

April 2024

544 Horner Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M8W 2C2
Tel: 416-394-7670
Fax: 416-394-6142

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck>

Upcoming Events April

- 1: Easter Holiday Monday
 - 2: World Autism Day – Wear Blue
 - 5/26: Council Pizza Lunches
 - 8: PA Day (New Date)
 - 10: International Day of Pink
 - 15: School Council Mtg, 6:30 PM
- Google Meet Link:
<https://meet.google.com/xzq-dyry-mtz>
- 22: Earth Day
 - 24: Walk on Wednesday (WOW)
 - 25: Grade 5 Moving On Photo Day
 - 26: Council Family Dance Night

Character Attribute Cooperation

World Autism Month
Hispanic Heritage Month
Sikh Heritage Month
Latin America History Heritage Month



Principal:	Michael Kanalec
Office Administrator:	Maureen Huddleston
Superintendent:	Dr Debbie Donsky
Trustee:	Patrick Nunziata
School Council	Sara Chow,
Co-Chairs:	Japmeen Johal
Title Photo Credit:	Steve Burazin
Centennial Logo Credit:	Eliane Dibon-Smith

Will your child be absent from school?
Call our Safe Arrival Number.
NEW ** 1-833-250-2290 **

Principal's Message:

Dear SAB families,

Thank you to our School Council for supporting two wonderful learning opportunities this past month. The Big Crunch took place just before March break which highlighted the importance of eating healthy locally grown produce. We all crunched together on a delicious apple/carrot sourced by our Council and generously donated by our local No Frills store. The Council also sponsored the Planetarium presentation for every student to experience. Students marvelled at being taken into outer space in the planetarium dome set up in our gymnasium. Two very important Eco Schools initiatives were also highlighted this month that coincided with Earth Hour. The Big Gulp raised awareness about access to clean drinking water and the impact of single-use plastic bottles on the environment and the 7th Annual Council clothing exchange was a huge success. Thank you to Becky Morley and her team of volunteers, 3008 lbs of clothing were collected and more importantly 2500 lbs went back into the community. Congratulations and thank you to the SAB community.

As we head into the final stretch of the 2023-2024 school year the planning and organization process for next September has already begun. I want to reassure parents that staff and administration put a great deal of time and thought into the organization of classroom groupings each year taking into account the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size which places a 'hard cap' of 20 students in Primary classes (Gr.1- 3). Teachers will meet with school administration to discuss the needs of each student. The following factors are taken into consideration:

- The academic needs and learning style of the child
- The social/emotional/behavioural needs of the child
- Support programs - care is taken when placing children who are supported by special programs i.e. Special Ed., ESL
- A range of ability levels of the students in the class
- The class size (primary caps)
- Parental input shared with the teachers regarding the following:

- i) Academic needs and learning style of their child
- ii) The social/emotional/behavioural needs of the child;

(Please note requests for specific teachers will not be entertained)

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the Principal.

March went out like a lion with cooler than expected temperatures. Please ensure your child has the appropriate spring weather wear – splash pants, boots and rain jackets along with a spare change of clothes.

Wishing all of our students, families and staff a wonderful long weekend.

M. Kanalec



April 2024 Council Corner

Email: sabschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290183431386941>

Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/siradambeck/School-Council>

Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 15* - 6:30pm-8pm, in-person in the staff room or online: <https://meet.google.com/xzq-dyry-mtz>

*Note: this is a new date, the council meeting was moved due to the PA day change

Spring CandyLand Dance

Show us your boldest, brightest, and most colorful attire!

SAB School Council will be hosting a Spring CandyLand themed dance on **Friday, April 26th** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for a family of four or more, or \$5 per person. Cash payment will be accepted at the door.

Drinks, snacks and various activities will also be available for **cash only** purchase.

All proceeds will go towards the SAB School Council.

If you are planning on attending please fill in this [RSVP](#)

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare for the dance and on the day of the event, if you are able to help please let us know via the last question on the RSVP form.

Big Box of Cards Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Big Box of Cards Fundraiser, it was a great success! We will soon have the final numbers, and will be distributing any boxes that were purchased on top of the initial box that went home. Stay tuned for information on when and where to pick up your boxes.

If you received a box and have not yet made a payment via [School Cash Online](#), please make the payment or return the box to the school as soon as possible.

We will be announcing the winners of the prizes for top sellers in the next few weeks.

Prizes for top sellers

- Top selling clas:
 - Class pizza party
- Top selling families:
 - For every three boxes sold, their name will be placed in a draw to win one of four \$25 gift card to retailers like:
 - Best Buy
 - Cineplex
 - Toys R US
 - EB Games
 - If we sell over 400 boxes as a school, there will be an additional draw to win a:
 - Samsung 8 inch Tablet

Volunteers Needed! - Thanks in advance for your support

- Kiss and ride (AM and PM) - [sign up to volunteer here](#)
- Pizza lunch - Email sabpizzalunch@gmail.com. Volunteers meet in the gym at 10:45 AM and aid in handing out pizza until approximately 12:15 PM The list of lunch dates is available here: [Calendar](#)

