Parents as Partners Workshops.

Workshop Session, A-01.

Title, “2 Spiritedness.” Identity and History, Working with Parents to Create Safe Places in Schools.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200A.

Description, To create an opportunity for parents/educators to learn more about the origin of the term 2 spirits. We will discuss how schools can create safe spaces for students who self identify as 2 spirited students.

Presenter, Emile Kwandibens (EJ).

Parent/Professional. Email, EmileJoseph.Kwandibens@tdsb.on.ca

“Ej Kwandibens is a member of the loon clan and is of Ojibway descent originating from Whitesand First Nation community located 20+ hours north of Toronto. Currently he resides in Toronto.

He is a northern style traditional and grass dancer for approximately 35 years. He has designed and constructed Aboriginal traditional apparel for approximately 30+ years as a self taught Artist mentored by his mother Elsie Kwandibens and other northern woodland Ojibway elders. Ej Kwandibens has travelled across North America learning and attending traditional ceremonies since he was 8 years old. His traditional elders and mentors have provided him a strong foundation of his knowledge which has been influential in his personal and professional life.

Ej Kwandibens is an Aboriginal 2 Spirited custodial parent raising his 16 year old daughter since the age of 1 years.

He has attained 25+ years of social work experience working in all streams which include Education, Child Welfare, Social Services, Mental Health, Corrections and the Judicial System.

Ej also held the position of Board Chair for the 2 Spirits organization in Toronto for 5 years. He has coordinated small to large productions including the 2 Spirits Pride Toronto float for 5 years to coordinating and choreography for World Pride 2014 opening ceremonies.

As a Indigenous cultural educator for 10+ years, he has provided educational presentations to many TDSB schools and organizations throughout the GTA and the Province of Ontario.”

Workshop Session, A-02.

Title, The Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200B.

Description, This workshop will share approaches, tools, and resource which can assist parents and community leaders to support family and community health and wellness. First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples are very diverse with multiple identities, life circumstances, beliefs, traditions and practices. This workshop will explore the Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teaching (i.e., respect, love, humility, bravery, honesty, truth and wisdom).

The Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teachings are based on the foundation of a “good way of life.”

They are a reminder of how we should respect and take care of ourselves, each other and Mother Earth (e.g., the Environment). Participants of the workshop will have the opportunities to explore how the fundamental teachings of the Seven Sacred Grandfathers/Grandmothers can be applied at home, school, work and community.

Presenter, Clayton Shirt.

Parent/Traditional Teacher, Email, clayshirt@gmail.com

Clayton Shirt is a Traditional Teacher. He is the Wolf Clan of saddle Lake Alberta, Treaty 6. Clayton had been working as a Traditional Teacher for more than 10+ years in the Native and multi-cultural community in Canada.

He was taught in the old way, working for many years with the guidance of a number of Aniishnawbe Elders and other First Nation Elders in Canada and the USA, and was taught to do traditional ceremonies, teachings, circles, one to one work and to help all people to “walk in a good way” though life.

Workshop Session, A-03.

Title, Equity 101.

Advisory Committee, Equity Policy Advisory Committee.

Room, 200C.

Description, The session will cover everything you wanted to know about the Equity Policy at the TDSB. A panel will be discussing issues facing our students in achieving their full potential. There will be plenty of room for Q&A and sharing of lived experiences.

Resources, website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/CommunityAdvisoryCommittees/EquityPolicyAdvisoryCommittee.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/CommunityAdvisoryCommittees/EquityPolicyAdvisoryCommittee.aspx)

Presenter. Marjolein Winterink.

EPAC Co-Chair. Email, marjoleinwinterink@yahoo.ca

As a parent activist for 18 years Marjolein has held numerous positions at the school level and participated on various community advisory committees of the TDSB. She is currently the Parent Co Chair of EPAC.

Workshop session, A-04.

Room, 201A.

Title, Developing Emotional Vocabulary: Moving beyond happy, mad and sad Mental Health and

Well-being.

Advisory Committee, Parent Partnership Committee.

Description, Help your child talk about how they are feeling! Not just happy, sad and mad but other words that help children identify (describe?) their feelings to they can understand and manage their behaviour better. The workshop is for parents of young children (JK – Grade 3) and will include useful strategies and books that you can use to help your child at home.

Presenter, Martha Rice and Suzanne Beauregard.

Speech-Language Pathologists, TDSB. Email, martha.rice@tdsb.on.ca

Email, suzanee.beauregard@tdsb.on.ca

Martha and Suzanne are Speech-Language Pathologists with over 15 years of experience at TDSB. Both are skilled in parent training and have a strong interest and experience in helping students connect emotional vocabulary to social interactions and reading comprehension.

Workshop session, A-05.

Title, Executive Functioning: What every parent needs to know Mental Health and Well-being

Advisory Committee, Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201B.

Description, This workshop will introduce you to the importance of Executive Functioning for learning and well-being. Among other things, you will learn why you shouldn’t say, “You did so well, you must be smart,” how play can really help kids of any age learn, what happens in your child’s brain during a meltdown and how mindfulness strategies can help.

Presenter, Kristina Kampe, M.A.C. Psych. Assoc. and Cynthia McCall, Ph.D, C. Psych.

Psychology Department, TDSB. Email, kristina.kampe@tdsb.on.ca

Email, cynthia.mccall@tdsb.on.ca

Kristina and Cynthia have been members of the psychology department in the TDSB for over 29 years. They have theoretical and practical experience in supporting the development of executive functioning skills in students at school and at home.

Workshop session, A-06.

Title, Parenting: It’s not by sheer luck or a rabbit’s foot that you’ve made it this far!

Advisory committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201C.

Description, Parenting comes without a guide, app or webinar of how to do it “right.” Yet parents are expected to do it perfectly in a world that is increasingly complex and moving faster than ever. How can you help build your child’s resiliency? How much does a healthy lifestyle impact your child’s ability to flourish? Join the conversation about the key role you play as parent in supporting your child’s mental health and well-being. Let’s talk about the things you need to consider and navigate as you parent your children. Let’s talk about what you already do as a parent/caregiver to create a positive caring environment to support your child’s path of success both in school and in life.

Presenter, Judith Montreuil, MSW, RSW.

Chief of Social Work & Attendance, Learning Centre 1, TDSB. Email, judith.montreuil@tdsb.on.ca

During the course of her Social Work career, Judith has worked extensively with children and families in the field of mental health. Her practice interests are rooted in the areas of child/parent conflict resolution; student wellness; parenting strategies; family mediation and student and parent engagement with respect to the educational system. Judith is acutely aware of issues faced by marginalized populations and the ways in which these issues converge to create and sustain patterns of inequality. It is this desire to be an agent of social change that keeps Judith married to the field of Social Work, and continues to drive her various community efforts.

Also presenting, Marcia Powers-Dunlop, MSW, RSW.

Senior Manager of Professional Support Services, TDSB. Email, marcia.powers-dunlop@tdsb.on.ca Working as a Social Worker for more than 35 years, Marcia has extensive experience helping children and youth who exhibit a variety of social-emotional problems and consulting with their families and school staff. In her current role, she oversees five services within professional support services and works closely with community agencies to develop partnerships to enhance service to Toronto District School Board students. Marcia serves on a number of community agency boards and committees.

Workshop session, A-07.

Title, Promoting Well-Being with 10-5-2-1-0 Mental Health and Well-being

Advisory committee, Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 202A.

Description, Healthy behaviours such as healthy eating and active living are key to maintaining a child’s physical and mental well-being. Establishing these habits early on will help lead to overall student success. Toronto Public Health promotes these behaviours to students, parents and teachers through their Into Kids’ Health 10-5-2-1-0 messages. They encourage the following on a daily basis: 10 or more hours of sleep, 5 or more servings of vegetables & fruit, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity and 0 sugar-sweetened drinks. Attend this workshop and explore practical ways to incorporate these messages into your family’s life.

Presenter, Maxine Fung.

Public Health Dietitian from Toronto Public Health. Email, maxine.fung@toronto.ca

Maxine Fung is a Public Health Dietitian from Toronto Public Health. Within the InTO Kids Health program, she provides support to schools in the Humber Downsview neighbourhood. She completed her nutrition degrees at University of Guelph and dietetic internship at The Ottawa Hospital.

Also presenting, Lucia Bresolin.

Public Health Nurse with Toronto Public Health. Email, lucia.bresolin@toronto.ca

 Lucia Bresolin is a Public Health Nurse from Toronto Public Health. She has provided support and health promotion to elementary school communities including families for over 20 years. She has been with the InTO Kids Health program since its inception and works with schools in the Humber-Downsview neighbourhood. Her public health background includes collaboration on a variety of health promotion projects, advocacy and working with community partners to promote service delivery.

Workshop session, A-08.

Title, Duality Of Expectations — School/ Home Partnership in Student Achievement.

Advisory Committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 202B.

Description, Parents will be researching and exploring: What is expected from the school that will provide their children with a holistic well-rounded education. The school is expected to provide a well-balanced education through: Academics, Nutrition, Mental & Physical Well-being.

