



## Winter/Spring 2013

**Dear Constituents,**

**W**ith the holidays behind us, I certainly hope that each and every one of you is in good spirits, health and happiness. Like you, I had a wonderful time with my family and friends enjoying a time out from a busy schedule that has started since last January. Throughout this past year, I have visited all my schools, looking at all the needs of our students helping them to shine on the local, provincial, national and global stages.

I'm thrilled by several of our parent councils, my newly elected PIAC representative, my French as a Second Language representatives, teachers, principals, parents, students, stakeholders and the community at large for all of their valuable contributions and in lending me their listening ears and advice to help make our community the hubs I'm slowly working on developing. We are a strong and vibrant community and I've seen that first-hand from the various contributions that have been given thus far. We have a remarkable student body and great volunteers who've helped us in several community works. These dedicated individuals are now busy working on a mission to take us through the next year.

Our schools are not there yet in all the rebuilding, plans and structure, but Trustee David Smith is steadfast to keep construction programs and processes in place to restore and retrofit our schools to meet the needs of our JK-12 students in all of our schools. Over the past year, there have been a number of construction projects, and

work is currently in progress at John McCrae to complete the school in time for new enrolment in September 2013. We also have a major project commencing in 2013 – the Bendale Thomson project – which is the amalgamation of Bendale BTI and David and Mary Thomson schools.

**I** know that you are beginning to see many differences in the way your schools are looking in the community. As I have gone through the commencements and graduations from JK through to grade 12, it is always an exciting moment for me to see all the students as they gather together – the elementary kids going into middle school, and the graduates from grade 12 as they cross the stage to receive their certificates, expressing their desire of higher achievement in attending university, colleges and apprenticeship programs.

I want to thank the parents and guardians for their encouragement and dedication to their children's growth and development in becoming who they are as they leave us to pursue post-secondary studies. I am extremely proud of the TDSB's philosophy of teaching and learning, and the development skills of our students that will give them a clear head start in becoming successful adults. On behalf of myself, my family and staff, I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season and I wish to extend to you, your family, your friends and the community a **Happy New Year.**

**Thank you,**

**Trustee David Smith**

## Remembrance Day – Lest We Forget - November 11, 2012

This Remembrance Day, Trustee David Smith joined Catch the Fire Toronto as their distinguished guest. Every seven years Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, and 2012 was the year when churches across Canada remembered those we've lost in battle.

I was in the company of many distinguished guests, including the keynote speaker for the day, Major General Bryan Stephenson (Retired). I would like to thank Sam Dumcum of Catch the Fire for including me in this important recognition ceremony for our veterans.

## 'Caring and Safe Schools'

**W**ard 19 is an active participant in 'Caring and Safe Schools'. Your Ward 19 team provides directional support to administrators, staff, parents, students and communities. Caring and Safe Schools are enabled through:

**1. Strong school leadership, with consistent discipline policies and procedures;**

**2. School-wide safe and caring schools Programs and instructional components focused on inclusive contributions;**

**3. Evolving and expanded prevention based knowledge and skills;**

**4. Ongoing support and professional growth in emotional intelligence, conduct management, prevention oriented strategies, mediation and violence prevention;**

**5. Inclusive and developmentally appropriate materials, activities and programs are championed and utilized;**

**6. Strong efforts to develop relationships and partnerships within the entire school community;**

**7. Clear assessment, evaluation and monitoring of student performance, combined with differentiated programming.**

**For more information, please do not hesitate to call my office or email me at david.smith4@tdsb.on.ca.**

Source: TDSB Web





# Homework Help for Grades 7-12

An exciting online resource is now available to all grade 7-12 students and families in the TDSB. Offered by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with TVO and the Independent Learning Centre, Homework Help provides grade 7-12 students with free, live on-line tutoring Sunday-Thursday from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Students in grades 7-12 can log in using their Ontario Education Number (OEN), which appears at the top of their report card. Parents, teachers and other students can also log in as guests.