Diversity & Inclusion Corner

World Autism Day

Tuesday, April 2nd 2024 marks World Autism Day. Autism (or Autism Spectrum Disorder/ASD) is part of our neurodiverse community. There are many other types of neurodivergent minds in addition to Autism, not limited to: ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Tourette Syndrome and Dyscalculia. Here at SAB, we support neurodiversity and encourage the gifts that Autism gives us all, which are many: honesty, creativity, authenticity, innovative thinking, and different ways of learning, to name a few. Diverse minds enrich our community and make the world a better place. So let's celebrate our neurodiverse community and be a "Sea of Blue" by wearing Blue on April 2, WEAR BLUE! #AUTISMACCEPTANCE

#EMBRACEMINDSOFALLKINDS



Sikh Heritage Month

Sikh Heritage Month April is Sikh (pronounced Sick) Heritage month which celebrates Sikh Canadians rich, unique and diverse heritage. Canada has the largest diaspora population of Sikhs outside of Punjab, India. The first Sikhs arrived in Canada in the early 1900s in British

Columbia. Sikhi founding principles is based on equality, justice for all and selfless service (Seva). Various events will be happening throughout the month including the 3rd largest parade in Toronto called Khalsa Day parade (Nagar Kirtan) which is open to all. This year's the Sikh Heritage Month's theme is Chardi Kala The Positive and Uplifted State of Mind. Chardi Kala is a state of mind that radiates positive energy and optimistic attitude.

For more resources visit

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43823/itemid/265>

For a list of events visit

<https://www.sikhheritagemonth.ca>

Latin-America History Month

The month of April is recognized as Latin–America History Month at the TDSB. This year the focus and theme of 2024 is: *"Weaving Our Legacies: Return to Our Collective Path | Enlazar Nuestras Legados: Volver a Nuestro Camino Colectivo."*

More information on how the TDSB is celebrating can be found [here](#).

Sir Adam Beck Junior School

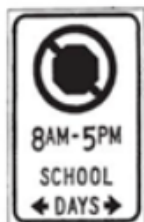
“A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY OFFICER”

As the spring months roll in, traffic-wise, things can get particularly busy, especially near schools. For the safety of all children, we are strongly encouraging everyone to drive carefully and obey traffic signs around school grounds.

If possible, we are encouraging everyone to walk, cycle or carpool to school. If you must drive, consider parking a few blocks away and walk the rest of the way.

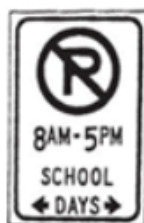
“NO STOPPING 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”

Please use the “Kiss & Ride” properly, by not parking and leaving your vehicle unattended. Once you drop off your child we ask that you promptly drive off, so that another vehicle/family can make use of the “Kiss & Ride”. Allow your children to exit your vehicle on the curb side and NOT in a live lane/street, which will reduce the chance of injury.



“NO STOPPING 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”

These signs designate the zones where vehicles are not permitted to stop under any circumstances. These zones are kept clear to provide good sight lines for drivers to see students and students to see drivers.



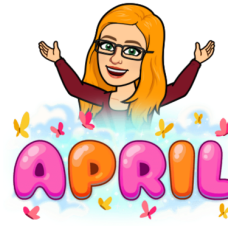
“NO PARKING 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”

These signs designate the zones for active picking up and dropping off of students. Do not park and leave the vehicle in these zones.

April in the Library

Happy Spring!!

In April, we celebrate Sikh and Latin America Heritage months as well as Passover. Our read alouds will reflect these as well as the character trait of cooperation. With each read aloud, we focus on specific reading strategies, comprehension strategies and critical thinking about the text. For example, identifying text patterns, such as sequencing, making inferences and vocabulary building.



Our library has been up and running for a month now. We are still looking for books that are overdue and need to be returned or renewed. Please check for library books at home and return them as soon as you are able.

Forest of Reading



The entire school is just finishing The Forest of Reading Blue Spruce collection and voting on their favourite book. If you have time, ask your child(ren) which book was their favourite. Very soon all these books will be catalogued and on the shelves for students to sign-out.

Look at how much our tree has grown in one month. There are now over 100 leaves on our tree. That means the Forest of Reading Club students have read over 100 books now!! The books are in English and French, fiction and nonfiction. Congratulations to the students for their dedication and for their passion to read!! Amazing!!



We are beginning to prepare for the Forest of Reading trip to Harbourfront Centre to see the award ceremony. Students in the Forest of Reading Club who have read more than 5 books will be eligible to go on the trip and vote for a winner.

Please stay tuned for trip information.

The Forest of Reading Club meets every Day 3, 4, and 5 in the library at lunch.

Thank you so much to Mrs. Harwood and Mme Bangma for helping me run the program and to the entire staff who volunteer to be book experts.

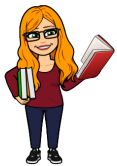
Toronto Public Library

On April 8th - the new PA Day - the Toronto Public Library Alderwood Branch will be having a Solar Eclipse themed fun special program from 10:30 - 11:30. Please feel free to drop in and learn more about the solar eclipse.



If you have any questions about the library, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: kathy.botham@tdsb.on.ca

Happy reading!



