



## Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin

**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.

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*

[Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca)

*Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin invites you to*

### **DON VALLEY WEST COMMUNITY COFFEE**



**Wednesday, September 28, 2022  
9:30am - 11:00am**

The Ward 11 Community Coffee Meetings have gone virtual! Grab your favourite mug, and join us from the comfort of your own home for a casual conversation about the TDSB and our Ward 11 schools.

If you are interested in attending, please register:

<https://forms.gle/hGKKJatVygqxHUn8>

Meeting links and dial-in numbers will be shared with registrants the day before the meeting.

### **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:



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

**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](#)).

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members,  
Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable summer.  
As your elected public school board trustee, I am your link and liaison to the Toronto District School Board. Together with my colleagues, I make decisions about the future of our school board, help families navigate the education system, and advocate for students, schools, and public education.  
After more than two years of the pandemic, we are preparing to welcome students and staff into our schools to what we hope will be a much more normal school year. The last couple of years have presented many challenges. As we look towards September, we are focused on ensuring our schools provide rich programming, opportunities, and supports so that all students are set up to succeed emotionally, physically, and academically. While most COVID-19 measures have been lifted by the Government of Ontario, the health and safety of our school communities remain a top priority. The TDSB will continue to monitor the pandemic and to follow the guidance and direction provided by the Ministry of Education as well as by our provincial and local public health officials as needed.  
We know that school can be an exciting and overwhelming time – for both students and parents/guardians. To help you and your child have a great year, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](#) for information on the school year calendar, transportation, and getting involved, as well as links to resources for homework and so much more. The Toronto District School Board is also here to support you and your family's mental health and well-being needs. For a list of tools and resources, including those tailored for students and parents/guardians, please visit [https://www.tdsb.on.ca/MentalHealthWellBeing](#).  
As your trustee, I like to hold events where our community can share information and learn together. I already have two of these scheduled for early fall, and I hope you will consider joining me (virtually) at two upcoming events: first, my kick-off coffee morning of the 2022-2023 school year, currently scheduled for September 26; and second, my evening ward forum tentatively scheduled for October 3, where members of our Planning Department will give a presentation about development, school space and planning in Ward 11 schools. To learn more about these regular coffee mornings and Ward 11 and board-wide events, news and programs, please subscribe to my e-newsletter through the link on my TDSB webpage at [www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward11](#). You can also follow me on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/rachelchernos](#).  
Additionally, for system-wide news about the Toronto District School Board, you can subscribe to "TDSB Update" at [www.tdsb.on.ca/TDSBUpdate](#) and follow the TDSB on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And always, if you have students in our schools, you will continue to receive important information and updates from your school and the system via email.  
Finally, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly by email at [Rachel.Chernos@tdsb.on.ca](#).  
Our schools are strongest when we all work together. I look forward to collaborating with all Ward 11 school communities and families this year, and wish everyone a wonderful start to school!  
Warmest regards,  
*Rachel Chernos Lin*  
Rachel Chernos Lin  
Ward 11

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## 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\\_\(PDF\)\\_\(PDF\)](#) (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.

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## 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/>

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## **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/](https://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/benefits-of-active-school-travel/)

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## **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](#)

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## **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](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Beyond-the-Classroom/International-Languages-Elementary-and-African-Heritage/ILE-AH-2022-2023)

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## 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](https://toronto.ca/FallRec)

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## 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).

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## 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-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-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:nna.catalano@tdsb.on.ca)
- until September 27, 2022
-

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 2. October 7, 2022 – Professional Development 3. November 18, 2022 – Parent Teacher Conferences 4. December 2, 2022 – Professional Development 5. January 13, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting 6. February 17, 2023 – Parent Teacher Conferences 7. June 2, 2023 – Assessment and Reporting	1. September 6, 2022 – Professional Development 2. October 7, 2022 – Professional Development 3. November 18, 2022 – Professional Development 4. February 2, 2023 – Professional Development 5. February 17, 2023 – Professional Development 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

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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*

[Rachel.Chernoslin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.Chernoslin@tdsb.on.ca)

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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](tel:1-800-668-6868) or get support right now by texting **CONNECT** to 686868.***

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