



Good day AYJ Community,

A very busy week of student, staff and community involvement has led us to this week's update! Great to see a large group of parents out at our interview afternoon/evening. Our Staff Appreciation Breakfast was well received (see below and THANKS to all) and our students were involved in different club and school initiatives, highlighted by a very successful return to an AYJ tradition – the AYJ Talent Show!!

Please read through the items we have for you this week!

### [AYJ Staff Contact List](#)

Please refer to the staff list and assignments linked below if you need to connect with any one of our teaching/non teaching staff.

**AYJ Staff List and Assignments – 2022/23 – Sem 2 (as of Feb 27<sup>th</sup>) link:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hn5QxTtesyyGWPwdj1kgDaG\\_nEikXNSs/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hn5QxTtesyyGWPwdj1kgDaG_nEikXNSs/view?usp=sharing)

### **AYJ Grads – HOLD These Dates**

As a very early preview to a couple of very important graduate dates for our Grade 12 students:

**Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Grade 12 Prom**

at Paradise Banquet Hall

7601 Jane St.

Concord, ON

(Jane St and Hwy 7)

**Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **AYJ Graduation Ceremony**

Crystal Fountain Event Venue

60 McDowell Gate

Markham, ON L6G 1B5

(Birchmount Rd and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

Please mark these dates in your calendar and prepare accordingly.

More information will follow as we approach these dates.

### **Credit Rescue Day – Wed Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 3:15pm**

We have had a will be a very busy month of March which included Tuesday night's Parent-Teacher Interviews. A topic of discussion in many of those interviews centred on our upcoming Credit Rescue Day at A Y Jackson SS.

As we approach the Mid Term (and hence mid term report cards), students will be given the opportunity to salvage missed assignments and evaluations during our Sem 2/Term 1 Credit Rescue Day scheduled for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:15pm.

On this Credit Rescue Days, **ONLY** students invited to participate by their teachers will be expected to attend school on these days. Students **NOT** engaged in Credit Rescue Activities will be assigned Asynchronous/Independent work that can be completed while they are at home. Students will need to log in to their BrightSpace Classrooms from home during their regularly assigned class **times** to be marked present for those days. Teachers will be sending out invites to students/families in the days preceding the Credit Rescue Day.

Please also note that even though there will be a break during the lunch period for students and staff, the Cafeteria Services will be closed. We will be making a pizza order for the number of students we anticipate during the day, however those resources will be limited.

### **AYJ Staff Appreciation Breakfast**

On behalf of the AYJ Staff, I would like to thank the full AYJ Community for their tremendous showing of support for this week's Staff Appreciation Breakfast. The community's donations to fund this event showed a level of care that was above and beyond any normal expectations!

**THANKS to ALL involved!**

Link to AYJ Staff Appreciation Photos:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mcCAioWrQLZKhxsQSvMoUYFMSzxnQkig/view?usp=sharing>  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16t7gbS39JpOgzkuMeE7hZYDf5o0mJyTX/view?usp=sharing>  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hu86sKM-jR3mmpPQD\\_Glfal48NroZzcz/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hu86sKM-jR3mmpPQD_Glfal48NroZzcz/view?usp=sharing)

### **AYJ Tech Tutors**

AYJ Tech Tutors is a group of 25 high school students who teach assistive technology that can benefit students in their education and life. Specifically, they are teaching Read and Write for Google Chrome and OrbitNote which allows you to use PDFs with Read and Write features. This past week **the students trained 25 teachers** how to use technology. They will also be going into elementary schools to train students and staff.

Link to Photos:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cqKmsOOI9FzM49tqRKfVQPobNYdEhgYn/view?usp=sharing>  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zNIwY8helZoa9ILJ9C8iPoHKtcdmqitD/view?usp=sharing>

### **AY Jackson Key Club**

The District Education and Leadership Conference (DELC) was held from March 24 to 26, 2023 in Niagara Falls. DELC celebrated the service and achievements of all the 45 Eastern Canada Key Clubs.

AY Jackson Key Club (sponsored by East York Kiwanis) was recognized for several service and club awards including first placements in:

**Major Emphasis Award for our work on the Thirst Project:**

Awarded for exceptional effort in completing the best project on a local scale related to the theme of "Children: Their Future, Our Focus."

Students: Carolina O-H and Samantha J

**Single Service Award for our work on Bleed the North:**

Awarded for the single best service project.