## Tecumseh Senior Public School – At the Forefront of Community Engagement

Trustee David Smith would like to recognize the efforts of Principal Terry Singh in bringing about extraordinary engagement between Tecumseh students, teachers, parents, caregivers and community leaders. From enforcing administrative processes to increasing visibility of the school and increasing interest and attendance of parents to school council gatherings, good things are happening in this senior public school. I would like to join Mr. Singh in thanking staff past and present for their continued commitment to increasing student achievement and instilling universally-held values by engaging parents and the community.

## Woburn – 'Sounds of Spring' –

My staff had the pleasure of attending Woburn's Spring Music Concert, 'Sounds of Spring' on May 1. From the choir's opening number 'What a Wonderful World' to the Henry Hudson Band's 'Old McDonald Had a Band' (complete with cowbell!!) to the very moving wind ensemble arrangement of 'Invictus' (a most ambitious piece), these talented musicians had the audience fully engaged throughout the entire evening. Thanks to Mr. Brian Farrow and Ms. May Hao of Woburn's music staff, for it is clear that under their leadership, a tremendous amount of work, rehearsal and behind-the-scenes energy went into this one extraordinary night.



## CASSA NITE May 12, 2012

My colleague, Novlette Mitchell, attended the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) Heritage Month Gala Evening this past May. Under this year's theme, 'Our Stories...Our Histories...' guests experienced an evening of speeches and vocal and dance performances that demonstrated the struggles, resistances, resilience and victories of South Asians living in Canada. Of note was a particularly compelling keynote speech by Bhairavi Desai, co-founder and executive director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA). For over a decade, Bhairavi has fought to empower one of the most vulnerable and visible immigrant workforces in the city of New York, and through her stories, we learned of the hardships and victories and just how universally relevant they are to many of us. Excellences in Equity Awards were presented to seven deserving South Asian Canadians for their outstanding contribution in social and economic justice. For more information, go to [www.cassa.on.ca](http://www.cassa.on.ca).

## Read2Rap

I would like to bring to your attention the work of a great program called Read2Rap. The Read2Rap Program is a leadership literacy program that encourages youth to embrace reading, learning, teamwork and performing through Rap and Hip Hop. As a result of several meetings with Read2Rap's founder, Roger Thompson, it is my hope to bring this program to our schools for students interested in expressing themselves through this initiative. Cedarbrae C.I. is currently serving as our first 'test' school. For further information, please contact me or visit [www.read2rap.com](http://www.read2rap.com).

## Summer job program

I am very pleased with those students who took time out this past summer to develop their job skills and work experience through the very successful Focus on Youth summer student job program. This program never fails to provide our students with terrific opportunities to gain knowledge and perspective of what goes on in the working world, and serves to empower these bright students as they begin making important adult decisions about their future. I urge all students to consider this program. Please remember to register early for next summer.

## Model Schools for Inner Cities –

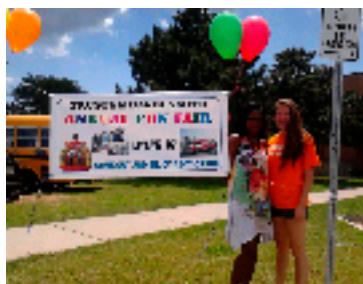
Model Schools Cluster Committee, meet monthly with other trustees, superintendents, principals, community support workers and community members to plan how to carry out the Model Schools for Inner Cities vision, driving change by giving our inner city school communities a strong voice.

Did you know that several TDSB documents for parents have been translated centrally and are posted on <http://tdsbweb/>? Just click on 'Translations' in the drop-down 'Services' search field at the top of the web page. Such central documents are translated into Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese.

