

# Trustee Update

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## Happy November!

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable Halloween. As our system finally stabilizes from the massive changes that accompanied our September restart, we are seeing some encouraging results from both our in-person and virtual schools. Although there are still some challenges and details to be worked out, our staff are confident that things will continue toward a much desired "routine" from this point on. First, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to all our parents, staff, and students for being so engaged, cooperative, and patient through this process. This process would have been much more difficult if not for you.

In the next couple of weeks, I'll be sending you all a survey to gather feedback on how you think this year has progressed. Please look out for the survey. Send me your thoughts on what we are doing well, and what we need to improve on. Your input is valued and important for us to do our jobs at the TDSB.

Covid-19 still represents a significant risk in our community and the cooler temperatures have brought us to "wave two" of the pandemic. I encourage everyone to continue to be vigilant and proactive in following the social distancing, personal hygiene, and personal protection measures as set out by our health experts. We need to protect ourselves and each other in the community.

There are several very important dates in November including the deadline for submission of French Immersion applications, the PIAC Parent Conference, and many more. Please continue to read this newsletter for details.



**French Programs Application Deadline**

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Programs, we offer an online process to apply for Early French Immersion (begins in Senior Kindergarten) and Middle French Immersion (begins in Grade 4). An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. The timelines for applying for these programs for September 2021 are:

Early French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between November 2 and November 27, 2020.

Middle French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between January 4 and January 29, 2021.

Offers of placement within your chosen program (not a specific school) will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window. Families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

Virtual Web-Chat Information Sessions (for the Early French Immersion (SK) application and placement process):

November 2, 2020, 7 p.m.

November 12, 2020, 7 p.m.

November 19, 2020, 10 a.m.

[Click Here for more information about the Virtual Information Sessions](#)

[Click here for more information about French as a Second Language programs](#)



**School Councils**  
**READY•SET•ENGAGE**

### **Mark Your Calendars for the PIAC Annual Parent Conference!**

PIAC invites all parents and caregivers to take part in our 14th annual parent conference – Ready. Set. Engage! Navigating the School Year Together – in partnership with TDSB.

Join us in our first-ever virtual conference on November 21 and 22 for two days of workshops for parents and school councils. Connect with others from across TDSB as we adapt to a new educational landscape and school year unlike any we have experienced before.

Registration opens soon!

[Click here to learn more](#)

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### **Reminder to Call School if Your Child will be Late or Absent**

One measure of keeping our students safe is to ensure we can account for any absences or reasons for being late to school. We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent or late for any reason, we ask that you contact the school immediately and report the reason for the absence. If we are not informed about the absence, we will make attempts to contact you through our automated call-out system to determine the reason for the absence.

Please let the office know by calling the school if your contact information, including phone number, changes at any time throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your children safe and accounted for.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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### **Remembrance Day**

On Wednesday, November 11th, students and staff at our schools and across the city will mark Remembrance Day. For Remembrance Day, teachers make connections between global events and students' lives by promoting peace within our school community. On this solemn occasion, staff, students, parents, and the wider community all join together in a call for peace.

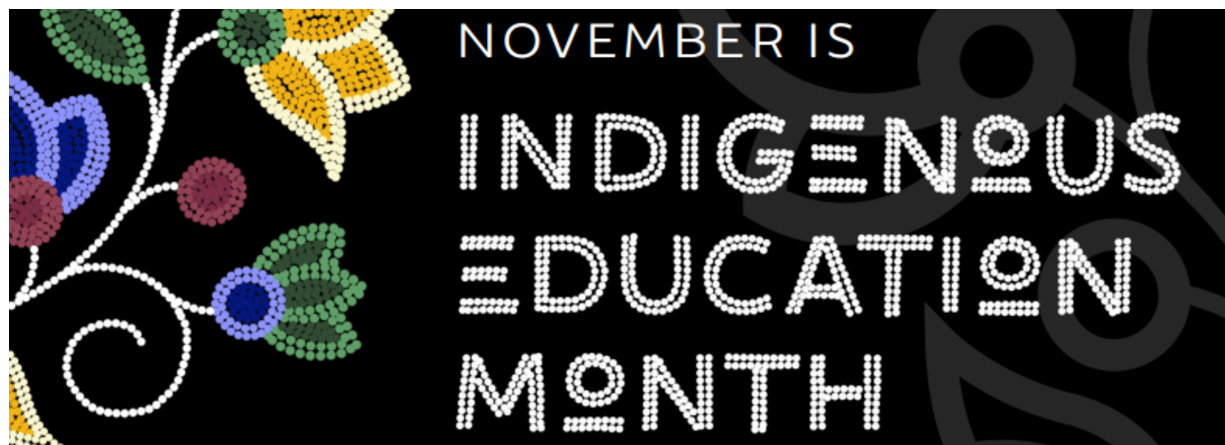
As a point of interest, TDSB's Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute has the recognized distinction of having the greatest number of students, graduates, teachers, and other staff enlist in the military during the Second World War than any other school in the

John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders Fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*



### **November is Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB**

In November, we honour Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. This month reminds us to centre First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives, histories and contemporary realities. In classrooms across the TDSB, it is an opportunity to learn about treaties, Indigenous leadership, achievements, and resistance.

Over the course of this month, students, staff and community members recognize a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn together about our shared history, and to build stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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## Hindu Heritage Month at the TDSB – November 2020

In 2016, the Government of Ontario declared the month of November each year as Hindu Heritage Month. Further to this, on April 18, 2018, the TDSB Board of Trustees voted to recognize the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month. The theme chosen this year is Om Shanti: Living Together in Peace. The Sanskrit words OM Shanti are considered to be one of the most important mantras or sacred sounds in Hinduism. OM, or AUM, is energy, a vibration from which all the universe originates. Shanti refers to peace in many levels of existence. For example, OM Shanti refers to experiencing peace at the level of the body, mind and spirit. From a wider perspective, it is a prayer for peace in the whole world, including the environment and in our relationships with friends, family, communities and countries - indeed in the entire creation. The word Shanti is chanted three times in the belief that the desire to attain peace will come true. OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!

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# Parent Support NEW Line

With our EarlyON Centre remaining closed, we are still available to support you and your family.

We are now offering individual support sessions with experienced Early Childhood Educators. Come and ask us anything related to your child and/or parenting.



We will connect with families via Zoom video call or Zoom phone call.



For more information, contact us at:



416-494-1579 x 4301

[earlyon@lumenus.ca](mailto:earlyon@lumenus.ca)

## Program Schedule

November 16 - December 30, 2020

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Circle Time</b> @ 11:15 AM	<b>Circle Time</b> @ 11:15 AM	<b>Circle Time (Wacky Wednesday*)</b> @ 11:15 AM	<b>Circle Time</b> @ 11:15 AM	<b>Circle Time</b> @ 11:15 AM	<b>Circle Time</b> @ 10:00 AM
<b>Baby Mother Goose</b> @ 2:30 PM	<b>Little Explorers</b> @ 2:30 PM	<b>Wacky Wednesday*</b> @ 4:30 PM	<b>Fun with Alphabets</b> @ 2:30 PM	<b>Fun at Home</b> (YouTube Video)	

Friday, November 6th, 2020 at 7:30PM

# Virtual Town Hall:

UPDATE ON ELECTRICITY RATES IN ONTARIO  
FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS CONSUMERS

**Host:** Vincent Ke, MPP – Don Valley North



**Special Guest:**

The Honourable Bill Walker  
Associate Minister of Energy



Local media and residents are invited to attend.  
Looking forward to seeing you there!

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