



Board Highlights

On Monday, October 16, 2017, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.

Port Perry High School

DDSB trustees were treated to an outstanding performance by *TANGENT*, the all boys' choir from Port Perry High School. Group Director Victoria Rensink led her 19 students to perform 'Hello Mary Lou' and 'Loch Lomond' for DDSB Trustees and staff. Their beautiful harmonies garnered a loud applause from the appreciative audience.



TANGENT was formed about 7 years ago in an effort to encourage young men in DDSB schools to sing. There is a great sense of camaraderie within this group, and they always have a great time, both in rehearsal as well as performance.

Educational Services Award

Jermaine Coleman-Schoburgh, an Educational Assistant from Ajax High School received the Educational Services Staff Award for 2017. Jermaine was recognized for making an exceptional contribution in support of students and the growth of others at Ajax HS. "JC" attends work placements and has embraced and overcome many challenges faced by students. Congratulations Jermaine!



Pictured (l to r) are Michael Barrett (Board Chair & Trustee-Oshawa), Donna Edwards (Trustee-Ajax, Wards 3&4), Jermaine Coleman-Schoburgh, Educational Assistant, Ajax HS, Chris Braney (Board Vice Chair & Trustee-Pickering), Lisa Millar (Director of Education), and Patrice Barnes (Trustee-Ajax, Wards 1&2)

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Students at Julie Payette PS Formally Recognize New Governor-General

Students at Julie Payette Public School were thrilled to celebrate their school's namesake being sworn in as Canada's new Governor-General.

The students created a video to congratulate Julie Payette on achieving this latest honour. Their video was broadcast on CBC TV across Canada during the Governor-General's formal swearing-in ceremony. The students signed a huge congratulatory card, which is also an invitation to the new Governor-General to visit their school.



Whitby Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri, Julie Payette PS Principal Monique de Villers, Whitby Trustee Christine Winters-Feret & Julie Payette PS Vice Principal Matt Armstrong help students Jaymye & Eryn Ichelson display the congratulatory card signed by all of the school's students to send to Canada's new Governor-General Julie Payette.

Reach Ahead Math Program

This program is a pathway support for grade 8 students who had initially selected the applied stream for grade 9 mathematics but, through this program, would be attempting the more challenging academic stream.

Analysis of student achievement data and course selection patterns indicated that there was an opportunity to identify and support a pathway change for students who had selected the applied stream math course for grade 9 but had indicators that they would be successful at the academic level.

The results of the program are very impressive:

- All 69 of the registered participants earned a credit.

- All of the students have been placed in either a mixed level course or the academic level math course.

The Reach Ahead Math Program pilot was designed to change the academic trajectory of an identified group of students entering grade 9 in September 2017. Students that participated in the program will be tracked and supported to see if there is evidence of impact that a change in pathway was achieved.

DDSB Workforce Census

Similar to other Ontario school boards, the DDSB will reach out to its 10,000 employees (full-time and part-time) to determine the demographic nature of its staff. This will help to paint a picture of our staff diversity.

Other school boards such as the Toronto, Hamilton-Wentworth and Ottawa-Carleton District School Boards have gathered similar data. This will allow us to identify strengths and opportunities to support workplace equity and inclusion. This census also aligns with the Ontario Ministry of Education's new mandate for all school boards to collect race-based data on students.

Director's Good News

Ally Week was celebrated across the DDSB from September 25th to 29th. Many schools, both elementary and secondary marked the week with posters, announcements and professional development opportunities. Messages of support for the community were shared publicly across DDSB school Twitter accounts as well as within schools.

Schools across the DDSB marked the 13th annual Safety Week September 25th-29th, with events highlighting our commitment to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment. Students and staff participated in classroom discussions, assemblies, drills, and a variety of other safety-themed activities and events all aimed at generating greater awareness about everyone's role in safety. Scugog Fire Services provided Prince Albert Public School students with an opportunity to go through the fire safety trailer and learn about potential fire risks. J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate invited No Regrets Live, a national youth movement who worked with students to raise awareness about the issue of injury prevention in Canada.

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On September 26th, grade 5 students at Frenchman's Bay Public School inspired leadership by organizing a supply drive to support the hundreds of children on the island of Barbuda, which was decimated by hurricane Irma last month. Students organized their school and community by collecting school supplies to more than fill a cube van. Supplies included backpacks, calculators, sharpeners, pens, pencils, crayons, toiletries and many more items, which will be needed by fellow students in Barbuda to start their school year.