Students: Carolina O-H and Samantha J

**Club Video Contest:**

Our video will be submitted to the International Key Club Conference

Students: Jiana H and Maggie L

**Club Poster Contest**

Our poster will be submitted to the International Key Club Conference

Students: Omar F and Sep S-G

**Oratory Contest**

Students: Ria A and Grace J

**Year in Review Contest (scrapbook)**

Students: Navya A, Victoria T and Miyuru R

**We also received the following Club Awards:**

**Distinguished Club Award:**

Recognition of individual Key Clubs for their overall performance in the combined areas of club administration, membership, and leadership development, Kiwanis family involvement, service, and fundraising.

**Early Bird Award**

**Strive for 5 Award**

**Division 5 Spirit Award**

We are especially proud of Samantha Jenkins who was voted in as the Lieutenant Governor for the Maple Leaf Division 5 and Lily Samaroo who was voted in as District Executive Assistant. They will serve on the Eastern Canada District Board for the next service year.

**Thank you to Pat Lawrence our Kiwanis advisor (East York) for her continuous support and effort and to all our admin for their encouragement.**

**Of course, a huge thank you also goes out to Ms Hassam, our club staff supervisor!**

**Excellent work Key Clubbers!**

See Key Club Photos linked below:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-4EnGGL7QVFARq-7Uik3\\_bWf0NK-VZa7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-4EnGGL7QVFARq-7Uik3_bWf0NK-VZa7/view?usp=sharing)  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13lp-rgpnzvUMf12EeKtMSM72TcDF0eJN/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PayzVqg4W9y8lGIsIve4Se\\_03aEeAav/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PayzVqg4W9y8lGIsIve4Se_03aEeAav/view?usp=sharing)

### **#PrideTDSB Committee Call Out!**

As part of TDSB's long standing commitment to celebrating June as Pride month. Across the Board we are beginning preparations for #PrideTDSB 2023. As part of honouring student and staff feedback and in order to make our work more impactful, we are happy to announce the creation of two #PrideTDSB sub-committees. One which will focus on the Academic side of the organization and one which will focus on the Operations side.

While two groups will focus on the promotion of #PrideTDSB within their respective areas the committees will collaborate on system initiatives and creative ways to engage our staff, students, and allies during #PrideTDSB month.

The first meeting for the Academic and Operations Committee will be on Wednesday, April 5 at 4:00pm via [Zoom](#).

We encourage all staff and students who are interested in recognizing #PrideTDSB join us for these meetings. Together, we can make Pride month a memorable and inclusive event for everyone in our community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Community clean-up Event – Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Sign up**

City Councillor Shelley Carroll is organizing a community clean-up event on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 from 1pm to 3pm. It's a great opportunity to take part in the beautifying effort for our community and earn volunteering hours! Councillor Carroll's team will be at A. Y. Jackson on **Tuesday, April 4 during lunch hour**. You can meet the team and sign up to volunteer at the event.

### **Excellence Awards 2023 to Celebrate Staff Dedication**

Every year, [the TDSB Excellence Awards](#) help shine a light on the stories of extraordinary staff commitment, and we are delighted to announce that nominations for the Excellence Awards 2023 opened on February 27, 2023.

Last year, the Excellence Awards were modified to align with our shared system priorities and help highlight TDSB staff's efforts to foster joy, engagement and belonging in our schools, workplaces, and communities as a foundation for academic achievement, student success and service excellence.

We want to know about the TDSB colleagues you know who are inspiring students, innovating the curriculum, championing digital transformation, creating inclusive schools and workplaces, and working behind the scenes to support events, operations, initiatives, learning, and wellness in so many different ways.

We welcome nominations from anyone – staff, students, parents/caregivers, or community members – so we encourage you to submit nominations and to encourage your colleagues to submit nominations between **February 27 and April 6, 2023**.

### **Tutoring Info**

The TDSB is continuing to support students with unfinished learning. Through the Ministry's funding for Tutoring programs, they are pleased to announce that TDSB students will now have access to free, unlimited, online tutoring, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We will be working with Paper and Brainfuse. These two particular organizations were chosen as they could immediately serve the needs of a school board our size, while ensuring students could access the tutoring resources at any time of day.

In addition to the extra assistance teachers already offer students, the TDSB continues to support school-based tutoring by interested TDSB teachers funded by the Ministry of Education. Parents can speak with the AYJ Admin Team about joining already existing after-school Continuing Education tutoring programs currently running at AYJ.

