



Special Education Superintendent Update

January 2017

Special Services

- Consultation with school board staff from different boards on the Ministry's Well Being strategy took place on December 6th, 2016.
- Our TCDSB Committee will meet in January to plan for 2017 Mini Olympics.
- The committee working on the Special Education Parent conference has been meeting to organize this year's conference with a focus on 'Well Being'

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Three D/HH students were among the recipients of the Ontario Council for Exceptional Children's "Yes I Can" Awards which recognizes students with exceptionalities who shine in their community. Congratulations to Princess Nikita Layne-Austin (St. Joseph's College), Alexa Ouellet (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) and Gregory Vukovic (St. Anthony).

Speech and Language

- SLP staff presented two dynamic workshops at the Council for Exceptional Children's 60th Annual special education conference December 2nd & 3rd and shared a poster presentation highlighting FIPPA, an oral language and early literacy program, developed by the department.
- The department hosted on December 5th the first day of a 2-day workshop, *Turning Book Reading into a Conversation and Making Words Sparkle*, for some early learning kindergarten teams. The second session will be held February 7th, 2017.
- The Professional Learning Series for teachers in an Intensive Support Program for Language Impairment (LI-ISP) will be held on January 26th and February 28th. The workshop will highlight strategies in math and technology to support students with oral communication needs.



Mental Health

- ‘Stop the Stigma’ 8th annual student mental health symposium was held December 1st, 2016. All secondary schools in attendance. IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.
- 21 elementary schools are implementing “Stop the Stigma” in 2016-17

Psychology

- February is Psychology Month, and the Psychology Department is going to offer several PD presentations, both centrally and locally in schools. Central PD presentations include the Psychology Symposium (dealing with challenging behaviors) in a workshop for teachers on the use of assistive technology, and a presentation on Learning Disabilities.