* Schools will ensure students are safe.
* Schools will ensure all students will be given the opportunity to learn and achieve.
* Schools will be a welcoming place for students, parents and community.
* Schools will ensure equity, achievement and well-being for all students.

The school also has expectations from parents and guardians:

* Children coming to school prepared to learn
* Children eating a healthy and balanced meal
* Children getting support with their education goals
* Children getting emotional and mental supports

Resources, People for Education,

Website link, [http://peopleforeducation.ca/measuring-what-matters/about-the-project/School’s Expectations of Parents](http://peopleforeducation.ca/measuring-what-matters/about-the-project/School%E2%80%99s%20Expectations%20of%20Parents%20)

Website link, [www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/ECC/ECC\_What\_TeachersParents\_Can\_Do.pdf](http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/ECC/ECC_What_TeachersParents_Can_Do.pdf)

Presenters, Parents from Learning Centre 1, Parent Academy.

Biographies of the presenters will be available at the workshop.

Workshop session, A-10.

Title, Understanding School Resources for Student Success.

Advisory committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 203B.

Description,

* Assist parents in understanding the various assessment tools used by the Ministry of Education and Toronto District School Board.
* Learn to be partners in your child’s education by collaborating with teachers and principals for the same common goals of student success.

Resources, EDI Sample Questionnaire,

Website link, [www.offordcentre.com/readiness/files/edi\_2013\_en.pdf](http://www.offordcentre.com/readiness/files/edi_2013_en.pdf)

Website, [www.offordcentre.com/readiness/EDI\_factsheet.html](http://www.offordcentre.com/readiness/EDI_factsheet.html)

EQAO,

Website link, [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

CAT 4

Website link, [www.canadiantestcentre.com/CAT4/CAT4-reports.php](http://www.canadiantestcentre.com/CAT4/CAT4-reports.php)

Presenter, Peggy Mundy.

Parent. Email, pmundy43@hotmail.com

Peggy Mundy is a champion for students and parents. She has worked tirelessly in her children’s schools holding positions on the Parent Council Executive. She has served her school in the capacity of Parent Council Co-Chair, Homework Club coordinator and she has co-authored three Parent Reaching Out grants. Peggy works full time as an Early Childhood Assistant.

Also presenting, Zeripha Moses.

Parent.

Zeripha is a proud mother of two children within the TDSB. She is an advocate for quality education and a contributor to her school and the community.

Workshop session, A-11.

Title, A Workshop to Discuss School Councils: Problems and Solutions

Advisory committee, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 204A.

Description, A facilitated workshop for all who have been involved in school councils, and who wish to exchange information and discuss what works and what doesn’t. This sharing will hopefully be a means not only of exchanging ideas, but of identifying others in the TDSB parent community who have had similar experiences, so that an ongoing exchange of ideas may arise. It is hoped that all those who attend this workshop will intend to participate in the sharing of experiences, and in the discussion of what works and what doesn’t. The discussion will not involve identification of individuals or schools. A thoughtful discussion, focusing on the best possible future for our school communities, will be energetically encouraged by the facilitators.

Presenter, James Rycman.

Former PIAC member. Email, james.rycman@gmail.com v

During his time at PIAC, James initiated, hosted and presented at Parent Conferences in his Ward, and worked with principals to ensure that all schools in the ward had School Councils. He has also co-facilitated workshops at previous PIAC Parent Conferences on School Councils.

Also presenting, Jess Hungate.

PIAC Representative, Ward 8. Email, jhungate@rogers.com

Jess Hungate is the PIAC Representative for Ward 8. He was on the School Council at John Ross Robertson, and has been a member of PIAC since 2014. Jess is a firm believer that sharing experiences among parents involved in school councils can be an important contributor to council success.

Workshop session, A-12.

Title, Smart Saver: Saving for College/University.

Advisory committee, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 204B.

Description, Your child’s higher education is important to you, but you may not know how you’ll be able to afford it. There is help! This session will outline how you can begin saving for your children’s education future with free money from the federal government!

Resources,

Website link, [www.smartsaver.org](http://www.smartsaver.org)

Presenter, Dana Peer.

Community member. Email, dpeer@smartsaver.org

Workshop session, A-13.

Title, Developing Early Reading Skills at Home.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 204C.

Description, Parents will learn how to actively read with their Kindergarten to Grade 1 aged child, regardless of what language they speak at home. We will discuss how reading with your child can support their learning to read and write at school. Parents will be provided with hands on strategies to develop vocabulary, and critical thinking skills by reading with their children. In addition, we will talk about the link between oral language and literacy through phonological awareness. Parents will learn how to incorporate phonological awareness into their book reading to support their children’s early literacy development.

Resources, Tip Sheets and a presentation handout that will include links to specific pages to support the discussion as well as further parent learning should they wish to delve deeper into certain subjects or areas.

Website link, [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Website link, [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Website link, [www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org)

Website link, [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)

Website link, [www.phonologicalawareness.org](http://www.phonologicalawareness.org)

Presenter, Sherry Raffalovitch.

Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), TDSB. Email, Sherry.Raffalovitch@tdsb.on.ca

Sherry is a 15 year veteran TDSB Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). She began in the Kindergarten Early Language Intervention (KELI) program. She provides consultation and programming to teachers and parents of students with language and literacy difficulties. Co-author with Jana Leggett of a co-instructional reading program, she developed a related TDSB summer school program.

Also presenting, Jana Leggett.

Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), TDSB. Email, Jana.Leggett@tdsb.on.ca

Jana is a TDSB Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). In this role she carries out assessments, program planning, classroom co-instruction, small-group intervention and the development and delivery of professional learning for teachers and parents. Jana is co-author of Oral Language at Your Finger Tips and is an adjunct professor in the SLP department at the University of Toronto.

Workshop session, A-14.

Title, Intellectual Disabilities —Networking and Discussion.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205A.

Description, This workshop will provide an opportunity to parents to deepen their understanding of Intellectual Disabilities.

Parents will be able to:

* ask questions about the exceptionality.
* gather tips about successful strategies for supporting the child.
* make connections with and learn from support organizations.

Resources, Community Living Toronto

Website link, [www.communitylivingtoronto.ca](http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca)

Presenter, Clovis Grant.

TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee representative for Community Living Toronto. Email, Clovis.grant@rogers.com

Clovis speaks from experience, having a child with an intellectual disability and working as a manager at a homeless youth shelter, where he also shelters a number of young people with intellectual disabilities who are homeless.

Also presenting, Thomas Widstrand.

Special Education Coordinator, Low Incidence Programs, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Thomas.widstrand@tdsb.on.ca

Thomas’s areas of expertise include supporting students with Developmental and Physical Disabilities. Thomas has held a variety of teaching positions as well as working as a Special Education Consultant prior to his current role. Thomas is very passionate about teaching students who think and learn in different ways.

Workshop session, A-15.

Title, Introduction to Special Education.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205B.

Description, This workshop offers parents an introduction to special education in the Toronto District School Board. It is meant to improve parent understanding of what special education means and what it offers by way of support for students who are struggling with academics in school. Parents will learn what they can do to support their child at home, kinds of questions to ask and who to approach for help, both within and outside the school system depending on the kinds of support needed.

Resources,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/EarlyYears/docs/SpecialEducationPlan.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/EarlyYears/docs/SpecialEducationPlan.pdf)

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Elementary/docs/SpecED/Parents\_Guide\_English.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Elementary/docs/SpecED/Parents_Guide_English.pdf)

Website link, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/Questions\_and\_Answers\_Parents\_English.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/Questions_and_Answers_Parents_English.pdf)

Website link, [www.peopleforeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Special-Education.pdf](http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Special-Education.pdf)

Presenter, Anita Lamba.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Anita.lamba@tdsb.on.ca.

Anita provides consultative support for special education programs and services for schools in Learning Centre 4 and assists school administration and staff in understanding and meeting the special education needs of students.

Also presenting, Casey Moore.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Casey.moore@tdsb.on.ca

Casey has spent her entire teaching career in Special Education. She has worked in TDSB schools and at Holland Bloorview, encouraging achievement for all students and supporting teachers to promote best practices.

Workshop session, A-16.

Title, Parent Participation in School Team Consultation — Seeking Support for Students.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205C.

Description, Join us for an informative and interactive workshop on the In School Support Team /School Support Team (IST/SST) process. We will help demystify acronyms in Special Education, beginning with IST and SST, starting with the IST/SST process. Find out why the school has these meetings and why they want you to attend. We will explain the purpose and goal of these meetings, what parents can expect, the roles of the IST/SST members and parents. Most importantly we will explore how the outcome of these meetings addresses the various learning/ social/emotional needs of your child. Be sure to pack your questions!

Resources, Learning for All Individual Learning Plan (ILP) form Excerpts from the In School Team/ School Support Team (IST/SST) Manual.

Presenter, Gillian Marshall.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Gillian.marshall@tdsb.on.ca

Gillian has been working in Special Education for 28 years as a teacher, consultant and a coordinator. She has supported students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 across the greater Toronto Area. Her current role supports school administrators, teachers and parents with the various aspects of special education programming.