All tutoring services are voluntary. There is no obligation for any student to participate in tutoring. TDSB is not operating online tutoring services. This means that TDSB staff will not be present during tutoring sessions.

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and/or Students (18 years or older) who wish to participate in one of these free online tutoring services should contact the company directly to learn more about their services and the registration process.

The following Tutoring Fact Sheet provides more information about what's new and the online Tutoring opportunities. Please use your TDSB account to access the document.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koYyLmzrTGFhRrArVC8XEzKZUN8qNXFtn/view?usp=sharing>

### **Keisha's Korner:**

#### **(All the latest from AYJ's Graduation Coach for Black Students)**

As a TDSB Graduation Coach for Black students, I am here to begin identifying strategies and opportunities to support Black students at A.Y. Jackson so that they can thrive in the educational system, and work to support their emotional well-being and belonging and ensure their academic success.

We are excited to share some news and upcoming opportunities from the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

### **Film Screening: Scarborough**

You're invited! Join the Urban Indigenous Education Centre, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, and the Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression team for a virtual screening of [Scarborough](#) followed by a conversation with the author and screenwriter of the novel and adapted film Catherine Hernandez!

*Scarborough* the novel employs a multitude of voices to tell the story of a tight-knit neighbourhood under fire: among them, Victor, a Black artist harassed by the police; Winsum, a West Indian restaurant owner struggling to keep it together; and Hina, a Muslim school worker who witnesses first-hand the impact of poverty on education.

*Scarborough* shows the love and perseverance communities can foster, lifting up families to overcome the obstacles placed in their way.

Audience: Caregivers, Community, Staff

Date: April 17, 2023

Time: 6 – 9 p.m.

Register [here](#)

### **Interac Experiential Learning Program**

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement invites Black-identifying TDSB students in Grades 11 & 12 to participate in the [Interac Experiential Learning Program](#). Please share the following opportunity along with the attached flyer with your school community

This program offers paid experiential learning opportunities with Interac and focuses on creating meaningful and impactful professional development programming. Interac will provide four engaging in-person sessions aimed at developing students' transferable skills and building relevant competencies for today's workforce. This exciting program has limited spots available, so we encourage students to sign up as soon as possible.

**Online information session:** March 28, 2023 at 6 PM.

The program takes place in-person at Interac Corp. 200 Bay St., Suite 2400 from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM on the following dates:

April 5 - Coding 101

April 27 - Personal & Professional Branding

May 17 - Design Thinking Workshop

May 31 - Pathways to Success & Visioning

Transportation can be arranged.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CEBSAINTERAC> (*Students will need to be logged into their TDSB accounts in order to register.*)

*For more information, please connect with Keisha Evans- Graduation Coach for Black Students at [keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca)*

Link to Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LuH2NaxH3VKtJlp6dY01Z4424AFPJWKj/view?usp=sharing>

### **Western's National Scholarship Program**

Western's National Scholarship Program supports the dreams of top students whose potential can be realized through a world-class education at one of Canada's leading universities.

They're looking for high-potential applicants who excel in the classroom and in their extracurricular pursuits. Our aim is to attract and reward the best students from across Canada and around the world,

helping them achieve their academic goals while encouraging their vital contributions to our extraordinary campus culture.

Some of their National Scholarships include:

One **Neen Hodgins National Entrance Scholarship** valued at \$80,000

One **President's Entrance Scholarship** valued at \$70,000

One **Beryl Ivey Continuing Entrance Scholarship** valued at \$72,000

Five **President's Entrance Scholarships for Black Students** valued at \$50,000

Four **President's Entrance Scholarships** valued at \$65,000 and up to 15 more at \$50,000

One **Neen Hodgins President's International Entrance Scholarship** valued at \$80,000 for international (visa) students

Three **International President's Entrance Scholarships** valued at \$50,000 for international (visa) students

Up to 15 **Faculty Entrance Scholarships** valued at \$30,000

Up to 46 **National Scholarship Study Abroad Awards** valued up to \$5,000

Up to 50 **National Merit Awards** valued at \$2,000 for one year

More details about all the scholarship programs offered at Western can be found online at [https://registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances/scholarships\\_awards/admission/](https://registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/scholarships_awards/admission/). If you have any questions, our Scholarships Coordinator Norma Merino would be pleased to help at 519-661-2111 extension 85958 or email [nmerino@uwo.ca](mailto:nmerino@uwo.ca)

### **IMMspire 2023 at University of Toronto, Registration Now Open!**

Graduate students at the Department of Immunology at the University of Toronto (U of T), St. George Campus are hosting a conference for high school students to experience interactive immunology research through an event known as IMMspire.