Ms. Kathy Botham

April 2024

SAB Athletics

[CONTACT US](#)

Mme Mahaney
Mme Dibon-Smith



Indoor Soccer Invitational

Our indoor soccer team is excited to be participating, once again, in the Invitational Indoor Soccer Tournament hosted by James S. Bell on Tuesday, April 16th. Practices will be held on Wednesdays during the lunch hour. Will Sir Adam Beck bring home the championship banner in back-to-back years? Only time will tell!

Volleyball

Congratulations to our Grade 5 girls on a great tournament! That being said, when one season ends, another one begins! Some of the girls will be joining our boys on the co-ed volleyball team. We are happy to be hosting the co-ed volleyball tournament at SAB in April. We look forward to cheering them on at home!



Thank You!

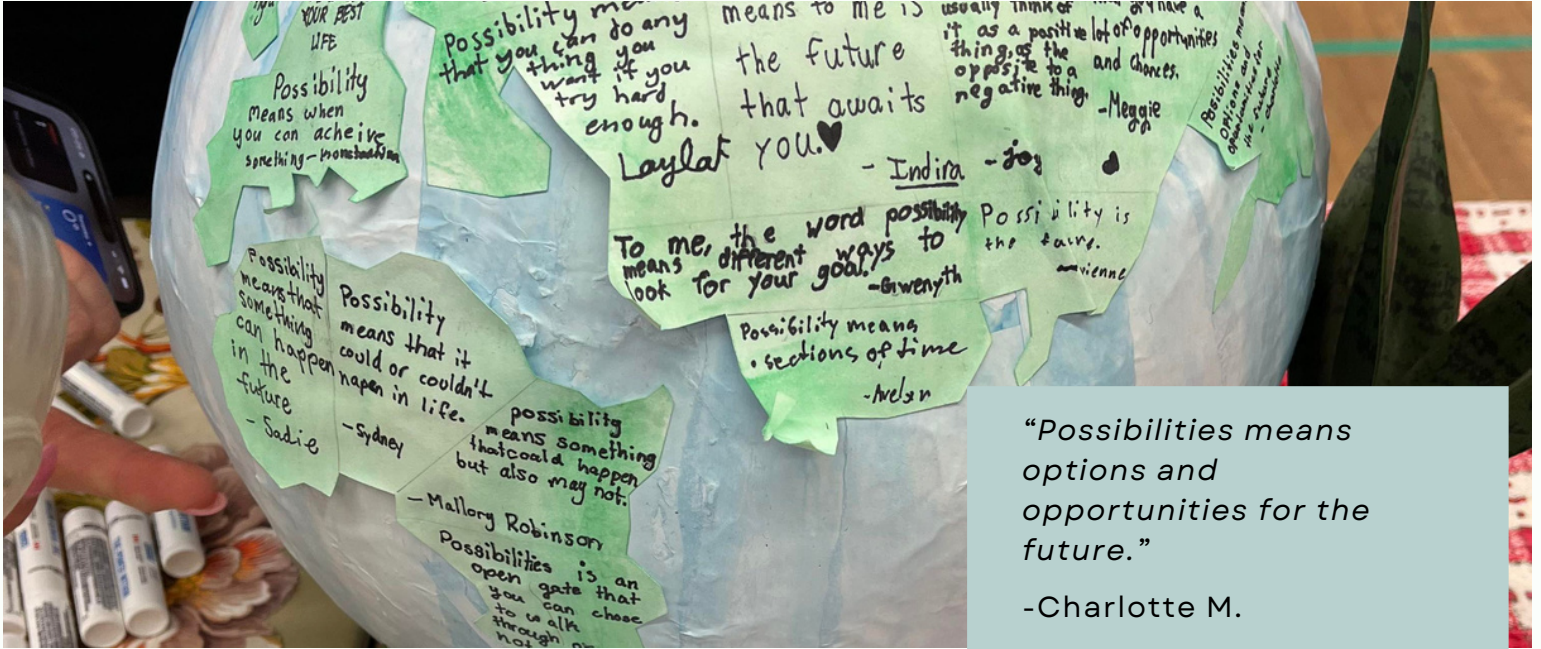
We want to extend our gratitude to all of our parent volunteers and drivers during these sporting events. Your time and support is greatly appreciated. These events would not be possible without you.



Badminton

It is a busy month at SAB for our sports teams. Our badminton season is underway! Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00A.M. We are excited to be hosting their tournament on April, 17th.

YWM POSSIBILITIES FAIR



“Possibilities means options and opportunities for the future.”

-Charlotte M.

“Possibilities means that anything can happen and there are many outcomes.”

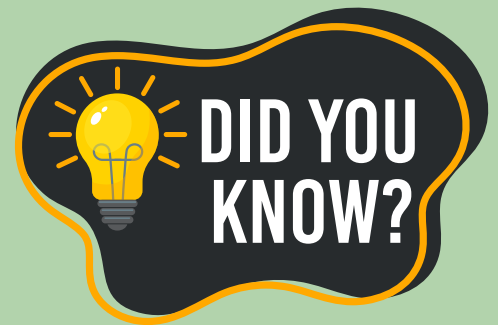
-Hailey



On Friday, March 1st, the girls from the Young Women on the Move Club participated in a Possibilities Fair at Runnymede Jr. & Sr. PS. They participated in multiple workshops and took part in many hands-on activities and group challenges.