Also presenting, Cindy Jaques.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Cindy.jaques@tdsb.on.ca

Cindy has spent the past 20 years, working an educator in a variety of settings and school boards. Her past 10 years have been spent working within the TDSB Special Education Department as a consultant and coordinator. She is passionate about the work she does with teachers, students and parents to ensure student success.

Workshop session, A-17.

Title, Psychoeducational Assessment.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206A.

Description, At this workshop, parents will learn about the educational assessment carried out by a psychological professional (either within the TDSB or outside the TDSB), that examines the psychological aspects of learning such as intelligence, language and learning skills. This session will explain why it is done, what it means, how it can be used to direct learning and what the limitations are. A large percentage of the workshop will follow a question and answer format.

Presenter, Dr. Carolyn Lennox.

Chief of Psychology Services in TDSB West Region, Learning Centre 4. Email, Carolyn.Lennox@tdsb.on.ca

Carolyn is a Clinical and School Psychologist. She received her M.Phil. in Clinical Psychology at the University of London, England and completed her PhD. in Clinical-Developmental Psychology at York University. Past work experience includes Manager of Clinical Services at the Geneva Centre and school psychologist with the Peel District School Board. A past board member of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA), she is currently chair of the Liaison Committee between the Ministry of Education, Special Education Branch and the OPA as well as co-chair of a cross-sectoral group in Ontario concerning assessment and diagnosis of students with Learning Disabilities.

Workshop session, A-18.

Title, The Strategic Parent Experience.

Advisory committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 206B.

Description, This workshop will focus on three reasons your child’s world will be different and why it matters.

A brief glimpse into your child’s world in 2030 and how to prepare them to take advantage of

revolutionary opportunities.

The Secret 4 thinking model.

How to leverage digital outsourcing to enhance your child’s progress while lowering mental student stress.

Presenter, Dwayne Matthews.

Life and Education Strategist. Email, Dwayne@dwaynematthews.life.

Dwayne delivers presentations internationally on The Secret 4™ thinking framework and The Strategic Parent Experience™ digitally curated step-by-step guidebooks that help parents with strategic student success in school and life.

Previously, Matthews was the Canadian executive director of an intelligence and technology scouting firm with a focus on finding new technologies to help Fortune 500 companies forecast future opportunities.

Matthews was also the managing director of the Clean 15 Challenge, Canada’s largest technology challenge in 2009 and 2010, which partnered with NASA Techbriefs and Yet2 Ventures in 2011, where he was mentored directly by Ben duPont of the duPont family.

Before that, Matthews was an elementary teacher for seven years in Toronto and two years at one of the world’s best international schools in Lima, Peru where he did strategic planning, curriculum design and implementation.

Workshop session, A-19.

Title, Supporting Student Transitions: From Intermediate Grades to Secondary School.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206C.

Description, This workshop will provide information to parents/guardians about how to plan a successful transition to secondary school for students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We will examine the kinds of educational considerations involved in the transition of students with special education needs moving from moving from the elementary to the secondary school division (Grade 8 to 9). We will review the different kinds of ‘accommodations’ available in secondary schools and look at program implications for secondary pathways. Parents will receive a tip sheet to help in planning transitions to secondary settings.

Resources, TDSB Guidance website for parents,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/default.aspx?tabid=276](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/default.aspx?tabid=276)

TDSB High School website for parents,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool.aspx)

Presenter 1, Stephen Hepburn.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 3, TDSB. Email, stephen.hepburn@tdsb.on.ca

Stephen works to meet the needs of students in Learning Centre 3 schools and as a member of the leadership team overseeing TDSB Behaviour Programs. As a member of the TDSB Inner City Advisory Committee, he is a strong advocate for positive relationship building between schools and the families that they support.

Also presenting, Laurie Jantzi.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 3, TDSB. Email, laurie.jantzi@tdsb.on.ca

Laurie has a 17 year-old son with special needs. She is passionate about helping her son succeed at school and in life. Laurie has worked in the TDSB for 20 years as a teacher and Special Education Consultant and Coordinator. She enjoys helping parents, students, and school staff work together.

Also presenting, Crys Kartos.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 3, TDSB. Email, crys.kartos@tdsb.on.ca.

Crys works collaboratively with administrators, teachers, and support staff to ensure that their students’ needs are being met. Crys also provides consultative support to parents on special education topics and professional

development for teachers, especially in the use of computers and assistive technology with students.

Also presenting, Holly Sharpe.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 3, TDSB. Email, Holly.sharpe@tdsb.on.ca

Holly supports students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 by providing support to administrators, teachers and parents on Special Education topics. She is an avid user of technology and uses her expertise in technology to support students, teachers and families.

Workshop session, A-20.

Title, Supporting Students with Assistive Technology at School and at Home.

Advisory committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206D.

Description, Assistive Technology can provide students with the tools to independently complete homework and assignments. This workshop will review the board and Ministry licensed assistive technology software available in TDSB schools and for home use to support special education needs of students. The focus will be on assistive technology software that students can utilize to support their reading, writing, research, organization and study skills (e.g., Read and Write Gold, Clicker 6, Speech to Text options, Boardmaker).

Resources,

Assistive Technology,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/AssistiveTechnology.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/AssistiveTechnology.aspx)

Youtube Channel – Tech and Special Ed,

Website link, [www.youtube.com/user/TechandSpecialEd](http://www.youtube.com/user/TechandSpecialEd)

Presenter, Christine Harvey-Kerr.

Special Education Consultant Assistive Technology (Special Equipment Amount - SEA). Email, Christine.HarveyKerr@tdsb.on.ca.

Christine is a 19 year veteran teacher who has worked as a Special Education Consultant with the Special Education Amount (SEA) Assistive Technology Team for eight years. She is strongly committed to differentiated instruction through the use of assistive technology to meet the diverse learning needs of our students.

Also presenting, Waheeda Khan-Fitzpatrick.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 1, TDSB. Email, Waheeda.Khan-Fitzpatrick@tdsb.on.ca

Waheeda has a Masters in Special Education and has spent most of her 20 years with TDSB supporting students with special needs. In her current role as Special Education Consultant in TDSB West Region, she has observed how assistive technology can increase student achievement and well-being.

Also presenting, Marla Fine.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Marla.fine@tdsb.on.ca.

Marla has worked with students and teachers from K-12 in regular classes, Resource Program, Special Education classes, and in the school library. Using technology to support learning and enable students to express their ideas has been a source of excitement, challenge and, of course, occasional frustration.

Workshop session, A-21.

Title, Enhancing Equity Task Force: Looking for Bold New Steps to Maximize the Potential of Every Student.

Advisory committee, Enhancing Equity Task Force.

Room, Ballroom.

Description, Join this session to share your stories about equity and the ideas you have to overcome the challenges poverty and bias can pose for students and parents. The Task Force will be developing bold new ideas to create a school experience that supports every student to reach their maximum potential. Learn how you can contribute and get involved.

Presenter, Liz Rykert.

Facilitator. Email, liz@metastrategies.com

Liz Rykert is the President of Meta Strategies which she founded in 1997. It is a strategy group working in complex organizational change and technology. Liz has worked with the TDSB on developing Open Schools and is currently supporting the Enhancing Equity Task Force. Liz is a facilitator and loves working on big challenges.

Workshop Session, B-01.

Title, “2 Spiritedness.” Identity and History, Working with Parents to Create Safe Places in Schools.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200A.

Description, To create an opportunity for parents/educators to learn more about the origin of the term 2 spirits. We will discuss how schools can create safe spaces for students who self identify as 2 spirited students.

Presenter, Emile Kwandibens (EJ).

Parent/Professional, email, EmileJoseph.Kwandibens@tdsb.on.ca

Ej Kwandibens is a member of the loon clan and is of Ojibway descent originating from Whitesand First Nation community located 20+ hours north of Toronto. Currently he resides in Toronto.

He is a northern style traditional and grass dancer for approximately 35 years. He has designed and constructed Aboriginal traditional apparel for approximately 30+ years as a self taught Artist mentored by his mother Elsie Kwandibens and other northern woodland Ojibway elders. Ej Kwandibens has travelled across North America learning and attending traditional ceremonies since he was 8 years old. His traditional elders and mentors have provided him a strong foundation of his knowledge which has been influential in his personal and professional life.

Ej Kwandibens is an Aboriginal 2 Spirited custodial parent raising his 16 year old daughter since the age of 1 years.

He has attained 25+ years of social work experience working in all streams which include Education, Child Welfare, Social Services, Mental Health, Corrections and the Judicial System.

Ej also held the position of Board Chair for the 2 Spirits organization in Toronto for 5 years. He has coordinated small to large productions including the 2 Spirits Pride Toronto float for 5 years to coordinating and choreography for World Pride 2014 opening ceremonies.

As a Indigenous cultural educator for 10+ years, he has provided educational presentations to many TDSB schools and organizations throughout the GTA and the Province of Ontario.

Workshop Session, B-02.

Title, The Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200B.

Description, This workshop will share approaches, tools and resources which can assist parents and community leaders to support family and community health and wellness. First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples are very diverse with multiple identities, life circumstances, beliefs, traditions and practices. This workshop will explore the Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teachings (i.e., respect, love, humility, bravery, honesty, truth and wisdom).

The Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teachings are based on the foundation of a “good way of life”.

They are a reminder of how we should respect and take care of ourselves, each other and Mother Earth (e.g., the Environment). Participants of the workshop will have opportunities to explore how the fundamental teachings of the Seven Sacred Grandfathers/Grandmothers can be applied at home, school, work and the community.

Presenter, Clayton Shirt.

Parent/Tradtional Teacher. Email, clayshirt@gmail.com

Clayton Shirt is a Traditional Teacher. He is the Wolf Clan of saddle Lake Alberta, Treaty 6. Clayton had been working as a Traditional Teacher for more than 10+ ears in the Native and multi-cultural community in Canada.

He was taught in the old way, working for many years with the guidance of a number of Aniishnawbe Elders and other First Nation Elders in Canada and the USA, and was taught to do traditional ceremonies, teachings, circles, one to one work and to help all people to “walk in a good way” though life.

Workshop Session, B-03.

Title, Anxiety 101 – Is it time to worry?

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 200C.

Description, The purpose of this workshop is to provide parents and caregivers with an introductory understanding of the physical, social, emotional and cognitive signs of anxiety. Parents and caregivers will develop knowledge of anxiety indicators in children and adolescents. This will allow them to distinguish between developmentally appropriate levels of anxiety/worry versus anxiety where professional consultation may be needed. Parents and caregivers will be provided with strategies to help their children and adolescents cope with anxiety. Additionally, resources (information, referral sources and treatment options) will be provided for parents who are seeking additional support for their children and adolescents. Time at the end of the workshop will be provided for discussion and questions.

Presenter, Elizabeth Lynett, Ed.D., C. Psych.

Psychologist, TDSB. Email, elizabeth.lynett@tdsb.on.ca

Elizabeth is a psychologist with the TDSB. She has been supporting individuals in dealing with anxiety by collaborating with school support teams, families and other community mental health professionals.

Presenter, Vicky Timmermanis, Ph.D., C. Psych.

Psychologist, TDSB, Email, vicky.timmermanis@tdsb.on.ca

Vicky is a psychologist with the TDSB. She has supported children and families in coping with anxiety through schools, community mental health agencies and hospitals.

Workshop Session, B-04.

Title, Bibliotherapy: The Use of Books to Help Children and Youth Express Their Feelings and Cope With Real-Life Experiences.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201A.

Description, Bibliotherapy has been shown to be an effective way to help children and youth realize that they are not alone in their experiences; that they have the ability to find solutions to challenges; and that they are important, no matter what is happening in their lives. This workshop will highlight the benefits of bibliotherapy, drawing on the presenter’s many years of experience as a school social worker. Books on a range of topics will be featured to help parents begin a conversation with their child on an issue which may be impacting their lives. What to consider when choosing a book, suggestions for engaging a child in a discussion and identifying whether additional support would be beneficial will also be covered. The workshop will be followed by an interactive session which includes a book display, resource list and sharing ideas.

Presenter, Iolanda Scarcello MSW RSW.

Social Worker, TDSB. Email, iolanda.scarcello@tdsb.on.ca

Iolanda provides individual and group counseling to children and youth and enjoys working collaboratively with teachers and parents in supporting students’ social/emotional needs. Her current interests include introducing mindfulness practices in the classroom. Prior to joining the TDSB, Iolanda worked in community mental health and hospital settings and has served recently as a Field Educator for the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Workshop Session, B-05.

Title, Caught Between Cultures: Mental Health Challenges for Immigrant Families.

Title, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201B.

Description, Culture and social factors can shape the way we look at mental health and the services we access. This workshop will explore the obstacles and challenges that minority and immigrant families face, especially for parents who are raising youth who are ”caught between two cultures.” We will look how to better support the mental health challenges of minority youth who are trying to juggle the different cultural expectations of home and school.

Presenter, Amita Handa.

Student Equity Worker, TDSB, Email, amita.handa@tdsb.on.ca

Amita has her PhD in Sociology. She is the author “Of Silk Saris and Mini Skirts: South Asian Girls Walk the Tightrope of Culture which examines the how young teenage South Asian girls are often caught between the expectations of home and mainstream society. She has worked in the Equity Department at TDSB for the past nine years as Student Equity Program Advisor. She is also a certified yoga teacher and holistic nutritionist.

Workshop Session, B-06.

Title, LGBTQ-Positive Schools in the TDSB.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201C.

Description, How are LGBTQ students and families supported and celebrated in the TDSB? And what can we do as parents to help maintain a culture that upholds the dignity, worth and safety of all students, staff and members of our school communities? Join us to discuss how to support LGBTQ-inclusive schools and how we recognize and celebrate gender and sexual diversity in our TDSB communities. We’ll highlight relevant policy and legislation, active programs and initiatives, and advocacy tools for families.

Presenter, Ilana David.

Social Worker, Gender Based Violence Prevention Program, TDSB. Email, ilana.david@tdsb.on.ca

Ilana David is a social worker with the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office in the Toronto District School Board, providing a range of support and consultation services to schools and families. Ilana facilitates groups for parents/caregivers of trans\* and gender independent students; provides counselling services to students in the Triangle Program, Canada’s only LGBTQ alternative school; and advocates for safe and inclusive school climates across the TDSB.

Workshop Session, B-07.

Title, Managing Behaviour: Tuning In and Teaming Up with Your Child.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 202A.

Description, Most parents occasionally struggle with how to manage their children’s behaviour. This workshop will focus on how to help parents avoid power struggles, feel good about their parenting choices, and preserve their child’s self-esteem, by shifting their perspective. Parents will be encouraged to explore the root challenges that lead to children’s “misbehaviour.” Strategies to help parents and children prevent conflicts before they happen and solve problems together, as well as ways to build trust and repair fraught parent-child interactions, will be reviewed.

Finally, supporting children in strengthening their coping skills and developing greater flexibility will be highlighted.

Presenter, Trina Epstein, Psy.D., C.Psych.

Psychologist. Email, drtrinaepstein@gmail.com

Trina is a psychologist in private practice who works with children, adolescents and their parents, and consults to schools. She is the co-author of The Adventures of Stretch More: Pick-Your-Path Stories for Solving Problems Together.

Workshop Session, B-08.

Title, Parents as Partners Supporting Children’s Mental Health & Well-Being.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 202B.

Parents/caregivers play a key role in helping students be successful both in school and in life. This session will discuss the important role that parents/caregivers play in supporting their child/youth’s mental health and well-being. We will offer foundational knowledge about mental health and well-being, share resources, provide information and ideas about how you can be involved in supporting the development of mental health and well-being with your child both at home and school.

Presenter, Heather Johnson, MSW RSW.

Mental Health Lead, TDSB. Email, heather.johnson@tdsb.on.ca

As part of a provincial team supported by School Mental Health ASSIST – Ministry of Education, Heather is involved in developing, implementing and supporting the TDSB’s Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy. Heather is passionate about helping to raise awareness about the importance of creating welcoming, safe, inclusive schools which foster the well-being of all students. Heather’s social work experience includes working in schools, children’s mental health, child welfare and hospitals.

This will session will be co-facilitated by members of The Parents as Partners Supporting Mental Health & Well-Being Committee developed through the TDSB’s Mental Health & Well-Being Strategy.

Workshop Session, B-09.

Title, Effective Strategies for Parent and Community Engagement - Advisory Committee, Beyond the Bake Sale.

Advisory Committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 203A.

When parents are active partners in their child’s education, the achievement and well-being of that child will increase. What happens when parents decide to take it a step further by engaging the community as partners in their child’s education as well? This workshop will explore how parents can support the creation of an inclusive and positive school environment by engaging the community, truly making their school the Heart of the Community!

Presenter, Parents from Learning Centre 1.

Biographies of the presenters will be available during the workshop.

Workshop Session, B-10.

Title, A New Approach to Accessing.

Advisory Committee, Community Space in Your School.

Room, 203B.

Description, Open Schools Pilot.

Join this session to find out about a new way to access space in your community. Open Schools bring together community residents and school parents and staff to set priorities together and allocate space based on the priorities they set. At this session, you will learn what an open school is, how the process works to make decisions and what it could mean for your school.

Presenter, Liz Rykert.

Facilitator. Email, liz@metastrategies.com

Liz Rykert is the President of Meta Strategies which she founded in 1997. It is a strategy group working in complex organizational change and technology. Liz has worked with the TDSB on developing Open Schools and is currently supporting the Enhancing Equity Task Force. Liz is a facilitator and loves working on big challenges.

Workshop Session, B-11.

Title, A Workshop to Discuss School Councils: Problems and Solutions (High School & Middle School focused).

Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 204A.

Description, A facilitated workshop for all who have been involved in school councils at the Middle and High School levels, and who wish to exchange information and discuss what works and what doesn’t. This sharing will hopefully be a means not only of exchanging ideas, but of identifying others in the TDSB parent community who have had similar experiences, so that an ongoing exchange of ideas may arise. It is hoped that all those who attend this workshop will intend to participate in the sharing of experiences, and in the discussion of what works and what doesn’t. The discussion will not involve identification of individuals or schools. A thoughtful discussion, focusing on the best possible future for our school communities, will be energetically encouraged by the facilitators.

