Quote of the week

Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

Don Mills Collegiate Institute Weekly Bulletin: 2024/2025

CyberARTS:





MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28
Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2
National Theatre School Festival Performance:ARTSTAR: 6:30-8pm	Wrestling City Championships at York University	Late Start: Staff Meeting		
Wrestling Weigh ins; Newtonbrook				
March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1

Feb. 22 (Saturday): National Theatre School Festival Rehearsal in cafetorium; 93pm
Feb. 24: National Theatre School Festival Performance: 6:30-8pm
Feb. 24: weigh ins for wrestling after school at Newtonbrook
Feb. 25: Wrestling City Championships at Newtonbrook
Feb. 26: Late Start; Staff Meeting
March 6: Black History Month P3/P4 Assembly

April 11: Mid Term Marks, 3 comments, LS due at 3:15pm
April 14&15: EQAO Literacy Test
April 17: OUAC/OCAS marks upload and Report Cards sent
April 28: Last day to drop a senior course
May 9: Cultural Day
May 28: Musical Theatre Matinee
May 29, 30, 31: Musical Theatre Performance; 7pm

March 10-14: March Break
April 3: Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Interviews
June 5: Prom
June 26: Commencement

Items for This Weekly Newsletter. For each heading below, click the link to go directly to the item of your choice. To return back to the list of agenda items, click <u>Back to Table of Contents/Agenda Items</u>

- Ignite Fundraiser for North York Harvest Food Bank
- Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB: Poster Challenge
- Your Voice Matters!
- St. Michael's College Irish Heritage Award 2025
- ASD After School Skills Development Program Spring 2025 Session
- Guides for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers Video Series
- Greek Heritage Month: Initiative for March 2025
- Ultimate Coders Summer Camps
- Study Abroad, Work Abroad, Travel, and Volunteering
- Cultural Show: Friday, May 9th
- Special Education and Inclusion February Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers
- New Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement Website
- <u>Upcoming Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Engagement Session: Navigating Transitions</u>
- Honouring African Heritage Experiences
- Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club and Podcast
- New Transitions Websites for Families
- Credit Summer School 2025 (Continuing Education and e-Summer)
- Sports, Clubs, Committees, Field Trips, Speakers, Yearbook, Events
- Virtual Drop In Hours for Parents, Caregivers & Guardians
- Drop In Sessions 2024-2025 for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers: Special Education and Inclusion
- Peer Tutoring

- Pantry
- Teacher Emails (last name in alpha order)
- Have a Great Weekend!

Ignite Fundraiser for North York Harvest Food Bank

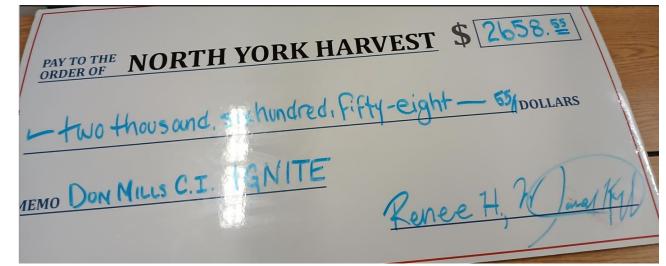
Thank you to Ms. Simpson and all her wonderful students, for their leadership both for this school year's work and performance in Ignite, and their incredible contribution to the North York Harvest.

Please see message below:

My respect and gratitude to Andrea, and the remarkable Ignite students. It is truly inspirational for me to have the opportunity to thank a group of students who came together to support North York Harvest.

I can't thank Andrea enough for welcoming me back to the school to present the 'big cheque', thank your students for their hard work and let them know how they have supported and impacted our local community.

Please know that I'm always available to support any future events at the school. My sincere thanks, Judy





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Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB: Poster Challenge

TDSB celebrates Sikh Heritage Month in April to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Sikh Community in Canada. As part of the celebrations, there will be a competition for TDSB students to design and create a poster that highlights the theme for this year's celebrations. Theme is: Ekta (Oneness), Solidarity, and Resilience.