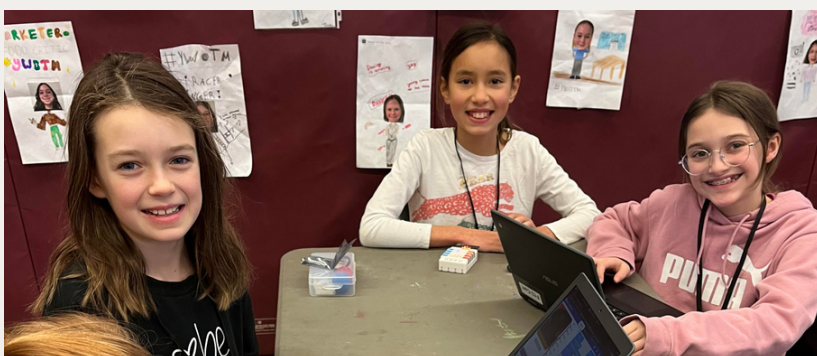


The girls had the privilege of hearing Trustee Debbie King and MPP Bhutila Karpoche speak. They had the opportunity to connect with young girls from other schools and reflect on their identity through art, S.T.E.M., and discussion. We look forward to next year's fair!



Women make up less than 25% of people employed in STEM careers

25%

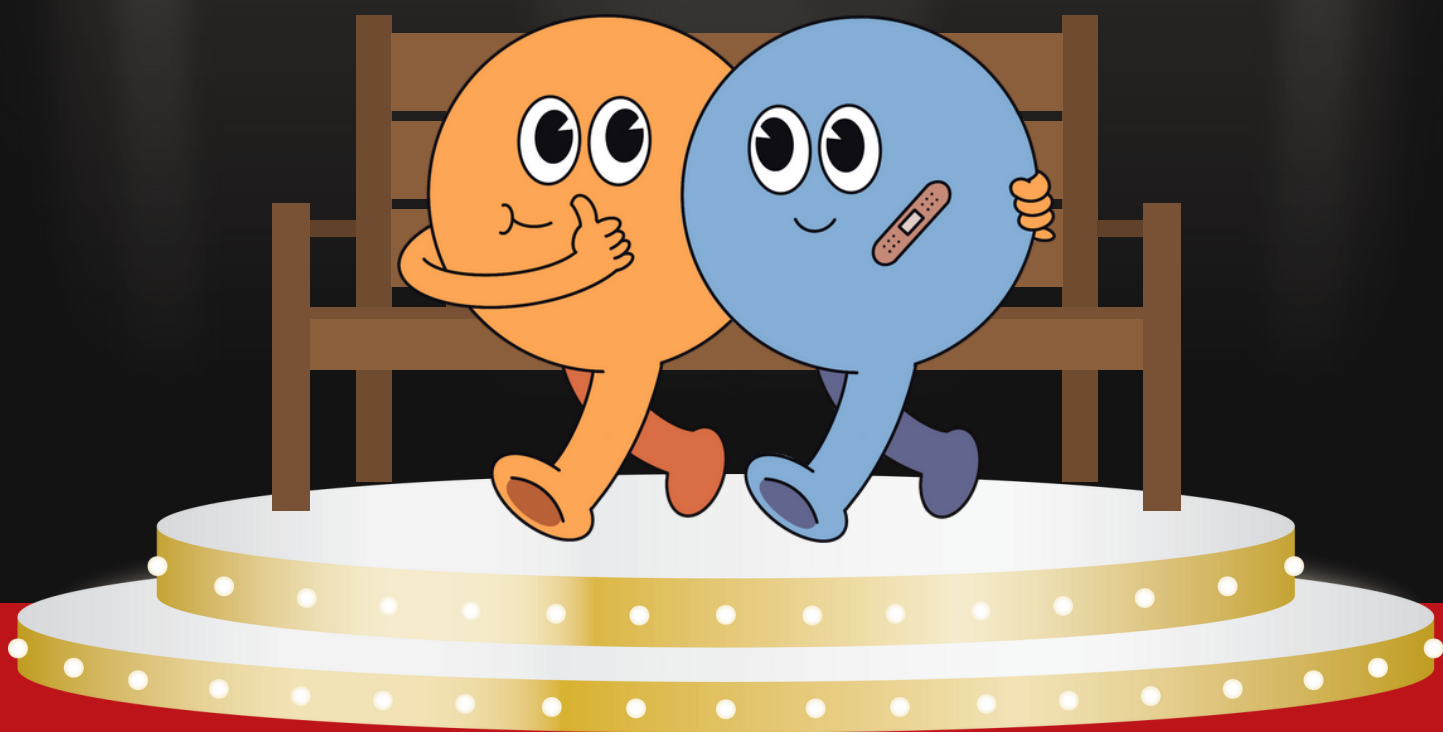


SIR ADAM BECK PRESENTS

THE BUDDY BENCH TOUR!

Join us as the following classes take the stage to showcase their learning during the Buddy Bench Tour.