Presenter, James Rycman.

Former PIAC member. Email, james.rycman@gmail.com

During his time at PIAC he initiated, James hosted and presented at Parent Conferences in his Ward, and worked with principals to ensure that all schools in the ward had School Councils. He has also co-facilitated workshops at previous PIAC Parent Conferences on School Councils.

Presenter, Jess Hungate.

PIAC Representative, Ward 8. Email, jhungate@rogers.com

Jess Hungate is the PIAC Representative for Ward 8. He was on the School Council at John Ross Robertson, and has been a member of PIAC since 2014. Jess is a firm believer that sharing experiences among parents involved in school councils can be an important contributor to council success.

Workshop Session, B-12.

Title, Secondary and Post-Secondary Planning.

Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 204B.

Description, Careful planning will make the transition from high school to post-secondary options an exciting and fulfilling time for your child. This session will identify the steps for getting into college, university, apprenticeship, workplace and community living. You will also learn about costs and financial aid such as free tuition through new government programs. Included will be resources to help you and your children to plan and be well informed of your choices.

Resources, Website link, [www.aceofontario.ca](http://www.aceofontario.ca)

Presenter, Janice Chapelle-Traimer.

Community, Email, janice.chappell-traimer@rogers.com

Presenter, Emil Boychuk.

Community. Email, emil.boychuk@gmail.com

Emil is a retired guidance counsellor with over 27 years experience with the Toronto District School Board. His passion is career development and career education for youth.

Workshop Session, B-13.

Title, Advocacy and Inclusive Education — Making it Work.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 204C.

Description, This session will be presented through the lens of inclusive education, including topics such as a definition of inclusive education; operating from a place of value and the essentials needed to advocate on behalf of your child. Meeting tips and strategies will be shared. Particular attention will be given to the power of language, creating a vision and how to find/encourage support.

Resources, Avon Maitland DSB a student’s views

Website link, <http://yourschools.ca/stay-involved/inclusive-education-by-kaitlyn-shaw>.

Dr. Patrick Schwarz The Top Ten Questions Asked about Inclusive Education.

Website link, <http://mn.gov/mnddc/patrick_schwarz/index.html>

Inclusive Education Canada.

Website link, <http://inclusiveeducation.ca>

Inclusion: How to Know It When You See It.

Website link, <http://blog.brookespublishing.com/inclusion-how-to-know-it-when-you-see-it>

Presenter, Kim Southern-Paulsen.

Co-ordinator, Extend-A-Family and TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for Integration Action for Inclusion – Toronto. Email, ksp@extendafamily.ca

Kim supports children and youth with disabilities to develop meaningful relationships and participation in the natural community. Kim’s passion concerning education, advocacy and inclusion stems from shifts in her personal life, influenced by her work with Extend-A-Family, and life within the educational system.

Also presenting, Elizabeth Aiello.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 1, TDSB. Email, Elizabeth.aiello@tdsb.on.ca

In her present role, Elizabeth works collaboratively with administrators, teachers, and support staff to ensure that their students’ needs are being met. She also provides consultative support to parents on special education topics and professional development for teachers.

Workshop Session, B-14.

Title, Alternative Curriculum for Students with Developmental Disability.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205A.

Description, This session will focus on the five core areas of the Alternative Curriculum (Functional Academics, Communication Skills, Activities of Daily Living, Social Skills and Motor Skills) and how they are addressed in the IEP. Topics covered include how teachers assess students’ progress in the program as well as parent consultation regarding the IEP. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and/ or ask questions throughout the presentation.

Resources, TDSB Spec Ed Plan:

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/EarlyYears/docs/SpecialEducationPlan.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/EarlyYears/docs/SpecialEducationPlan.pdf)

The Communication Matrix:

Website link, [www.communicationmatrix.org](http://www.communicationmatrix.org)

Brigance Assessment:

Website link, [www.curriculumassociates.com/products/brigance-special-education.aspx](http://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/brigance-special-education.aspx)

Presenter, Thomas Widstrand.

Special Education Coordinator, Low Incidence Programs, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Thomas.Widstrand@tdsb.on.ca

Thomas’s areas of expertise include supporting students with Developmental and Physical Disabilities. Thomas has held a variety of teaching positions as well as working as a Special Education Consultant prior to his current role. Thomas is very passionate about teaching students who think and learn in different ways.

Also presenting, Pamela Speed.

Special Education Coordinator, Low Incidence Programs, Learning Centre 1, TDSB. Email, Pamela.speed@tdsb.on.ca

Pam’s areas of expertise include supporting students with Developmental and Physical Disabilities. Pam has held a variety of teaching and administrative positions, as well as working at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She brings a strong knowledge and background in acquired brain injury to her current role.

Workshop Session, B-15.

Title, Developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205B.

Description, This workshop will review parent involvement in the consultation process and development of the Individual Education Plan. It will include a review of the home-school partnership, the rights and responsibilities of all participants. It will also include practical advice about how to work collaboratively with the school in developing the IEP.

Resources,

Website link, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/individu.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/individu.html)

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/IEP.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/IEP.aspx)

Presenter, Lori Moore.

Supervising Principal of Special Education, Learning Centres 2 and 3, TDSB. Email, Lori.moore@tdsb.on.ca

Lori has over 20 years of experience as an educator in both elementary and secondary schools. In her current role she heads up the Special Education leadership team serving two Learning Centres in the Toronto District School Board.

Also presenting, David Rankin.

Special Education Co-ordinator for Low Incidence Programs, Learning Centre 2, TDSB. Email, David.rankin@tdsb.on.ca

David has over 20 years of experience in both regular and special education in the elementary and secondary panels.

In his present role he provides special education leadership in Learning Centre 2 schools and low incidence programs supporting students with Developmental and Physical Disabilities.

Workshop Session, B-16.

Title, Parent Participation in the Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Process.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205C.

Description, The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) is part of a process that brings together teachers, school administration and parents/guardians, often with a variety of professionals, to determine if a child can be designated with a learning exceptionality according to the Ministry of Education`s classification system and to recommend a placement most suitable to address student strengths and needs. The purpose is to ensure students with special education needs receive the available supports and services they require to be successful in school. This workshop will include a review of the IPRC process and provide practical information to facilitate parent understanding, input and participation at an IPRC.

Resources, IPRC brochure: Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationPlan.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationPlan.aspx)

Presenter, Maria LoBianco.

Supervising Principal for Special Education, Learning Centres 1 and 4, TDSB. Email, Maria.lobianco@tdsb.on.ca

With over 22 years of experience in the teaching profession, Maria has taught many grades from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Much of Maria’s teaching and administrative experience has involved serving students with special education needs.

Also presenting, Julia Carter.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 2, TDSB. Email, Julia.carter@tdsb.on.ca

A 23 year veteran, Julia is passionate about teaching and learning. Having a daughter with special needs, she is aware of the challenges faced by parents as they balance life’s daily demands with the needs of their child(ren), and brings that experience to bear in her role as consultant.

Workshop Session, B-17.

Title, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) -- Networking and Discussion.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206A.

Description, Led by a group of presenters including staff from Surrey Place School Support Program (SSP), this workshop will provide an opportunity for parents to broaden their understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Parents will be able to:

* Ask questions about the exceptionality
* Gather tips about successful strategies for supporting the child
* Make connections with and learn from support organizations, TDSB staff and each other

Resources, Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter). Website link, [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

Surrey Place Centre. Website link, [www.surreyplace.on.ca](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca)

Presenter, Lydia Tisma.

Special Education Consultant, Autism Services, TDSB. Email, Lydia.tisma@tdsb.on.ca

In this role, Lydia supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school. Since 2003, Lydia has been a contract lecturer with Ryerson University, teaching the Assessment for Programming course.

Also presenting, Sara Yelland.

Special Education Consultant with TDSB Autism Services. Email, Sara.yelland@tdsb.on.ca

Sara has a background in teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and students with Developmental Disabilities. In her current role, she supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school.

Also presenting, Lisa Kness.

Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for Autism Ontario – Toronto. Email, knesslisa@gmail.com

Lisa, the mother of a child with Autism, has been active in advocacy for many years. A dedicated Autism Ontario Toronto Chapter member and part of the CLC this year, she is passionate about inclusion and raising awareness about the issues faced by children on the Spectrum, their families and communities.

Also presenting, Gillian Marshall.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Gillian.marshall@tdsb.on.ca.

Gillian has been working in Special Education for 28 years as a teacher, consultant and a coordinator. She has supported students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 across the Greater Toronto Area. Her current role supports school administrators, teachers and parents with the various aspects of special education programming.

Also presenting, Laurie Jantzi.

Special Education Coordinator, Learning Centre 3, TDSB. Email, laurie.jantzi@tdsb.on.ca.

Laurie has a 17 year-old son with special needs. She is passionate about helping her son succeed at school and in life. Laurie has worked in the TDSB for 20 years as a teacher and Special Education Consultant and Coordinator.

