



Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin

Chair • Trustee, Ward 11 • Don Valley West

Toronto District School Board

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Dear friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and that your children have all had a successful and happy start to school. Hopefully you have received my welcome back letter in digital form through your school, but you can always [click for a copy](#). I also want to wish all those observing the Jewish High Holidays a very Happy New Year!

Construction Update: While schools were closed over the summer, our facilities teams were hard at work across the TDSB, making the most out of the time students were not in the building. This was true in many Ward 11 schools as well. The following is an overview of the larger work projects accomplished in Ward 11 schools during the summer:

Bedford Park PS - Retaining Wall & paving

Bennington Heights - small window replacement

Bessborough - Steam to Hot Water Boiler Conversion

Blythwood Ps - Repair Cluster Columns

Dunlace PS - Repave Parking

Harrison PS - Repave Parking Lot

Hodgson - Steam to Hot Water Conversion, internal work now underway in old part of school, while the school community itself has been moved to 529 Vaughn Road

John Fisher PS - Paint Hallways, Roof Replacement, Repair and Pain West Side Ceiling

Trustee Chernos Lin invites you to a

Don Valley West
COMMUNITY COFFEE

Join us for a morning of casual conversation
about education with Ward 11 superintendents

RSVP HERE

Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
9:30 am - 11:00 am
Leaside Longo's Loft
(93 Laird Drive, in the Leaside Village Plaza)

Marc Garneau CI - replacement of skylights on first floor
Maurice Cody - Steam to Hot Water Boiler Conversion
Northern SS - Kiln Room HVAC, RM 147 Refurbishment to Work Out Room
Owen PS - Replace entrance carpet with Ceramic Tile, PA System Replacement
Park Lane PS- Replace Siporex Roof, Ceiling & Led Lighting upgrade, Repave Trail
Rippleton PS - Card Access
Rolph Road - parking lot replacement
St Andrew's MS - Window Replacement
Sunny View - Steam to Hot water conversion, Replace Retaining Wall
Thornccliffe Park PS - General maintenance throughout entire school
529 Vaughn Road (currently housing Hodgson PS) - pool, gym and other work
Windfields MS - Re-tile first floor
York Mills CI - Refurbish library

Although summer is the ideal time for construction, repairs and upgrades, our maintenance backlog is so significant that you may notice more work happening year-round in our schools. The TDSB has decided that this is the best and only strategy if we are to truly deal with the repair backlog and focus on modernising our schools in a productive, efficient, and fiscally-responsible fashion. While we know this can sometimes be challenging for staff and students, our work teams will do their best to be as unobtrusive as possible and we thank everyone in advance for their patience.

While the kids have started back, our Board has also been busy! On August 30th we had our first board meeting of the 2023-2024 school year, where we had presentations from the Toronto Board of Health and SafeTO. Two advocacy motions came out of this meeting, leading to two letters being sent by our Board earlier this week. The [first letter](#) was sent to the Minister of Health, calling on them to work with the Ministry of Education to provide increased mental health and greater funding to reduce the backlog for psychoeducational assessments. The [second letter](#) focused on ventilation and creating healthy schools, calling on the Minister of Education to provide sustainable and predictable and continuing ventilation funding. We have made strong strides in ventilation upgrades throughout the pandemic, but there is still more work to be done and we want to ensure the province continues to invest so that students and staff stay healthy and stay in class!

Math Strategy Update: As you may have heard, the Ministry of Education has launched a new strategy to boost math competence in the classroom. It includes the doubling of math coaches, specialized math educators, along with the introduction of math learning partners who will be deployed directly into schools that are behind the provincial average. For TDSB, the Ministry has provided funding for two System Superintendents of Mathematics for the 2023-2024 school year. The math system superintendent will support educator teams and administrators by facilitating professional learning opportunities focused on:

- * Teaching the elementary curriculum, de-streamed math, and the Grade 10 math curriculum addendum using high-impact instructional and assessment practices;
- * Supporting student transitions from Grades 7 to 10, that include Individual Pathway Plans and information sharing about individual student needs (e.g., students with special education supports);
- * Sharing effective practices in anti-discriminatory, anti-racist and culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy to lead cultural change in every elementary and secondary school to ensure equity and inclusion in the classrooms;
- * Building a culture in schools where there is a high expectation that all students are capable and competent math learners;
- * Working with School-Based Math Learning Partners to support targeted elementary and secondary schools;
- * Facilitating parent engagement in their children's math learning, including promoting ministry developed parent resources available on the Curriculum and Resources website;
- * Working collaboratively with central staff, superintendents, schools and communities to develop and implement the TDSB Math Strategy.