Deadline: All entries must be received by Wednesday, March 4th, 2025, by 4:00 pm

Please use the following google form to submit all entries:

Poster Contest TDSB Sikh Heritage Month April 2025 – "Ekta (Oneness), Solidarity, and Resilience ".

Please see the <u>attached</u> document for Eligibility and Prizes and Poster Contest Guidelines Should further information be required, please contact Sikh Heritage Month Committee Leads:

- Navjot Jandu <u>navjot.jandu@tdsb.on.ca</u>
- Lakshmi lyer <u>lakshmi.lyer@tdsb.on.ca</u>
- Maninder Rai maninder.rai@tdsb.on.ca

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Your Voice Matters

Children's Mental Health Week is May 5-9, 2025. This year our theme is all about expressing the importance and power of students' use of their voice, what it means to them and how they demonstrate it.

The Child and Youth Services Poster Contest is open to all TDSB students, with prizes to be won in five categories. The winning designs will be announced in May, during Children's Mental Health week, when we visit schools to share the news with students and their communities. We will also feature the posters on Social Media and in some TDSB buildings.

Please see the <u>attached flyer</u> and instructions for contest details and submission information. Supplemental activities have been included to support students with exploring ideas that connect to this year's theme "Your Voice Matters"; engage students in sharing their story and ideas of how their voice matters; and how they might express those ideas visually through the creation of a poster.

A Certificate of Participation is also included to be given to each participating student.

The deadline to submit contest entries is April 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Follow us on social media to see supplemental material to support making your posters: X formerly know as Twitter <u>@TDSB_CYS</u> & Instagram <u>@TDSB.CYS</u>

For further information, please contact Koryn Marshall <u>koryn.marshall@tdsb.on.ca</u> <u>Back to Table of Contents/Agenda Items</u>

St. Michael's College Irish Heritage Award 2025

In anticipation of Canada's Irish Heritage Month in March and in acknowledgement of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, the University of St. Michael's College, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland and Consulate General of Ireland, Toronto, announces awards celebrating the important historic and continuing contribution of the Irish in Canada.

Please note that submissions are due on March 26, 2025.

Please see the <u>attached</u> for further information and contact details.

ASD After School Skills Development Program – Spring 2025 Session

The Fall/Winter sessions of the ASD After School Leisure Program, available both in-person and virtually, will run every Tuesday from March 25, 2025 to June 10, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The program is available to students in Grades 4-10 who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop, build and enhance their social communication skills through either weekly in-person or weekly virtual sessions.

Please find enclosed the <u>information letter</u> which includes the link for registration to the parents of Grades 4 – 10 students with ASD in your school. The registration period will remain open until Friday, March 7, 2025.

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Guides for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers Video Series

Special Education and Inclusion is excited to share our Guides for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers <u>video series</u>. These videos provide an overview of our Guides to Special Education, designed to help families understand the programs, services, and supports available to students. From learning about Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to navigating the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process, these resources are here to support you every step of the way. We also encourage you to explore the full guides on the <u>Special Education and Inclusion Website</u>, where you will find additional Special Education resources for families.

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Greek Heritage Month: Initiative for March 2025

TDSB students are welcome to submit a short video (30 seconds max) in responds to the following question.

What does being Greek or a Philhellene (a friend of Greek culture) mean to you?

The video may be chosen to become a part of the GHM's 10-year anniversary video that could be shared in the Greek Heritage Month celebrations this March.

We kindly request that TDSB staff support the GHM by sharing the following Google Form link with families.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSdTGvAjwklSKnDHb5F4e0yQliQ2hy2tzfxlg8hcDqsHyXlcxg/viewform?usp=sharing

Please submit by Friday, March 7, 2025.

Please submit by Friday, March 7, 2025.