She enjoys helping parents, students, and school staff work together.

Workshop session, B-18.

Title, Paving the Road to Success for Children wih Hearing Loss.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206B.

Description, This panel discussion will feature parents of children with hearing loss, current and/or former students and members of the Special Education Hearing Department. Panel members will address questions from workshop attendees and share the knowledge they have gained on their own “travels.” Topics of discussion will include self-advocacy, developing resiliency and personal experiences.

To help the panelists best prepare to provide you with the information you would like, please send your questions by March 24, 2017 to Rhonda.cook@tdsb.on.ca

Resources. Website link, [www.voicefordeafkids.com](http://www.voicefordeafkids.com), [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

Website link, <http://silentvoice.ca>

Website link, [www2.bobrumball.org/content/3/69/Rumball+Family+Resource+CentreCanadian Hearing Society](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5C223651%5CDesktop%5CWord%20Access%5Cwww2.bobrumball.org%5Ccontent%5C3%5C69%5CRumball%2BFamily%2BResource%2BCentreCanadian%20Hearing%20Society)

Website link, www.chs.ca; [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)

Presenters, Tim Myrden.

Coordinator, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, TDSB. Email, Tim.myrden@tdsb.on.ca

Tim has worked for the Toronto District School Board for 28 years. To his current role he has brought broad experience as a Teacher of the Deaf, Itinerant Hearing Department Coordinator and Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Also presenting, Rhonda Cook.

Central Itinerant Teacher for Special Education – Hearing. Email, Rhonda.cook@tdsb.on.ca

Rhonda has been a teacher in TDSB programs for students who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing for over 20 years.

She is a strong supporter of self-advocacy in students.

Also presenting, Rosary Kwak.

Parent and Alternate Representative for VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, on the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee. Email, rosaryk@gmail.com.

Rosary is a parent of three young children, all with varying degrees of hearing loss. She has a strong interest in building a network of parents of children with hearing loss in the TDSB to share experiences, resources and words of wisdom.

Also presenting, Debbie Ross.

TDSB Audiologist. Email, Debbie.ross@tdsb.on.ca

Debbie has been an audiologist in fields of pediatrics and education for over 30 years. She has been with the TDSB since 2001 and is the board expert on hearing assistive technologies.

Workshop Session, B-19.

Title, Special Education in Secondary School – Discussion and Q & A.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206C.

Description, Led by a group of presenters in a question and answer format, this workshop will provide an opportunity for parents to broaden their understanding of Special Education in the secondary school setting.

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/Guidance.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/Guidance.aspx)

Presenters, Geetu Puri.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 2, TDSB. Email, Geetu.puri@tdsb.on.ca

Geetu’s career includes teaching adults at City Adult Learning Centre and teaching Science, Chemistry, ESL and Special Education to students in Grades 9 to 12. Before becoming a system consultant, she was Assistant Curriculum Leader in Special Education at both North Albion and George S Henry Collegiates. As a Special Education Consultant she provides consultative support to school administrators, staff and families to address special education needs.

Also presenting, Dawn Gardner.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 2, TDSB. Email, Dawn.gardner@tdsb,.on.ca

Dawn’s career includes experiences in a variety of positions within TDSB. Earlier in her career, she worked as an Educational Assistant for Adventure Place. From there she taught students from Grade 2 to 8 while honing her leadership skills as a Chairperson and MART. Dawn spent the past twelve years teaching students with learning challenges. Her path has led her to her current position as Special Education Consultant, where she is able to share best practices with her schools.

Workshop Session, B-20.

Title, What You Need to Know When Advocating for your Child with ADHD.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 206D.

Description, Understanding your province’s Special Education system and how ADHD is recognized within this system is paramount when advocating for your child. This question and answer session will cover questions on the Ontario Special Education system, exceptionality categories and the recent Ministry of Education Memorandum, fear of labeling, the psycho-educational testing process and third party reports, navigating the IPRC process, and the parent’s role in understanding and contributing to an IEP.

Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC). Website link, [www.caddac.ca](http://www.caddac.ca)

Presenters, Heidi Bernhardt.

Executive Director, Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC). Email, Heidi.bernhardt@caddac.ca

Heidi Bernhardt, RN, is the President of the Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada, and past Executive Director of CADDRA and the mother of three grown sons with ADHD. Over the past 23 years, Heidi has helped raise awareness and understanding of ADHD among parents, educators, medical professionals, government officials and the public through presentations, conferences, media interviews, and advocacy work.

Also presenting, Cheryl Paige.

Past TDSB Principal and CADDAC Board Member

Cheryl is personally and professionally familiar with ADHD and the effects it has on children’s achievement and success in school. Cheryl a retired TDSB principal has been a Special Education consultant, has chaired IPRCs and has been an advocate for childhood ADHD through presentations to educators and parents about this disability.

Also presenting, Vicki Adelson.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 4, TDSB. Email, Vicki.adelson@tdsb.on.ca

Vicki holds a Master of Education from OISE. Her particular interests include the use of assistive technology, evidence-based literacy interventions, and professional learning for teachers.

Workshop Session, B-21.

Title, Let’s Talk About Child Care in Schools for 4 to 12 year old Children.

Advisory Committee, Early Years Advisory Committee.

Room, Ballroom.

Description, This session will focus on answering commonly asked questions by parents/guardians about the changes in options emerging for child care in schools. This session will touch on topics such as subsidies, access, wait lists and quality.

Presenters, Colleen Russell-Rawlins.

Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 3, Early Years. Email, Colleen.Russell-Rawlins@tdsb.on.ca

Also presenting, Child Care Partners.

Workshop Session, C-01.

Title, “2 Spiritedness”: Identity and History, Working with Parents to Create Safe Places in Schools.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200A.

Description, To create an opportunity for parents/educators to learn more about the origin of the term 2 spirits. We will discuss how schools can create safe spaces for students who self identify as 2 spirited students.

Presenter, Emile Kwandibens (EJ).

Parent/Professional. Email, EmileJoseph.Kwandibens@tdsb.on.ca

Ej Kwandibens is a member of the loon clan and is of Ojibway descent originating from Whites and First Nation community located 20+ hours north of Toronto. Currently he resides in Toronto. He is a northern style traditional and grass dancer for approximately 35 years. He has designed and constructed Aboriginal traditional apparel for approximately 30+ years as a self taught Artist mentored by his mother Elsie Kwandibens and other northern woodland Ojibway elders. Ej Kwandibens has travelled across North America learning and attending traditional ceremonies since he was 8 years old. His traditional elders and mentors have provided him a strong foundation of his knowledge which has been influential in his personal and professional life.

Ej Kwandibens is an Aboriginal 2 Spirited custodial parent raising his 16 year old daughter since the age of 1 years. He has attained 25+ years of social work experience working in all streams which include Education, Child Welfare, Social Services, Mental Health, Corrections and the Judicial System. Ej also held the position of Board Chair for the 2 Spirits organization in Toronto for 5 years. He has coordinated small to large productions including the 2 Spirits Pride Toronto float for 5 years to coordinating and choreography for World Pride 2014 opening ceremonies. As a Indigenous cultural educator for 10+ years, he has provided educational presentations to many TDSB schools and organizations throughout the GTA and the Province of Ontario.

Workshop Session, C-02.

Title,The Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings.

Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Room, 200B.

Description, This workshop will share approaches, tools, and resource which can assist parents and community leaders to support family and community health and wellness. First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples are very diverse with multiple identities, life circumstances, beliefs, traditions and practices. This workshop will explore the Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teaching (i.e., respect, love, humility, bravery, honesty, truth and wisdom).

The Seven Sacred Grandfather/Grandmother teachings are based on the foundation of a “good way of life.” They are a reminder of how we should respect and take care of ourselves, each other and Mother Earth (e.g., the Environment). Participants of the workshop will have the opportunities to explore how the fundamental teachings of the Seven Sacred Grandfathers/Grandmothers can be applied at home, school, work and community.

Presenter, Clayton Shirt.

Parent/Traditional Teacher. Email, clayshirt@gmail.com

Clayton Shirt is a Traditional Teacher. He is the Wolf Clan of saddle Lake Alberta, Treaty 6. Clayton had been working as a Traditional Teacher for more than 10+ years in the Native and multi-cultural community in Canada.

He was taught in the old way, working for many years with the guidance of a number of Aniishnawbe Elders and other First Nation Elders in Canada and the USA, and was taught to do traditional ceremonies, teachings, circles, one to one work and to help all people to “walk in a good way” though life.

Workshop Session, C-03.

Title, EcoSchools: Supporting Healthy, Active, Safe and Sustainable School Communities.

Advisory Committee, Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC).

Room, 200C.

This workshop will introduce the TDSB’s EcoSchools program and provide participants with an opportunity to explore the ways in which active, safe, and sustainable transportation (ASST) can be promoted within a school setting. This interactive workshop will explore ASST best practices and describe some of the resources and supports available to schools through the EcoSchools program.

Resources,

Website link, [www.ecoschools.ca](http://www.ecoschools.ca)

Presenter, Cynthia Chan.

