

Trustee Update

James Li • Ward 13: Don Valley North

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • James.Li@tdsb.on.ca



Happy New Year

I hope you enjoyed a restful winter break and are ready for the exciting opportunities the new year holds. To our students: welcome back! Your enthusiasm makes our schools truly special, and I look forward to supporting and witnessing your growth and achievements in 2024. A heartfelt thank you to our families for your ongoing support. Together, we create an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally – inside and outside the classroom. May 2024 bring curiosity, discovery, and success to each student in our community. Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with learning, laughter, and lasting friendships!

Celebrating Good News

Read about some of the recent events, initiatives and great things happening across the Toronto District School Board, including:

- [Welcoming Communities presents “Things We Learned” anthology of student poetry](#)
- [Students from McKee PS and Kyiv Participate in Collaborative STEAM Learning Opportunity](#)
- [Screening with the Honourable Jean Augustine at Central Technical School](#)

Winter Well-Being Guide

I invite you to explore the TDSB's [Winter Well-Being Guide](#), which is filled with

activities, games, wellness tips, resources and community agencies to support wellness for all students, parents/guardians/caregivers, and school communities. This Winter Well-Being Guide provides accessible resources and is available in the top 20 TDSB spoken languages.

Inclement Weather

As we all know, with Canadian winter comes snow and severe weather! At times, it is necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close TDSB schools, administrative offices or sites. [Visit the website](#) to learn about Snow/Cold Weather and the Procedure for Severe Weather.

Reducing the Spread of Respiratory Illness

We are now in the middle of cold and flu season. A reminder of the number of steps that can be taken to help keep children and others safe from an increase in respiratory viruses among children, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza and COVID-19. Please note that Toronto Public Health, together with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, strongly recommends wearing a well-fitted mask in indoor public settings, including in schools and childcares.

Preparing for Exams and Culminating Assignments

Exam time is just around the corner! January is the time of year when secondary students are working on course culminating assignments and preparing for Semester 1 exams. For some tips and resources to help, including access to free 24/7 online tutoring support, check out the [Exam and Course Culminating Fact Sheet](#).

Virtual Learning 2024-25

The TDSB is pleased to be able to continue offering students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 the option of virtual learning in the 2024 - 2025 school year. For more information, please visit the [elementary virtual learning page](#) and [secondary virtual learning page](#). Additional details are also available in the [2024 - 2025 Virtual Learning Q & A](#) or get in touch with your school Principal.

Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 Entry)

Application Deadline

I am excited to share important information for families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Immersion Program. To apply to the Middle French Immersion Program for September 2024, applications must be completed online between **January 8 and February 2, 2024**. Families with an older sibling currently in a Middle French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. I encourage you to please visit: [Middle French Immersion](#) or the [Application Process](#) for more details and information. To apply, please use the following [Application Link](#).

Elementary Alternative Schools Online Application

The TDSB is proud to offer a wide range of [elementary alternative schools](#). The application process is managed centrally and the online application form for September 2024 admission is now open. The deadline to complete an application is **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 4 p.m.** For questions or additional support, contact the school or EAS.Application@tdsb.on.ca.

High Performing Athlete Program Application

At the TDSB, we're thrilled to support our High Performing Athletes through academic support and flexible scheduling. The online application for the program is now open for those seeking admission in February or September 2024. Please [visit the website](#) for details. The application deadline is **January 31, 2024**.

Information Session for Grade 8 Families: Secondary Alternative Schools Fair

I am pleased to share that the TDSB is hosting a series of Preparing for High School Information Sessions. The third installment in this series is the [Secondary Alternative Schools Fair](#) on **Wednesday, January 10, 2024** (via Zoom). Please join us by [registering and/or requesting an interpreter](#) for the session and visit the [TDSB Guidance website](#) to view recordings of all sessions.

Out-of-Area Admissions

Did you know you can access schools beyond your designated home address, pending space availability? Apply now for elementary and secondary Out-of-Area Admissions online. Transportation is your responsibility. Learn more on the [Out-of-Area Admissions website](#), including [random selection priorities](#). Act fast: Elementary applications open **January 8-31, 2024**, and secondary applications open **January 8-26, 2024**. In-person students switching to Virtual Learning for September 2024 must apply through Out-of-Area Admissions. Please visit the [Virtual Learning Q & A for details](#).

Legacy Boundaries Review

I invite you to participate in the public consultation meetings to explore the Board's options for addressing the legacy technical and commercial boundaries that still exist in some parts of the city. The public consultations will be held between 6:30pm and 8:00pm on the following dates:

- Monday, January 15th
- Thursday, January 18th
- Sunday, January 21st

The schools with large legacy boundaries include Central Technical School, Central Toronto Academy, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, Northern Secondary School, Western Technical-Commercial School and to a lesser extent, Victoria Park Collegiate Institute.

These large regional boundaries were created at a time when students were streamed into academic or vocational programming and have outlived their

intended purpose.

The Board is proposing that these legacy boundaries be dissolved to eliminate 'as-of-right' access to these schools for some parts of the city, while expanding access to all students in Toronto. Staff is proposing that the legacy boundaries be dissolved for admission in September 2025.

Online Tutoring for TDSB Students

I am pleased to share that online, on demand tutoring supports are available

24/7 for TDSB students this winter. **Elementary students** can access homework help and enrichment opportunities in all subject areas and grades through [Brainfuse](#). Families or students (18+) interested in online tutoring services can view the [Brainfuse Poster](#) for more information or contact [Brainfuse](#). TDSB **secondary students** are able to access tutoring for all courses and grades through [Paper](#). Families or students (18+) interested in online tutoring services are encouraged to view the [Paper Poster](#) for more information or contact [Paper](#) directly.

English Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

Starting on the school journey is an exciting milestone, and TDSB schools are proud to offer a vibrant learning space for every child's development – inside and outside the classroom. Registration for English Kindergarten programs starts in February. For Junior Kindergarten enrollment in September, children should be four years old by December 31. Senior Kindergarten registration requires children to be five years old by December 31. To learn more, please visit the [Kindergarten Registration page](#).

17th Annual Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference

I encourage you to register and attend the upcoming 17th Annual Parent

Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference is taking place on **Saturday, February 3, 2024** from 10am – 3pm at Earl Haig High School. The PIAC Conference is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of the educational landscape, connect with fellow parents/guardians/ caregivers and staff, and contribute to the continued success of our schools and communities. For more information, please visit: <https://www.torontopiac.com/whats-happening/conferences>

Tamil Heritage Month – January 2024

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is **Our Memories, Our Truths, Our Paths Forward: A Mosaic of Tamil Identity**. To mark Tamil Heritage Month, various educational opportunities will be offered to students to learn about the history, culture, and traditions.

Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns

Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent, and me, your Trustee! For more information, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. For a list of upcoming meetings, please click on the [calendar](#) at www.tdsb.on.ca.

Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll

find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

- [X \(Twitter\) @TDSB](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram @Torontodsb](#)
- [Threads @Torontodsb](#)

