



Chris Bolton

Chair, Toronto District School Board
Trustee, Ward 10 - Trinity-Spadina

Catching Up With Chris

March Break/Summer Camps

March Break Camps which ran during the break were a great success. They were offered in three TDSB locations: Ryerson CS in the south, Dixon Grove in the west area, and Georges Vanier, in the north area. The uniqueness of the camps was the result of collaboration between different TDSB departments and community support from Friends of Community Schools. The camps were open to students from JK to Grade 8 and the theme was Passport to the World. Activities included learning greetings and songs in five different languages and participating in dancing, sports and art programs. Enrolment for the three schools was 398 students.

The camps also provided work for secondary students who assisted the instructors in the classes and the activities. Grade 10 students were able to accrue community hours during the week by helping with the preparation and activities. Registration was overwhelming and comments from the parents were positive with requests for the Board to continue offering this type of program outside of school hours.

Summer Camps, based on a similar format, will be offered during the month of July by the International Languages department. The locations for the IL:E with the camp activities are: Ryerson CS, Pleasant View and Woodbine. Two other locations, Elmbank and Henry Kelsey, will offer only international languages (IL:E). Watch for registration information.

Staffing

Staffing allocations have been made to all schools and staffing committees are meeting to determine the classroom configurations for their schools. This includes planning for recess and lunch times and prep time. School Councils are consulted about the staffing models, with the extent of their participation varying from school to school.

Important Dates

Ward 10 Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
Location to be determined
7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Refreshments and Child Care will be provided.*

TDSB Board Meetings

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 (Day of Pink)
5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom
Begins at 7:00pm

Committee Meetings

More information is available at

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=88&menuid=300&pageid=230>



Media Screens

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Media screens were installed in all four Ward 10 high schools in 2010 as a pilot project. The purpose of the screens was to provide an opportunity for student engagement in a way that appeals to youth and in a medium with which teens are already very engaged. Student involvement ranges from actual programming to posting materials developed by students to developing the materials for posting.

The expansion of the screens to other schools in the board is now under review by the Board. The media screens are paid by TDSB approved sponsorships. The Board receives some of the money collected. The majority of the time is devoted to student/school items and student relevant information (for example: time, day, period). Eventually TTC information will be added.

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Strategic Directions

The TDSB is in the final stages of developing Strategic Directions that will guide the Board over the next four years. Consultations were conducted with parents, staff, community groups and liaison committees. More information will follow as the plans are finalized.

Fast-track Waterfront School: Trustees

A complex with a catholic school, a public school, a community centre, public library, and a daycare to complement the changing demographics is planned to be built in the area bounded by Bathurst, Spadina and Front.

Toronto's First Community Hub

The Shaw Street building will now be part of the school and part of the neighbourhood but also be an entity on its own as Artscape received the go ahead to buy this severed property to create a community arts centre. An open house for the community will be held on April 9. For more information about the Shaw Street Centre, go to <http://www.torontoartscape.on.ca/places-spaces/artscape-shaw-street-centre>

Mandatory Mandarin

Tucked behind Toronto's big University Avenue hospitals, Orde Street Junior Public School bustles in a four-storey red-brick schoolhouse built in 1914, boasting tall wood frame windows with solid stone sills. All 300 students at this school must study Mandarin. Junior and senior kindergarten students get 15 minutes of Mandarin a day.

