

Dear friends,

The weather has changed and suddenly it feels like fall!

Over the past two weeks I have attended multiple back to school community events, and witnessed first-hand the joy of school communities coming together to celebrate the start of the year.

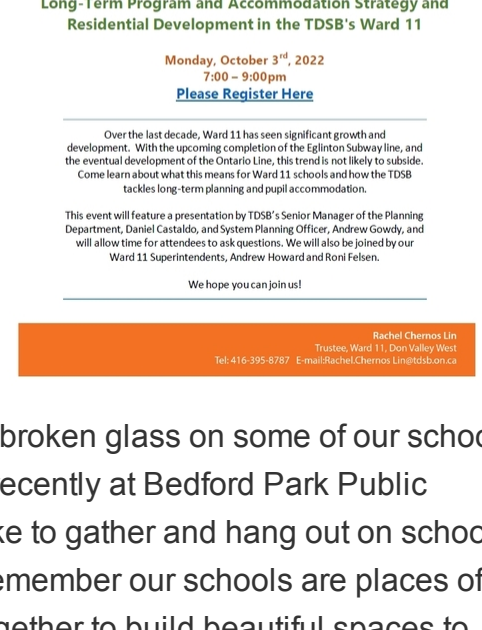
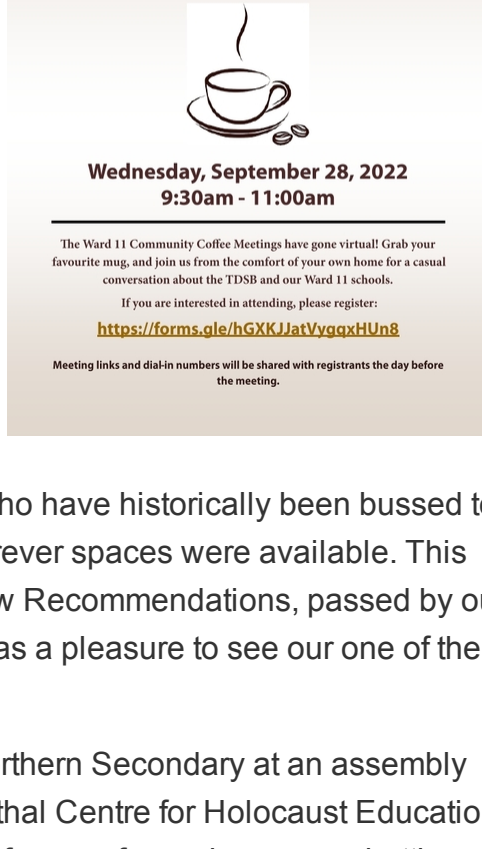
I also had a chance to visit our brand new Early French Immersion program at Fraser Mysterd Early Learning Academy in Thorncliffe Park. It was wonderful to see this program come to fruition, ensuring equity of access to our students from Thorncliffe Park who have historically been bussed to so many different schools over the years, wherever spaces were available. This was a key commitment from the French Review Recommendations, passed by our Board of Trustees back in June 2019, and it was a pleasure to see our one of the key recommendations come to life in Ward 11.

This past week I also spent an afternoon at Northern Secondary at an assembly for Freedom Day, put on by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Education. The day featured a variety of speakers and performers focussing on combatting hatred and genocide prevention, and was highlighted by a presentation by Vietnamese-born Canadian speaker, Kim Phuc, known to many as the girl in the infamous photo of the 9 year old girl running naked in Vietnam after being struck by napalm (which burned off her clothes). She spoke about the details of that day and the impact of that infamous photo on her life, as both a teenager and as she has grown. She told us that when she was younger, it seemed like a curse, making her feel ugly, embarrassed and unlovable. But that as she matured, she came to view it as a gift, as she has embraced its power and now uses it to work to help children of war. Her presentation was one of the most moving and powerful speeches that I have witnessed in our schools. As Northern's Principal Marshall remarked, students were so deeply engaged for the 20+ minutes that Ms. Phuc spoke that that you could have heard a pin drop in the auditorium -- something he has never witnessed at that level before. I am confident the impact of this event was so tremendous that students will reflect on it in years to come and that it will shape how they view the world and their place in it. While many students across TDSB watched a live webcast of this event, I do believe seeing and hearing her speak in person would be of value to all. As a result, I have written to our senior executive team to request that TDSB do our best to have Ms. Phuc back to speak to more of our schools in the future.

