

The first days of school are a time of transition for students and parents alike. It can be exciting and also the source of some anxiety as everyone adjusts to the change that comes with new classmates, teachers and learning.

Both personally, as a mother of three high school graduates, and as the Chair of the Toronto District School Board, I am deeply familiar with the ups and downs of the back-to-school season.

One strategy that I know is helpful to make this transition smooth and positive, is to be as informed and prepared as possible. With the students in your family, spend time on the school's website and social media platforms. Be sure to sign up for any school newsletters as well.

Explore www.tdsb.on.ca/needtoknow, a webpage specifically created to provide students and families with key information and resources for the school year. Some examples include homework tips and the school year calendar.

Getting involved in your child's education is another way to support their successes and well-being throughout the year.

Finally, to stay informed about news and events throughout the year, please sign up for my e-newsletter by emailing me at Robin.Pilkey@tdsb.on.ca or tweet [@RobinPilkey](https://twitter.com/RobinPilkey). For more updates, please join the TDSB Ward 7 Council [Facebook](#) Group.

For system-wide news about the TDSB, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/TDSBupdate. Thank you and I look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Robin Pilkey

TDSB Updates

Improving Access to School Bus Information for Toronto Parents

TDSB parents/guardians with children who are transported by school buses can now access their children's transportation information online and receive email notifications if there are any school bus cancellations or delays, thanks to the launch of a new online transportation portal. For more information and to register for the new services, please visit www.torontoschoolbus.org and select "Parents" from the top right hand corner of the screen. Created by the Toronto Student Transportation Group, which oversees bussing for the TDSB, the portal is one of several improvements being made to transportation services to ensure an effective start to the 2017-18 school year.

School Year Calendar 2017-2018 and Important Dates

The first day of school for 2017-18 is Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Christmas Break December 25, 2017 to January 5, 2018 (inclusive). Last day of school is December 22, 2017. School resumes January 8, 2018. Family Day February 19, 2018. March Break March 12 to 16, 2018.

For more information about the school year calendar and Days of Significance, visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar.

Take a look at next year's School Year Calendar for all of the important dates and holidays.

PA Days 2017-2018						
PA Days	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	June
Elementary	6	17	1	19	16	8, 29
Secondary	6	17	1		1,16	27, 28, 29

TDSB Appoints Associate Director of Education

The TDSB welcomes Carlene Jackson, who has been appointed Associate Director, Operations and Service Excellence for the Board.

Our profound thanks to Associate Director, Finance and Operations, Carla Kisko and Associate Director, Facilities, Sustainability and Employee Services, Angelos Bacopoulos, who retired this summer.

Learning Centre 4

Three Superintendents of Education will be responsible for Parkdale-High Park:

- Tracy Hayhurst
Tracy.Hayhurst@tdsb.on.ca
- Sandra Tondat
Sandra.Tondat@tdsb.on.ca
- Jane Phillips-Long
Jane.Phillips-Long@tdsb.on.ca

Reasons to Contact your School Superintendent

- Optional Attendance
- Suspension Appeals
- Inquiries or Questions concerning Parkdale-High Park Schools (Ward 7)

For more information about Learning Centres, Please visit
www.tdsb.on.ca/learningcentres

Enhancing Equity Task Force Progress Report

The TDSB's long-standing commitment to equity has led to a vision for learning where achievement and well-being are directly tied to equity. Together, these coordinated and community-based approaches will ensure a positive, system response that benefits each and every TDSB student.

The four primary responsibilities of the Task Force are:

- Assessing the TDSB's efforts over the last 10 years to address the impact of poverty, race and class;
- Examining TDSB and partner programs related to student achievement and well-being;
- Exploring and assessing best practices in similar organizations; and,
- Developing focused recommendations for next steps to improve equity and engagement.

The Enhancing Equity Task Force is bringing together the TDSB and its communities to discover the courageous and bold steps the TDSB must now take to further enhance equity within the Board and its communities. This will be a remarkable opportunity to work across the whole system together. An opportunity to build new relationships and learn and grow with each other as we work on these challenges together.

For an update on the Task Force activities including the working groups, ward forums, summit and draft report, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/community/howtogetinvolved/enhanceequitytaskforce

Review of the School Resource Officer Program

As you may know, the Toronto Police Services Board has recently been discussing the School Resource Officer program that is in a number of TDSB and TCDSB schools.

It's our understanding that they may be considering a motion to continue or end the program during a meeting later this month. The TDSB is currently not in a position to provide a system response to the Toronto Police Services Board as we have not reached out to our school communities to gather their important feedback.

It's with that in mind that we plan to review the SRO program in the fall. The TDSB feels it's critically important to hear from students, staff and school communities prior to offering any official system position on the program.

This matter is very complex and requires that we listen to a variety of voices — something that will take time. We have shared this plan with the Toronto Police Service and we will also share this plan with our communities as opportunities arise.

I will keep you updated on the program following further discussion and engagement.

Multilingual Website

The multilingual webpage features key sections of www.tdsb.on.ca translated into 23 languages. To access it, visit www.tdsb.on.ca and click on the globe icon in the top right corner.

Around Ward 7

Humbercrest yard improvement will be ready September 2017

Coming Soon Queen Victoria Public School yard and playground improvements will be complete by Fall 2017.

Announcing new Principals

Keele/Mountview Alternative Junior School has a new principal, Rod Zimmerman, and Lucy McCormick has a new principal, Rebecca Ansley. A special thank you to Jennie Petko for her many years at Keele/Mountview.

EcoSchools Update

I am pleased to let you know the 15 schools in Ward 7 have been certified this year (See list below). Schools have to apply or re-apply each year and must be audited before receiving their certification level.

I know you will join me in congratulating students on their achievement and a special thank you to the teachers, administrators and caretaking staff for their support to make the EcoSchools program a success.

- PLATNIUM: Howard Jr, Parkdale CI, Parkdale Jr&Sr, Ursula Franklin Academy and Warren Park Jr.
 - GOLD: Annette St.Jr&Sr, Fern Ave., High Park Alt. Jr, Keele St. Jr&Sr, Mountview Alt. Jr, Queen Victoria, Runnymede Jr&Sr, and Swansea.
 - SILVER: Garden Ave. Jr. and King George Jr.
-

2016-2017 Top Scholars

The students attained averages of 99% or above during the 2016-2017 academic year.

**Parkdale Junior & Senior Public School
students with their teacher**

Thank you to the Sistema group who performed at
an event on May 30 at Western Technical-
Commercial School.

Sistema Toronto

Do you have an unused violin, cello or percussion instrument in your basement or attic? Dust it off and donate it to Sistema Toronto!

This year Sistema Toronto will provide free music classes to 50 new students, including students from Parkdale JR & SR PS, bringing our student population to 250 at-risk kids across the GTA. You can help us keep our commitment to our returning students and welcome our incoming classes by supporting our Instrument Drive. We're on the hunt for hand-me-down instruments for our students to learn on.

To make arrangements for your donations, please contact info@sistema-toronto.ca or call 416-545-0200

Sistema Toronto is a registered charity. We will issue you an official tax receipt for your donation according to CRA guidelines.

Learn4Life Fall 2017

Registration Opens: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 and Classes Begin: Saturday, September 16, 2017. In Ward 7, Western Technical–Commercial School offers programs. To see the complete list,

visit: www.learn4life.ca or Phone: 416.338.4111.

Email: communityprograms@tdsb.on.ca.

TDSB

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