



DUKE OF CONNAUGHT



FEBRUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL PINK DAY AT DUKE FEBRUARY 26



On Wednesday this week we observed Pink Shirt Day. It's a day when the colour pink is worn to underscore our commitment to stop bullying in all its forms. We will also observe the International Day of Pink of April 8th.



Toronto District School Board Parent Conference 2020

Join us for the Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020! This all-inclusive conference is organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers. Participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies and learn new strategies to support your child's success. Registration opens in 2020! Register early as there is limited space in each workshop!

Who:

ALL parents/guardians/caregivers of TDSB students are invited and welcome to attend.

What:

Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is a FREE conference. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closer to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians/caregivers of students of all ages and stages of education.

Where:

Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd, Etobicoke, Ontario

Why:

The Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is planned by parents, for parents and we are so pleased to be able to offer a selection of sessions that cover a broad range of topics to provide parents with useful information and resources to help your child improve their achievement and well-being at school and at home.

Keynote Speaker



Kim Katrin

Kim Katrin is an internationally acclaimed award winning educator, writer, artist and consultant. As an educator, Kim travels around the world talking to people about justice, equity, and human rights. She has shared hundreds of unique resources and presentations on intersectional issues such as race, ability, orientation and gender on mental wellness. Emphasizing these connections allows for an inclusive discussion and a holistic focus on mental wellness and community engagement.

SAC

Greetings from your School Advisory Council Executive,

Mark your calendars and book the babysitter, to make sure you can join us at Duke After Dark, video dance party Adult Social! It is planned for March 28th. Keep an eye out for more details to come in an upcoming Need to Read.

Everyone is welcome to our next SAC Coffee morning on Friday, March 6th during morning entry!

Our next Movie Night is coming up on Thursday, April 9 at 5:30pm. Hope to see you there! And have you heard?

All parents are members of council and we hope to see more of you at our next **SAC meeting** on **Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30pm**, in the cafeteria. As always, childcare will be provided.

SAC's **Need to Read (NTR)** newsletter contains updates, school info, and important dates. If you are not receiving the NTR, visit the SAC website to sign up: www.dukesac.ca

There are many ways for you to **get involved at the school**. We are currently recruiting volunteers to help with upcoming events. If you wish to get more involved, please email us at info@dukesac.ca. We are currently looking for volunteers for our Adult Social. It is only with volunteers that these community building and fundraising events happen. Let's continue to work together to keep Duke's school community strong! We hope to see you soon!

Music Corner

Instruments, Instruments and More Instruments! This has been the theme for the last couple of months in the music rooms. Students in Ms. Cho's classes will be exploring rhythm, accompaniments and melody by using the metallophones, xylophones, glockenspiels and other Orff instruments. Ms. Cho's Junior classes will be using popular songs to learn instrumental accompaniments and to improvise on the metallophones, xylophones, and glockenspiels. Primary and Kindergarten classes will be using poems and picture books to create music on the Orff instruments.

Mr. Caruso and his classes are very excited to once again have one of the TDSB GLOBAL MUSIC KITS at Duke of Connaught until the end of April. Mr. Caruso's classes will be using the music creation APP **imachine 2** to learn about incorporating beat, rhythm, chords and melody to explore sound and create their own compositions.

If there are any families who have guitars (acoustic) or ukuleles that are no longer being used or played (perhaps with a new set of strings) - please consider donating them to the Duke Music Program. Please contact Mr. Caruso to donate your gently used guitars or ukuleles.

Mr. Caruso and Ms. Cho



Equity and Well-Being at Duke

Equity and Well Being are two of the three pillars of the TDSB's Vision for Learning. As part of that work, the Duke of Connaught is working in conjunction with a number of partners, both with the Board and in the community. One is PFLAG, a national organization that offers peer-to-peer support striving to help all Canadians with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

They have started a series of workshops entitled, "How to be an Ally". The first workshops took place this week and included a 45 minute presentation and a 15 minute Q and A.

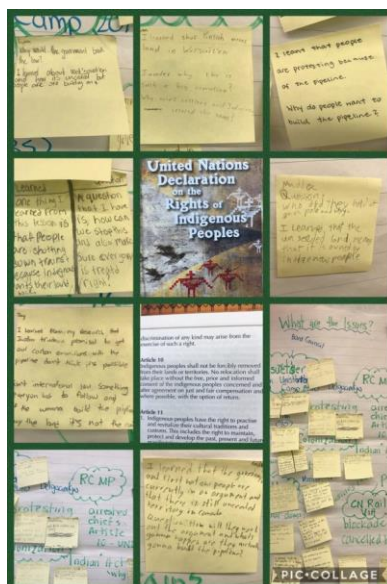
Mme Lynch, Ms. Papoff, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Naimji were the first 4 classes to participate.





We have had the great fortune to be working with Robert Derocher and Adrienne Plumley from our Indigenous Studies team. They are collaborating with several of our senior teachers on planning to support the well-being and achievement of Indigenous students in ways that are culturally safe, as well as to build capacity of learning for all students and staff around Indigenous Education. This is consistent with the updated curriculum that aligns with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In Ms. Papoff's class, the grade 7 and 8's are having critical conversations about the current situation involving the Wetsuweten and are asking excellent questions. They examined article 10 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states: Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. They learned differences between band chiefs and hereditary chiefs. They defined unceded and wondered next steps.



Scientist in the Schools

We have had Scientist in the schools in several classrooms working on structures in our primary division and in the junior division he focus is on rocks and minerals. Most recently, Mme Emmond, Mme Angeli and Mme Riggs classes participated. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who help facilitate the program – it's wonderful hands-on discovery science!