Upcoming Ward 11 Events:

Just as schools and our Board are back in full swing, so too are Ward 11 events! Please mark your calendars for two upcoming Ward 11 events: my first Ward Forum (**Wednesday, October 3** - a joint one, together with Trustees Lulka and Laskin). This virtual event will focus on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan renewal and provide the audience with a chance to give feedback. Details are to the right and to join, you must [register](#).

Then, coming up on Wednesday, October 25, we will kick off the Ward 11 Coffee Mornings! This one will be held in person, upstairs at Longo's on Laird. Please see the [flyer](#) at the top of this newsletter and to attend, please [RSVP](#). These coffee mornings alternate between in-person and virtual and are informal.

Ward 11 superintendents, Andrew Howard and Roni Felsen. I hope many of you can join us!


Below you will also find information regarding upcoming TDSB events, community links, and more. Wishing you all happy reading and I hope to see many of you during school events, in the community or at one of my Ward 11 events!

Warm regards,

~ Rachel

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

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TDSB is Renewing its Multi-Year Strategic Plan

All members of the TDSB school community are invited to **Have Your Say!** We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to contribute to the conversation. Learn more at: www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPRenewal

Ward 5 Trustee Alexandra Lulka Rotman, Ward 8 Trustee Shelley Laskin and Ward 11 Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin invite you to a virtual Ward Forum to provide your input into the TDSB's renewed Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Tuesday October 3, 2023, Time 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM via ZOOM

Please [REGISTER HERE](#) to let us know you will be attending and if you require any accommodation to participate in this discussion. Please note, this meeting is specifically only for parents/guardians and caregivers in TDSB Wards 5, 8, and 11. There will be additional meetings held by the other wards. Thank you!

		
<small>Trustee Alexandra Lulka Rotman Ward 5 York Centre Alexandra.LulkaRotman@tdsb.on.ca</small>	<small>Trustee Shelley Laskin Ward 8 Eglinton-Lawrence and Toronto-St. Paul's Shelley.Laskin@tdsb.on.ca</small>	<small>Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin Ward 11 Don Valley West Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca</small>

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Celebrating Good News at the TDSB

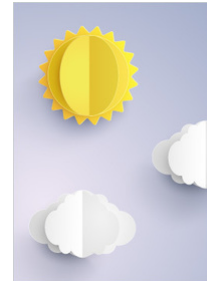


I invite you to read about some of the recent events, initiatives and great things happening across the Toronto District School Board, including:

- [Meet the 2023 Top Scholars!](#)
- [TDSB Teacher Awarded for Excellence in Environmental Education](#)
- [Former Westview Centennial graduate excels in post-secondary thanks to Youth Participatory Action Research](#)

Managing Heat in Schools and Classrooms

As we experienced in our first week back, September is often still filled with very warm days.



[Learn more about how schools and staff take action to manage the heat and keep the temperature in classrooms as comfortable as possible.](#)

Toronto Public Health Back to School Information



Last week, Toronto Public Health (TPH) provided some important health information for this school year.

[Read the full letter.](#)

Ventilation in Schools

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

The TDSB has focused on several areas to improve ventilation in schools and keep students and staff healthy.

[Learn more about the ventilation measures underway for the 2023-24 school year.](#)

Back to School on the TTC

The TTC is an easy and affordable way for TDSB staff and students to travel to and from school and in the fall, TTC increases service to elementary and secondary schools across the city. [Learn about planning your trip, safety tips and more!](#)

Pedestrian Safety Tips

As we have entered a new school year, I want to share a reminder about pedestrian safety tips. I encourage you to teach your children the rules of the road - starting when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age ten, and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

Children under ten should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Learn more by visiting the [City's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan webpage](#).

Labour Negotiations Updates

The logo for Labour Negotiations News & Updates is contained within a yellow rectangular box with a thin white border. The text "Labour Negotiations" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font, and "News & Updates" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font directly below it.

School boards and unions share a commitment to public education and work together towards positive labour relations. The collective bargaining framework for the education sector features a two-tier bargaining process, involving both central and local bargaining.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Information will continue to be updated [on the TDSB website](#).

