

Dear friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and that your children have all had a successful and happy start to school.

I have sent out a welcome back letter through Canada Post and digitally through our schools ([click for copy](#)), but wanted to provide additional details regarding two upcoming Ward 11 events: my first [coffee morning of the year](#) (Wednesday, September 28, details to the right) and an upcoming evening ward forum on [October 3](#) about the TDSB's Long Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy and Development and Ward 11 (details to follow). Based on feedback from parents and caregivers, I have decided to keep these two events virtual to make it easier for everyone to join. I hope to "see" many of you there!

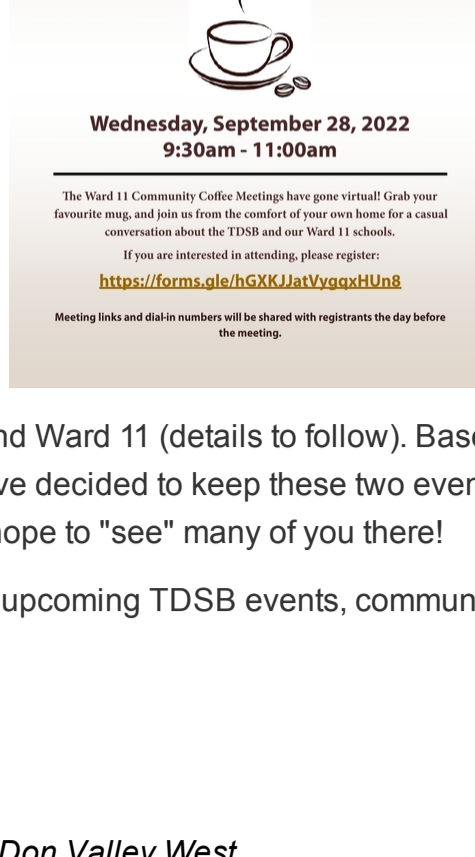
Below you will also find information regarding upcoming TDSB events, community links, and more. Have a great weekend!

Warm regards,

Rachel

Rachel Chernos Lin, TDSB Trustee, Ward 11, Don Valley West

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More Back to School information & resources

In addition to my welcome back letter (click image to the right), by now you should have received [back to school information](#) from your Principal(s), as well as the TDSB. Please find some more links to additional information below:

School Year Calendar - See what's coming up on the [system calendar](#) with key dates, events and activities, or just take a look at the [school year calendar's](#) PA Days and holidays.

Health and Safety - The TDSB continues to follow guidance from the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health to keep our school communities safe. Read more about [health and safety practices](#) related to COVID-19.

Mental Health and Well-Being - Supporting students' mental health and well-being is a priority. Check out this [Mental Health and Well-Being page](#) for resources and tools as well as a calendar of ongoing events including virtual drop-ins, webinars and more.

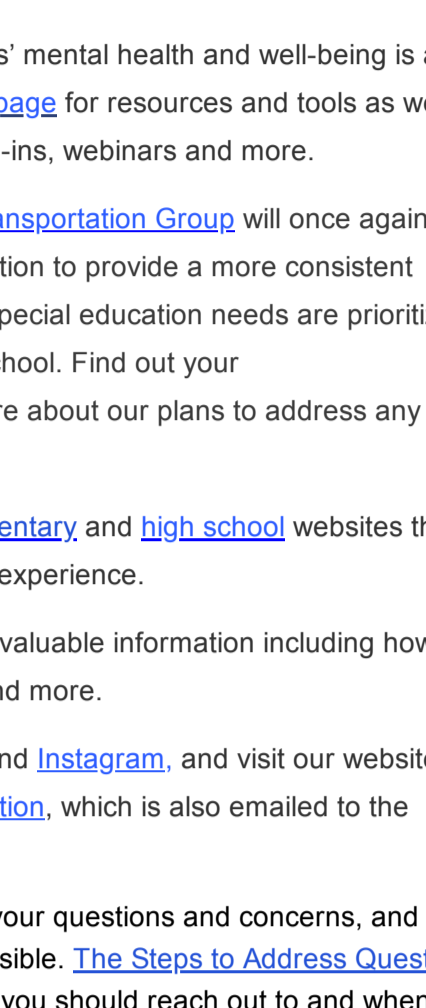
Student Transportation – The [Toronto Student Transportation Group](#) will once again be implementing a phased-in start for student transportation to provide a more consistent service for families and to ensure that students with special education needs are prioritized and receive bus service beginning the first week of school. Find out your child's [student transportation start date](#), and learn more about our plans to address any issues with [driver availability](#).

