



# Ward 5 Newsletter

## Howard Kaplan ~ Public School Trustee

### Winter 2011 - 2012



### Important Dates and Deadlines

**High School Information Nights:**  
Wm Lyon Mackenzie SS – Dec 8, 7 pm

**Extended French (Grade 4 entry):** this is an online application process that begins in November, with a December 15 deadline

**Extended French (Grade 7 entry):** the application deadline is January 31, 2012

**Early French Immersion (SK entry):** the application process begins in January and the deadline is January 31

**Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry):** this is an online application process with a final deadline of December 15

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Dear Neighbours,

It's been one year since you elected me to represent the York Centre (Ward 5) community at the Toronto District School Board. What a year it has been! It's been a year of hard work, but it's also been very rewarding work.

Last spring, I was able to attend graduation ceremonies at 20 out of 22 schools in York Centre. The excitement among these young people as they marked this important achievement was a strong reminder of the critical role that accessible, quality public education plays in developing our community and society!

Soon, the TDSB will begin its budget process for 2012-13, and this will bring a lot of challenges. We must ensure that schools and children have all the resources and tools they need to succeed. My starting point for the budget process is that we need to have a new, needs-based funding formula from the provincial government. Closing schools and selling off assets are not the answer.

I have worked with other trustees on the TDSB to develop and promote a participatory process for the budget. If adopted by the Board, this will enable more input from key areas. Parents, educators, and community groups will have a chance to indicate their priorities and concerns to trustees, as part of the budget development process.

Ontario has a new Provincial Education Minister, Laurel Broten, and I am hopeful that we can work together to press Queen's Park for education reforms and funding to meet the needs of students!

If you have any questions or concerns about education, public schools, or the school board, please feel free to contact me. I always look forward to meeting you, hearing your views and acting upon your concerns.

My best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

*Howard*

**Do you have a child in French Immersion or Extended French?  
Are you interested in representing Ward 5 on the TDSB's  
French As a Second Language Advisory Committee?  
If you would like to get involved, or would like more information, please  
contact me at my office.**

## Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Parent and community involvement is a key component in strengthening the quality of public education and maintaining local democracy. The Toronto District School Board has ten community advisory committees whose role is to improve parental and community input on policy and program issues.

The ten community advisory committees are:

- Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)**
- Alternative Schools Advisory Committee (ASAC)**
- Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee (CUSAC)**
- Early Years Advisory Committee (EYAC)**
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC)**
- Equity Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC)**
- French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)**
- Inner City Advisory Committee (ICAC)**
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)**
- Safe & Caring Schools Advisory Committee (SCSAC)**
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- Student Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC)**

If you are interested in participating on a Committee please e-mail [outreach@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:outreach@tdsb.on.ca) or contact my office.

## Comings and Goings

During the past year, former public trustee Elizabeth Hill (York South-Weston, 1988-2006) worked as my constituency assistant. Her wealth of knowledge and experience have been enormously helpful to me, and to Ward 5 parents and students. Now Liz has decided it is time to focus her energies on other commitments. I am very grateful for Liz's help and wish her all the best in her future work.

I would also like to thank Tyler Johnson, whose hard work and experience has been very beneficial.

My new constituency assistant is Dave McKee. Dave is a longtime community, labour and social justice activist who has two children in Toronto's public school system. You can reach Dave through my office, at 416-395-8406.

## House of Commons Honours Summit Heights Kids' Lit Team

Last July, the Kids' Lit team from Summit Heights PS placed second at the international competition in New Zealand. I was thrilled to be part of their send off at that time, attending their last practice session in Canada before their trip around the globe.



Photo from [tdsb.on.ca](http://tdsb.on.ca), used with permission

On November 9, the team was honoured by the school and, as part of the celebration, received certificates and silver pins from the House of Commons. The awards were presented by Mark Adler, MP for York Centre.

*Congratulations to the Summit Heights team for their terrific achievement, and best of luck for future competitions!*

**Let's Go Green! To receive future newsletters by email...**

## Schools, the Internet and Social Media

The Ward Forum meeting that was held on November 29 was an opportunity for parents and educators to discuss the complicated issue of internet use and safety. Our guest speakers were Marika Bourque, the Chief Information Officer at the TDSB, and Cortney Lewis, the North West Administrator for Caring and Safe Schools.