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff as soon as possible so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

TDSB Backpacks & School Supplies Drive



We know that backpacks and school supplies can be expensive and represent a difficult purchase for some students and families. I encourage you to participate in [TDSB's Backpack & School Supplies Drive](#). The drive will run until the end of September. We are accepting donations of new products, including backpacks (gender neutral coloured with no commercial logos preferred), lunch bags, crayons, calculators, notebooks and basic school supplies. If you are interested in supporting this great cause for TDSB students, please complete an [online donation form](#). For more information contact BusinessDevelopment@tdsb.on.ca

Continuing Education Programming

Did you know the TDSB offers Continuing Education Programming in our communities?

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Explore learning opportunities available for children, families, adults and visitors at the TDSB this fall:

- [Learn4Life General Interest - Adults 18+ and Seniors](#)
- [Secondary Credit \(Night School and Saturday International Languages\)](#)
- [International Languages Elementary and African Heritage](#)
- [Adult ESL](#)
- [Adult International Programs](#)

Fundraising Policy Consultation



Policy Consultations

The Board's Fundraising Policy (P021) is currently being reviewed.

This policy supports the Toronto District School Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility and financial viability and promotes student learning opportunities when planning and implementing fundraising activities. The Policy is aligned with the Education Act and the Ministry of Education's Fundraising Guidelines.

The objective of the Fundraising Policy is to outline expectations and provide directions to TDSB staff and members of school communities when planning and implementing fundraising activities.

We are seeking input on the new draft policy which is posted for review/comment. Everybody can provide feedback via the online survey portal at: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>

Please share with us your thoughts, questions and recommendations on the draft Policy through the online survey or by email to businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca on or before October 10, 2023.

Sept. 28: School Council Town Hall

Welcome Back!

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

We are pleased to welcome back parents/caregivers, School Council members, Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Vice Chairs to the 2023-2024 school year. TDSB will host a Welcome Back Town Hall for School Council members, parents/caregivers, and Staff who are interested in learning about tools, resources, and upcoming opportunities for School Councils. The conversation will highlight:

- Our Board's standards of operations for School Council
- School Council Communication Tools
- School Council Funding

Please join on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. [Click to register](#).

Interpretation is available. If you require interpretation, please indicate this on your registration, no later than, Monday, September 25, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

For further inquiries, please contact PCEO@tdsb.on.ca.

Sept. 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day 2023



Saturday, September 30 marks the 10th anniversary of Orange Shirt Day and the third annual National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. The TDSB will be honouring this day, on Friday, September 29. [Truth and Reconciliation Week will take place September 25-30](#). Visit the [Urban Indigenous Education website](#) for more information about events happening across the TDSB.



PARENTS & CAREGIVERS
as PARTNERS
Joy in the Journey of Learning
In-Person and Virtual Conference 2023



Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference

Mark your calendars!

I encourage you to join us for the Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference on October 21 and 22, 2023. This year's conference is focussed on Joy in the Journey of Learning and will be a weekend full of presentation

More information at www.parentsaspartners.ca.

School Year Calendar 2023-2024

See below for all dates there is no in-school learning.

Updated School Year Calendars for 2023-2024 are available [online](#). These include PA days, exam days for final evaluations, Board and Statutory holidays, and other notable school year details.



KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-2024

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, inclusive.

Professional Activity Days	October	November	December	January	February	April	June
Elementary Schools	6	17	8	19	16	19	7
Secondary Schools	6	17			1, 16	19	27, 28

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development 2. November 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences 3. December 8, 2023 – Assessment 4. January 19, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting 5. February 16, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences 6. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development 7. June 7, 2024 – Assessment and Reporting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 6, 2023 – Professional Development 2. November 17, 2023 - Professional Development 3. February 1, 2024 - Professional Development 4. February 16, 2024 - Professional Development 5. April 19, 2024 - Professional Development 6. June 27, 2024 - Professional Development 7. June 28, 2024 - 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 4, 2023
Thanksgiving:	October 9, 2023
Winter Break:	December 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024
Family Day:	February 19, 2024
Mid-Winter Break:	March 11 - 15, 2024
Good Friday:	March 29, 2024
Easter Monday:	April 1, 2024
Victoria Day:	May 20, 2024

Stay Connected with your school and the board

TDSB Update

Sign-up for [TDSB Update](#) and stay informed about recent Board decisions and district-wide news.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27,

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

click on the [meeting schedule](#) and/or the [calendar](#) on the main webpage of www.tdsb.on.ca. Board and Committee Meetings can be [watched online](#).

Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter ([@TDSB](#)), Facebook ([@toronto.dsb](#)), Instagram ([@Torontodsb](#)), and Threads ([@Torontodsb](#)) accounts

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

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.



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