There will be four sections:

- 1. Information of the Video Creator(s)
- 2. Information about the person submitting the video

Information about the person submitting the video

3. Media Release

4. Video Submission

Thank you for being part of this special milestone in celebrating Greek Heritage Month! Any questions, feel free to reach out to the cochairs: anna.epitropou@tdsb.on.ca or konstantinos.flegas@tdsb.on.ca

Greek Heritage Month Committee

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Ultimate Coders - Summer Camps

Students (SK-12) will learn to code all week this summer, and march break, when you register for a full-day camp below. Half-day options are available too!

[0] MARCH BREAK: MARCH 10TH-14TH

[1] SUMMER WEEK 1: JULY 7TH-11TH

[2] SUMMER WEEK 2: JULY 14TH-18TH

[3] SUMMER WEEK 3: JULY 22ND-25TH

[4] SUMMER WEEK 4: JULY 28TH-AUG 4TH

[5] SUMMER WEEK 5: AUG 11TH-15TH

[6] SUMMER WEEK 6: AUG 18TH-22ND

[7] SUMMER WEEK 7: AUG 25TH-AUG 29TH

To register visit: https://ultimatecoders.com/program-

landing?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email+marketing&utm_campaign=SUMMER+CAMP+REGISTRATION+OPEN+NOW+@+ultimatecoders.com!+(clone)+(06-02-2025)

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Study Abroad, Work Abroad, Travel, and Volunteering

Are you interested in studying abroad? The Study and Go Abroad and School Finder Fairs are coming together to offer you even more study options. Check out the **Canadian** pavilion for local and out-of-province universities and colleges. Explore the **International** pavilion to meet with institutions from around the world, including the UK, US, Australia, Switzerland, France etc. Don't forget to visit the Travel Zone for work abroad, internships, immersive language travel and volunteering.

Meet with top universities, graduate schools and professional schools from Canada and around the world on **March 2, 2025** at the **Toronto Convention Centre from 12 noon - 5 pm.** Visit: https://www.studyandgoabroad.com/student-expo/ for more information.

Cultural Show: Friday, May 9th

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

This year, DMCI's Cultural Show is on Friday, May 9th! We are looking for YOU to set up a booth with cultural food and to share your culture with the students.

The booths/tables will be set up for lunch that day (a specific time will be shared). There will be performances and a fashion show after the students get food and info.

If you are interested in having a booth on Friday, May 9th, please email Ms. Bhucher - Kundan, our Cultural Club teacher supervisor, at shallu.bhucher-kundan@tdsb.on.ca before or by April 9th.

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Special Education and Inclusion February Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

The Special Education and Inclusion Department is pleased to share the <u>February Newsletter for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers</u> that highlights some relevant resources and information for families.

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New Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement Website

You spoke! We listened! We have released version 1 of our updated new website. This new website is easier to navigate, more user-friendly and visually dynamic. Beyond all the old features you've come to love, we've also included additional feature stories, information on programs, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page, resources and upcoming events. If you have any questions or would like to submit a suggestion, please email cebsa@tdsb.on.ca

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

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Upcoming Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Engagement Session: Navigating Transitions

The following are the dates for the upcoming parent/caregiver/guardian session being offered by the Special Education and Inclusion Department. These repeat sessions will focus on the support and services available for students with special needs and disabilities, both within the TDSB and through external organizations.

Date: Wednesday, March 5th - Day (AM)

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Date: Thursday, March 6th - Evening (PM)

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Please see this **flyer**

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Honouring African Heritage Experiences

People of African descent have a rich legacy of cultural practices and traditions across generations. The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with various community educators is excited to offer diverse learning experiences focused on honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean and Black students' identities. These African-centred programming and learning experiences provide opportunities for students, staff, caregivers and community members. Please find the menu for February 2025. Link to calendar

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club and Podcast

Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Psychology and Director of the Mental Health and Well-Being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH; https://carleton.ca/mental-health/) housed at Carleton University created the "Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club" (https://carleton.ca/mental-health/mewerths-reading-for-well-being-community-book-club/) to help combat misinformation and disinformation around wellness. He chose evidence-based books, selected as Professor Pozzulo's Picks, to help members sift through the thousands of titles available for improved well-being. The Book Club is open to all and there is no cost in joining or being a member. The objective is to connect people with the science and strategies for improved well-being.