MME CENI
MME FARRUGIA
MRS. HARWOOD
MME KITAYGORA
MRS. MYHAL
MRS. PAUL
MME SINGH



TUESDAY, MAY 7TH 2024
SHOW TIME: 6:30PM-7:30PM

Please drop students off in their classroom between 6:00-6:15pm. Parents are invited to wander the halls during that time and admire some of the artwork and learning happening at SAB.

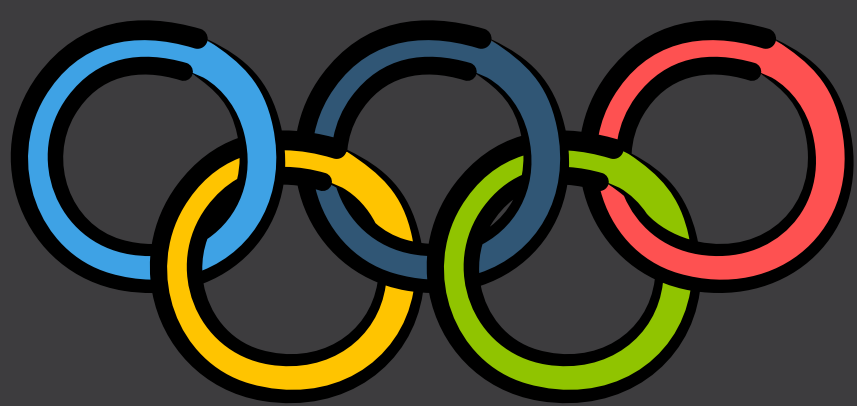
SIR ADAM BECK'S TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

THE SUMMER OLYMPICS

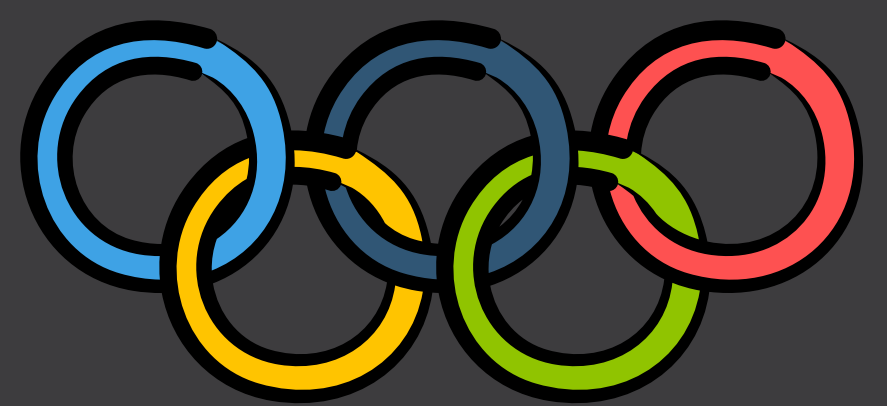


THURSDAY, MAY 9TH 2024
SHOW TIME: 6:30PM-7:30PM

Join us for a trip around the world as the following classes take the stage to showcase their learning in time for the Summer Olympics.



**MME BANGMA
MR. BREAW
MME BROWN
MME DIBON-SMITH
MME PAPPALARDO
MME SHAZAND**



Please drop students off in their classroom between 6:00-6:15pm. Parents are invited to wander the halls during that time and admire some of the artwork and learning happening at SAB.

Trustee Update

Patrick Nunziata • Ward 3: Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • Patrick.Nunziata@tdsb.on.ca



Celebrating Good News

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

- [Island PS Student Names Ports Toronto's Newest Vessel](#)
- [Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund \(TEOF\) Empowers TDSB Nutrition Programs](#)

Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB

At the TDSB, we are proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month during the month of March. During the month of March, we have several activities that will be shared to mark Greek Heritage Month. This year's theme is: "*Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos*" ---- *λληνική Σκέψη και Πολιτισμός: Από τον Μύθο στον Λόγο*» This year's website includes [Daily Announcements](#) along with featured focused days with activities.

TDSB Budget Update

The budget process is underway at the TDSB and we want to hear from you! Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/budget for all the latest information, including meeting schedules and recordings of the online Budget Town Halls that took place on February 20 and 21. There is also information available about how to register for a public delegation to address the Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on March 26, 2024.

2024-25 Budget

Section 231 of the *Education Act* requires school boards to adopt a balanced budget. As the 2024-25 budget process continues, there are several important meetings upcoming and we encourage parents/ guardians/caregivers, staff, and the wider community to learn more and engage in the budget process.

This **Tuesday, March 19** at the Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee (FBEC), staff will present their [options to balance](#) the 2024-25 budget.

When this year's budget process began, the projected financial position was a deficit of \$34.8M. Since then, staff have updated some of the projected revenues and expenditures that bring the updated projected financial position to a \$20.8M deficit - that means staff are looking at reductions of \$20.8M in order to balance.

[Appendix F](#) - Updated Financial Position.

Included in the Report is [Appendix E](#) - 2024-25 Budget Summary by Department showing the variances between budget years.

What is clear about staff options is their ongoing support of protecting programs and services for students - [Appendix D](#) - Major Areas Where Board is Spending More Than Funded.

