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MESSAGE FROM TERESA LUBINSKI

Teresa
Lubinski



TRUSTEE WARD 4

SCHOOLS (by SUPERINTENDENT):

Joe Bria (Area 2):
416-222-8282 ext. 2732

- Holy Angels
- Holy Trinity
- Our Lady of Sorrows
- St. Ambrose
- St. Elizabeth
- St. Josaphat
- St. Leo
- St. Louis
- St. Mark
- Bishop Allen Academy
(Secondary)
- Father John Redmond
(Secondary)

John Wujek (Area 7):
416-222-8282 ext. 2592

- Holy Family
- James Culnan
- St. Cecelia
- St. James
- St. Pius X
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Bishop Marrocco/Thomas
Merton (Secondary)

On behalf of Ward 4, I am delighted to welcome back our families, students and staff for the 2020/21 School Year. As we approach September 14th, albeit virtually or in-person, it is almost certain that some of you may be feeling rather anxious as to what the future holds. As your Trustee, I can assure you that we are all in this together and that our focus has been to provide all students with a safe re-entry and meaningful learning environment.

Your TCDSB Board of Trustees along with our Staff, have worked tirelessly throughout the summer months to provide our families with a comprehensive re-opening plan in an effort to keep all staff and students safe. The TCDSB **Reopening Action Plan** is an overview of what to expect and how we will continue to work together to support you and your children. The plan was developed in cooperation with Toronto Public Health, the Ministry of Education as well as the Province's overall response to COVID-19. It also includes consultations with our union partners, parents and staff. The health of every child is at the center of every guideline. You can learn what to expect and how we will support you by visiting: [safe return to school](#).

In order to support student well-being, the Board elected to stagger the re-entry of students over a one week period at the start of the school year, beginning Monday, September 14, 2020. The Elementary Model will begin with a quarter of each class returning daily, with full attendance achieved by September 17, 2020. The Secondary Model will begin with Grade 9 students attending for the first two days, followed by the Grade 10, 11 and 12 students starting on September 16, 2020. Principals from each of our schools will be in touch through School Messenger, so please make sure that your email addresses are up to date with your schools.

You may recall that last year, I moved Bishop Allen Academy from position 9 to position 2 on the Capital Priority list. On August 14, I had the pleasure of meeting with our Minister of Education, the Honorable Steven Lecce, for a site visit. We showed him first-hand, how the outdated building and crowded conditions are affecting our Bishop Allen students. We also discussed the urgency of building a new high school in Etobicoke.



On September 9, 2020 the TCDSB released the results from the **Return to School Registration Questionnaire**. Ward 4 results were as follows: Elementary – 78.3% students will attend in person and 18.5% will attend on line. For Secondary: 82.8% in person and 13.4% online. You can view the results here: [complete enrollment results](#). For families that chose to enroll their children in the **TCDSB Virtual School** for the 2020/21 Academic year, please visit the following links regarding full details of our TCDSB Virtual School operations: [K-8 Virtual School Info](#) and [9-12 Virtual School Info](#).

Follow me Online:



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Twitter [@lubinskiteresa](#)



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2020-2021

First Day of School
September 14, 2020

Thanksgiving Day
October 12, 2020

Christmas Break
**December 21, 2020 –
January 1, 2021**

Start of second semester for
secondary schools
February 1, 2021

Family Day
February 15, 2021

Mid-Winter Break
March 15–19, 2021

Good Friday
April 2, 2021

Easter Monday
April 5, 2021

Victoria Day
May 24, 2021

Last day of classes for
elementary & secondary
students
June 29, 2021

*Professional Activity (PA) Days
for ELEMENTARY schools:

September 1, 2, & 3, 2020
November 20, 2020
January 15, 2020
February 12, 2021
June 4, 2021

*Professional Activity (PA) Days
for SECONDARY schools:

September 1, 2, & 3, 2020
November 20, 2020
February 12, 2021
June 28, 2021
June 29, 2021

*(Please confirm these dates
with your local school)

During the August 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting, my Motion to create outdoor learning spaces for students was carried. The Board is now initiating a pilot program to rent classroom size (20 x 40 ft) commercial tent structures for schools that have been identified as having space issues. These tents will provide sheltered outdoor space for activities such as gym, music and reading circles. The structures will require building permits, which are being coordinated centrally by Planning and Facilities staff. During the same board meeting, I also motioned for the Board to provide plexiglass shields in the classrooms, and this too is currently being implemented in all classrooms with over 15 students.

Throughout the summer months, I received parent feedback regarding the continuation of the TCDSB Gifted Program. During the August 20th Board Meeting, I motioned that the Gifted Program be offered virtually to students in their home environment. For those students unable to remain at home, I further motioned that the classroom teachers address the IEP for Gifted students and provide the required enrichment activities. This motion was carried.