EcoSchools Specialist with the TDSB’s Sustainability Office. Email, Cynthia.Chan@tdsb.on.ca

Cynthia supports the EcoSchools program through organizing student leadership conferences, professional development workshops and connecting schools with environmental education resources.

Workshop Session, C-04.

Title, Connecting with Your Child: Having conversations about alcohol and other drugs.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201A.

This workshop is best intended for parents/caregivers of children 10 -14 and will provide you with knowledge and parenting strategies to have effective conversations with your child about alcohol and other drugs. In this interactive workshop topics covered will also include:

* Normal developmental changes during the teenage years
* Facts and myths about substances including cannabis
* Resources to support parents/caregivers

Presenter, Voula Varasamidou. Public Health Nurse with Toronto Public Health.

Voula Varasamidou is Public Health Nurse at Toronto Public Health who works with School Communities to promote health and well-being including substance misuse prevention. Voula has extensive experience working with parents/caregivers to support and enhance healthy child and adolescent growth and development.

Workshop Session, C-05.

Title, Finding Calm with Less Stress. Parenting.

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201B.

This workshop will be for parents of children and youth of all ages. Your own self-discovery will explore ways to recognize, reduce and manage stress. This interactive session will provide practical strategies that you can take into your everyday life for yourselves and with your children.

Presenter, Anne Murray.

Lead Trainer for the Psychology Foundation of Canada. Email, annemurray@psychologyfoundation.org

Anne works with families, educators and youth, coaching and facilitating ways to recognize, reduce and develop strategies for managing the stressors in their lives. She has been instrumental since 1999 in the development of the Kids Have Stress Too! Program initiated by the Psychology Foundation of Canada and is the co-author of a resource guide used for the expansion of the program to the Child Care environment. Anne is currently the Lead Trainer for the Psychology Foundation of Canada providing training, program development and building partnerships, with a focus to reduce stress in our children and youth. Her learning has been enhanced with parenting three children.

Workshop Session, C-06.

Title, Is Social Media & Technology Changing the Way We Think and Act?

Advisory Committee, Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 201C.

This session will explore how social media and newer technologies may be changing the way we think, our attitudes, and how we act. We will discuss these effects along with multi-tasking in our ever-connected world, and some strategies we can use as parents to counteract some of the negative effects of social media and newer technologies.

Presenter, Saleem Haniff, MSW, RSW.

Mental Health Lead, TDSB Email, saleem.haniff@tdsb.on.ca

Saleem is a Mental Health Lead at the Toronto District School Board with a mandate to support and enhance the mental health and well-being of all students. In his work with well-being, Saleem has developed an interest in the intersection of equity, youth engagement, and technology in relation to student well-being. He has a professional commitment to work with children, youth and their allies to help them live well on their way to reaching their personal best. Saleem finds inspiration from his wife and mother’s positive mentality, and their ability to find strength in difficult times; and from his father, who says: “Knowledge isn’t power, until you act on what you know.”

- Mohamad Haniff

Workshop Session, C-07.

Title, Mindful Parenting and Resilient Children/Youth.

Mental Health and Well-being Parent Partnership Committee.

Room, 202A.

This experiential workshop will provide parents with practical skills and knowledge about mindfulness: what it is, what are the benefits to both parents and children and how it can be practiced. It will deliver practical tips on practicing mindful awareness within family dynamics. The session will examine aspects of mindfulness specifically related to parenting and education:

* how parents can support their children through mindful parenting.
* how mindfulness can support well-being for families.

Presenter, Heidi Bornstein.

Director of Mindfulness Everyday. Email, Heidi@mindfulnesseveryday.com

Heidi Bornstein is the co-founder and executive director for Mindfulness Everyday, a Canadian registered charity that has been delivering mindfulness programs in the community since 2010, to students, parents, and educators.

Heidi is an MBSR (Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction) teacher, a Hatha yoga and meditation teacher. She is the co-creator of The Mindful Edge™ – Stress Reduction and Life Strategies for Teens. Heidi is a certified facilitator for SMART: smartEducation — Stress Management and Resiliency Techniques for Educators. Heidi has been teaching yoga and meditation in Toronto since 2002 and continues to support yoga, meditation, and mindfulness programs for children, youth, teens, and adults.

Workshop Session, C-08.

Title, How School Councils Can Support Student Achievement.

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 202B.

Description, School Councils were established to support student achievement. What does that mean and how do Councils effectively engage parents in learning? This interactive workshop will take participants from the research to the reality of family engagement in our schools. Learn how to provide families with the support and tools they need to engage in their children’s learning, while building meaningful partnerships with your school staff.

Presenter, Nancy Sands.

Principal, With Equal Step. Email withequalstep@gmail.com

Nancy Angevine-Sands (OCT) is a family engagement specialist, facilitating solutions for educators, Councils and PICs looking to build meaningful home-school partnerships. Her extensive training includes the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Workshop Session, C-09.

Title, School Council 101 Workshop.

Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Room, 203A.

This workshop will explore the role of school councils as an advisory body to the Principal and to the Board.

Participants will walk out with a broad understanding of school councils purpose, membership, elections, meetings, council committees, creating by-laws, budget and much more.

Presenter, Mirian Turcios.

Parent, PIAC Alternate for Ward 6. Email, mirian.y.turcios@gmail.com

Mirian Turcios is a Member of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and School Council Member.

She supports initiatives aimed at promoting parent engagement and education through planning of conferences, events, school council presentations, and enjoys providing parents with resources at schools and community spaces.

Workshop Session, C-10.

Title, Supporting Student Transitions: From Secondary School to Post-Secondary Education.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 203B.

Description, This workshop provides an overview of the transition for children with special education needs currently enrolled in a secondary school to a post-secondary environment. The session will include preparing and planning for post-secondary destinations. Graduation requirements will be reviewed for students moving to either a college or university and the necessary skills required to be successful at the post-secondary level. This workshop applies to those students qualified to apply to both/either a university or a college program and who will require formal assistance for their special needs. Parents will receive a tip sheet and resources to assist with the post-secondary transition.

Resources,

Website link, [www.yorku.ca/cds/lds](http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds)

Asperger’s/ASD Programs available through York U

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/choices](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/choices)

3 Quick Resource Guides for students with Disabilities (for Ontario Universities, Colleges, and Resources Guide)

Website link, [www.transitionresourceguide.ca](http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca)

Patricia O. Quinn, M.D. and Theresa E. Laurie Maitland, PhD.; On your Own – A college Readiness Guide for teens with ADHD/LD, Magination Press, American Psychological Association, Washington DC, 2011.

Lauren Kenworthy et al.- Solving Executive Function Challenges, Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, London, and Sydney, 2014

Presenter, Wendy Roberts.

Regional Vice Principal for Special Education, Learning Centre 4, TDSB Email, Wendy.roberts@tdsb.on.ca

Wendy supports the Supervising Principal for Special Education in TDSB Learning Centres 1 and 4, in the deployment and management of special education staff and resources and in providing leadership to the TDSB West Region team of Special Education Coordinators and Consultants. Her extensive secondary background makes her a valuable resource to the team and to secondary school administration and staff.

Workshop Session, C-11.

Title, Keeping It All Together: A Tool to Support Transitioning Students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder from Home to School.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 204A.

Description, Registering your child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in school can often feel overwhelming and confusing. Presenters, including staff from Surrey Place School Support Program, will provide a tool that can help parents prepare their children for this transition, as well as organize the information that is important to share with their child’s teaching team. Each participant will receive Keeping It All Together, a binder that can be personalized for their child as they move through the school system, building a strong partnership between home and school.

Presenters, Lydia Tisma.

Special Education Consultant, Autism Services, TDSB Email, Lydia.tisma@tdsb.on.ca

In this role, Lydia supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school. Since 2003, Lydia has been a contract lecturer with Ryerson University, teaching the Assessment for Programming course.

Also presenting, Sara Yelland.

Special Education Consultant, Autism Services, TDSB Email, Sara.yelland@tdsb.on.ca

Sara has a background in teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and students with Developmental Disabilities. In her current role, she supports students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder as they transition from Intensive Behaviour Intervention settings to school.

Workshop Session, C-12.

Title, Parent Preparation for Post-21 Transition from School for Children with Developmental Special Education Needs.

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 204B.

Description, This workshop looks at transition planning for children with developmental special education needs moving from school to community environments and provides an overview of what parents can do to assist in their child’s post-21 transition. Discussion will include planning for the transition and connecting with agencies.

Resources,

Developmental Services Ontario Toronto Region

Website link, [www.dsotoronto.ca](http://www.dsotoronto.ca)

Youth Employment Partnership (YEP ) City of Toronto

Website link, [www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=0fc31d3080012410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5C223651%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CTemp1_PAP-Section%20C%20word%20files.zip%5Cwww2.bobrumball.org%5Ccontent%5C3%5C69%5CRumball%2BFamily%2BResource%2BCentreCanadian%20Hearing%20Society)

ConnectABILITY

Website link, [www.connectability.ca](http://www.connectability.ca)

Presenters, Aline Chan.