Looking forward, I want to remind everyone of two upcoming Ward 11 events:

My first [Coffee Morning](#) of the 2022/23 school year ([registration](#)) is coming up next week on Wednesday, September 28 from 9:30-11:00am on Zoom. This is an informal morning of conversation about education at the TDSB and Ward 11. We will be joined, as usual, by our two Ward 11 Superintendents, Andrew Howard and Roni Felsen.

And, the following week, on the evening of Monday, October 3, I will be hosting my first [Ward Forum](#) of the year ([registration](#)), focussing on development, and long-term planning and pupil accommodation in Ward 11 and the TDSB. This will also take place via the Zoom platform, and staff from our planning department will be presenting and will take questions from the audience following the presentation. I hope to see many of you at these two events!



Finally, before I sign off, I want to raise awareness about significant noise, mess, and broken glass on some of our school sites on weekend evenings, particularly most recently at Bedford Park Public School. We understand older students often like to gather and hang out on school sites on weekends, but it is also important to remember our schools are places of pride, where families and staff have worked together to build beautiful spaces to be enjoyed by all, whether during school hours or after school hours. As a result, I am hoping that anyone reading this message that may have members of their households who might be out and about unsupervised can remind those in their care to remember their roles as members and caretakers of this community, and to be considerate of those around them while out and about. It is by working together that we can all continue to enjoy our communal spaces and ensure they remain welcoming and safe for all.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend, and I hope to see many of you at my upcoming coffee morning and ward forum (with more details and registration below, along with a few other updates and notices!).

Warm regards,

Rachel

TDSB Trustee, Ward 11, Don Valley West

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School Reorganization

In late spring of every year, the TDSB plans for the number of students expected to attend school the following September. We then allocate the number of teachers required for each school and class, based on projected enrolment. The number of teachers required in each school and class is primarily determined by class size limits as per Regulations in the Education Act or through Collective Agreements. The Ministry of Education (EDU) class size regulations involve caps from JK- grade 3 and a board-wide average of 24.5 in grades 4 to 8 and 28.0 in grades 9 to 12.

It is challenging to project staffing allocation needs for our schools six months in advance and before students are in schools for year. For this reason, the annual administrative holdback for 2022-23 school year is 3.0% for each of the following school-based staff: Elementary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, and Designated Early Child Educator. The holdback will not be released until enrolment projections are realized in September and students are in the learning mode of their choice

At the beginning of each new school year, schools review the actual number of students attending schools and in each class, and the number of teachers who were allocated to each school. This year, the count date is on Monday, September 19 - after this date schools will be provided with an understanding of system reorganization and will inform affected classes as soon as possible. In cases where a school has more teachers than required by its enrolment, teachers are reassigned to different schools. This is a very important process because there are significant financial implications for the TDSB when classes are not organized efficiently and there are more teachers than required in our schools. For example, every 100 extra teachers would cost the TDSB approximately \$10.5 million above and beyond the funding from the Ministry of Education.

Secondary school class caps are specified in the Workload Accord negotiated between the Board and OSSTF District 12. Class caps vary based on the course type (i.e., Academic, Tech, College, Workplace, Special Education, etc.). These class caps must be honoured before the end of October.

Thank you in advance for your patience as the system rights itself.

Orange Shirt Day: September 30

Friday, September 30th is both Orange Shirt Day and the second annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, a federal statutory holiday.

Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad, who was excited to wear her new orange shirt to her first day of school in 1973. However, when she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her shirt was taken and never returned. From that day forward, the colour orange, for Phyllis, "reminded me of that [moment] and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Now, on this day, we recognize the legacy of the residential school system for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities.