I can support many of the staff options as they are based on structural reorganization and efficiencies (reorganizing Adult Education, change to permits, staffing, school renewal and sick leave) - I however cannot support the elimination of General Interest/Seniors Daytime Programs through this process. I have heard from too many who have truly valued having these programs available locally in our community.

Policy 019 outlines, "The Board will provide...community programs for adults 18 years of age and older to provide them with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills and to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle...Community programs should be fully funded by user fees and other revenues." Currently, the TDSB is not meeting this requirement.

In 2022-2023, General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Programs experienced a \$680,000 deficit. In order to sustain programs operating in deficit, funds are redirected from the board's other revenue sources (i.e., funds are redirected from areas such as staffing and school based funding to support the deficit with General Interest/Seniors' Daytime).

Course fees were raised by 20% in 2023-2024 in an effort to become fully funded, however, enrolment has declined by 15%. General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Programs are projected to have an in-year \$694,454 deficit. Given the provision of interest courses available in Toronto to interested community members, the needs of TDSB students, and a projected persistent deficit, it has been recommended that the TDSB no longer provide General Interest/Seniors' Daytime programming.

While I understand and acknowledge that our core mandate at the TDSB is to serve students, we also have a commitment to supporting lifelong learning and to enrich our communities with affordable learning opportunities. Eliminating a long standing program like this should undergo careful consideration and consultation with the public, I do not feel comfortable supporting such a change.

I will be in support of increasing the fees to these programs to keep them available and in service to those who wish to enrol - as the original policy 019 intended.

The infographic features a blue header with the TDSB logo and the title "TDSB Budget 2024-25: Funding Gaps". Below the header, two columns of text explain the budget requirements and the need for spending cuts. The left column states that the TDSB must submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education, accompanied by an icon of a school building on a scale. The right column states that to balance the budget, the Board must decrease spending by \$20.8 million, accompanied by a red downward arrow and a dollar sign icon. Below this, a link is provided to learn more about options to balance the budget. A dashed line separates this section from the "TDSB Structural Deficit" section. This section explains that the Board spends more than it receives and lists four items contributing to the deficit, each with an icon: Statutory Benefits (Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance), Cost of Operating Under-Utilized Schools due to School Closure Moratorium, Difference in Funding for Teacher Salaries vs. Actual Salary Cost, and Replacement Costs for Sick Leave. At the bottom of the infographic is a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, yellow, blue, and orange.

TDSB Budget 2024-25: Funding Gaps

The TDSB is required to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education.

To balance the 2024-25 budget, the Board must decrease spending by \$20.8 million.

Learn more about **options to balance the TDSB budget** at www.tdsb.on.ca/budget

TDSB Structural Deficit

Annually, the Board spends more than it receives in funding. Some items contributing to the structural deficit are within the control of the TDSB and some are not. Items **not sufficiently funded by the Ministry of Education** include:

- Statutory Benefits (Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance)
- Cost of Operating Under-Utilized Schools due to School Closure Moratorium
- Difference in Funding for Teacher Salaries vs. Actual Salary Cost
- Replacement Costs for Sick Leave

Structural Deficit

The TDSB's projected financial position will continue to be a deficit. In addition to the provincial government underfunding benchmarks since amalgamation, the structural deficit is compounded by a combination of other factors including higher wages, aging facilities, transitioning from COVID, escalating costs and inflation. In addition, the demand for mental health and special education services for students in addition to investing in safe schools have led to increased necessary staffing.

Students in Toronto need the province to fully-fund expenditures that are out of the Board control. As noted in the graphic above, there are predominantly four areas responsible – three of the four – underfunding of statutory benefits, replacement costs for sick leave and the inability to close under-utilized schools are provincial.

We know OPSBA continues to advocate for these issues – but specifically for TDSB, it is worth repeating that prior to central provincial bargaining in 2014, the

TDSB teacher grid was higher than the provincial average. Since 2014, TDSB supplements provincial funding received for teachers and this increases every year – in 2023-24, the amount that is underfunded is projected to be \$22.3M.



Public Delegations

Register to address the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on **March 26, 2024**.

Learn more and register at www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations.



