



Board Highlights

On Monday, January 22, 2018, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.

Forest View Public School

Name of Group: Phoenix Sings

Directors: Catherine Spagnuolo & Amy Humphries

Titles of Pieces Performed: O Canada, True Colours, & A Place to Stand.



Students from Forest View Public School

Pringle Creek Public School was one of the DDSB schools that participated in this year's campaign where the Grade 6 students in the gifted class were very excited to hear about the Durham Regional Police Anti-Drinking and Driving *Think of Me Campaign*. The students were thrilled to have this unique opportunity to make a positive difference in their very own community and potentially save a life during the holiday season. As a class, they discussed positive messages and images that they could display on their bags and then their teacher let the magic begin.

Congratulations to Grade 6 student Evelyn Small-Woods for her winning submission for Durham Region!

Provincial PRO Grants Support Igniting Opportunities for Future Leaders

This school year (2017-2018) the Durham District School Board secured provincial funding for 97 *Parents Reaching Out* (PRO) grants. Included in those grants were two Regional PRO Grants, the first of which was *Igniting Opportunities for Future Leaders*, led by the Afrocentric Family Partnership Committee, an Ad Hoc of the DDSB Equity and Diversity Steering Committee. The event engaged parents and students who identified as racialized, in Grades 7 to 12.

The goal of the event was to increase parents' knowledge and skills in supporting their teens to navigate high school through to post-secondary destinations and activate and access multiple pathways for future success.

Keynote speaker for the November event was former GTA-area principal Karl Subban, well-known author and father of five (three sons in the National Hockey

Pringle Creek Student Wins the Think of Me Bag Campaign

Pringle Creek Public School Grade 6 student Evelyn Small-Woods was presented with a Durham District School Board Thank You certificate by Board Vice Chairperson Patrice Barnes and Director of Education Lisa Millar for placing first in the recent *Think of Me* bag campaign. The campaign is a grassroots partnership among LCBO stores, local police services and elementary schools. The program aims to raise community awareness of the dangerous consequences of impaired driving by offering Ontario elementary schools the opportunity for their students to decorate single-bottle bags with powerful "Don't drink and drive" messages.

League). Mr. Subban facilitated a special meeting opportunity for students who participated in the 100 Strong Academy Summer Program 2017, along with their parents and role models. Mr. Subban then opened the evening with his keynote, "Harnessing the Power of Potential". He captivated the audience with stories of school and family leadership that highlighted the importance of focus, resilience and commitment to purpose.

Parents and students were then invited to choose two of four learning sessions – Activating Pathways for Careers; Bursaries, Grants, Internships and More; Supporting Holistic Development; and Communicating Leadership with Application Preparation. Community resource agencies were present all evening, making connections with parents and sharing available programming and supports. More than 700 parents, students, community representatives and DDSB staff participated.

Feedback from parents included:

"I thought it was an amazing workshop and evening. There needs to be more for years to come. Also, it has prepared my children for high school and beyond."

"The dinner was a great idea. I work downtown and I don't think we would have been able to attend if I had to get home, prepare dinner and then leave again. Thank you for that, it helped. The topics were good and I learned a lot. The information on scholarships is very important and helpful."

Director's Good News

Students Supporting the Community

This past holiday season, our students at Maxwell Heights Secondary School, O'Neill CVI and Eastdale CVI joined together to initiate the Can-Can Food Drive Challenge benefitting Simcoe Hall Settlement House. The Food Drive Challenge was the brainchild of teachers from these three schools who wanted to embark on a challenge to support a local food bank during the holiday season and highlight the generosity of our Oshawa area students. Our students collected over 5,000 canned items with other non-perishables. We are all winners when students get involved in supporting their community.

A Night of Transition

We had an incredible turnout for our Transition Night for parents and guardians of Grade 8 students with

special education needs transitioning to secondary school for September 2018. The Transition Night was held on January 11th at the Education Centre and designed as an information primer for the upcoming sessions at each secondary school. Parents and guardians were provided with a copy of the "Choosing My Success" student planner and will receive the parent/guardian resource at their secondary school session.

Student Voice Conference

The Student Voice Conference is a three-part conference series that provides students in grades 7 and 8 with a platform to discuss issues related to equity, social justice and inclusion. The second session of the conference took place on January 9th with 144 students in attendance. ME to WE Teen Activist and Motivational Speaker, Hannah Alper, shared her message about the importance of youth activism and using student voice to implement change. Students shared their collaborative inquiry plans with other school communities.

OSAP Net Tuition

The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, went to Ajax High School to announce the OSAP Net Tuition Announcement. The Minister provided remarks and a demonstration of the OSAP calculator while interacting and responding to questions from our students. Trustee Donna Edwards also attended the event, bringing greetings on behalf of the board.

Information Session for Special Education

Our Special Education Department has recently launched the Special Education Community Information Sessions. There are four scheduled sessions taking place in January at different locations across the region, discussing special education supports and services, fostering student independence and the renewed model of special education classes. The sessions provide an overview of our direction, highlighting programs and services. The remaining dates for the sessions are January 24th, 29th and 30th.

Happy 25th Anniversary

The community of Lincoln Alexander Public School proudly celebrated its 25th anniversary last week on January 18th. The celebration began with an assembly involving students, parents and special guests and ended with an evening open house welcoming alumni, parents, former staff, recent students and community members. Trustee Patrice Barnes attended and welcomed the community. Congratulations to Lincoln Alexander Public School staff and students for reaching a great milestone.



Math Whiz

A student at Michaëlle Jean Public School accomplished something quite special. Grade 5 student Nilaksan R., recently returned from an international Math competition in Malaysia in which he placed second. The competition involved participants from 75 countries and took place near Kuala Lumpur. Nilaksan completed the timed math test and was declared one of the finalists, coming in second place. Congratulations!

Chromebook Distribution

We have 10,479 active Chromebooks in our system, with half of our Grade 10 students and all of our Grade 7 students having received their Chromebooks. We will be rolling out an additional 2,500 Chromebooks to the remaining Grade 10 students at the beginning of semester 2. We currently have 2,200 active Google Classrooms sites in the DDSB. All the DDSB secondary teachers have had the opportunity to attend training on Google Classroom and G-Suite and we have trained more than 90% of secondary teachers on digital tools to support inquiry using *Read and Write* software to support students with special education needs.

\$10,000 from Indigo Love of Reading Foundation

Grove School is the latest DDSB school to be the fortunate recipient of a \$10,000 gift from the *Indigo Love of Reading Foundation*. The gift is one of 50 literacy grants awarded across the country. The \$10,000 will reinvigorate the literacy initiatives at the school library while including students in discussions of what materials should be added to the school collection. Congratulations to Grove School teacher Lynn Gittens, who took the initiative to apply for this grant.



Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2018
4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2018
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2018
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

