Check your mailbox this week!

My summer newsletter will be in your mailbox soon. There will be updates on equity, childcare, and major repairs in our schools.

Graduations

Graduations began this week, and this is always a very busy time of the year for me. This year I am planning to attend 33 of the 39 graduations. I truly feel bad for being unable to attend the graduations at Broadlands, Cassandra, Donview, Don Mills MS, Roywood, and O'Connor. Time conflicts make it impossible, but I am glad I could attend fun fairs and spring events at most of these schools.

Don Valley Middle School Special Event

With a bus accident last week, the year end event at Don Valley Middle School for grade 8 students didn't go as planned to say the least. But, this morning there was a big announcement and CTV and CP24 were there to capture the moment too. After much work behind the scenes, Principal Anne Lee announced that all grade 8 students would receive tickets to the big TFC game next week vs Montreal! Although tickets are sold out, some will even get to experience the executive suite, so I am just a bit jealous. Enjoy!!

June is Italian Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize June as Italian Heritage Month. I am proud to again be on the organizing committee for Italian Heritage Month, and we had a delicious Evening of Italian Culture on June 1.

During this month we celebrate the spirited culture and traditions of the Italian community with students, staff and community members of the Toronto District School Board and province of Ontario. Events are scheduled throughout Toronto to recognize the Italian heritage and below are three for your reference:

To find out about Italian Heritage Month events throughout the city, visit www.italianheritagecanada.com.
June is Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month at the TDSB

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize June as Portuguese-speaking Heritage Month. During this month, the TDSB’s Portuguese-speaking communities are provided with opportunities to share their vibrant culture and traditions and also gain a better understanding of the Portuguese-speaking diaspora.

- Portuguese is the official language of eight countries: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome & Principe and East Timor.

School Year Calendar

The 2017-2018 school year at the TDSB begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 following the Labour Day long weekend. For more information about important dates and holidays for the upcoming school year, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar/SchoolYearCalendar20172018.aspx

Healthy Hikes – May 2 – October 31

Healthy Hikes is an annual health and wellness initiative of Conservation Ontario. Each year, families in Ontario are encouraged to boost their health by stepping into nature at any one of Ontario’s Conservation Areas from May to October. Visit the events calendar at healthyhikes.ca/events-calendar to join a guided nature walk in one of our local Conservation Areas. We also have beautiful trails in our community such as the Betty Sutherland Trail and East Don Parklands for you to enjoy.

Walk for Thalassemia - June 24

On Saturday June 24 from 9am-2pm, there is a Walk for Thalassemia at the East Don Parkland at 1240 Sheppard Ave East. It is a 5km Walk or Run and supports the Thalassemia Foundation of Canada.

Summer High School Credit

This summer, there are two Adult Learning Centres serving adult students and 13 locations for high school students. Reach ahead or make up a credit towards your high school diploma. Registration opens May 1 at 10 a.m. Classes fill up quickly so register early. All classes begin on Tuesday, July 5 and conclude on Friday, July 28. Visit www.creditprograms.ca for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

Elementary Summer School

Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. This summer, from July 5 – 28, we are opening schools across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/summer for a complete list of participating schools. In our area, you can sign up still at Cassandra, Don Valley, and George S Henry.
Continuing Education – Summer Music Camps

Add to your child’s summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, DownTown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now. For more information, please visit www.tdsbsummercamps.ca   @TDSB_ConEd

Summer International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

Register your child in TDSB’s half and full day international languages summer programs. Open to all students from SK to Grade 8 at 12 schools, our language learning programs involve cultural activities like games, songs, dance, storytelling, traditional crafts and writing. Classes begin July 4 - 28. Visit www.ILEpprograms.ca for a complete list of participating schools and language classes.   @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education – Improve your English with Us

This summer, adults can build literacy and English language skills from July 4-28. Learn about your community and the services available. We offer a wide range of classes from beginner to advanced to help you improve your conversation skills, further your education, and prepare for citizenship and language proficiency tests. The Adult ESL program is free for eligible learners. For more information, visit www.ESLtoronto.ca or call 416-338-4300.   @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education - Community Programs

Summer Learn4Life classes begin July 4! Take up a new hobby, learn a language, and meet people in your community. Put your hands to work through art and cooking. Take up a sport and stay active this summer. Register at www.learn4life.ca. Facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life   @TDSB_ConEd

Sun Safe Behaviour

Getting students outside and active is good for their health but too much sun can have serious side-effects, including burns, eye damage, premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. We encourage all students to practice “sun safety.”

What exactly does sun safe behaviour look like?

- Cover up: Even on days with a moderate UV index students should wear a hat and sunglasses, especially if they'll be outside for over 30 minutes.
- Stay cool: Students should stay in shady areas, particularly at midday when the sun is strongest.
- Use sunscreen: Choose sunscreens with SPF 15 or higher that include protection from both UVA and UVB rays.
Arts in the Parks: Free Arts Events in a Toronto Park Near You

Toronto has become an international summer hotspot as our city buzzes with energy and culture during those blissful summer days and nights. For a second year, Toronto will be coming alive as never before with an exciting new initiative called Arts in the Parks. Think music, theatre and dance. Think film, art installations and performance. These events take place throughout the city from North York to Etobicoke to Scarborough and the downtown core. All of it is completely family-friendly and free! It's the biggest, most inclusive arts initiative that Toronto has ever seen. Visit www.artsintheparksTO.org for full events listings, dates and details.

Have a great summer!

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