## Graduations, fun fare...



## Fun at the Fun Fair



## ECO Schools

*I am proud to report that 35 of the 38 schools in Ward 19 are certified ECO Schools. How did they achieve this? Each has satisfied the criteria as set out in the Certification Guide and Planner, using a special toolkit that leads the school through exercises and studies in the following categories:*

- Foster Leadership and Teamwork*
- Energy Conservation*
- Waste Minimization*
- Vibrant School Grounds*
- Student Achievement through Ecological Literacy*
- Healthy, Safe and Caring School Communities.*

*Two of our schools, Bellmere P.S. and Cedarbrae C.I., will serve as demonstration schools in the coming school year and will share best practices in organizing and running an ECO Schools Program.*

## Traffic Concerns



*Woburn Collegiate has been the site of traffic congestion in and out of the main driveway off of Ellesmere for some time. Cars and people are constantly vying for space and maneuverability to access not only the schools, but the church and community centre as well, as all three venues must use one single roadway to enter and exit. I am working tirelessly with the city and the school to see what can be done to ease this congestion and hopefully correct this design in order to avoid any further potential risk. I will keep you informed on developments.*



# PIAC

## -Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

One of the most important organizations in our schools is the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC). PIAC's mandate is to advise the TDSB on matters related to parent and community involvement and to provide feedback to the board on educational matters of broad community interest. I have appointed Mr. James Rycman as our new Ward 19 PIAC representative. He has already demonstrated his passion as an involved parent and expressed interest in extending this involvement in Ward 19 beyond his home school. We wish Mr. Rycman well in his new role. Please feel free to reach out to him directly at [jrycman@gmail.com](mailto:jrycman@gmail.com) should you have any questions about PIAC or wish to be involved. For French as a second language, please contact our French Ward 19 PIAC representative, Ms. Cheryl Wilson at [chemccwil@yahoo.ca](mailto:chemccwil@yahoo.ca).

## Nutrition Programs

**On Monday October 1, TDSB administrators took part in a school nutrition program bus tour in support of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. The bus tour enabled VIPs to spend a morning walking in the shoes of hungry students. Tour guests were invited to fast prior to beginning their day, just as thousands of Toronto students are forced to do daily. VIPs traveled to three schools where they participated in a school breakfast program and a secondary school nutrition program managed under adult co-ordinator supervision by student/parent volunteers. Call 416-394-6880 to find out the many ways you can donate to this important support for student success.**

## Leonard Braithwaite School Now Open! *Africentric Courses also offered*

**Leonard Braithwaite School, hosted by Winston Churchill Collegiate, is now open! This province-approved program is offered to grade 9 students as an opportunity to learn through an Africentric lens for six out of their eight courses. The program is also expected to expand into grade 10 through 12. Named after Ontario's first black member of provincial parliament, students are taught the same topics as other Toronto youth, but their courses use examples of black inventors, artists and political figures. For more information, contact the school's Guidance Department at 416-396-6883 ext.20040. Applications are still being accepted and must be received by Friday February 1, 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year.**



### Become a volunteer

Join my volunteer force and help make a difference!

Please contact me for more details:  
David Smith, Trustee  
Ward 19, Scarborough Centre  
Toronto District School Board  
Constituency Office – 140 Borough Drive, 1st Floor  
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 4N6  
Telephone: 416-397-3104 Email: [david.smith4@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:david.smith4@tdsb.on.ca)

### Celebrating Ward 19 Volunteers

**On June 30, I had the pleasure of hosting a get together for our extraordinary volunteer force. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly throughout the year to support me in Ward 19. Whether it's distributing community newsletters, organizing and supporting ward forums, filing or flipping burgers at the Fun Fair, their work never goes unnoticed. – thank you all again!**



## 50th Anniversary of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

**I am happy to announce that on the September 5, 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was declared that "October 1 to 7, 2012 be proclaimed Jamaican 50th Anniversary Week" and that "October 8 to 14, 2012 be proclaimed 50th Anniversary Week for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago" throughout the school district in celebration of both nation states' 50th Anniversary of Independence.**

**A brief curriculum resource was created to support Administrators, Staff, students and community partners to celebrate these two momentous occasions.**

## Bendale Thomson Update

I attended a meeting whereby architect and design firms presented the TDSB, Toronto Lands Corporation and Bendale BTI and David and Mary Thomson schools with their design concepts for the new joint school. The decision of this task to choose just one firm is very difficult given the extraordinary creativity and innovation many of these companies have brought forward.

