



Special Education Superintendent Update

June 2019

DHH Picnic – May 24, 2019

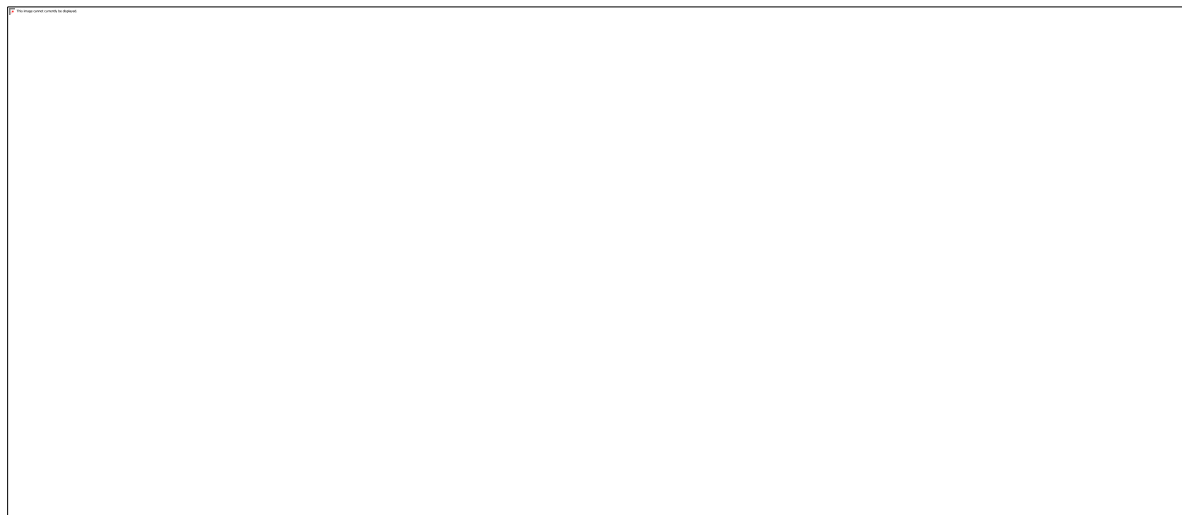


The TCDSB Deaf/Hard of Hearing department celebrated its 30th Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing Family Picnic at Sts Cosmas & Damian on May 24th. Current and former students, teachers and alumnae attended the exciting day in celebration of friendships, community and new experiences. Thank you to all who helped make the day extra special for D/HH students.





Secondary School Students Special Olympics – May 29, 2019



Congratulations on a Job Well Done! - TCDSB Secondary Students Special Olympics 2019

I want to express my sincere gratitude to a number of individuals for the incredible job done to get this year's **22nd Annual TCDSB Secondary Students Special Olympics** off the ground.

The day's events reflected the work of a high-powered team whose deep love of our very special students was obvious in every detail of the day. Please accept my sincere thanks also to all other staff and students who worked hard to support the success of this event, whether in the foreground or the background.

Kudos and special thanks go to the project lead, host schools and the support of their Principals, organizing committee, and student volunteers for your ability to create a deep sense of welcome, particularly in our Pastoral Year of **"We Belong!"**

Project Lead: Vesna Filiplic

Host Schools: St. Joseph's College (Principal Helen Lesniak), St. Mary's (Principal Laila Velocci), Francis Libermann (Principal Clarence Pitterson), Loretto College (Principal Vince Russiello).

Organizing Committee: Jennifer Casole, Ammie Collins, Michael Consul, Fraser Gartside, Asniv Jorge, Kevin Marcos, Patt Olivieri, Kim Paganelli, Vanessa Pinto, Ana Rodrigues, Maria Filomena Silva, Elizabeth St. Pierre, Sharon Storr, Kinga Szendi, Kristina Tenaglia-Causi, Vanessa Pimentel.

Student Volunteers: From St. Joseph's College, St. Mary's, Francis Libermann, St. Mother Teresa, Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton.

To All Other Schools: For the support of the various staff and students from those schools who participated in the day's events and/or for your volunteerism.

Many thanks also a number of members of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree who gave of their time, as they have done for the last 22 years, to provide an Honour Guard for the day's opening ceremonies.



*Father of all that is good and holy,
We ask that you bless us with your infinite love and mercy
As we work with all students made in your image.*

Those that lift others up.

*Those that make us smile,
And those that need a smile.*

***We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen***





Project ReconciliAction – June 5, 2019



This year the Indigenous Education Department and Special Education Department joined together to provide students with a special opportunity to learn about Indigenous peoples in Canada. Under the guidance of Metis Knowledge Keeper and Artist Diane Montreuil, students in Special Education classes from 15 different schools explored the concept of reconciliation with our land's Indigenous peoples through art. The artistry that resulted from lessons learned about the life of the Indigenous peoples in Canada has been captured in a multi-panel quilt that ties together a number of key elements of the Indigenous experience. The quilt has been mounted in a stunning hand-carved, rosewood frame. The quilt and frame were created by indigenous craftspeople, Marise and Curtis, who are friends of Diane Montreuil.

The unveiling of the completed *Project ReconciliAction* took place at the CEC on Wed. June 5, during Indigenous Education Week. Students from the participating schools were invited to attend in order to witness the unveiling of the culmination of their involvement in this year-long project. They had the opportunity to meet the artists and designers, Diane, Marise, and Curtis and to interact with their peers from the other participating schools.

This project, that was the result of co-operation between the TCDSB Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, and Community Relations and Special Education Departments, has been an experience that won't soon be forgotten.

Special thanks to Superintendents Nick D'Avella, Linda Maselli-Jackman, Indigenous Education Resource Teachers Frank Pio and Vanessa Pinto, and all Special Education Chiefs and school staffs for your work to help students realize their artistic talents and ability to interact with the powerful story of our Indigenous people.