Ms. Bourque opened the forum with an excellent presentation titled “Digital Life: Our Kids' Connected Culture.” She described some of the advantages and opportunities that digital technology offer students, and identified some of the health and safety concerns as well. Both Ms. Bourque and Mr. Lewis discussed different strategies that parents and educators are developing to encourage good “digital citizenship.”

Parents who were present noted that need for more information to be distributed from the TDSB to the community, in order to increase awareness of internet use in schools and among young people.

**Please note that the TDSB Student Safety Hotline is 416-395-SAFE (7233), [www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/safetyline)**

### Basic Rules of the Road for Internet Safety

*(Summarized from Marika Bourque's presentation)*

1. Embrace your child's digital world – for example familiarize yourself with how facebook works.
2. Encourage balanced use – try to be able to see the computer screen, and avoid leaving your child alone with the internet.
3. Monitor media use as best you can.
4. Discuss internet sites they visit, and which ones they shouldn't visit.
5. No cyberbullying – discuss how your children act.
6. Protect personal privacy:
7. Remember – nothing is really private on the internet.
8. Set up privacy settings, and educate yourself about the rules for different sites.
9. Keep passwords private.

### Ward Council Meeting Discusses City Cuts

Participants at the November 29 Ward Council meeting had concerns about the impact that cuts to City of Toronto programs and services will have on schools and students.

I am concerned that cuts to city-funded child care spaces will make it more difficult for many families to maintain a good quality of life. Some parents will have a very hard keeping their job if they do not have child care.

Cuts to swimming pool programs will mean that fewer children learn to swim, and this will increase the risk of more drownings and tragic accidents.

Cuts to school nutrition programs will leave more children hungry during class time. This makes learning difficult and affects behaviour, and can have many negative outcomes over the long term.

I encourage you to contact your City Councillor to discuss your concerns about these cuts.

### I am on the following committees:

- \* *Planning and Priorities Committee*
- \* *Program and School Services Committee*
- \* *Audit Committee*
- \* *Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee*
- \* *Inner City Advisory Committee*
- \* *Student Nutrition Advisory Committee*
- \* *1:1 Learning Technologies Strategic Planning Committee*
- \* *Health and Mental Well-being Committee*
- \* *Negotiations Steering Committee*
- \* *Stewardship of Fine Art Work Group*

**...please send a request to [howard.kaplan@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:howard.kaplan@tdsb.on.ca)**

## Howard Kaplan ~ Public School Trustee Ward 5 ~ York Centre

Elementary	Address	Phone	Principal
Africentric Alternative School	1430 Sheppard Avenue West	416-395-5251	Thando Hyman
Ancaster PS	44 Ancaster Road	416-395-2010	Elizabeth Bell
Beverly Heights MS	26 Troutbrooke Drive	416-395-3000	Paola Farina
Blaydon PS	25 Blaydon Avenue	416-395-2070	Gayle Finess-Hall
Calico PS	35 Calico Drive	416-395-2130	Pasquale Pat Bonavota
Charles H Best MS	285 Wilmington Avenue	416-395-2170	Frank Ricci
Downsview PS	2829 Keele Street	416-395-2340	Anne Marie Clarke
Dublin Heights ES & MS	100 Bainbridge Avenue	416-395-2360	Amina Timol
Faywood Arts-Based Curriculum School	95 Faywood Boulevard	416-395-2390	Cathy Trajkovski
Fisherville Senior PS	425 Patricia Avenue	416-395-3030	Richard Stein
Highview PS	22 Highview Avenue	416-395-2540	Jackie Wark
Oakdale Park MS	15 Grandravine Drive	416-395-3060	Craig Crone
Pierre Laporte MS	1270 Wilson Avenue	416-395-3070	Paolo Peloso
Rockford PS	60 Rockford Road	416-395-2820	Gladys Beaton
Sheppard PS	1430 Sheppard Avenue West	416-395-2860	Ira Applebaum
Stilecroft PS	50 Stilecroft Drive	416-395-2910	Deepmala Verma
Summit Heights PS	139 Armour Boulevard	416-395-2920	Thelma Sambrook
Tumpane PS	48 Tumpane Street	416-395-2950	Yonnette Dey
Wilmington ES	330 Wilmington Avenue	416-395-2180	Diane Bailey
Secondary			
Downsview SS	7 Hawksdale Road	416-395-3200	Maria Palermo
Northview Heights SS	550 Finch Avenue West	416-395-3290	Peter Paputsis
William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute	20 Tillplain Road	416-395-3330	Helene Green