

September 22, 2015

Dear TDSB community,

Sadly, it wasn't that long ago that we came to you asking for your support for the people of Nepal who had suffered through a devastating earthquake that left thousands dead and countless others homeless and in desperate need of our help. Thanks to the generosity of students, staff and school communities, we helped raise \$180,000 for the relief effort.

Today, we come to you to ask for your support as a developing refugee situation in the Middle East and Europe reaches crisis levels.

Since the start of this year, it is estimated that more than 350,000 refugees and migrants have entered Europe to escape war and hunger in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, among others. Some have travelled weeks to reach safety and others have been turned away. Some have died while attempting the journey. Many refugees and migrants are in need of the essentials such as food and water, as well as first aid.

With those troubling details in mind, the Toronto District School Board is asking students, staff and school communities to help support the *tdsbCARES: Refugee Crisis Appeal*.

As we did after the earthquake in Nepal, we will be supporting the Canadian Red Cross in their relief efforts. Together with their Red Cross Movement partners, the organization already has teams on the ground in the Middle East and Europe providing assistance to those in need. To contribute online, visit the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca. In addition, a collection process will be set up in each of our schools and regional offices (5050 Yonge Street, 1 Civic Centre Court and 140 Borough Drive) for donations in cash or by cheque. For all donations in excess of \$20, made either online or by cheque, tax receipts will be issued by the Canadian Red Cross.

The TDSB fundraising appeal will run until Friday, December 11. The federal government has announced that for every eligible dollar donated by individual Canadians to registered Canadian charities between September 12 and December 31 in response to the conflict in Syria, it will set aside one dollar (up to \$100 million) in its own Syria Emergency Relief Fund.

Thank you for your support,



Robin Pilkey
Chair



Donna Quan
Director of Education