Our final decision will be based on a rigorous set of criteria designed to best serve our students and the community. The name of the recommended firm has been taken to the board for approval, and as soon as this passes, we will advise you of the details.

The effect of this new school construction will be significant. To that end, I have appointed members of the community to review with us the architectural and planning design drafts for what the school should look like. Stay tuned for more announcements regarding this project.



## TDSB Excellence Awards – May 8, 2012

We were excited to attend this year's TDSB Excellence Awards this past May. The 19 winning individuals and groups received their awards in front of an appreciative crowd filled with trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers, staff and family members, among them two Ward 19 school staff members, Melissa Seco, a teacher at Maryvale P.S., and Frances Potvin-Schafer, a teacher-librarian from Edgewood P.S. Congratulations to all TDSB Excellence Award winners!

## Farewells and welcome

At the end of the school year, we said goodbye and best wishes to our hard working and dedicated principals, superintendents and community leaders who retired or departed the TDSB. They are:

Don McLean – Superintendent of Education School Services SE2

Margaret Ristich – Principal, Tecumseh Senior Public School

Nadine Segal – Superintendent of Education SE3

Laura Sommerville – Principal, Charles Gordon Senior Public School

Micky Tabak – Principal, Dorset Park Public School

Vickie Venedam-Vaccaro – Principal, Glen Ravine Junior Public School

PIAC Ward 19 Representatives – Thank you to Leah Yuyitung and Cindy Lam for their dedication and attention while serving for us at the negotiation table for Ward 19.

With departures of these dedicated individuals, we have new arrivals! I would like to welcome the following administrators to their new roles:

Ian Bain - Vice Principal, Wexford C.S.A.

Linda De Medeiros - Principal, Buchanan Public School

Cathryn Dockstader – Principal, Charles Gordon Senior Public School

Nicholas English – Vice Principal, David and Mary Thomson CI

Bessie Kambouris – Vice Principal, Churchill Heights Public School

Andrea Lane - Vice Principal, Ionview Public School

Andy Lubczynski - Principal, Dorset Park Public School

Violet Mari – Principal, Willow Park Junior Public School

Elizabeth Mayhew – Vice Principal, Woburn CI

Audley Salmon – Principal, Cedarbrae CI

Terry Singh – Principal, Tecumseh Senior Public School

Effie Stathopoulos - Vice Principal, Wexford Public School

Demitra Zervas – Principal, Glen Ravine Junior Public School.

## A Library for Scarborough Civic Centre

We are well on our way to creating a wonderful addition of a library at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Councillor De Baeremaeker and I, along with the Toronto Public Library and other key city partners, planners and designers, are very pleased with the progress we have made to bring the plans for this library to life. Once we have a date set for our community ground-breaking, we plan to involve you at the various stages of development, and you will be able to tour the construction site and begin to see the vision behind this great structure.

Those of you who have lived in the area for some time will know that this is the first such undertaking of a new library construction in almost 30 years. We know you will join us in celebrating this important milestone in our community!



## Knob Hill Public School Wins ‘Kids Can Clean’ Toronto Contest 2012

On June, 14, 2012, I had the pleasure of attending Knob Hill Public School where the school was awarded first prize in Mayor Rob Ford’s Kids Can Clean Contest. Congratulations to Principal Sharon White and her staff, along with the Kindergarten students who demonstrated with amazing creativity their ‘Our Job is to Save the Earth’ campaign. Knob Hill was awarded a cheque for \$3000, generously donated by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, to further their school’s green initiatives, as well as a pizza party for the whole school, courtesy of Pizza Pizza.