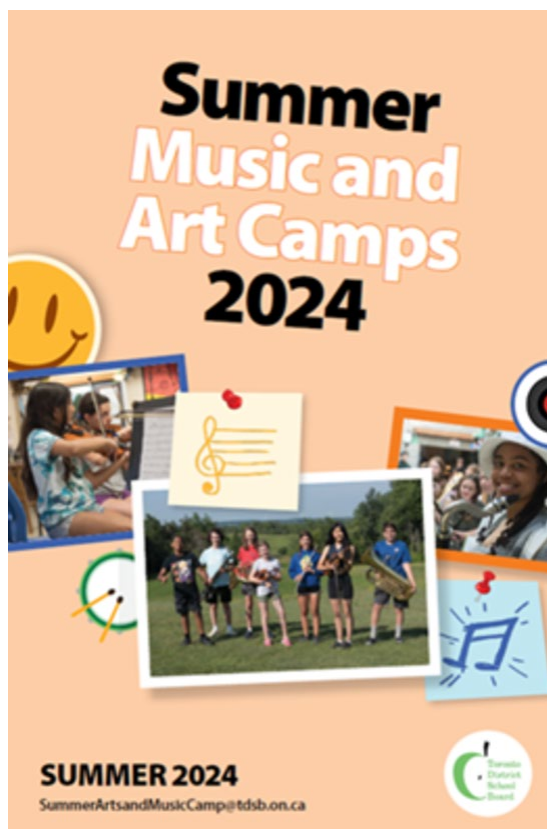
Next Steps

As noted below, the following week, on Tuesday, March 26, FBEC is for public delegations and members of the public are welcome to attend to speak in person or to submit a written delegation. And on Wednesday, March 27, staff will present recommendations on the 2024-25 operating budget at FBEC. Learn more and access all meeting agendas. A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 for approval of the 2024-25 operating budget.

TDSB Summer Music & Art Camps 2024

We are excited to announce that registration for our summer music camp in Toronto 2024 is now open! Explore your musical talents and creative flair at the TDSB Summer Music and Art Camps! Our camps welcome young artists and musicians of all skill levels, offering diverse programs including band, orchestra, strings, and personalized instruction. It's a chance to develop your skills, build friendships, and celebrate in an exciting final concert.

Join us for a summer of music-making,



artistic expression, and endless fun! For more information and details, click here - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Summer-Programs/TDSB-Music-Camps>.

Learn4Life Adult Community Programs - Spring Registration Now Open!

Did you know the TDSB offers lots of adult programs? Spring 2024 registration is now OPEN for Learn4Life's Adult General Interest Program! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions.



AFRICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM



The African Heritage Program connects students to the contributions, histories, legacies, cultures and traditions of people of African descent through inquiry and experiential learning.



The African Heritage program can be offered in TDSB schools around the city in which an international Languages Elementary program is currently running.

- **Who:** Kindergarten to Grade 8 (TDSB and Non-TDSB students).
- **When:** Classes start from September to June, one day a week for two and a half hours. Classes are held after school or on Saturdays.
- **Cost:** \$20 material fee (one time).

For registration info and to find a location near you, please visit www.ileahprograms.ca

Phone: **416-338-4100** | Email: ile_ah@tdsb.on.ca



tdsb | Continuing Education

Committee Meetings This Week

The Toronto District School Board is committed to developing opportunities for our wider school community to connect and engage in conversations about education issues. Meetings will be broadcasted live to the public. Click here at the start time to view - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings>.

To submit a delegation request (written or oral) for a Board Committee, please see here - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations> and email delegates@tdsb.on.ca. If your request is approved, further details will be provided to you via email.

Special Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee - March 19, 2024 - 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom [Agenda](#)

- 5.0 Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25

Governance and Policy Committee - March 20, 2024 - 4:30 p.m. Boardroom
[Agenda](#)

- 5. Staff Reports
- 5.1 P067, Learning Opportunities Index Policy Review, Phase 3
- 5.2 P021, Fundraising Policy, Phase 5
- 5.3 P072, Workplace Violence Prevention, Phase 1 - Annual Review
- 5.4 P048, Occupational Health and Safety Policy, Phase 1 - Annual Review
- 6. For Information Only
- 6.1 PR686, Revised Barbeque Safety Procedure [4681]
- 6.2 PR743, Employee Interim Measures Pending Investigation: New Procedure

Special Planning and Priorities Committee - March 21, 2024 - 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom Agenda 9 (TBC)

P021, Fundraising Policy: Phase 5

The revised [Fundraising Policy](#) (P021) is before the Governance and Policy Committee (GPC) Wednesday. On May 3, 2023, staff provided preliminary revisions at the GPC before proceeding with public consultation. A pre-consultation survey was conducted with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) in Spring 2023 for one month to obtain initial feedback. An extended term of public consultations was initiated on May 29, 2023 and concluded on October 20, 2023.

Revisions to the Policy (see Appendix A) include:

- Updated definitions;
- Commitment to equity through a proposed System Priorities Fund (formerly the Central Equity Fund) - To facilitate improved equity of resources among schools, a System Priorities Fund will be maintained to redirect undesignated donations from external sources and/or for schools to voluntarily direct surplus School Generated Funds.
- Alignment with Ministry guidelines; and

- Provisions regarding online donations.

What hasn't changed is the school principal is ultimately responsible for all fundraising activities conducted in the name of the school, including school council activities and will have financial oversight of all school generated funds. Fundraising activities must be accountable and transparent, with school/student councils and their local school communities being informed about how fundraising proceeds are used by the school and funds must be raised for a designated purpose and used for that intended purpose. In addition, school generated funds will be used within a two-year period unless specified for a specific project or use. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Ramadan Continues

Ramadan is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that exists within our school communities. For many Muslim students (and staff), observing Ramadan through fasting brings a great sense of fulfillment and community. Please see these shared tips that schools can use to support students who are observing and promote inclusion throughout Ramadan.

For more information on the duty to accommodate, please [click here](#).

