



Special Education Superintendent Update MARCH 2017



AUTISM

Autism Department ran a 3 day Kindergarten Course in February and will be running a 3 day course for Elementary Special Education Teachers.

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 7TH ANNUAL AUTISM
AWARENESS EVENING

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE You Are God's Gift

We invite families and staff to join in a special Mass with
Father Michael Lehman, followed by refreshments, light
snacks and a display of student artwork.

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Catholic Education Centre
80 Sheppard Avenue East, 2nd Floor



Free parking under the Catholic Education Centre
Public transit nearby

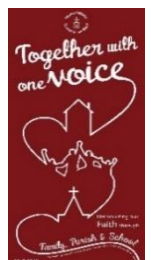
Swag Bags for the first 100 guests,
Legoland Door Prize

Stop into the Legoland area for a chance
to get free passes!



Please RSVP to Franca Dellorso at franca.dellorso@tcdsb.org or
by calling 416-222-8282 ext. 2799

This year, the focus of the pastoral plan is on Parish.



Gifted Programs

The 20th Annual TCDSB Gifted Elementary Debate Competition was held on Friday February 3 at Blessed Cardinal Newman High School. This year's prepared resolution was Be It Resolved That: The Olympics should be abolished while the impromptu resolution was Be It Resolved That: An image tells a better story than words. 18 Gifted Centres competed in this year's competition: Blessed Trinity, Francis Libermann, Holy Name, James Culnan, Our Lady of Sorrows, St Bonaventure, St Catherine, St Charles, St Clement, St Conrad, St Francis of Assisi, St Ignatius of Loyola, St Louis, St Michael's Choir School, St Monica, St Raymond, St Rose of Lima, and Transfiguration.

The students prepared well-researched constructive speeches to defend their stance and asked witty cross-examination questions.

This year almost 500 people attended including students, teachers, parents, high school volunteers and teachers who support our gifted students in high school. The event was a great success.

Learning Disabilities Programs

There was a presentation to secondary teachers on February 17 on **Assistive Technology and LD** organized by the Psychology Department (presenter: Dr. Todd Cunningham).

Newsletters for educators and parents were written by the Psychology Department on **Strategies To Support Math Learning** and on **Improving Children's Attitude Toward Math** and were shared and distributed, and are also posted on our website at

<https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/specialeducation/psychology/psychologymonth/pages/psychology-month.aspx>

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The D/HH department held a parent workshop on February 24th for preschoolers and kindergarten families, *Looking Ahead... My Child & Summer Planning*, focusing on the importance of play and peer interaction and city programs and camps.

- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department has organized a Girls' Talk gathering at St Raymond on March 24th. Girls' Talk is an annual activity day for girls grades 1 – 8 with hearing loss. This day provides an enrichment experience for D/HH students to socialize and communicate with one another in a positive learning environment.
- Boys' Club is an annual gathering for boys grade 1-8 with hearing loss designed to foster personal growth through their common yet unique journeys. The club is run by the Deaf & Hard of Hearing department and will take place March 31st at St Raymond.

Speech and Language

The SLP department hosted a ½ day interactive workshop, *Conversation in the Classroom*, on February 17th. EAs and CYWs participated in round-table discussions and case studies to identify effective strategies to support students' oral communication skills.

The department will host a two-day workshop for LI-ISP teachers on March 7 and April 7th. Topics include supporting numeracy and use of technology for students with a Language Impairment

Language Impaired Intensive Support Program

Professional Learning Series

March 7, 2017
&
April 7, 2017

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Elementary School

270 Cherokee Blvd
North York, ON
M2H 3B9



Language Impaired Intensive Support Program

Day 1 – March 7, 2017
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Introduction;
LI/LD differences

Breakout sessions:
2 during the morning session
and 2 during the afternoon
session

1. Vocabulary: math
vocabulary through
narratives
2. Technology in the LI ISP
3. Conversations
4. Narratives

***Do Not Miss this Professional
Learning Series. LI Teachers
who attend will receive FREE
classroom resources to
support oral language
development.***

Language Impaired Intensive Support Program

Day 2 – April 7, 2017
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Morning Session:

Sharing of teacher directed
activities

Group activities based on day
one information

Afternoon Session:

Self regulation discussion
Self awareness video;
Understanding my LI

***This Professional Learning
Series is for all Language
Impairment class teachers.
Please RSVP to Raffaella Rocca
(raffaella.rocca@tcdsb.org) for
the supply code to use.***

Mental Health

Feb 6 and 8 we delivered a Joint Professional Development for grade 1-8 HPE teachers on the mental health portion of the HPE curriculum. This was for 100 teachers.