## Ward 19 Forum



*My first ward forum of the 2012/13 school year was held November 8 at Wexford Public School. The theme was, “How We Are Meeting the Needs of Our Students of Today.” My featured guest speakers were: Jim Spyropoulos, Coordinating Superintendent; Sandra Best, Alternative Schools Liaison Development Manager TDSB/Director, Strategic Planning and Communications TFSS; and Nadira Persaud, Superintendent. The next ward forum will be held in January 2013 and is a perfect opportunity to learn first-hand about the initiatives that affect our schools, your children and our community.*

## Congratulations... Graduates in Ward 19



It was a great pleasure to attend 32 of the 38 elementary, junior and senior graduation ceremonies in Ward 19 this past June. I was pleased to be able to be involved in the graduation ceremonies and bring greetings from the board and wish students well on the next steps in their education journey.

Ward 19, Scarborough Centre is a very large and active ward comprised of 38 schools under my jurisdiction as trustee. I can tell you first hand that there isn’t a principal among these schools that doesn’t believe that their school and students are of the highest caliber they’ve seen in recent memory. Pride runs deep in Ward 19.



Trustee Smith with some graduates

This past fall, Trustee David Smith bid a fond farewell and good luck to our graduating grade 12 students at several commencements. These included Woburn Collegiate (October 5), Wexford CSA (October 19), Cedarbrae C.I. (October 26), Bendale BTI (November 2), David and Mary Thomson (November 2), and Winston Churchill C.I. (November 2).

I am extremely proud of the achievements of our seniors and invite them to visit my office and share their stories about life after graduation.



Trustee David Smith at graduation ceremony.

## 2nd Annual Ward 19 Fun Fair

On Saturday June 23, I was pleased to see many smiling faces at my 2nd Annual Ward 19 Community Fun Fair, held at Ellesmere-Statton Public School. At the fair, I was honoured to present a number of deserving students with the Trustee David Smith Excellency Award. This award is given to students chosen by their school who have shown exemplary performances in the areas of academics, most-improved, sports, character building and leadership. Congratulations to all the winners! In addition to the awards, there were several fun free activities for all those in attendance, including bouncing castles, musicians and games. We also welcomed several guests from local community services, including Toronto Fire, Toronto Police Services and the CNE Street Team.

I wish to thank all of you for joining me that day, and also give special thanks to the many volunteers, schools, Parent Advisory Councils, parents, caregivers, students, caretakers and community stakeholders for their collective, cohesive involvement in helping to make this a very successful school year.

## WHO TO ADDRESS AND WHEN

### TRUSTEE

Any item on a Board agenda  
Board policies under review  
Board budget  
Issues in the community  
News reports  
Ideas for new board initiatives  
Collective bargaining issues  
Intergovernmental affairs  
**TRUSTEE DAVID SMITH**  
140 Borough Dr., Toronto,  
ON M1P 4N6  
5050 Yonge St., 5th FL, Toronto,  
ON M2N 5N8  
416-397-3104  
david.smith4@tdsb.on.ca  
Twitter: @trusteesmith  
Facebook: trusteedsmith@gmail.com  
**TORONTO DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD**  
416-397-3000  
communications@tdsb.on.ca

### CLASSROOM TEACHER

Any issue pertaining to the classroom  
Classroom consequences  
Homework or assignments

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Any issue pertaining to individual school  
Student registration  
Student schedules  
School council issues  
Student suspensions  
Report card concerns  
Teacher conduct  
School safety and security  
School Code of Behaviour  
School budget and fundraising

### SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Alternate attendance requests  
Suspension appeals

### Transportation Office

416-394-6163

transportation@tdsb.on.ca

### Kindergarten Office

416-394-7439

lise.hawkins@tdsb.on.ca

### English as a Second Language

416-394-7330

Paula.markus@tdsb.on.ca

### French Immersion

416-394-6806

Alison.pearce@tdsb.on.ca

### Special Education Office

416-396-7968

416-396-9003

### Nutrition Programs

416-394-2115

### Safe and Caring Schools

416 395-SAFE (7233)