School Information and Resources - Visit the [elementary](#) and [high school](#) websites that are full of information that will help guide your school experience.

Parent Resources - Our [parent resources](#) are full of valuable information including how to get involved, homework tips, community resources and more.

Stay Connected - Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#), and visit our website often. Visit [this page to see recent parent communication](#), which is also emailed to the address you have on file with your school.

Questions or Concerns - The TDSB wants to hear your questions and concerns, and makes every effort to address them as quickly as possible. [The Steps to Address Questions Concerns page](#) is the best way to talk to us, and who you should reach out to and when (also see: [Communicating with your school](#) and the [Disconnecting from Work Policy](#)).



Update from Toronto Public Health

The Toronto District School Board was recently presented with a COVID-19 Update presentation from Toronto Public Health. TPH shared facts based on current evidence, provincial guidance and research. They stressed COVID-19 continues to evolve, but supported the updated guidance for screening and isolation released on August 31, 2022, by the Ministry of Health that included protection from COVID and other respiratory illnesses:

- Stay home with symptoms regardless if you test negative for COVID
- Well-fitted, high-quality masks protect ourselves and others from COVID-19 and respiratory infections
- Staying up-to-date with vaccinations (COVID-19, influenza, childhood vaccinations)

Stay home if you are sick means:

- Staying home until you have no fever and your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- After isolating, wear a mask when out in public for 10 days from the first day after any symptom started.
- Avoid non-essential visits to vulnerable individuals at risk of severe infection and highest risk settings (e.g., hospitals, long-term care) for 10 days from the first day after any symptom started.
- Follow this advice even if you test negative for COVID or you did not do a test.
- Access testing and treatments for COVID, if eligible.

It is recommended that students, staff and visitors continue to complete a daily self-screening questionnaire. Symptoms will remain the same, but since the Chief Medical Officer of Health announced changes on the same day TPH presented to us, they are currently updating their screener to reflect recent changes in provincial guidance regarding COVID-19 symptoms and/or positive test results, and self-isolation requirements. In the meantime, please refer to the updated [Provincial Self-Assessment tool](#) or contact the Provincial Testing and Isolation Information Line at 1-888-777-0730. [Take the school and child care screening online](#), can download -

- [Immunocompromised School and child care screening \(PDF\)](#) (PDF)
- [Non-immunocompromised School and child care screening \(PDF\)](#) (PDF)

TPH stresses that vaccines continue to provide the best protection against COVID-19 and the variants, including Omicron. The good news is that the first booster for 5 to 11 years olds is now available and Canada has approved the "bivalent" vaccine which targets the original SARS-CoV-2 virus from 2019 and the Omicron (BA.1) variant, and is authorized for use as a booster dose in individuals 18 years of age or older.

School Immunizations

All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule.

Additional vaccines are routinely offered in school to grade 7 students however, during the COVID-19 pandemic many students did not get their vaccine. In Ontario, the Immunization of School Pupils Act requires all students to be up-to-date with their Meningococcal vaccine or have a valid exemption. Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus vaccines are strongly recommended.

COVID-19 vaccines will also be offered to students who are not fully vaccinated. Students can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, the other vaccines.

For more information, click <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/immunization/get-immunized-children-youth/grade-7-vaccination-program/>

Walk/Bike/Roll to School

The TDSB encourages active transportation to and from school whenever possible. According to Ontario Active School Travel there are tremendous benefits in walking for children and youth.

