

Trustee Update

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What a year it has been

Friends, we made it through to the end of this rollercoaster year! I want to thank all of you once again for the tremendous support and patience you have shown throughout the year. Your amazing cooperation and teamwork was invaluable in helping us to overcome the many challenges that we faced.

I also want to also take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates, regardless of whether from elementary, middle, or high school. Although in-person graduation ceremonies have not been possible, your achievements are still worthy of the most spectacular celebration. We are all very proud of you!

For the parents of students returning to the TDSB in September, please be aware that a communication regarding selection of in-person or virtual learning will be sent to you in August. You will be asked to select one or the other for your child(ren) in the 2021-2022 school year. Keep in mind that your decision will be binding until February 2022.

I hope you have a great summer!



Meeting Minutes: Anti-Racism Meeting Series

In May and June, the parent councils of Shaughnessy and Hillmount public schools hosted a series of meetings focused on Anti-Asian and Anti-Black racism. The meetings were well attended and I have received much positive feedback. Many thanks to our presenters, and also to all those who were able to attend. For those of you who would have liked to, but were unable to attend, the meeting minutes and materials are available on the following links:

May 19, 2021: Learning Session on Anti-Asian Racism - Past, Present, Future

[June 1, 2021: A Conversation on Anti-Black Racism and Raising Anti-Racist Children](#)



Toronto District School Board

Colleen Russell-Rawlins Appointed TDSB Director of Education

Colleen Russell-Rawlins has been appointed Director of Education for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Trustees voted on the appointment during a Special Board Meeting on June 8. The appointment will take effect August 5, 2021.

Ms. Russell-Rawlins is currently Permanent Interim Director of Education for the Peel District School Board. Over her 29-year career with the TDSB, Russell-Rawlins has held a variety of roles in education, including teacher, principal, superintendent, and Associate Director of Education.

While at the TDSB she had a leading role in delivering several aspects of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan with a focus on equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression. Her many accomplishments at the TDSB include ending various forms of streaming by improving early literacy and improving access to academic pathways and creating the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

In 2018, she served as the President of the Ontario Supervisory Officers' Association and most recently, was recognized as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Women in Canada in 2020.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning (2021-22)

The TDSB will be asking families to complete an online Selection Form for In-Person or Virtual Learning in mid-August. At that time, families will have up-to-date information on the status of the pandemic and vaccinations for school staff and students, and will be in a better position to make an informed decision. Visit the [TDSB website for more information, available in multiple languages.](#)

Adult ESL Summer Program

Adult learners will have an opportunity to improve their English online this summer from July 5 to July 30. A broad range of English as a Second Language classes will be available, from beginner to advanced levels. Registration opens June 21, 2021. Learn more by visiting www.ESLtoronto.ca.

Learn4Life Adult General Interest Summer Program

Learn a new skill or take up a hobby online this summer with courses in art, computers, fitness and wellness, languages, and much more! Registration is now open with courses beginning July 5, 2021. View our online brochure by visiting www.learn4life.ca.

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement hosted a [virtual event](#) on June 1 to celebrate the launch of the Centre. The Centre is dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes for Black students. It aims to be responsive to the voices of Black communities who have advocated for systemic change within educational institutions and for dismantling anti-Black racism at the TDSB. To learn more follow [@tdsb_cebsa](#) on Twitter and [sign-up](#) for the mailing list.

Heritage and History Months

In June, the TDSB recognizes [National Indigenous History Month](#), [Italian Heritage Month](#), [Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month](#) and [Pride Month](#).

Sun Safe Behaviour

This spring and summer, the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health want kids to be safe while playing outdoors.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, please follow all guidelines from Toronto Public Health, including social distancing.

Getting students outside and active is good for their health but too much sun can have serious side-effects, including burns, eye damage, premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. We encourage all students to practice sun safety

What exactly does sun safe behaviour look like?

Cover up: Even on days with a moderate UV index students should wear a hat and sunglasses, especially if they'll be outside for over 30 minutes.

Stay cool: Students should stay in shady areas, particularly at midday when the sun is strongest.

Use sunscreen: Choose sunscreens with SPF 15 or higher that include protection from both UVA and UVB rays.



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