

Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah



Welcome Back to School!

Dear Community Members of Scarborough-Rouge Park,

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year! I hope everyone had a restful, safe and enjoyable summer. I would like to take a moment to recognize and commend all your efforts in making our previous school year run smoothly as possible considering our current reality. Balancing both work, home life and virtual learning is no easy task! Even if you do not have students in the Board, keeping our schools safe is a collective effort. Minimizing community spread means more chances for our schools to remain open!

Although I am excited about the return to school, I am cautiously optimistic. We are still amid an ongoing pandemic as such I ask our community to continue to practice caution and flexibility. Although we all are desiring more stability and predictability, plans will continue to evolve and conditions can change plans in a moment's notice, as we have all experienced last year. We ask our parents and community members for patience as we strive for the safest school experience we can provide for our students with the resources we have been given.

Last but not least, a special thank you to our teachers, custodial staff, and other support staff that have worked through these strange times. We are inspired by our teachers, who have demonstrated great flexibility this year, many of whom had to go beyond their comfort zones by transitioning to online learning. You have shown our students the importance of adaptability and resilience in the face of adversity. We hope this year will be less taxing on everyone.

Thank you,

Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah,
Ward 21, Scarborough-Rouge Park



Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

As we welcome our students back, we are aware that for many this will be their first experience back in a brick and mortar school since the beginning of the pandemic. Many students have spent a better part of their school year (or more) isolated. This will require some adjustments for our students and staff. I will strive to center student's mental health and well-being in my work. For more information, including helpful resources and coping strategies, please visit the TDSB webpage for <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19> and <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being>



Ventilation

Enhancing ventilation is one measure we are employing to minimize the spread of COVID-19. In addition to ensuring all HVAC systems are operating efficiently, the TDSB is placing HEPA filters in every classroom. Filters in the mechanical equipment will be changed every two months. The ventilation systems will be running two hours before school begins and two hours after school ends to maximum outside airflow. The TDSB has also created an air quality (IAQ) guideline to monitor air quality. If parents have concerns with the air quality in their child's classroom, please work with the local principal.



Health and Safety during Covid-19

Enhanced health and safety measures will continue to be of great importance. Some of the areas of focus will be the following:

- Encouraging vaccination for students over 12 years old and staff
- Daily screening for COVID-19 Symptoms
- Mandatory masks for all students and staff
- Practicing proper hygiene (signage about hand washing and proper respiratory etiquette; providing alcohol-based sanitizers throughout the school and at entry and exit points).
- Enhancing cleaning (enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces, ex. light switches, handrails, door handles, etc.)





Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

Outdoor Education

It has been my pleasure to be appointed as the TDSB's representative on the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Outdoor Education Task Force. The pandemic has demonstrated even more the importance of outdoor education. The two-year taskforce has resulted in a final Report and Recommendations which has been approved by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Board of Directors. The aim of the report is to improve outdoor education within the GTA and to aid in the establishment of the Natural Science and Education Committee.

Welcome the New Director of Education

Fun Fact! The Board of Trustees under the Education Act only hires one employee, the Director of Education. The Director of Education is the most senior position in the Board, akin to a CEO in the private sector. The Director of Education oversees a \$3 billion budget, 42,000 employees, and 583 schools! Directors are typically hired every 5 years. This year, after an exhaustive 9 month search the Board of Trustees have hired Ms. Colleen Russell-Rawlins. Ms. Russell-Rawlins has 29 years of experience at the TDSB, starting out as a teacher within the Board.



Looking to the Future

Early research is showing that the pandemic has impacted different communities differently. There is evidence of learning loss for some students due to online learning, and we need to continue to address these realities as our students return to in-person learning. Albeit, we are not at the end of the pandemic, we must continue to plan for its aftermath. I was pleased, alongside Trustee Rajakulasingam, to move the motion "COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Plan" to begin addressing these emerging needs. To learn more about the TDSB's Pandemic Recovery Plan please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22/Pandemic-Recovery-Plan>



2021-2022 Information



Your School Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah

Ward 22, Scarborough - Rouge Park
416-395-8787
Anu.Sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca

Find Your School & School Superintendent:

www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School
Board Office at 416-397-3000
or GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca



PA Days & Holidays	Date
Board-wide PA Day	September 2, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	September 3, 2021
Labour Day	September 6, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	September 8, 2021
Thanksgiving	October 11, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	November 19, 2021
Winter Break	December 20, 2021 – December 31, 2021
Elementary PA Day	January 14, 2022
Secondary PA Day	February 2, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	February 18, 2022
Family Day	February 21, 2022
March Break	March 14 - 18, 2022
Good Friday	April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	May 23, 2022
Elementary School PA Day	June 3, 2022
Secondary School PA Day	June 30, 2022

First day of classes for students is September 9, 2021
The last day of class for elementary students is June 30, 2022
The last day of class for secondary students is June 29, 2022

Days of Significance

www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar

Know what's happening at the TDSB!



Parent Concern Protocol

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Step One

Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

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Step Two

School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

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Step Three

School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

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Step Four

Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca