

FOREST HILL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

730 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5N 1B9
TEL: (416) 393-1860 • FAX (416): 393-8197



Reiko Fuentes, B. Sc, B. Ed - Principal

September 21, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today, approximately 150 of our students participated in a demonstration to express their views about recent provincial changes to the Physical and Health Education Curriculum (HPEC). Some also highlighted concerns regarding Indigenous Education, following the cancellation of provincial summer writing projects. While there are no changes to the Physical and Health Education Curriculum used in secondary schools, the Ministry of Education requires all school boards, including the TDSB, to use the re-issued 2010 HPEC for grades 1 through 8. You can read about some of the changes in that HPEC here: www.tdsb.on.ca/HPEC2010. It is important to note that the Ontario government's upcoming review of the HPEC will include consultations. Details are not yet available, but once finalized, these will be widely shared. At TDSB, Aboriginal perspectives are infused in the curriculum for all students. You can learn more about Indigenous Education at the TDSB by visiting www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Aboriginal-Education.

The demonstration began at 1:00 pm when Forest Hill students gathered at the front of the school. To be clear, this was not a school or TDSB event. Staff did not take actively participate in the students' demonstration. Many students were in the building and in classrooms throughout the afternoon and most of the demonstrating students returned to classes for period 4.

One of the very top priorities at our school is safety. To that end, organizing students co-operated with staff to ensure the well-being of all those participating. School administration and other staff were present to ensure that students were safe throughout the demonstration.

This was a peaceful event. As a school, we encourage students to be well-informed about issues in our society, to think critically, and to express themselves respectfully and responsibly in articulating views they may have. Our students did just that and we are confident that in the days and weeks ahead they will continue to conduct themselves in this way.

Please note that students who were not in class for any reason were marked absent as it is important that our attendance records are an accurate reflection of who was present and who was absent. If your child was absent for any reason, you will receive an automatic call from our system to inform you. You may choose to ignore that phone call. Teachers have been instructed not to penalize students for participating in the walk-out.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Sincerely,
Reiko Fuentes, Principal



Not for ourselves alone