



# Special Education Superintendent Update

## January 2019

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### New Appointment – Chief of Mental Health

Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Marie-Josée Gendron** in her appointment as **Chief of Mental Health** effective December 10, 2018.

Dr. Gendron has been a member of Psychological Services at the TCDSB since January 2016. During this time, she has worked as a school Psychologist and member of the Autism team, delivering services to elementary and secondary schools.

Prior to working at the TCDSB, Marie-Josée held various positions including Mental Health Leader at Le Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique (Southern Ontario), and Director of Research and Development at Pearson, managing Canadian standardizations for psychological measurement instruments. Other positions have been held at the Manitoba Ministry of Education where she had oversight of the accountability of psychology service provision in elementary and secondary schools, as a university lecturer, and as a researcher in hospital and clinical settings.

We look forward to the Mental Health/Wellness Team's continued service to the TCDSB system with the supportive leadership of Dr. Gendron.

### New Appointment – Mental Health Leader

Please join me in congratulating **Melissa Hanlon** in her appointment as **Mental Health Leader** effective January 21, 2019.

Melissa has been a valued member of the Social Work Department since 2010. In that time, she has held different positions, providing services to both our elementary and secondary schools. She has also been an active promoter and advocate of student mental-health and well-being by participating in Stop the Stigma and Mental Health Fair initiatives as well as the Safe Schools Committee.

Since 2014, she has been the lead social worker for the Supervised Alternative Learning program at the board. Prior to working for the board and becoming a social worker, Melissa was a classroom teacher for 6 years as well as a Child Protection Worker.

We are thrilled to have Melissa join the team and continue the invaluable work of promoting student mental health and well-being in our board.



## Special Education & Community Resources Fair Update

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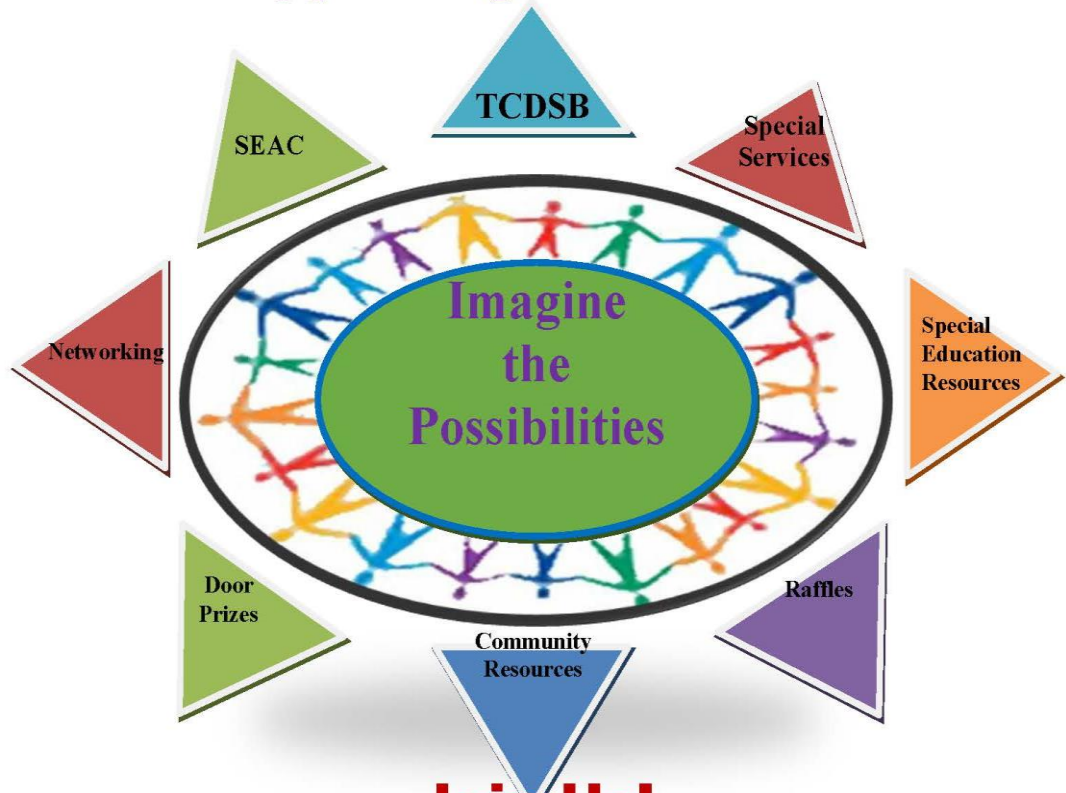
The planning committee has representation from Social Work, Psychology, Autism, Assessment Programming Teachers, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Speech-Language Pathologists, as well as all the Chiefs. We have met twice to delegate tasks and organize the morning of events. We are slowly receiving RSVPs from outside agencies that will attend. For those that cannot attend, we are asking they provide some resources. We will also provide an email list for parents who are interested in hearing back from absent agencies (i.e., to get connected to their newsletter, calendar of events etc.).

The flyer will be widely distributed through the Communications Department and has been sent to all schools.

To date, we have received some helpful donations for food and door prizes.



## Supporting all Students...



**Join Us!**

# TCDSB Special Education and Community Resources Fair 2019

PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES ARE WELCOME

Hosted by the

Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Special Services Departments and Special Education Advisory Committee

**Supervised Child  
Friendly Space  
Provided**

**February 2,  
2019**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Catholic Education Centre  
80 Sheppard Ave. East  
Free underground parking  
Elevator and accessible parking  
located on Level P1**

**Join us for this special day in support of you and your child**  
**\*\*Interpreter services are available upon request to Officer of Special Services,  
Kim Paganelli: [kim.paganelli@tcdsb.org](mailto:kim.paganelli@tcdsb.org) by no later than Wed Jan 23, 2019.\*\***



## **AUTISM PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

### **Transition Planning Workshop for Parents of Children with Autism in Grades 7 and 8**



*Supporting Students to Grow and Learn in New Environments*

**Date: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

**Location: 80 Sheppard Avenue East, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon**

*Presented by:*  
Autism Programs and Services – Transition Team  
&  
School Support Program, Surrey Place

Please RSVP to Franca Dellorso, [franca.dellorso@tcdsb.org](mailto:franca.dellorso@tcdsb.org) or (416) 222-8282 ext. 2799