



TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

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Quick Communicator

Hello Everyone,
It's been a great beginning to the 2017-2018 school year. Throughout this fall our schools are offering engaging programs and learning experiences - there have been Terry Fox runs, outdoor educational programs, Halloween celebrations, cross country events, school trips, Remembrance Day ceremonies, and stimulating classroom instruction. I have been visiting our schools each week to meet staff, parents and to see these programs in action. I am forever amazed at the varied and exciting opportunities planned for our children. Throughout the year I hold meetings for parents and community - I hope you can join me:

Tentative Dates

- **Community Coffee** - Thursday December 14, 9:15 am
- **Ward Forum** - Tuesday January 23 7:00 PM
Meet the Director of Education John Malloy at North Toronto Collegiate Institute
- **Community Coffee** - Monday February 26, 9:15 AM
- **Ward Forum** - April Date TBA on the Budget, 7:00 PM
- **Community Coffee** - April meeting cancelled
- **Ward Forum** - Tuesday May 22, 7:00 PM
- **Community Coffee** - Wednesday June 18, 9:15 AM

Below are several articles to keep you updated on education issues in our community and across Toronto.

if you wish to discuss any of the items, please email me at gerri.gershon@tdsb.on.ca

Gerri



Does It Add Up?

To address declines in EQAO math the Provincial government initiated a Renewed Math Strategy which focuses on helping our staff become better teachers of math. Through intense training and collegial practices we are increasing math teaching skills to support our students, and to develop math proficiency and strategies.

Honouring Diversity

Over the year the TDSB celebrates 14 different cultural and religious months – such as Sikh, Portuguese, Tamil, and Jewish Heritage months amongst others. We do so in order to educate students for their world in which 1 in 5 people enter Canada through the immigration process. Last month was Somali Heritage and Islamic Heritage months. I especially want to thank parent **Nazerah Sheikh**, from our Don Valley West community, who played a pivotal role in planning and executing an immensely successful Islamic Heritage month starting with a joyful launch at the Agha Kahn Museum and ending with a thought provoking film at Ryerson University. This month is **Aboriginal Heritage** month - a perfect time to reflect upon our history and the contributions of First Nations people. [Learn more](#) about this month and the important events we are recognizing throughout.



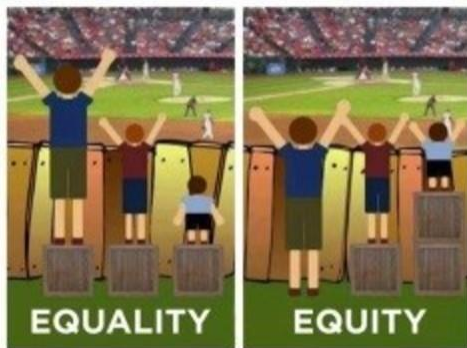
Grade 10 Career Studies Update

Next year the Grade 10 Career Studies Course will include four new and important areas of learning. These are:

- Financial Literacy
- Pathways Planning
- Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- Digital Literacy



I know that parents welcome these important additions to the curriculum for our youth.



Enhancing Equity Task Force

Share your voice: The Enhancing Equity Task Force invites you to read and comment on their draft recommendations on improving access and achievement for all students in the TDSB. Feedback is welcome until November 20.

Trustee Ward Boundary Review

The TDSB is undertaking a Trustee Ward Boundary Review to align with the new City of Toronto wards recently enacted by Toronto City Council. Members of the public are invited to provide feedback on the proposed options through public meetings and an online survey.





Parents Make a Difference Conference

Parents Make a Difference Conference: Registration is now open for the 11th annual PIAC Parents Make a Difference conference. The event is on Saturday, November 25 and includes workshops, opportunities connect with staff, parents and local agencies, and more.

Legalizing Marijuana Bill 174, Cannabis Act



On Wednesday, November 1, Attorney General Yasir Naqvi introduced the government's official cannabis regulation legislation. The bill creates the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation, run by the LCBO and tasked with opening 40 cannabis retail locations by July 1, 2018. It will also control all online sales of cannabis. Marijuana use will be banned in public places and will only be sold to people 19 and over. Under the proposed legislation, cannabis use by students at any age on school grounds and during school-related activities would remain an activity that could lead to suspension (except for cannabis used for medical purposes). The proposed legislation would amend the Education Act, as follows:

- suspension would be considered for a student under the influence or in possession of cannabis;
- suspension would be required and expulsion would be considered if a student shares cannabis with anyone under the age of 19 years old; and the provincial code of conduct would be updated to discourage the use of cannabis.



Autism Pilot Project 2017-2018

This is a new pilot being led by the Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, to improve school-based supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Students who attend any TDSB school will be able to participate in the pilot.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) can be found on the Ministry's website.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Survey

If you are a parent/guardian of a current or former TDSB student with special needs, SEAC would like to hear about your experiences and ideas as they make recommendations on how to improve Special Education at the TDSB. Complete the [SEAC Survey](#).



Special Needs Information Fair

DATE: November 18, 2017
TIME: 11:00 AM - 1 PM
COST FREE

LOCATION: Thorncliffe Park Public School
[Kids Animal Show + Refreshments]

Join us for an opportunity to learn about services and support available to families with children with special needs.

Agencies attending the fair are listed below.

- Geneva Centre for Autism
- Thorncliffe Collaborative for Muslim Families & Children
- Surrey Place Centre
- Early Abilities
- Health Access Thorncliffe Park
- Flemingdon Health Centre
- Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office
- SMILE Canada - Support Services

and many more

To register for the event please call 416.338.7600, option #1 or email us at sneg.events@gmail.com

An Opportunity To Learn

Special Needs Exploration Group (SNEG) has organized this event to provide families of children with special needs an opportunity to learn about some of the local supports and programs available. And also to learn from the families about the kind of supports, programs and resources they want so that SNEG can better meet family needs.



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