We are happy to announce that this year, IMMspire will take place across two days **IN-PERSON** at the U of T St. George Campus on April 28-29, 2023. The theme of this year's event will be "**Cancer Immunology.**"

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

##### **Dates of Conference:**

Day 1: Friday April 28, 2023 (9 am to 3 pm)

Day 2: Saturday April 29, 2023 (9 am to 4 pm)

**Length of Sessions:** Approximately ~50 minutes, with breaks taking place between.

**For students in grades:** 11-12 (students in lower grades are welcome, but minimum of grade 9 level science is strongly recommended).

**Theme of Event:** The immune system and Cancer Immunology

-What are immune cells?

-What is cancer?

-How do we detect and treat cancer?

-How is the immune system involved in cancer?

**Certificate of Participation:** will be provided to IMMspire attendees that attend a majority of the event.

**Transportation:** Students can request reimbursement for the transportation costs to attend IMMspire.

**Maximum # of Participants:** Due to spacing logistics, a maximum of 80 students will be selected to attend the IMMspire program this year.

**Sign up for the program:** Please see the attached flyer with our QR code that gives access to the registration form and can be circulated to students.

OR at <https://forms.gle/ggwuScYWDYGbUPAC8>

OR sign up at <https://immspireuoft.wordpress.com/>

OR email us at [immspire@gmail.com](mailto:immspire@gmail.com)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oyrqIXFTsbRAwGYK-heWurMI0AoDmNBd/view?usp=sharing>

#### **For Youth Scholarship and Bursary Information**

For over 25 years, FYI has been dedicated to breaking down barriers to education and providing eligible youths with scholarships and bursaries to fund a portion of their post-secondary education journey. For the second year in a row, FYI's Post-Secondary Application Bursary is back and opened on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 giving you the opportunity to have your College, University or Trades School application expenses covered.

Please complete the following application to be considered for your chance to have your application costs covered. All questions are mandatory and to be answered accurately. There is no deadline to complete this bursary application, however please consider completing the bursary prior to completing your post-secondary applications so you can work with an FYI youth case worker to support you through the process.

Further information such as eligibility requirements and required documentation, can be found on the application form and the flyers attached to this email. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [oliviad@foryouth.ca](mailto:oliviad@foryouth.ca).

Application Link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/WFWU7a1ej9>

FYI Poster:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x3DLd8mfVdcHospNdiExHGcRpeCYPINH/view?usp=sharing>

FYI Application Fee Bursary Poster Link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hmQt8Q-vtc24IADh-owU7D9\\_L\\_sVvyGC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hmQt8Q-vtc24IADh-owU7D9_L_sVvyGC/view?usp=sharing)



## **Black Tutors Canada**

Black Tutors Canada is a tutor listing website that connects current and retired Black teachers, graduates, and professionals with students and families across Canada. Black tutors work with students at all grade levels from K-PhD levels in all subjects including Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, English, French, and Art, to name a few. We are looking for more tutors from across Canada to join our platform. We invite students of all diversity and intersectionality to access our services. For more details, see the attached flyer; click the link below to access the website or contact them at:

<https://blacktutorscanada.ca/>  
[info@blacktutorscanada.ca](mailto:info@blacktutorscanada.ca)

<https://blacktutorscanada.ca/> is happy to collaborate with community organizations with a shared value.

Black Tutors Canada Information Poster:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15LV59tYGBQgagcLxs\\_DEhsJYysjrDtYg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15LV59tYGBQgagcLxs_DEhsJYysjrDtYg/view?usp=sharing)

Together we can close the achievement gap!

