

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD • PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC) NEWSLETTER

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



✉ engagement@ddsb.ca DECEMBER 2025

As we head into the winter break, we're excited to share that the school year is off to a strong start! It's been a great few months filled with learning, connection, and community spirit.

In this December newsletter, you'll find updates on the upcoming Student Census, Tips for the New Year, Parenting in the Age of AI and more. If you have any topic ideas or want to hear more about anything in particular, share your ideas by contacting engagement@ddsb.ca

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

Tips for the holiday break

Winter break is a great time for students to recharge, but it can also be a valuable opportunity to stay productive. To make the most of the break, students should set a balanced schedule that includes both relaxation and goal-setting. Catching up on any missed assignments or reviewing challenging subjects can help ease the transition back to school. Reading for pleasure or exploring new interests like journaling, coding, or creative projects can keep the mind engaged. Staying connected with classmates or joining local events can also provide social interaction and motivation. Most importantly, getting enough rest, spending time with family, and practicing self-care ensures students return refreshed and ready to learn.



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The holidays are a time to slow down, cherish the people who matter most, and enjoy the moments that make this season bright.

DDSB PIC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

Welcome to our current PIC team!

Gurleen Saggu, PIC Co-Chair— picchair1@scc.ddsbc.ca

Alissa duHasky, PIC Co-Chair— picchair2@scc.ddsbc.ca

Nikeisha Paul-Hunnighan, Ajax Elementary— picajaxelementary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Huma Choudhary, Ajax Secondary— picajaxsecondary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Amanda Burns, North Elementary— picnorthelementary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Chris Nitz, North Secondary— picnorthsecondary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Katherine Taylor, Oshawa Elementary— picoshawaelementary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Arshi Ali, Oshawa Secondary— picoshawasecondary@scc.ddsbc.ca

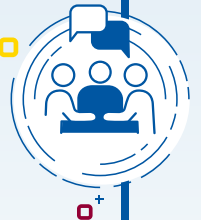
Bee Quammie, Pickering Elementary— picpickeringelementary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Pickering Secondary Recruitment in Process— picpickeringsecondary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Jennifer Cushinan, Whitby Elementary— picwhitbyelementary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Chantel Walker-Hinds, Whitby Secondary— picwhitbysecondary@scc.ddsbc.ca

Jennifer McLaughlin, SEAC Representative— piccommunitymember@scc.ddsbc.ca



**Every voice matters, contact your school
to learn how you can get involved.**

Winter Activities:

Here's a reminder to check out your local community websites for winter activities happening in your area! From winter camps to family skates to additional resources – it's all here at your fingertips.

- [Brimacombe Winter Ski and Snowboard Camps](#)
- [Township of Brock](#)
- [City of Pickering](#)
- [City of Oshawa](#)
- [Municipality of Clarington](#)
- [Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth](#)
- [Town of Ajax](#)
- [Family Skating Event](#)
- [Whitby Festival of Lights](#)



Innovation and Modern Learning at the DDSB

The DDSB recently hosted its first CTRL+ALT+EDUCATE event, drawing hundreds of families eager to explore how technology, Generative AI (GenAI), and innovative practices are transforming classrooms. Caregivers and students engaged in hands-on activities that showcased how these tools can spark creativity, deepen learning, and prepare students for a rapidly evolving future.

With the board's approval of Google Gemini for student use, GenAI is positioned as a collaborative partner that will help enhance critical thinking and innovation rather than replace intellectual effort. However, we understand parenting in the age of AI requires new skills. Just as families once taught safe internet habits, today's caregivers must help their children navigate GenAI responsibly by questioning outputs, recognizing bias, and safeguarding privacy by avoiding personal data input.

This shared responsibility between educators and parents ensures students are empowered to use good judgement and to encourage curiosity and to understand that GenAI is not a shortcut but a tool. GenAI will continue to play a significant role in work and daily life and it's important to ensure the new technology will strengthen, rather than hinder our children's potential.

[Learn more and read the guidelines on the DDSB website.](#)



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Wishing all our students and families a safe, joyful holiday season and all the best for the New Year ahead!

