



Walk in the footsteps of history:

The 2019 Beaverbrook Vimy Prize

The Vimy Foundation's premiere educational program, the [Beaverbrook Vimy Prize](#), is a prestigious two-week-long intensive learning experience during which exceptional youth, 15-17 years of age, study the interwoven history of Canada, France and Great Britain amidst the First and Second World Wars.

Scheduled for August 7-20, 2019 in Belgium and France, students will visit museums, cemeteries, memorials, and historic sites such as battlefields, underground tunnels and trenches, as well as participate in special commemorative ceremonies and meet a few of the remaining veterans and members of the French Resistance.

Applicants are required to submit: an essay in response to a specific question, a reflection piece based on artwork in the Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, a personal statement video, a resume and a reference letter. For additional information about the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize and how to apply, please visit vimyfoundation.ca/programs/beaverbrook-vimy-prize.

The submission deadline for the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize is March 3, 2019

Please click here for a [Beaverbrook Vimy Prize flyer](#).

Speaker's Idol 2019

Changing the world. One speech at a time.

- Are you a student in **Grades 6 -12?**
- Do you have creative and innovative ideas about how to create positive change in the world?
- Here's your chance to be heard!
- Prepare a **3 minute** speech sharing your thoughts while commenting on Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal's quote: "I believe in the good in people."
- Speeches due: Friday, February 15, 2019

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/OpportunitiesForStudents/Pages/SpeakersIdol.aspx>

North Metro A Capella Challenge

Michael Power/St. Joseph Asking for Support

Power House

- **Saturday, February 9, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.**
- Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- 10268 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario
- Call 905-787-8811 for the box office.
- Tickets: Youth 12 and under \$15.00, All others \$28.00 (includes service charge)
- Or buy through the A Cappella Challenge website:
<https://youthacappellachallenge.wordpress.com>

Reminder about Safe Arrival Program

At the TCDSB, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day. To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are in the process of introducing *a new, more efficient* student absence reporting feature called **SafeArrival**. Your child's school is one of the first schools in the Toronto Catholic District School Board selected to implement this new system starting on **December 10, 2018**. SafeArrival feature is a within the **SchoolMessenger App**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unreported student absences. With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1 (833) 251-3286** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account, you must register using the email address and phone number associated with your child's student record.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger** as an automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or SchoolMessenger app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

More information:

https://www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/safearrivals_elementary.aspx and <https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SafeSchools/NewsAndEvents/Pages/SafeArrivals-Secondary.aspx>

February Events

February is...African Canadian Heritage Month, Energy Conservation Month, Inclusive Education Month and Psychology Month.

- February 4-8 Canadian School Counsellors' Week
- February 5th Lunar New Year—welcoming the Year of the Pig
- February 6th is Winter Walk Day
- February 7th Hockey Playoffs Start
- February 8-9 Angel Foundation for Learning's Curiosities Art Show and Sale
- February 11 Badminton Season Begins
- February 11 International Day of Girls and Women in Science
- February 13 Girls Volleyball Playoffs Begin
- February 14 St Valentine's Day
- February 15 PA Day
- February 18 Family Day

- February 20 World Day of Social Justice
- February 22 Boys Basketball Championships
- February 22-March 1 Northern Spirit Games
- February 27 Pink Shirt Day
- February 28 OFSAA Snowboard Championships

Details for these events and more: www.tcdsb.org

Board and Committee Meetings This Month

- February 6 Safe Schools Advisory Committee
- February 7 Student Achievement Committee
<https://tcdsbpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting?Id=cc92b549-4fdf-4b34-a236-fec98c5b3bdd&Agenda=Agenda>
- February 11 Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- February 12 Governance and Policy Committee
- February 14 Corporate Services Committee
- February 20 Special Education Advisory Committee
- February 21 Board
- February 26 Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

February's Virtue is Love

Resources for the month online:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

Inclement Weather Reminder:

In the event of any cancellations or closures, the Board will share information via Twitter @TCDSB, and post notification on the homepage of the website www.tcdsb.org as well as a voice message at 416-222-8282 ext. 2873.

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