

A. Y. Jackson

News Update
April 6th, 2023



Good day AYJ Community,

As we enter the meat of our 4 day on – 4 day off – 4 day on holiday sandwich, we look forward to some significant events this month that will set us up for the end of Semester Two, Term One and lead into our final Term of the school year!

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 27th) link:

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 1st

Grade 12 Prom

at Paradise Banquet Hall

7601 Jane St.

Concord, ON

(Jane St and Hwy 7)

Friday, June 30th

AYJ Graduation Ceremony

Crystal Fountain Event Venue

60 McDowell Gate

Markham, ON L6G 1B5

(Birchmount Rd and 14th Avenue)

Please mark these dates in your calendar and prepare accordingly.

More information will follow as we approach these dates.

AYJ School (Parent) Council IN-PERSON Mtg – Wed Apr 19th (in the AYJ Library)

We will be holding our next **AYJ School (Parent) Council Meeting** on **Wednesday, April 19th** and we would like to invite (as always) members of our full community to join us. The AYJ School (Parent) Council is a great place to hear first-hand all of the latest news from AYJ and to network with other parents and to share your observations arising from our super busy AY Jackson school community!

Once again, we will meet **IN-PERSON** for this Council Meeting, and we look forward to having another strong turnout. For those who may not be able to attend in-person, we will forward a zoom link to all who pre-register with which interested participants can listen in on our discussions.

In an effort to better prepare for anticipated numbers of attendees please fill out the information on the Google Form linked below to register for the meeting:

<https://forms.gle/ncLxf9bhH2ZcRuyY7>

Below is a list of **this year's Parent Council Executive**.

Jennifer	Gillick	Chair/CoChair
Key	Kasravi	Chair/CoChair
Dava	Slater	Secretary
Sunny	Sun	Treasurer
Rana	AlKassem Addasi	Parent Rep
Nancy	Kamenyero	Parent Rep
Brigitte	Lee	Parent Rep
Teisha	Mullings	Parent Rep
Jean-Paul	Ngana	Parent Rep
xiaowei	pan	Parent Rep
Carla	Rossi	Parent Rep
Phouvieng	Sackda	Parent Rep
Zemei (Jasmine)	Wang	Parent Rep
Katherine	Whang	Parent Rep
Jenny	Zeng	Parent Rep
Terence	Philips	Community Rep
Brad	Barker	Teacher Rep
Tara	Breeze	Teacher Rep

We look forward to connecting with all interested parties at our meeting,

Community clean-up Event – Saturday, April 22nd Volunteer Sign up

City Councillor Shelley Carroll is organizing a community clean-up event on Saturday, April 22nd, 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.

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/1koYyLmzrTGFhRARVC8XEzKZUN8qNXFtn/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

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/. 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

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oyrqlXFTsbRAwGYK-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 1st, 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.

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

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

<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

Together we can close the achievement gap!

Black Tutors Canada

Email: info@blacktutorscanada.ca

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



Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, April 11th

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	LUNCH
Per 3	12:40pm to 1:55pm	Course 3
Per 4	2:00pm to 3:15pm	Course 4

Wednesday, April 12th

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

Per 1	9:00am to 10:20am	Course 2
Per 2	10:25am to 11:40am	Course 1
Lunch	11:40am to 12:40pm	LUNCH
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 - 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc are **Day 1**, even days - 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc are **Day 2**)

Wednesday, April 19th **AYJ Late Start Schedule** – classes begin at 9:55am

Wednesday, April 19th **AYJ School (Parent) Council IN-PERSON Meeting** at 6:00pm
 -in the AYJ Library

Tuesday, April 25th **Semester Two, Term One Report Card Distribution**
 -via School Messenger Secure Document E-mail Delivery

Wednesday, April 26th **AYJ Late Start Schedule** – classes begin at 9:55am

That’s all for now AYJ, have a great extra long weekend!

P

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

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>)

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 HlStories 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 disspora.

This year we focus on centring, honouring and uplifting our real hxstories, 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 hxstories 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."

Asian Heritage Month at the TDSB: Call-Out for Poster Design 2023

Asian Heritage Month is recognized formally throughout Canada through an official declaration that was signed in May 2002 and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) passed a motion to recognize Asian Heritage Month in April 2007. According to the 2017 TDSB Student & Parent Census, 40% of TDSB students self-identified as Asian. We are proud to celebrate the numerous achievements of Asian-Canadians and their significant role on the global stage.

This year's theme is: *Joining Our Table: Celebrating Asian Canadians*.

We have several initiatives planned for the month of May that will be shared, but at this time we are pleased to invite all TDSB students from kindergarten to grade 12 to submit a poster design that reflects our theme. Please see the [attached](#) document for full details.

Deadline; April 19, 2023 by 3:00 pm

Should you have any questions, please contact Asian Heritage Month Volunteer Committee Members, Daniel Chan at daniel.chan@tdsb.on.ca or Deepinderjit Kaur Labana at deepinderjitkaur.@tdsb.on.ca

Peter Paputsis (he/him)
Principal
A Y Jackson SS
. . . Getting Back to Business!
416-395-3140