## **Black Tutors Canada**

Email: [info@blacktutorscanada.ca](mailto:info@blacktutorscanada.ca)

Website: <https://blacktutorscanada.ca/>



## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Day 1 Regular Day Schedule**

Per 1	9:00am to 10:20am	Course 1
Per 2	10:25am to 11:40am	Course 2
Lunch	11:40am to 12:40pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
Per 3	12:40pm to 1:55pm	Course 3
Per 4	2:00pm to 3:15pm	Course 4

### **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Day 2 Regular Day Schedule (am & pm courses flip)**

Per 1	9:00am to 10:20am	Course 2
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Per 2	10:25am to 11:40am	Course 1
Lunch	11:40am to 12:40pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
Per 3	12:40pm to 1:55pm	Course 4
Per 4	2:00pm to 3:15pm	Course 3

\*Please keep in mind that the “Cycle Day” (Day 1 or 2) corresponds to the actual date (odd days - 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc are **Day 1**, even days - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, etc are **Day 2**)

<b>Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Semester 2 Credit Rescue Day</b> -by teacher appointment only -students <b>NOT</b> participating in Credit Rescue Day will work Asynchronously at home
<b>Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HOLIDAY – School CLOSED, NO classes</b>
<b>Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HOLIDAY – School CLOSED, NO classes</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>AYJ Late Start Schedule – classes begin at 9:55am</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>AYJ School (Parent) Council IN-PERSON Meeting at 6:00pm</b> -in the AYJ Library
<b>Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>AYJ Late Start Schedule – classes begin at 9:55am</b>

That’s all for now AYJ, be on alert for any April Fool’s Day pranks tomorrow morning and have a great weekend!

P

Peter Paputsis  
Principal  
AY Jackson SS  
. . . Getting Back to Business!  
416-395-3140

**Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB - Closing Ceremony - April 1**

In March, the Toronto District School Board has been recognizing and celebrating Greek Heritage Month. This year's theme was based on TDSB's priorities: "Joy, Engagement and Belonging" Unfortunately, we were not able to have our Opening Event on March 4th due to the severe winter weather.

We are happy to share that we will be having a Closing Ceremony on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the Greek Community of Toronto (30 Thorncliffe Park Dr.) from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. This afternoon of music, dance, and photo displays will include entertainment from TDSB students and community members. Light refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to celebrating the end of Greek Heritage Month with you! OPA!!

GHM Steering Committee

For more information or details, please contact [anna.epitropou@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:anna.epitropou@tdsb.on.ca)

### **TDSB Ukrainian “Laskavo Prosymo” Welcome Fair**

TDSB Ukrainian “Laskavo Prosymo” Welcome Fair is taking place 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 15, at Western Technical-Commercial School, 125 Evelyn Crescent. All TDSB Ukrainian secondary students and families are welcome.

Please use this [registration form](#)

Deadline for registration is April 1, 2023.

### **Sikh Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board April 2023**

Sikh Heritage Month has proudly been recognized at the TDSB during the month of April since 2016. The TDSB became the first school board in Canada to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed the Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013, and the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the turn of the twentieth century. They have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and their traditions and culture continue to be a vibrant part of every aspect of life of Canadians today.

This year our theme is Kes. Kes is one of five Kakaars, indicators that Sikh individuals must acknowledge as part of their faith. The five Kakaars are five sacred articles of faith prescribed by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. They are also known as the 'Five Ks' because each one starts with letter K representing Kakka in the Punjabi language. The five K's are:

- i) Kes; ii) Kirpan; iii) Karra; iv) Kangha; v) Kacchera.

We are inviting all TDSB community, students, and staff to join our virtual Sikh Heritage Month launch to recognize the contributions of Sikh Canadians. Join us for a remarkable morning of information and celebration on April 12, 9:30 - 10:30 am at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/stream/LiveWebcast-Sikh-HeritageMonth.html>

We're proud to showcase the results of our Sikh Heritage Month Poster/Video Contest which will be posted on the TDSB public website (to follow). Kudos to all our students for their submissions. As part of the celebration to mark Sikh Heritage Month we're proud to share a [three-part Podcast series](#) with staff, students and the TDSB community on:

[Episode 1](#): looks at SEVA: Selfless Service;

[Episode 2](#): discusses Oneness: Equity and Justice for All; and

[Episode 3](#): talks about Chardi Kala: External Resilience: Optimism and Joy.

Lastly, during the month of April Sikh Canadians recognize Vaisakhi, also known as Khalsa Day, which celebrates the Sikh New Year across Ontario. This year Khalsa Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 30th in downtown Toronto at Exhibition Place. This celebration is the third largest parade in Canada. We hope you're available to join us!