Special Education Advisory Committee representative for TDSB’s North East Community

Email, Alinechan.seac@gmail.com

Aline is a Certified Human Resources professional with a B.A. in Economics and Commerce from University of Toronto. Post diploma qualifications include Career and Work Counselling and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator & Personality Dimensions Assessments Certification. Her more than 10 years of experience in job development with Employment Ontario programs includes career counseling and job coaching/ intervention with OW/ODSP.

Also presenting, Pamela Speed.

Special Education Coordinator, Low Incidence Program, Learning Centre 1, TDSB

Email, Pamela.speed@tdsb.on.ca.

Pam’s areas of expertise include supporting students with Developmental and Physical Disabilities. Pam has held a variety of teaching and administrative positions, as well as working at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She brings a strong knowledge and background in acquired brain injury to her current role.

Workshop Session, C-13.

Title, Intellectual Giftedness — Networking and Discussion.
Advisory Committee, Special Education. Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 204C.

Description, Led by a group of presenters, this workshop will provide an opportunity for parents to broaden their understanding of Intellectual Giftedness. Parents will be able to:

* Ask questions about the exceptionality
* Gather tips about successful strategies for supporting the child
* Make connections with and learn from support organizations, TDSB staff and each other

Resources,

Association for Bright Children

Website link, [www.abcontario.ca](http://www.abcontario.ca)

Toronto District School Board web site

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation.aspx)

Presenters, Lori Moore.

Supervising Principal of Special Education, Learning Centres 2 and 3, TDSB Email, Lori.moore@tdsb.on.ca

Lori has over 20 years of experience as an educator in both elementary and secondary schools. In her current role she heads up the Special Education leadership team serving two Learning Centres in the Toronto District School Board.

Also presenting, Trish Johnson.

Special Education Consultant, Learning Centre 2, TDSB Email, Trish.Johnson@tdsb.on.ca

Trish has over 15 years of experience as an educator in both regular and special education in the elementary and secondary panels. In her present role Trish works collaboratively with administrators, teachers, and support staff to ensure that their students’ needs are being met. She also provides consultative support to parents on special education topics and professional development for teachers.

Also presenting, Diana Avon.

TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee Representative for Association for Bright Children of

Ontario, Toronto Chapter (ABC) Email, avonsmit@sympatico.ca

Diana has been a member of ABC since 2005 and joined the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee as ABC representative in 2008. Not only does she have a desire to advance the cause of gifted education – she cares deeply about the needs of all exceptionalities.

Workshop Session, C-14.

Title, Learning Disabilities — Networking and Discussion

Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205A.

Description, Led by a group of presenters, this workshop will provide an opportunity for parents to broaden their understanding of Learning Disabilities (LD). Parents will be able to:

* Ask questions about the exceptionality
* Gather tips about successful strategies for supporting the child
* Make connections with and learn from support organizations, TDSB staff and each other

Resources,

Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada

Website link: [www.caddac.ca](http://www.caddac.ca)

Learning Disabilities Association Toronto District

Website link: [www.ldatd.on.ca](http://www.ldatd.on.ca)

Presenters, Cathy Macina-Ciardullo.

Vice Principal - Gateway Public School; past TDSB Special Education Coordinator

Email, Cathy.macina-ciardullo@tdsb.on.ca

Cathy has a strong history of providing system leadership in special education. She brings to her current role her many years of experience assisting school staff and families with program and transition planning for children with exceptional needs, especially for children with Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Also presenting, Vicki Adelson.

Special Education Consultant Learning Centre 4, TDSB Email, Vicki.adelson@tdsb.on.ca

Vicki holds a Master of Education from OISE. Her particular interests include the use of assistive technology, evidence-based literacy interventions, and professional learning for teachers.

Also Presenting, Heidi Bernhardt.

Executive Director, Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC) – Email, Heidi.bernhardt@caddac.ca

Heidi Bernhardt, RN, is the President of the Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada, and past Executive Director of CADDRA and the mother of three grown sons with ADHD. Over the past 23 years, Heidi has helped raise awareness and understanding of ADHD among parents, educators, medical professionals, government officials and the public through presentations, conferences, media interviews, and advocacy work.

Workshop Session, C-15.

Title, Perspectives in Inclusion.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Room, 205B.

Description, Join in a conversation about the different perspectives to be considered. Hear the direction of the Toronto District School Board, the recommendations of the Special Education Advisory Committee, and some definitions of inclusion. Follow that with a conversation about what you understand inclusion to be, the challenges and strategies you feel should be considered. Finish off with a collective understanding of the commitment required to join together to assist our children, and students be successful.

Resources,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/VisionforLearning.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/VisionforLearning.aspx)

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/Research/ACaseforInclusiveEducation.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/Research/ACaseforInclusiveEducation.pdf)

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/Inclusion.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/Inclusion.aspx)

TDSB pamplets,

Inclusion - One Size Does Not Fit All

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/Inclusion.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SpecialEducation/Inclusion.aspx)

Equity and Inclusive Education

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/elementaryschool/theclassroom/equityinclusion.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/elementaryschool/theclassroom/equityinclusion.aspx)

Guidelines and Policies,

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/EquityInclusion/GuidelinesPolicies.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/EquityInclusion/GuidelinesPolicies.aspx)

Inclusion and Special Education - Integrated Equity Framework Action Plan

Website link, [www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Equity/InclusionandSpecialEducation.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Equity/InclusionandSpecialEducation.aspx)

Inclusion: Creating School and Classroom Communities Where Everyone Belongs.

Research, Tips, and Tools for Educators and Administrators (.pdf from TDSB website)

Presenters, Paula Boutis.

SEAC Representative for the South East TDSB Community. Email, pboutis.seac@gmail.com

Paula Boutis is the TDSB SEAC representative for the South West quadrant. She is the parent of a child with special education needs and is a strong advocate for inclusion in education and the community, as an essential factor in developing a positive society.

Also presenting, Maria LoBianco.

Supervising Principal for Special Education, Learning Centres 1 and 4, TDSB. Email, Maria.lobianco@tdsb.on.ca

With over 22 years of experience in the teaching profession, Maria has taught many grades from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Much of Maria’s teaching and administrative experience has involved serving students with special education needs.

Workshop Session, C-16.

Title, Engaging Parents of Children with Disabilities While Respecting Cultural Differences.

Advisory Committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 205C.

Description, Parenting is hard work! It’s just as hard when you have children with disabilities. It gets harder when you are faced with cultural differences. Let’s laugh, talk and learn together about what we can do and, who can support us, while learning about our different cultures. Let’s release it all by having a good laugh at the end of the day.

Great resources will be provided on the day of.

Workshop Session, C-17.

Room, 206A.

Title, Growth Mindset: How this Builds Successful Resilient Children.

Advisory Committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Description, Parents will learn how to improve their children’s chances of success through looking at the different mind sets and how they can hinder or enhance their children’s ability to optimize their success and strategies on how to acknowledge and respond to failures as “learning moments,” with positive frameworks which lead to children developing resiliency in various challenges in life.

Resources, A handout titled, Ten Ideas for Parents Who Want to Raise a Happily Productive Child.

Carol Dweck – A Study on Praise and Mindsets. Website link, <https://youtu.be/NWv1VdDeoRY>

Website link, <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept10/vol68/num01/Even-Geniuses-Work-Hard.aspx>

Website link, <http://reachout.com/>

Website link, <http://beyondintelligence.net/>

Presenters, Laurie Poirier (Parent). Email, lauriepoirier@hotmail.com

 Laurie is a mother of a 14 year old boy who has been dealing with ADHD. She is a School Council Chair and on the LC 2 Parent Academy Planning Committee. In addition Laurie is a PIAC Alternative Representative Ward 20. Laurie also runs a small crafting company and teaches crafting classes. She is very involved in volunteering and being a positive leader and advocator in the schools and community.

Also presenting, Laura Hammond (Parent).

Laura is a founding member of Birchmount Community Action Council where she inspires and leads other residents to participate in numerous community initiatives. She represents her community on Toronto Community Housing Corporation’s platforms and is currently working to promote community gardening and outdoor activities for children. She is committed in building vibrant communities and healthy relationships.

In her current position Laura works to advocate for vulnerable youth in her community. Laura draws strength from raising her four children with her husband.

Workshop Session, C-18.

Title, Working Together to Positively Enhance the Climate of our Schools.

Advisory Committee, Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC).

Room, 206B.

Description, Supporting students’ academic and social emotional needs is a partnership between parents and the TDSB. So it’s important that we develop and maintain healthy relationships in order to continue, learning together and sharing information while actively creating a school where parents feel welcome.

Great resources will be provided on the day of.

Workshop Session, C-19.

Title, Supporting All Learners in French as a Second Language Programs.

Advisory Committee, French As a Second Language Committee.

Room, 206C.

Description, We believe that all kinds of learners can be successful in Core French, Extended French and French Immersion programs. This session will provide parents with information about the possibilities for supporting students with a wide range of learning needs within FSL programs.

Resources,

Website link, [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/includingFLS2015.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/includingFLS2015.pdf)

Presenter, Kirsten Johnston.

Program Coordinator for French as a Second Language, TDSB. Email, kirsten.johnston@tdsb.on.ca