

# PIAC POST

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOL 20-21 | ISSUE 3

## #ENGAGEMENT



### PARENT ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Studies show that student achievement and wellbeing improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

Try incorporating some of these ideas into your School Council planning, to develop deeper parent/family engagement. Get creative with Social Media and your Zoom account. And don't forget about your virtual families.

- Invite a teacher to speak at your School Council meeting about education initiatives being used in the classroom
- Invite your school Social Worker to speak about the Mental Health issues most commonly faced at your school
- Host an online family Mindfulness session
- Host a Virtual Math Night for families
- Host an online Story-Telling event for families
- Ask the Principal to explain the school budget
- Invite parents to a School Improvement Plan (SIP) session
- Host a virtual family nutrition event
- Invite your Guidance Counsellor to give a parent presentation on high school course selection
- Host a discussion session for your virtual families
- Organize a virtual family Scavenger Hunt



### PIAC ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

Ready. Set. Engage!  
Navigating the School Year Together

Saturday November 21 &  
Sunday November 22

PIAC invites all parents and caregivers to take part in our 14th annual parent conference in partnership with the TDSB.

Join us in our first-ever virtual conference for two days of workshops for parents and School Councils. Connect with others from across TDSB as we adapt to a new educational landscape and school year unlike any we have experienced before.

Workshop info & Registration:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/PIAC-Conference>

**Looking for Mental Health & Well-Being Resources?**

<http://bit.ly/2JmFhos>

## PRO (PARENT REACHING OUT) GRANTS - PROGRAM PRIORITIES FUNDING (PPF)

The Ministry of Education Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO) are now distributed directly to school boards.

- The Ministry of Education has informed the TDSB that it will be receiving funding under the 2020-2021 Priorities and Partnerships Fund for the PRO Grant. The PRO Grant program provides funding to district school boards and school authorities to lead projects with a focus on the identification and removal of barriers that prevent parents and families from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning.
- TDSB was allocated \$131, 563.00 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences. All funds must be spent and reported to the Ministry by August 21, 2021.
- The board is consulting with PIAC, Superintendents, and Trustees to identify initiatives that fall within the scope of the funding.

### Transitions to High School



TDSB schools will host virtual open houses and information sessions between November and January. Learn about the incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. Please note that some schools are hosting "live" virtual sessions and some have pre-recorded information sessions.

Session dates listed on this TDSB page: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/openhouses>

Also check out "[beyond 8](#)" [Choices for 9: An Interactive Guide for Students, Parents & Guardians](#)

### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**School Council Elections for 2020/21 should have taken place by the first week of November.**

If your school hasn't yet held a School Council election or a meeting this year, we can help.

Please contact **PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee)** at [info@torontopiac.com](mailto:info@torontopiac.com)

or the **PCEO (Parent & Community Engagement Office)** at [michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca)  
416-397-3528



### BECOME A PIAC VOLUNTEER!

**Do you have passion for supporting parents as partners in education?**

The following vacancies are available on PIAC:

- Ward 1 (Trustee Gill) - 1 position
- Ward 7 (Trustee Pilkey) - 1 position
- Ward 10 (Trustee Moise) - 1 position
- Ward 12 (Trustee Brown) - 1 position
- Ward 21 (Trustee Rajakulasingham) - 2 position

**Ward elections will be held virtually.**

Contact your Trustee or [info@torontopiac.com](mailto:info@torontopiac.com)

### CONTACT US

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**PIAC**  
Toronto  
District  
School  
Board  
Parent Involvement Advisory Committee