



SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Education Superintendent Update

November 30, 2022



Professional development workshops were provided to our school-based education support staff on November 18. Workshops included the following:



The Board-Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs) presented a workshop entitled, *Be the Reinforcer: Pairing 101*. The workshop guided participants through the basic principles of reinforcement and pairing, which are key principles in Applied Behaviour Analysis.



The Psychology members on the Autism Team presented a workshop entitled, *Understanding & Addressing Challenging Behaviours of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. The workshop focused on understanding the functions of challenging behavior and identifying effective strategies to implement change.



School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) – Foundations of early identification and support for students struggling with mental health.



TCDSB Building and Nurturing Capacity in Kindergarten (BANCK) interdisciplinary team presented evidence-based classroom practices and strategies.

Crisis Prevention Intervention Training - Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) training was provided with a focus on crisis intervention strategies such as de-escalation techniques



The Assistive Technology Team (ATT) presented *Overview of Accessibility Apps and Accessibility in Depth with Read&Write and OrbitNote*.

140 elementary and secondary support staff received a workshop on *Taking Care of You* in collaboration with *Strong Minds Strong Kids: Psychology Foundation*. This workshop provided staff with practical strategies and resources to help manage life's ups and downs. They explored opportunities for promoting their own mental health and well-being in their workplace and home. They discussed what stress is, the physiology of stress, and how to engage in positive coping mechanisms.

Enhanced Autism Training



The TCDSB has received funding from the Ministry of Education to offer Enhanced Autism Training through the Geneva Centre this year. This is an opportunity for staff to take one of two courses, *Charting a Path to Success in Your Classroom* or *Registered Behaviour Training (RBT T40hr) Online Training course*.

Mental Health – Safe Schools Symposium Presentation

During the Safe Schools Symposium at both the elementary and secondary panels, the mental health team presented to 200-250 students on ***The Power of Healthy Relationships***. With a focus on the health benefits of social connections, the discussion bridged to the importance of a sense of belonging in the classroom and in our schools. A group activity of a snowball toss engaged all students in suggesting concrete examples on how to build a stronger community together.

Social Work - Angel Tree Charitable Donations

In the spirit of the Advent season, the following message was shared with the staff at the Catholic Education Centre:

Each year at this time, The Social Work Department Angel Tree provides an opportunity to reflect upon the good fortune that God has blessed us with and to reach out with compassion to TCDSB families in need. This Christmas we remember that the pandemic has highlighted significant needs throughout our system. Please help us deliver some joy and cheer to our students and families.

Look for the Angel Tree in the atrium on the second floor. Tags for donations will be placed on the tree December 5th, 2022. We would like to remind our students and families that we are a connected TCDSB family and that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers this Christmas and always.