



Special Education Superintendent Update

February 2018

Gifted Programs

The 2018 TCDSB Elementary Gifted Program Debate competition took place on Friday February 2nd at Bishop Allen Academy.

There were nearly 400 students from across the entire city, with 25 teams, 51 judges, and 100 debaters. Our students debated the resolution *Be it resolved that social media is beneficial to society*. The event went smoothly, and best of all, our students represented our Gifted Centres and our program with passion and class.

The winning Centres were:

- 1st Place: Our Lady of Sorrows Team 1
- 2nd Place: St. James
- 3rd Place: St. Bonaventure Team 2

Psychology

February is Psychology Month in Canada, and the TCDSB Psychology Department will be offering the following during the month of February:

- February 16: a workshop for Secondary Teachers on how Learning Disabilities impact on the learning of Math;
- February 22: our 13th annual Psychology Symposium will take place at the CEC 5:30-7:30, titled *HELP YOUR CHILD (AND YOURSELF) FLOURISH: HOW TO REDUCE ANXIETY AND STRESS AND ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH* (see separate flyer)
- February 26: the 2018 TCDSB Psychology Newsletter, titled *SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH THROUGH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING* will be distributed system-wide.

Valentine's Day Party at St. Mary Secondary School

On February 13, 2018, special students from nine high schools came together for a Pancake Tuesday Valentine's Day Event. Over 300 students had a great opportunity to meet and interact. Both staff and students enjoyed a wonderful day of music and dance.



Special Education Superintendent Update

February 2018

Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Representatives from the Ministry of Education visited the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department's Intensive Support Programs at St. Bruno/St. Raymond on February 7, 2018. The Ministry observed three D/HH programs, engaged with teachers and students and dialogued with parents from the Preschool Parent Guidance Program. This day provided an opportunity for the Ministry, D/HH Itinerant teachers and the families of D/HH students to share and discuss the successes and challenges of the Preschool D/HH program.

Speech & Language

The SLP department hosted a one day workshop for Special Education teachers on January 25th, 2018. Teachers were provided with strategies to support literacy, numeracy and use of technology for students with communication delays. Teachers and SLPs collaborated in round-table discussions and case studies to identify effective strategies to support students' oral communication skills.

Newly Appointed

Dr. Ashleigh Malloy appointed to the Ministry's Standards Development Committee.



AUTISM PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Preparing for Life After High School: Transition Workshop for Parents of Children in ME/DD Programs



Supporting Students to Grow and Learn in New Environments

Date: February 3rd, 2018

Location: 80 Sheppard Avenue East, 3rd floor

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Presented by:
**Autism Programs and Services – Transition Team
&
School Support Program, Surrey Place Centre**

Please RSVP to Franca Dellorso, franca.dellorso@tcdsb.org or (416) 222-8282 ext. 2799

Underground parking available. Access is at the rear of the building.



FEBRUARY
22



POST-21 TRANSITION FAIR

**Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton
Catholic Secondary School
and Regional Arts Centre**

1515 Bloor Street West (at Dundas West Station)

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

An event for students with special needs, and their families,
to assist in making a successful transition
to adult life and independence.

What to Expect:

- Meet with adult service agencies and organizations
- Opportunity to learn about colleges and training programs
- Learn about employment services
- Discover options for independent living
- Gain knowledge about how to apply for certain benefits at age 18

Community Partners:



Please R.S.V.P. to
patricia.arruda@tcdsb.org

and many more...