He wrote several pieces for a general audience discussing the benefits of reading and community. He did a piece for The Conversation in the summer when he first started the Reading for Well-Being Community Book Club, https://theconversation.com/summer-reading-4-books-on-well-being-that-you-can-rely-on-229863

General information about the book club can be found on the MeWeRTH website, https://carleton.ca/mental-health/mewerths-reading-for-well-being-community-book-club/.

He also started a "Reading for Well-Being Podcast" where he interviewed the authors of the selected books to help readers understand the science behind the strategies that they can use to help improve their well-being.

You can find the Reading for Well-Being Podcast at these locations:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@ReadingforWellBeingPodcast
- Spotify: <u>Listen here</u>
- Apple Podcasts: <u>Listen here</u>
- Libsyn: Listen here

Please see the <u>attached poster</u> for all staff, teachers, and parents.

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New Transitions Websites for Families

The <u>TDSB Transition Support website for families</u> is a new resource designed to assist families (and educators) in navigating key transitions throughout a student's educational journey, from Kindergarten to Post-21. These user-friendly platforms offer valuable tools, information, and support tailored to ensure smooth transitions for all students, including those with disabilities and special education needs. Whether transitioning to a new grade, moving to a different school, or preparing for life beyond secondary education, the website provides practical resources and guidance to help educators and families plan effectively and make informed decisions.

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Credit Summer School 2025 (Continuing Education and e-Summer)

Continuing Education Secondary Summer School (Remote/Synchronous & In-Person)

- Dates: July 2 July 25, 2025
- Courses Offered: Remote Full Credit, Remote Adult, Remote Credit Recovery Only Grade 9 and Grade 10 courses will be available through Continuing Education.
- Gr. 8 to 9 Reach Ahead: In-Person Reach Ahead opportunity only: TAS101 Exploring Technologies.
- In-Person Sites: TBD. To ensure equitable access, the program will be available to all students across the city. However, the program's operation is subject to enrollment levels.

e-Summer July & August Summer School (Online)

- Dates: July Session: July 2- July 25, 2025. August Session: July 28 August 22, 2025
- Courses Offered: Only Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses will be available.
- Gr. 8 to 9 Reach Ahead: Not offered for e-Summer.

Please share this information with your staff and school community to ensure families and students are aware of these opportunities. Further details regarding registration and course availability will be shared in the coming weeks and on our respective websites: www.creditprograms.ca and TDSB e-Summer Program.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the success of our summer programming. For more information, please contact Centrally Assigned Principal Linda.Edwards@tdsb.on.ca or Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal Peter.Gazzellone@tdsb.on.ca

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Sports, Clubs, Committees, Field Trips, Speakers, Yearbook, Events:

Moving this item up please, thanking everyone who has paid their fee, and as a priority reminder to please have the \$50 SAC Fee paid.

Thank you to parents/guardians/caregivers for paying the Student Activity Council fee of \$50. For those that have not paid, please send the \$50 though the link **UPDATED LINK FOR \$50 FEE FOR CASHONLINE**

These funds help to cover all additional materials, field trips, sports, clubs, committees, speakers, <u>yearbook</u>, and events to help what makes Don Mills an awesome place to be. With over 60 clubs in the school, we are supporting each club with resources and funding to ensure all our students benefit from our incredible student leadership.