On August 23rd, Toronto Public Health published a Covid-19 Hot Spot Map that provided a snap shot of how each of our Wards were affected by COVID-19. You will be able to find full details at the following link: [TPC Hot Spot Map](#). The Board is monitoring these schools closely and providing extra resources where needed.

I made another motion during the September 3, 2020 Board meeting asking staff to contact the City of Toronto and Toronto Hydro Forestry Department to see if tree trunks could be donated to our schools for the use of benches and stools to facilitate outdoor classrooms. This motion was successful. I also supported many other Motions that included: smaller class sizes; improved ventilation; retrofit of windows; the provision of Hepa filters; and more.



In August, we said goodbye to our former Director of Education, Mr. Rory McGuckin, who retired after a long and illustrious career that spanned three decades with the TCDSB. On behalf of Ward 4, I would like to thank Mr. McGuckin for his many years of service and for his exemplary leadership during the closure and pandemic. We wish him continued success as he embarks on his next chapter.

On September 1, 2020, we welcomed Dr. Brendan Browne who has taken over the reigns as TCDSB's Director of Education. Dr. Brown joins us from the Toronto District School Board, where he recently served as an Executive Superintendent, overseeing 283 elementary and secondary schools, adult learning and alternative education sites. I look forward to working with Dr. Browne and welcome him to our TCDSB Family.



Lastly, September is **Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month** at the TCDSB. The month of September is significant for Ukrainian Canadians as it closely follows annual traditional celebrations of Ukraine's Independence (August 24th), Ontario's Ukrainian Heritage Day (September 7th) and celebrates a 50-plus year vibrant partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Dedicating September to teaching Ukrainian history and traditions across our schools will allow students to learn about a community that has had a central role in building Canada for over 125 years. Please help us celebrate by visiting: [Ukrainian Heritage Month](#).

I wish to thank my fellow Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and Custodians who worked tirelessly to reopen our schools. I look forward with great optimism to serving you once again as your Ward 4 Trustee. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by email: Teresa.Lubinski@tcdsb.org or by phone at: 416-512-3404. Welcome back!

Teresa Lubinski, Trustee, Ward 4



GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents/ratepayers may find the following list of contact telephone numbers helpful:

Admissions

416-222-8282,
ext. 5320

Communications

416-222-8282,
ext. 5314

Continuing Education

416-222-8282,
ext. 2491/2556

24-hour

Information Line

416-222-8282,
ext. 2873

Permits

416-222-8282,
ext. 4370

Security

416-229-5360

Curriculum and Accountability

416-222-8282,
ext. 2490

Special Services

416-222-8282,
ext. 2486

Transportation

416-229-5313

For news & information:
TCDSB web site
tcdsb.org

Subscribe to ENews
tcdsb.org/News/eNews/Pages/default.aspx

MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

Latest Updates & Critical Information:

For the most up to date information, parents can use this link: [latest updates](#)

Questions & Answers:

For parents who still have questions regarding topics such as back to school, health & safety or bus transportation, please visit: [answers to questions](#)

Bus Transportation Information & Updates:

Communications with parents regarding bus transportation for students is a priority. In order to stay informed, parents are encouraged to register at the **Toronto Student Transportation Group** portal by visiting: www.torontoschoolbus.org

Night School Registration:

Registration for evening credit courses and Saturday language programs begin soon. Check here for details: [Night School Registration](#)

International Languages After Hours Program Registration:

Registration for the 2020-21 elementary II After Hours Program continues this fall. Apply online at: [ILE Programs](#)

TCDSB Board of Trustee Meetings & Live Broadcasts:

Did you know that you could watch TCDSB Board Meetings live or recorded at: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TrusteesoftheBoard/boardmeeting/Pages/BoardMeeting.aspx>

Safe Arrival:

Parents are encouraged to sign up for the **School Messenger App**. This will allow you and your school to stay in touch to report absences quickly and easily. This system also allows the school and the Board to communicate to parents about important information throughout the year including cancellations, closures and other critical issues.

Events and Information

September's Virtue is Hospitality

All resources for the month of September, and for the monthly virtues throughout the year can be found here: [September Virtue](#)

Pastoral Plan: This Year we focus on "Rooted in Christ: we Become"

In the third year of our pastoral plan, "Rooted in Christ, we Become" our focus turns to how our sense of belonging and our shared beliefs help us to become all that we are meant to be.

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."— Hans Urs von Balthasar

Resources for the Year can be found here: [We Become](#)

Mark Your Calendar: (visit www.tcdsb.org)

- September 8—Governance and Policy Committee Meeting 7 PM
- September 8—International Literacy Day
- September 9—Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day
- September 13—Grandparent's Day
- September 10—Corporate Services Committee Meeting
- September 14—Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- September 16—Special Education Advisory Committee
- September 17—Board Meeting
- September 25—Rowan's Law Day
- September 30—Orange Shirt Day