February 9 was our 2nd annual 'Stop the Stigma' elementary symposium for 21 elementary schools (Grade 7-8) .we included a powerful keynote "Sarah Westbrook the Power of U Power). Workshops focused on lived experience, music and mental wellbeing, dance, and spoken word.

February 17 LOYOL 2 PDs presented 1) safeTALK suicide awareness and 2) Newcomer Mental Health. Both well attended by secondary school staff including CYWs and EAs.

Feb28, I participated in the Toronto Public Health "Into Kids Health" PD for elementary schools on Healthy Schools explaining the mental health aspect of healthy schools.

Our February Mental health newsletter focused on the importance of mental health and boys.

Sessions: Well-Being-Nurturing Body, Mind & Soul

Breakout Session 1

11:15am-12:00pm

TCDSB Social Work: Anxiety and Student Progress

This session will provide parents a detailed look at how anxiety can both help and harm student progress. Participants can expect to learn about what anxiety is and how the TCDSB works to address it while continuing to keep students engaged with academic progress. Supportive strategies will be offered to guide children and families through these challenges.

Presenters: Stephanie Wilson, MSW, Vanessa Cocco, MSW, & Melissa Hanlon, MSW

A Parent Guide to the Individual Education Plan (IEP)

This session will provide parents with a detailed look at the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Participants can expect to learn why an IEP might be opened for a student and what information parents can expect to see in an IEP. Practical ways that parents can participate in the IEP process for their child will be explored.

Presenters: TCDSB Assessment and Programming Teachers and Programming and Assessment Teachers

I am Me, You are You. We Gotta Believe in Each Other!

This session will explore strategies for harnessing the power within diversity disability. Classrooms must demonstrate respect for all through actions that speak to the multiple differences of each student. Exceptionalities needs to be welcomed as one of these differences. Students with special needs must be perceived by their peers as having gifts that enhance the diverse classroom experience.

Presenter: Dr. Ashleigh Molloy, Director TransEd Institute

Preparing Your Child with a Learning Disability for Transition to Secondary School

This session is directed to grade 7 & 8 students with an LD as well as their parents and teachers to help facilitate a smooth transition to grade 9. The presentation describes the secondary school system and the skills necessary for meeting with success in high school. Strategies including studying, organizational skills and advocacy skills and the home-school partnership will be highlighted.

Presenter: Iwona Kaczmarzyk-Kozlowski, TCDSB Psychology

Sharing Resources to Prepare for Adulthood

This workshop will explore the various community resources available for preparing individuals for independence transitioning into adulthood.

Presenters: TCDSB Transition Team

Being Special: Learning through Exploring

This interactive workshop will explore ways to enrich learning by extending curriculum to support children with special needs. Participants will be engaged in a *Gallery Walk* that examines cross curricular teaching and learning with intentionality. The workshop will focus on realizing the full potential of all students who learn differently.

Presenter: Bruno Pileggi

Breakout Session 2

12:30pm-1:15pm

TCDSB Assistive Software and Apps for Home Access

This session will provide an overview of the assistive technology learning tools accessible from home and school including the newest-Read&Write for Chrome. Practical applications in supporting students to access the curriculum will be presented. Come learn about this suite of communication and collaboration tools and how to access them from home and personal devices.

Presenters: Maria Zangrilli and Angelo Tocco (Assistive Technology Teachers)

Everybody Needs Respite

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of options available in the City of Toronto, the CHAP (*Community Helpers for Active Participation*) Program and other services that respiteservices.com offers to parents.

Presenter(s): Claire Olorenshaw and Alexis Smith

DSO-Developmental Services Ontario Planning for Adulthood - Health and Well-Being Focused Transitions

This workshop will be an interactive conversation about planning for a life after school - and the steps to get you started early and ready for a positive transition to adulthood.

Presenter: Melanie Rendall

Raising Positive Happy Kids!

Want to help your child enjoy a wonderful positive life? But wondering how to do it, or even where to start? Begin by building your child's resilience, which leads to a more optimistic way of looking at life. Based on the blossoming field of positive psychology - often known as the science of happiness - you will learn practical ways to help your child thrive at home and at school.

Presenter: Kate Jones, M.Ed.

Mindfulness

The focus of this workshop is Wellness and how to foster it in our children and ourselves.

Presenter: Marie Josee Gendron

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Presenter: Bruno Pileggi

3rd Floor-Catholic Teacher Centre

2nd Floor-Large Committee Room

2nd Floor-Michael Comacchia Room

1st Floor-York U Room 1

1st Floor-York U Room 2

1st Floor-Quigley Hall

1:15pm-2:00pm: Closing Remarks