Virtual Drop In Hours for Parents, Caregivers & Guardians

Staff is excited to introduce our Virtual Drop-In Hours for the 2024/25 school year, open to staff, parents, guardians, and caregivers. In alignment with TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and our commitment to fostering belonging and inclusive learning environments that prioritize mental health and well-being, we will be offering focused, themed educational presentations designed to provide pathways to care for students' mental health and well-being.

The PSS team will host four virtual drop-in sessions, each providing up-to-date information and practical resources for youth, parents, guardians, and caregivers. These sessions are aimed at equipping our community with the knowledge and tools necessary to support the well-being of our students both at home and in school. Please share with your school communities!

The dates and themes are below and all sessions are virtual from 7pm-8pm:

2) March 19th, 2025: Access to TDSB Professional Support Staff for Students

3) May 21st, 2025: TDSB Summer Well Being Guide: Pathways to summer planning for your child(ren)

We look forward to your participation as we work together to ensure a caring and supportive environment for all students.

If you have any questions, please contact the Mental Health Leads, Imani Hennie at Imani.hennie@tdsb.on.ca and/or Annette Gross at annette.grossi@tdsb.on.ca .

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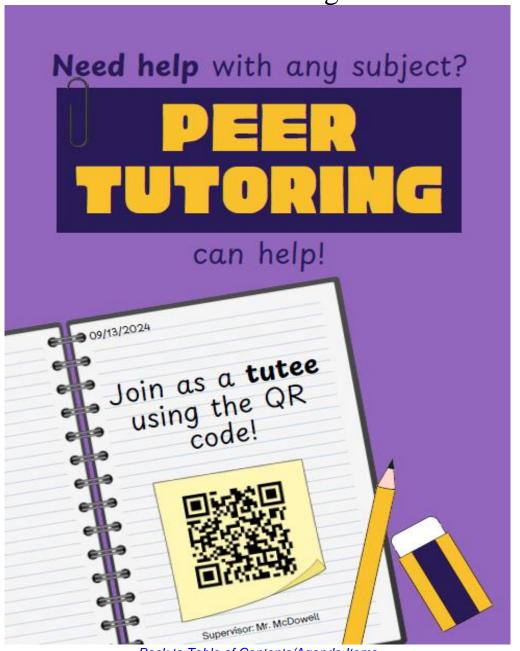
Drop In Sessions 2024-2025 for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers



Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services Question and Answer Session	March 18th, 2025	12:30pm - 1:30pm	<u>Link</u>
Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services Question and Answer Session	March 20th, 2025	6:30pm - 7:30pm	<u>Link</u>

Accessing Special Education Supports	March 26th, 2025	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Link Link
		6:30pm - 7:30pm	
Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services Question and Answer Session	April 15th, 2025	12:30pm - 1:30pm	<u>Link</u>
Accessing Special Education Supports	May 7th, 2025	12:00pm - 1:00pm 6:30pm - 7:30pm	<u>Link</u> <u>Link</u>
Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services Question and Answer Session	May 20th, 2025	12:30pm - 1:30pm	Link
Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Services Question and Answer Session	May 22nd, 2025	6:30pm - 7:30pm	<u>Link</u>

Peer Tutoring



Pantry

Please click on this link: Pantry Order Form to set up your order for our amazing, selection of food items, all provided at no cost, courtesy of our partnership with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success! Back to Table of Contents/Agenda Items



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Teacher Emails (last name in alpha order)

Alveza, Steffi-Anne: Steffi-Anne.Alveza@tdsb.on.ca

Attardi, Franca: Franca.Attardi@tdsb.on.ca

Au, Kimberly: Kimberly.Au@tdsb.on.ca

Baker, Sandra: Sandra: Sandra.Baker@tdsb.on.ca (Vice Principal)

Barbour, Tasha: Tasha.Barbour@tdsb.on.ca

Bhucher-Kundan, Shallu: Shallu:Bhucher-Kundan@tdsb.on.ca

Blatt, James: James.Blatt@tdsb.on.ca

Buskin, Leonora: Leonora.Buskin@tdsb.on.ca

Byrnes, Heather: <u>Heather.Byrnes@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Carey, Maria: Maria.Carey@tdsb.on.ca

