

# Trustee Update

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## April 2019 Newsletter

### TDSB Proudly Celebrates International Day of Pink

April 10th marks International Day of Pink, when Toronto District School Board staff and students wear pink in support of diversity and to raise awareness to stop discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia, and transphobia. The Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity – it's also a commitment to being open-minded, accepting differences and learning to respect each other.

For more information, please read the TDSB [web story](#).

### Mirroring Me: Recognizing My Power

On March 6, 2019, over 300 girls in Grades 7 - 12 gathered for our annual Young Women on the Move event for International Women's Day. The theme for this year's event was: Mirroring Me: Recognizing My Power. Each young woman had the opportunity to listen to our guest speaker, Shelley-Ann Brown, Canadian Olympic Medalist, who inspired the girls by sharing her story of channeling her inner power to achieve her goals, and then challenging them to look inward and recognize the power that they each hold to be their best-self.

For more information, please read the TDSB [web story](#).

### TDSB Open Data Webpage Provides Transparency to its School Communities

To ensure transparency with its parents, students and communities, the Toronto District School Board has posted its [Open Data Webpage](#) on the TDSB public website. The page provides context for why it is posting data for the public to view, a link to the TDSB Open Data Policy, and a list with links to the various types of data already available for public view, including the Director's Employment Contract, Facilities Condition Index, Renewal Needs Backlog, and Health and Safety Workplace Inspection Reports. Open Data is an ongoing commitment and process. On a regular basis, departments of the Board will be asked to review their data for potential reporting under the [TDSB Open Data Policy](#).

### Updates on Public Education Funding, Teacher Reductions

Recently, the Ministry of Education announced upcoming changes to class sizes for Grades 4 to 8 and high schools, and reductions in funding for public education. To keep you well informed, we have created a [webpage](#) that will be updated as more information becomes available.

### Ministry's Consultation – Class Sizes and Hiring Practices

Parents, students, educators and community members are encouraged to participate in the Ministry of Education's consultation on [class sizes](#) and [hiring practices](#). To learn more, including how to participate, please read the consultation guides. Deadline: May 31, 2019.

### Chair Writes Letter to the Minister re: Reduction of Teaching Positions and Funding

Robin Pilkey, Chair of the Board, wrote to the Minister of Education Lisa Thompson to express the Board's deep concerns with the Ministry's [announcement](#) on Friday, March 15, regarding funding reductions and increased class sizes. The full letter is available below.

[Chair's Letter to the Minister](#)

### Excellence Awards

Do you know a TDSB staff member who goes above and beyond to support our students? Now is the time to honour that outstanding individual with an [Excellence Award Nomination](#). Deadline is April 26, 2019.

### Policy Consultations

The TDSB is currently looking for public input on the Caring and Safe Schools Policy (P051). To learn more, including how you can participate, please visit the TDSB webpage for [Policy Consultations](#). Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

### Earth Day

On April 22, #FreeYourPlay by encouraging children to get out, connect with the environment and experience the natural world around them. For resources and to learn more about Earth Day, please visit the website for [Earth Day Canada](#).

### Celebrate and Recognize

In April, the TDSB recognizes [Sikh Heritage Month](#), [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and [Latin-America History Month](#). Learn more about how we're celebrating!

### TDSB Update:

Sign-up for [TDSB Update](#) and stay informed about recent Board decisions and district-wide news.

### Continuing Education – Summer Music Camps

Add to your child's summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, DownTown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now.

For more information please visit <http://www.tdsbsummercamps.ca>.

### Clean Toronto Together Event

Friday, April 26 is the City of Toronto's School Yard Clean-up day. Join over 200,000 residents, students, businesses, organizations and community groups as we come together for the 16th annual city-wide cleanup of public spaces.

For more information, please visit the City of Toronto's webpage for [Clean Toronto Together](#).

### Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

- [Twitter @TDSB](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram @Torontodsb](#)



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