrictions during the municipal campaign period and cannot use Board resources, including staff and funding, for any election-related purposes. To honour this please do not use [shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca) for any campaign related issues. I have set up a different e-mail address [shelley@shelleylaskin.ca](mailto:shelley@shelleylaskin.ca). Many thanks.

#### **Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting**

**@TOPublicHealth:** Hey parents, ready for your child's first day of school? Here are 10 tips that will help <http://t.co/PP1bDMcAp7>

**@TVOParents:** Is ur kid starting middle school? There's a big transition ahead. We have tips to help <http://t.co/tbNzqC8UkA>

**@edutopia:** 50+ resources to help parents get involved with schools: <http://t.co/5vIp8B869F>  
#ptchat <http://t.co/BytOqQj56Y>

**@lv2learn2:** Tips for keeping your children safe on social media by @gcouros #SCDSB  
<http://t.co/kBstxIcgrq>

**@GerriGershon:** #TDSB #TTC good news: "TTC photo ID no longer required for middle & secondary school students" <http://t.co/7BIAqjL6Wd>

**@acampbell99:** @ShawnMcKillop @brian\_woodland 10 top tips on how schools can use #socialmedia <http://t.co/jdfKF1K0cJ> #nspraseminar14

## Dates to Remember

- **Humewood is turning 100 years - and need your help to celebrate** Contact them at [Humewoodcentenary@gmail.com](mailto: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>

Labour Day	September 1, 2014
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

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/docs/Days%20of%20Significance%202014-15%20V6.pdf>

**Have a wonderful and engaging school year!**