We acknowledge the legacy of residential schools in Canada by wearing orange and we honour the survivors. We remember the thousands of children who were murdered and buried in unmarked graves.

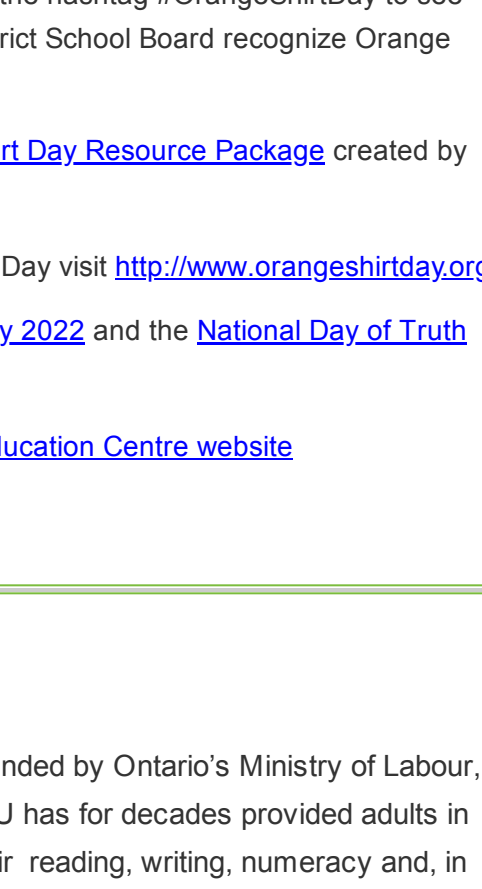
On Friday, [UJEC](#), [tdsb](#) and [@tdsb](#) on Twitter and use the hashtag #OrangeShirtDay to see how students and staff from across the Toronto District School Board recognize Orange Shirt Day.

For classroom resources, check out the [Orange Shirt Day Resource Package](#) created by the UJEC.

To learn more about Phyllis' story and Orange Shirt Day visit <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>

Check out the attached posters for [Orange Shirt Day 2022](#) and the [National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#).

For more information, visit the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre website](#)



Essential Skills Upgrading (ESU) for adults.

Part of the TDSB Community Services Unit and funded by Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, ESU has for decades provided adults in our community with the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, numeracy and, in recent years, digital technology skills. ESU learners have many goals which cause them to seek out our program: the desire for further education, the need to find employment, the goal of apprenticeship/training and for some, the wish to have greater personal independence and more confidence to engage in their community. The learners also recognize the importance of a parent's role in the success of their children and are eager to acquire skills which allow them to support their children in their achievements. They understand that their life-long learning goals set an example of the value and importance of education.

ESU offers in-person daytime and evening, full and part-time classes in many locations across the city, with flexible schedules that allow learners to attend in a way that best suits the time they have available. The program is non-credit and is offered at no cost. It is available to adults who have speaking and listening skills at a minimum Canadian Language Benchmark Level 6 and who possess a valid Canadian Social Insurance Number. Please check out the flyer, and more information about the program can also be found on the website www.upgrademyskills.ca.

ESU Computer courses

Additionally, check out the [flyer for upcoming ESU computer workshops](#) including the new [workplace communication skills course](#). Workshops will be online this fall. To book an assessment appointment please contact 416-396-6413 or upgrading@tdsb.on.ca

Policy Consultations

You are welcome to read the draft policies, provide your comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations using the contact information below. For more information www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations.

- [Alternative Schools \(P062\)](#) - Please complete the [survey](#) - E-mail comments until September 27, 2022 to anna.catalano@tdsb.on.ca

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. November 18, 2022 – Professional Development
5. January 13, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting	4. February 2, 2023 – Professional Development
6. February 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences	5. February 17, 2023 – Professional Development
7. June 2, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting	6. June 29, 2023 – Professional Development
	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.