Please visit the Heritage/History Month website page for Sikh Heritage Month for additional resources including daily quotes, a power point and video on Kes. (Link: <http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/equity/Heritage-History-Months/2022-2023>)

### **Sikh Heritage Month: Online /Bhangra Dance & Talk Session / Workshop with Gurdeep Pandher**

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the TDSB during the month of April since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013 and matches the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

As part of the celebrations to mark Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB during the month of April, virtual education opportunities are being offered to classroom teachers from each panel (Kindergarten to Secondary) to further learn about the Sikh heritage and customs.

Currently we are excited to offer all students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 the opportunity to hear Gurdeep Pandher ([see flyer](#)). Please join us!!

Monday, April 3, 2023

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

No pre-registration is required.

Please click the link to join the webinar: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92342473345>

Gurdeep Pandher is a Yukon based, Bhangra dance artist. He lives in a small off-the-grid cabin in the wilderness near Lake Laberge. He creates dance videos in nature/outdoors and performances that bring people together. He is best known for spreading joy, hope and positivity during the pandemic. Millions of viewers throughout the world have watched his wilderness videos. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. More information on Gurdeep Pandher may be found by following his twitter account @GurdeepPandher.

We encourage all TDSB classes K-8 to participate in this amazing learning experience with Gurdeep Pandher!

For any questions, please email TDSB Sikh Heritage Month Committee Member Sukhwinder Buall at [Sukhwinder.buall@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Sukhwinder.buall@tdsb.on.ca)

### **Latin-America History Month at the TDSB - April 2023**

Latin-America History Month is proudly recognized at the TDSB during the month of April because of a motion passed through our Board of Trustees in 2016. This year the theme to mark Latin-America History Month is (Decolonizing) Latin-America History Month & Beyond: Honouring & Uplifting the Real Hxstories and Multiplicities of our Identities.

The "x" in HXSTORIES was chosen to decentre patriarchal HISTories and tell our multiples stories-historical, lived, and living. "The X is intended to reflect the many distinct identities struggles, an intersectionalities as a inclusive and progressive term. The X is a way of recognizing our untold histories and pushing forward collectively to recover what has been stolen from us."

(<https://sites.google.com/nhusd.k12.ca.us/essj-blanca-rios/home#h.lcnwoat1t09t>)

Since it's creation of the Latin-America History Month Volunteer planning committee in 2016, the membership, comprised of educators, community organizers, parents and TDSB staff and alumni continues to ensure that we are reflective of all intersectional differences within our communities of Latin-America/Abya Yala / Pachamana and its diaspora.

This year we focus on centring, honouring and uplifting our real hystories, both pre-colonial, and the realities of present-day due to colonization. We also centre, honour and uplift the multiplicities of our identities-recognizing fundamentally that our communities are not monolithic across all intersectional identity markers. We collectively push back on the "boxes" that have imposed on our communities and take up the transformative power there is when we honour and uplift ourselves and each other in our totality. Several activities are being planned for students, staff, and community members. We invite everyone to join us at the Latin-America History Month virtual launch: Save the Date: Thursday, April 13, 2:00 - 3:00 pm.

TDSB students from all grade levels were invited to participate in a Creative Arts Contest. All students will also be provided with the opportunity to learn about the connections across the continent of the Americas through the Condor and Eagle Prophecy, learn through the storytelling of pre-colonial hystories through the uplifting of Afro-Indigenous roots, and the realities of present-day through the powerful tool that music brings with Ruben Beny Esguerra (Canadian musical artist/poet based in Toronto and has been nominated twice for a JUNO Award.)

We're also extremely proud to have author Leonarda Carranza read her recent book to our young students, *Abuelita and Me* in both English and Spanish and lead us through a discussion in alignment with this year's theme.

Students will also have the opportunity through a Beyond Just a Career: Latin-America/Abya Yala/Pachamama Diaspora in K-12 Education panel to connect with leaders and learn about their intertwined personal, educational, and professional journey towards intentionally choosing to follow their calling into an educational space.

Please follow us on twitter: @TDSBLAHM

Please visit the Heritage/History Month website page for Latin-America History Month for additional resources including daily quotes, etc. (Link: <http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/equity/Heritage-History-Months/2022-2023> )

### **Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB - April 2023**

During the month of April the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third- generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario, the province recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic status, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."

**Peter Paputsis (he/him)**

**Principal**

**A Y Jackson SS**

**. . . Getting Back to Business!**

**416-395-3140**