



Trustee Alexander Brown

Ward 12, Willowdale



Welcome to the 2016-17 school year.

My name is Alexander Brown. It's an honor for me to represent you and your family at the Toronto District School Board as the Trustee for Willowdale. I'm your advocate for education issues. I work to ensure that all students are treated equitably and given the supports and programs they need to excel in safe, healthy and inclusive schools. I work with 21 other TDSB Trustees to maximize our financial and human resources and provide the best opportunities for all 245,000 TDSB students. I'm here for you and your children.

An important part of my job is to share information with you and provide timely updates. There are many positive changes occurring at the TDSB and I've outlined a few of them below in the **Did you know...?** section of this newsletter. These changes will impact our students, our schools and the board. I also gather feedback about your experiences, so that I can make better decisions about policy and improve the quality of services and programs we provide. Both parents and students will tell you that I make every effort to be as interactive and accessible as possible. I welcome your ideas and concerns, and I look forward to seeing you in our schools and communities.

I encourage you to get involved in your child's education by joining a school council, a board committee or through other volunteer positions. It's a great way to advocate for students and to gain a better understanding of our education system. As the vice-chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), I work with an amazing group of dedicated parent and community volunteers. Together we're having a positive impact on some of our most vulnerable students. To learn more about the opportunities available, feel free to contact me, your school principal, or visit the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca.

This year, let's get to know each other better and build a strong working relationship. You can contact me by email, phone or in person. Thank you for your time and passion for public education. Working together, we make a difference.

Alexander Brown
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To sign up for my e-newsletter visit
www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12.

Did you know...?

Director of Education

In 2016, the Board of Trustees hired John Malloy as the new Director of Education. John brought significant change by grouping all TDSB schools into **four Learning Centres**. This model enables us to be more responsive to student needs and bring education resources closer to the classroom. **Willowdale is part of Learning Centre 2**. I will be hosting a public meeting about Learning Centres in October where you'll have a chance to **ask questions and interact with the Director**. See the full list of planned Ward Forums below.

Integrity Commissioner

The TDSB was also the first school board in Canada to hire an **Integrity Commissioner**. This role helps to improve TDSB governance and accountability. It allows you and the general public to engage directly in that process. I encourage you to find out more about the Integrity Commissioner at www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom and select Integrity Commissioner from the left menu.

Aboriginal Education

Starting this year, all schools across the district will begin their day with an **acknowledgement of the ancestral lands and territories of Aboriginal communities**. The TDSB is committed to equity and reconciliation. This is an important step in supporting Aboriginal students and reflecting on the importance of Aboriginal Education and traditions in Ontario. Ask your principals and teachers for more information about Aboriginal Education at the TDSB. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/aboriginaleducation.

Special Education

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) will be introducing a **universal screening process for all Grade 3 students** this year. The purpose of the screening test is to:

- Provide information to classroom teachers about the strengths and learning needs of each student;
- Help teachers to know when to bring a student forward to the In School Team (IST) or School Support Team (SST);
- Improve equity of access for all students to programming including students with a gifted exceptionality.

Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/specialeducation.

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will launch an anonymous survey to gather feedback from parents and guardians about Special Education at the TDSB. The committee is dedicated to improving communication with parents and students about special education program options, complaint resolution and greater accessibility at the TDSB. Your participation in the survey will help us make better recommendations to the Board. More information is available in my e-newsletter and through school councils.

Ward Forums

I will be hosting Ward Forums/Meetings for the 2016/17 school year. It's a chance to meet each other, share information, introduce key people at the TDSB, provide feedback and discuss issues. I make them as interactive as possible. Locations will be announced in my next e-newsletter. To sign up for my e-newsletter visit www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12.

- **October 27** - Learning Centres: Bringing Resources Closer to the Classroom
- **November 17** - Special Education: The IPRC - Do You Really Know What it is?
- **February 16** - Budget Consultation
- **March 23** - Traffic Safety with Young Drivers of Canada
- **April 20** - Special Education: Autism Services - What to Expect
- **May 25** - Secondary Program Choices: Willowdale and Beyond

Everyone is Welcome to Attend.

Get involved!

School Councils

Join your school council! Elections are held at schools in September.

Community Advisory Committees

Participate in a community advisory committee and provide input on Board policies and programs.

Ward Forums/Meetings

Attend ward meetings to meet with your Trustee and to stay current about what's happening at the Board.

Multilingual Website

The multilingual webpage features key sections of www.tdsb.on.ca translated into 23 languages. To access it, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/multilingual.



Who to contact when you have questions or concerns about issues in the classroom, your school or the TDSB

1

Classroom Teacher

Step One

The first place to go about any question or concern is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

2

School Principal

Step Two

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

3

School Superintendents

Step Three

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

4

Trustees

Step Four

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining



Your School trustee
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Your School Superintendent
Elizabeth Addo
Learning Centre 2
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Learn more about the school year calendar and significant days and months at www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/calendar.

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 5, 2016
Board-wide PA Day	October 7, 2016
Thanksgiving	October 10, 2016
Board-wide PA Day	November 18, 2016
Board-wide PA Day	December 2, 2016
Christmas Break	December 26, 2016 to January 6, 2017 (inclusive) Last day of school is December 23, 2016 School resumes January 9, 2017
Elementary PA Day	January 20, 2017*
Secondary PA Day - (Semestered Schools only)	February 2, 2017
Board-wide PA Day	February 17, 2017
Family Day	February 20, 2017
March Break	March 13 to 17, 2017
Good Friday	April 14, 2017
Easter Monday	April 17, 2017
Victoria Day	May 22, 2017
Elementary School PA Day	June 9, 2017
Secondary School PA Day (Full Year Schools only)	June 28, 2017*
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2017
Board-wide PA Day	June 30, 2017

*High School Semester Change: The first day of second semester is February 3, 2017. Secondary school calendar includes a PA day for semestered schools only on February 2, 2017 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on June 28, 2017.