Dogs Are Not Allowed On School Property - How to Report

Attention Ward 3 families and residents! Please spread the word and discussion on the persistent dog problem at all of our schools. We understand that school

properties are wide open enclosed fields perfect to let your pet zoom around free - but these grounds are intended for our students. Please take your dog to an off leash park - not school playgrounds.

Please contact 311 if you see dogs in school grounds so they can log the concerns and please also call TDSB's 24-hour Call Centre at 416-395-4620. Tracking the concerns will allow us to build the case for increased surveillance.

At our recent Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, the staff report confirmed the following -

Dogs on school properties have been an ongoing challenge for many years despite the “no dogs permitted” signage. There have been examples of dog owners taking their dogs off leash or even leaving their dogs unattended in a school yard, or within the kindergarten or childcare enclosures. There have been incidents of off-leash dogs chasing as well as biting students, members of the public and staff. Dog feces and disposal bags are frequently left on the school grounds impacting the student use and enjoyment of outdoor activities.

Signage is posted near the entrances, such as gates or openings in the school ground fencing (refer to Appendix A for a copy of the signage) that clearly indicates TDSB school grounds are private property and dogs are not permitted on school board property. Section 6.10 in PR523, [Access to School Premises](#) prohibits canines on TDSB properties at any time (except service animals).



Reporting Hate In Our Schools

If you are a staff or a student or a parent/caregiver, and you are a victim of/or witnessing an incident of racism, bias, or hate in our schools, please report it to the school's principal, who has a duty to investigate all incidents. Each time an incident takes place in a school, it is to be recorded in a portal which then begins a system response. We have a responsibility to educate against hate. For more information, please visit the webpage for [Reporting an Incident of Hate or Discrimination Involving or Impacting Students](#). If you experience it, or witness it, report it. Please.

Complaints regarding social media postings should be sent directly to the TDSB's Human Rights Office at humanrightsoffice@tdsb.on.ca. The intake process is being centralized in the Human Rights Office to ensure for consistency of process.

In Our Communities

Report any allegations of hate-motivated crimes to police for investigation at 416-808-2222 or 9-1-1 in an emergency. We will not tolerate any intimidation, harassment, or hate-motivated behavior aimed at specific communities. You can also call 1-800-222-TIPS to Crime Stoppers anonymously.

Toronto Police provide new online option to report hate-motivated graffiti

Toronto Police Service is launching a new option for the public to provide information to police about hate-motivated graffiti in their neighbourhoods. The [web form](#), available on the Service's website, provides an additional avenue for the public to alert police to hate-motivated graffiti, so officers can attend, gather evidence and arrange for the hate-motivated graffiti to be removed as quickly as possible. This reporting mechanism will be monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please remember TDSB's Mental Health and Well Being Professional Support Staff (PSS) are here to support your mental health and well-being and to help you navigate the tools and resources you may need. Please see [resources](#) on their website.

Backpack and School Supplies Drive

This year's Backpacks & School Supplies Drive will run from **March 1,**



2024 to the end of September 2024.

Individual donors and companies can help our students by making a monetary donation and/or a donation of new backpacks and school supplies. Tax receipts are available for these donations. 100% of all proceeds and in-kind donations go to benefit our students. NOTE: Due to potential health & safety, hygiene, sorting and storage limitations, the TDSB can only accept new items. For more information about how to donate new items, please contact the Business Development department at BusinessDevelopment@tdsb.on.ca.



Summer Company Grant

Are you an Ontario student with a business idea? [The Summer Company](#) program supports eligible young student entrepreneurs, aged 15 to 29, looking to launch and operate a small business during the summer. The Summer Company program provides:

- Business fundamentals training
- Group and one-to-one mentorship sessions with a trained business professional

An opportunity for a grant of up to \$3,000 to help launch your small business. For more information, review the [program overview](#) and [detailed guidelines](#). **Begin the process by April 1.**

High Water Levels Bring Increased Risks

We are inching closer to Spring and milder weather. The Toronto and Region

Conservation monitors hazardous ice conditions as thaw begins and are reminding everyone to be very careful around all bodies of water. The first hint of warming weather and the promise of spring thaw can bring extreme danger to the shores and surfaces of streams, rivers, ponds and lakes, according to Toronto and Region Conservation. As warmer temperatures arrive, stream banks become increasingly slippery and unstable. Lake and river ice weakens, becoming thinner or with higher flows breaking with little or no warning.

During this time, the potential for flooding and ice jamming is high. Higher, faster-flowing water and extreme cold temperatures combine to create increased dangers on or near rivers, streams and ponds for people wishing to enjoy the seasonal changes. I encourage you to speak to your children about staying safe and staying away from stream banks, ponds and lakes.

Community Safety & Support

If you should you ever see any suspicious activity around school buildings after school hours, please contact 311, Toronto Police Services Dispatch at 416-808-2222, or the TDSB's 24-hour Call Centre at 416-395-4620.

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.

Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns




Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent, and me, your Trustee! For more information, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns.

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, Facebook, and

Instagram accounts.

- [X \(Twitter\) @TDSB](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram @Torontodsb](#)
- [Threads @Torontodsb](#)



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using [TrueRemove®](#)
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
[View this email online.](#)

5050 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario | M5N 5N8 CA

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.