Chan, Esther: Esther.Chan@tdsb.on.ca

Cox, Nathan: Nathan.Cox@tdsb.on.ca

Czeban, Jason: <u>Jason.Czeban@tdsb.on.ca</u>

De Freitas, Vincent: Vincent.DeFreitas@tdsb.on.ca

De Jesus, Margaret : Margaret.DeJesus@tdsb.on.ca

Dhillon, Amrit Amrit. Dhillon@tdsb.on.ca

Duenas, Crispin: Crispin.Duenas@tdsb.on.ca

Ferreira, Lena: Lena.Ferreira@tdsb.on.ca

Greene, Beata: Beata.Greene@tdsb.on.ca

Gross, Ben: Ben.Gross@tdsb.on.ca

Hall, Jeff: Jeff.Hall@tdsb.on.ca

Hallman, Jack: <u>Jack.Hallman@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Jaffer, Shemin: Shemin.Jaffer@tdsb.on.ca

Johnson, Steve: Steve.Johnson2@tdsb.on.ca

Kim, Jennifer: <u>Jennifer.Kim@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Kirk, Gillian: Gillian.Kirk@tdsb.on.ca

Kunanec, Daniel: Daniel.Kunanec@tdsb.on.ca

Lane, Guy: Guy.Lane@tdsb.on.ca

Leung, Polly: Polly.Leung@tdsb.on.ca

Liu, Grace: Grace.Liu@tdsb.on.ca

Livingstone, Thomas: <u>Thomas.Livingstone@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Luu, Michael : Michael.Luu2@tdsb.on.ca

Matsalla, Colin: Colin.Matsalla@tdsb.on.ca

McAlister, Blakely: Blakely.McAlister@tdsb.on.ca

McDowell, Kenneth: Kenneth.McDowell@tdsb.on.ca

Miron, Lucia: Lucia.Miron@tdsb.on.ca

Morneau, Lisa: Lisa.Morneau@tdsb.on.ca

Papafrangos, Angelo: <u>Angelo.Papafrangos@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Prattas, Tilemachos: Tom TilemachosTom.Prattas@tdsb.on.ca

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Salib, Christine: Christine.Salib@tdsb.on.ca

Shonu, Dawa: Dawa.Shonu@tdsb.on.ca

Sidhu, Chamkaur: Chamkaur.Sidhu@tdsb.on.ca

Simpson, Andrea: Andrea.Simpson@tdsb.on.ca

Solakis, Michael: Michael.Solakis@tdsb.on.ca

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Stretch, Rory: Rory.Stretch@tdsb.on.ca

Takhar, Rani: Rani.Takhar@tdsb.on.ca

Talbert-McSherry, Taiya: <u>Taiya.Talbert-McSherry@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Tam, Joyce: <u>Joyce.Tam@tdsb.on.ca</u>

Thomas, Manoj: Manoj.Thomas@tdsb.on.ca

Tuong, Yen Vi: YenVi.Tuong@tdsb.on.ca

Tzouhas, Jordan: Jordan.Tzouhas@tdsb.on.ca

Vanek, Geoffrey: Geoffrey.Vanek@tdsb.on.ca (Vice Principal)

Varelas, Georgina: Georgina. Varelas@tdsb.on.ca

Veneziale, Natalie: Natalie.Veneziale@tdsb.on.ca

Weatherup, Cole: Cole.Weatherup2@tdsb.on.ca

Wickett, Jocelyn: Jocelyn.Wickett@tdsb.on.ca

Witt, Arnold: Arnold: Arnold.Witt@tdsb.on.ca ;(Principal)

Tam, Joyce: Joyce.Tam@tdsb.on.ca

Have a Great Weekend!