For more information, click ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/benefits-of-active-school-travel/

Join the Mental Health and Well-Being Parents as Partners event - Monday, September 12, 6:30pm – 8:45pm via Zoom

Join a committee of parents/ caregivers across the TDSB that

- Increases awareness of the importance of Mental Health and Well-Being and the impact this may have on a child's overall success in school and in life;
- Creates a better understanding that all members of the school community can benefit from Mental Health and Well-Being awareness and positive mental health practices;
- Helps parents/caregivers to understand the various pathways for support both within the TDSB and with our community partners agencies.

[Zoom Meeting link](#)

International Languages 2022 – 2023 Program Information

The International Languages – Elementary / African Heritage Program is now offering language classes to students (TDSB and non TDSB) Kindergarten to grade 8.

Check out [the list of school locations and language classes](#).

For more details, please see www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Beyond-the-Classroom/International-Languages-Elementary-and-African-Heritage/ILE-AH-2022-2023

City of Toronto Fall Programs

The City of Toronto offers a multitude of courses, programs, and activities.

Registration starts from September 10, 11, 13 and 14, depending on the facility location. Start exploring thousands of programs on offer at toronto.ca/FallRec

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference - Call for Workshop Proposal

Mark your calendars! The [TDSB's Parent and Caregivers as Partners virtual conference](#) is scheduled for October 22 and 23, 2022.

This conference provides an opportunity to provide meaningful and relevant content to support parents/caregivers and the community in navigating the education system and to highlight innovative and high-impact strategies for parent/caregiver engagement.

PIAC is seeking proposals for virtual and hybrid (in-person or streaming) workshops, micro-sessions, and panel presentations to be presented at the conference.

[Summit your proposal now](#) (deadline September 14, 2022).

Policy Consultations

Everybody is welcome to read the draft policies, provide comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations. For more information, click www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-2022-2023-Forms/Policy-Consultations.

Currently under review:

- Alternative Schools Policy (P062):
 - [Read the draft for consultation](#) (Word document)
 - [Complete the survey](#)
 - [e-mail comments to nna.catalano@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:anna.catalano@tdsb.on.ca) until September 27, 2022

2022-2023 School Year Calendar

The first Professional Activity (P.A.) Day is **Friday, October 7** (both elementary and high schools).

There are no classes for students on the dates listed below (also check out the [Days of Significance Calendar](#)).

KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2022-2023

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, inclusive.

Professional Activity Days	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	June
Elementary Schools	6	7	18	2	13	17	2
Secondary Schools	6	7	18			2, 17	29, 30

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
1. September 6, 2022 – Professional Development	1. September 6, 2022 – Professional Development
2. October 7, 2022 – Professional Development	2. October 7, 2022 – Professional Development
3. November 18, 2022 – Parent Teacher Conferences	3. November 18, 2022 – Professional Development
4. December 2, 2022 – Professional Development	4. February 2, 2023 – Professional Development
5. January 13, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting	5. February 17, 2023 – Professional Development
6. February 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences	6. June 29, 2023 – Professional Development
7. June 2, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting	7. June 30, 2023 – Professional Development

EQAO: - The following dates have been established:
Gr. 9 Math: TBD
Gr. 9 Math: TBD

OSSLT: TBD
Primary/Junior EQAO: TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
Labour Day:	September 5, 2022
Thanksgiving:	October 10, 2022
Winter Break:	December 26, 2022 – January 6, 2023
Family Day:	February 20, 2023
Mid-Winter Break:	March 13 - 17, 2023
Good Friday:	April 7, 2023
Easter Monday:	April 10, 2023
Victoria Day:	May 22, 2023

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns!

~Rachel

Rachel Chernos Lin, Ward 11 TDSB Trustee, Don Valley West

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If you notice anything at a school that concerns you, please call the TDSB 24-hour Call Centre (416) 395-4620, 311 Toronto, and/or Toronto Police Services Dispatch (non-emergencies via 416-808-2222).

If you or a family member is in crisis, please contact Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or get support right now by texting CONNECT to 686868.

