

James Li TDSB Ward 13 - Don Valley North

TRUSTEE UPDATE

2019 Year End Newsletter

2019 has been an eventful year at the Toronto District School Board, and one full of amazing student accomplishments, parent involvement, and hard work by all staff and trustees.

Before I provide a recap on this past year, I would like to first thank the Don Valley North community for your incredible support of the TDSB and our work to bring the best education to our children. In my first year as trustee, I have seen the community actively provide thoughts and opinions on how we can improve public education, and I feel very fortunate to have received the level of involvement and participation that I have from all of you.

Student and School Achievements

First of all, congratulations to all 2019 graduates! Whether you are graduating from Grade 5 going to Middle School, Grade 8 going to High School or Grade 12 going into a whole new world, your hard work, dedication and perseverance will no doubt ensure that you are the future leaders of our society.

Congratulations to our very own Mona Afshar and Shafiya Khan from Lester B Pearson Elementary School for being elected Co-Chairs of the Learning Centre 2 Student Senate Executive. For the first time, students from across the TDSB were able to vote online to elect their Student Trustees and Student Senate Executives. Students were also able to learn more about the candidates via online campaign speeches before casting their votes. This new, modern way of electronic voting resulted in more than 4,200 votes from across the system, which is about 4,000 more than any previous year when in-person elections were held.

In a wonderful effort to contribute to our society, A Y Jackson Secondary School raised over \$17,000 in the Relay for Life campaign for the Canadian Cancer Society. Great job, students! Your determination to help others in need is an example to us all.

The Guitar Ensemble from Georges Vanier Secondary School was invited to perform as a part of the 68th Annual Sounds of Toronto Concert at Roy Thompson Hall. The GV Ensemble were selected from a large group of highly skilled music groups from across Toronto, and their success is a testament to the strength of the music and arts program at GV.

After years of hard work and fundraising, we are finally able to move forward with plans to build a playscape at Elkhorn Public School. The playscape is expected to be completed over the summer. A big thank you to the parent council, community members and City Councillor Shelley Carroll for stepping up to make this possible.



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2019/20 Budget

On June 19, 2019 trustees approved a balanced budget that reduced the TDSB's operating expenditures by \$67.8M. This reduction in expenditures was as a result of a funding reduction from the provincial government (\$42.1M) and the TDSB's own structural budget overrun (\$25.7M). The decisions for this year's budget were built upon feedback from the community, determined during 22 community meetings as well as online consultations that took place in March of this year, and were constructed by TDSB staff and the Board of Trustees after meeting with the public over 20 times. During the course of our budget process, we also received over 350 official delegations from the community.

To minimize the impact on our students, we elected to reduce programming from across the Board in order to try to avoid the elimination of programs. However, Elementary IB and International Languages Integrated Day programs were eliminated (Saturday and after school international language programs were saved). Reductions were made to senior management and central administration, Facilities and IT, outdoor education, itinerant music programs, TTC tickets for Gifted and French Immersion students (school buses are unaffected), school budgets and some learning staff.

For additional information about the 2019/20 budget please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget>.

Programs and Policy

This year, the TDSB successfully implemented new policies on student equity and harmful substances in schools.

The Student Impact Assessment process was implemented this year to ensure that with every major decision, the impact to all student groups is properly assessed and studied. This will ensure that we pay attention to and respect the needs of students from all cultures, religions and sexual orientations.

I am also proud that the TDSB has officially implemented the restriction of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Effective April 17, 2019, alcohol, tobacco (including electronic vaporizers) and marijuana may not be consumed on any TDSB property (including vehicles). Also, these substances may not be consumed on public property within 20 meters of any TDSB property. TDSB will not fund or participate in any events that relate to the consumption of alcohol, tobacco (including electronic vaporizers) and marijuana.

In 2020/21, the TDSB will update the current policy on optional attendance, restructure French Immersion programs and begin a study on how to improve the operations of our secondary schools. The reports on [French Immersion](#), [Secondary School](#), and the opportunity to [provide input on policy changes](#) are all available at www.tdsb.on.ca.



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Message from Don Valley North Community Groups

The **Bayview Village Association** would like to remind you that they are still accepting memberships. Details can be found on the website at www.bayviewvillage.org. Read the BVA's latest [newsletter](#).

Brian Village Association is the resident association for the community around Brian Drive, Don Valley North. We have been involved and successfully collaborated with the Councillor to bring improvements to the library, our parks, Brian Gateway project, exercise trails, and so much more! If you would like to get involved, please contact us at infobrianvillage@gmail.com. You can also look us up and learn about our events on our website at: <https://brianvillage.com/>. Together we can continue to keep this neighbourhood vibrant, safe and peaceful –
Divya

Donate to York Memorial CI and Jones Ave ALC Fire Relief

On May 7, 2019, York Memorial Collegiate Institute experienced a devastating fire which resulted in significant damage to the building. This comes a day after fire broke out at the TDSB's Jones Avenue Adult Learning Centre which also sustained significant damage. Assessments will evaluate the damages resulting from the fires. However, it will take some time to complete these preliminary assessments and to determine how much will be recovered through insurance.

Learn more about how you can [donate](#) to support all those impacted by the incident, including the staff and students of the two schools and a number of Continuing Education and Safe and Caring Schools programs and administrative staff located in the two buildings.

For additional information, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/TDSB-Charity-Page>.

Bicycle Safety

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, children will be participating in many outdoor activities like bike riding. The Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health want kids to be safe while playing outdoors this summer. Parents and caregivers can "stay a step ahead" by protecting children when they ride.

Here's how:

- An adult should always supervise children 10 years of age or younger when they are using a bicycle or other wheeled sports equipment. Even older children may need on-going supervision when riding near the road.
- Make sure children wear the correct helmet properly when they ride. Ontario's bike helmet law requires all children and youth under age 18 to wear an approved bike helmet when riding a bicycle.



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Bicycle Safety continued

- Keep children away from traffic when they use wheeled sports equipment. Make sure they ride in a safe place. Teach children how to:
 - a. steer, brake and ride in a straight line
 - b. wear the right safety gear, and
 - c. do a safety check every time they ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, use in-line skates or wear shoes with wheels.
- Be within arm's reach when your children are learning to ride any wheeled equipment.
- Always walk a bicycle, scooter or skateboard across a street intersection, instead of riding across.
- Tell children that you are happy when you see them riding safely.
- Remind children of the safety rules when they forget.
- Be a good role model - wear a helmet and safety gear yourself. Children copy what adults do.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Li', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.