This year our Indigenous Education department sold over 1,100 t-shirts as schools throughout the DDSB engaged in learning about the impact of Residential Schools on Orange Shirt Day on September 29th. Our schools showed their recognition of Orange Shirt Day and willingness to acknowledge the Truth and Reconciliation process by participating in the various Orange Shirt Day events across the DDSB.

We had a very successful Terry Fox Run this fall. Congratulations to Beau Valley Public School in Oshawa. They were challenged to raise \$1,000 and if they met their goal teacher Kristina Thomas would shave her head in support. Students far surpassed the goal, raising \$2,500 towards cancer research.

At Terry Fox Public School, students Morsal Moradi and Abdullah Umair carried the school's Terry Fox flag for the first lap of the run. Both grade 8 students, Morsal and Abdullah, are recovering cancer survivors fighting leukemia and brain cancer respectively and were honoured and humble in leading their fellow students along the first lap of the run.

This past month we had teachers at the secondary and elementary levels recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in education. Nicole Swain, a teacher at Brooklin High School, was recognized for her passion for educating students about agriculture and the science behind the field. Nicole is the current recipient of the 2017 Teacher Recognition Award in Agriculture.

Rob Dymont, a teacher at Blair Ridge Public School, is this year's recipient of the Jon Patte Coaching Award. The award is presented each year to the teacher/coach who best exemplifies what Jon did for countless Durham student-athletes: a commitment to excellence; unbridled enthusiasm; a strong work ethic; integrity and a passion to play the game. Congratulations to Rob and Nicole on receiving their prestigious awards.

A new partnership agreement has been arranged with Youth Fusion. This partnership is a component of the DDSB's Poverty Strategy. Youth Fusion is an award-winning not-for-profit organization dedicated to lowering school dropout rates. Our relationship with

Youth Fusion creates continuous ties between the school system and the community to help at-risk students in innovative and meaningful educational projects to foster learning, skills, and social integration.

The Poverty Strategy group have launched the Community Guide Link, which is now available on all DDSB school websites. The Community Guide Link engages the community and provides the public with information encompassing education, employment, healthcare, housing and support. As an initiative of our Make a Difference program the Community Guide Link is a partnership between the DDSB and the United Way of Durham and focusses on providing resources that can help to connect families and community support services.

We continue to leverage digital with six, on-demand, self-paced courses available on-line including Google Classroom and Read and Write, which is our software that supports students who need features such as text-to-speech and speech to-text. We also have courses for Digital Citizenship, Moodle and D2L, and one about online digital tools to support assessment and evaluation.

On October 6th, Professional Development Day over 4,000 DDSB Elementary and Secondary Teachers, EAs and ECEs participated in professional development that included many math and literacy workshops, equity and diversity training, and leveraging digital sessions. These sessions involved nine secondary schools and an additional 500 staff members received Chromebook training.

At the elementary level, teacher preparation has involved professional learning in EQAO Data Literacy where a school team from every elementary school is engaged in focused analysis of individual EQAO School Summary Reports and EQAO Individual Item Reports.

On September 27, the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies were invited to present a workshop to our newly developed equity team of teachers. The presentation 'Equity Head to Toe' program looked at incorporating equity into curriculum in a student-led manner – using knowledge, compassion and action to shape curriculum. Our incredible teachers are now doing work in their own classrooms to reflect human rights education and are now taking the next step to develop team leads from different schools that can then return to their home schools and lead equity in a much more organized and informed manner.

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Our Student Senate representatives from across the DDSB attended the Student Senate Leadership Symposium on September 22nd. This was an opportunity for our student representatives, led by our Student Trustees, to build a strong team, set the vision for the year, and enhance student leadership skills. The Student Senate shared ideas, learned from one another, and gained a greater perspective of the schools and communities in Durham.

Here are our upcoming events that will be taking place in October and November:

Dates of Significance

- October 20 Birth of the Bab
- October 22 Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh
- October 24 United Nations Day
- October 26 Volunteer of Distinction Awards
- November 2 All Souls' Day
- November 16 International Day of Tolerance
- November 16 Louis Riel Day
- November 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance
- November 20 National Child Day

Upcoming Events

October 25 — Child Care Worker and Early Educator Appreciation Day

October 24 — Dress Purple for Child Abuse Prevention

October 26 — Volunteer of Distinction Awards

October 30 - Nov 3 — English As A Second Language Week

November 1 — Take Our Kids to Work Day

November 6 — Standing Committee Meeting

November 7 — Regional SCC Meeting

November 11 — Remembrance Day

November 15 — Educational Assistants' Day

November 20-24 — Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2017

4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2017

Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2017

Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

