

# Special Education Superintendent Update

## February 2017



SPECIAL SERVICES

### AUTISM

The Autism Team ran two workshops for Elementary EAs and CYWs on the Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> PA Day. One workshop was run by the Speech and Language Pathologists on the Autism Team entitled, Communication and Autism: Effective Communication Strategies for the Classroom Setting. One workshop was run by the Psychologists and Social Workers on the Autism Team entitled, Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behaviours of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Jan. 12, 2017:

Presentation to Board, Mental Health Strategy Metric report for 2015-16 school year.

Jan. 20, 2017 :

Suicide awareness training "safetALK" open to ALL TCDSB staff

Jan. 25, 2017 :

Many TCDSB schools celebrated Bell Let's Talk Day by hosting local mental health events to raise awareness and funds that support local Mental health initiatives such as educator toolkits.

Jan. 27, 2017 :

Newcomer Mental Health presentation to Settlement workers who serve TCDSB schools.

Jan. 30, 2017 :

Mental Health Presentation to OAPCE. Linking Parent representatives from Mental health advisory Council to OAPCE representatives.

Jan. 30-31, 2017 :

2 Day Suicide Intervention Training, open to Guidance and school administrators, great turnout.

Feb. 9, 2017 :

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elementary Stop the Stigma Symposium, we now have 21 schools participating (we began with 2 schools in 2014).



## PSYCHOLOGY:

**February is Psychology Month**, and the Psychology Department is happy to share the following resources with members of our TCDSB community.

1. Our free **Annual Psychology Month Symposium** for educators and parents, titled **HELP YOUR CHILD FLOURISH: HOW TO ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH** will be on February 22, 2017, 4:30-6:30 p.m., CEC, 80 Sheppard Avenue East  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/psychology/psychologymonth/pages/psychology-month.aspx>
2. A newsletter for parents on **Improving Children's Attitude Toward Math** is distributed to our parent community via school Principals and also posted on our website at  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/psychology/psychologymonth/pages/psychology-month.aspx>
3. A newsletter for educators on **Effective Strategies To Support Students' Math Learning and Achievement** will be distributed to teachers via school Principals and will also be posted on our website at  
<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/psychology/psychologymonth/pages/psychology-month.aspx>
4. Presentation to EA/CYW's on February 17 on **Achieving Mental Wellness in Children and Adolescents** by psychology staff.
5. Presentation to secondary teachers on February 17 on **Assistive Technology and LD** organized by the Psychology Department (presenter: Dr. Todd Cunningham).
6. Professional Development to Psychology Staff on February 3 on **Newcomer Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care**.