

Northern Secondary School

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The Pride



The Spirit

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Special Education News

News You Can Use!!!

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The Special Education Advisory Committee of the Northern School Council would like to welcome you to our 2011 e-newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to provide information about upcoming events, workshops and special education news.

We hope you find our newsletter informative. Please feel free to contact your child's special education teacher about upcoming events described in this newsletter. Please share this information with any parent who you think would benefit.

If anyone you know is interested in helping with the newsletter, contributing items, to sign up for the newsletter or just to find out more information, please contact Laurie Grant, Parent Council rep at blgrant@rogers.com.

School Council News

School Council meetings are held in **Room 114, the Heritage Room** on the first floor at Northern. The meetings are attended by parents, a Student Council representative and Northern staff. Council meeting dates are provided in the Northern Weekly Bulletin put out by School Council. To subscribe, contact tamminen@sympatico.ca

There are updates from the Council Co-Chairs and Committee Chairs, the Principal, students and staff.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to participate in any Committees or Northern events and activities please contact your Council Co-Chairs: Holly Henderson at hollyhenderson@rogers.com or Josie Gillespie at josie@verticalspaces.ca

Upcoming School Events

- ◆ EQAO Literacy Test
March 31, 2011
8:50 a.m.
- ◆ GR 9 EQAO Applied Information Session
March 31, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Special Education IPRC
April 11 - 15, 2011 &
April 18, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ GR 9 EQAO Math Assessment June 7, 2011

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News since November!!!

The Special Education Department has been busy! We had a tremendous turnout at our Grade 8 Parents Night presentation on January 13th. Over 135 parents and students visited Northern to find out about our special education programs. A special thank you to Nolan Whipple, Julie Lipson, James Tenenhouse, Jackie Kates, Nick Davidge for sharing their experiences in special education. We had several calls/e-mails from parents to congratulate us on our presentation!

On February 3rd we were pleased to host a presentation by Maureen Haig, Manager of Learning Disability Services, Counselling and Disability Services at York University. She shared her expertise on helping students with special needs make the transition to post-secondary institutions. She provided terrific information, great handouts and was available to answer questions after her presentation. A very enlightening evening! You can download the presentation at Guidance and Special Education on the school website.

We have also been busy inside the classroom! Students and staff had training on the computer program, Read and Write Gold. It is an excellent tool for all students to assist with getting ideas on paper. It also has the capacity to read work/text to students and has spell-check, a dictionary, word prediction and many other features. A copy can be downloaded FREE for home use. Please contact your son/daughter's special education teacher for instructions.

What's Coming Up???

1. EQAO-Literacy Test - March 31

The grade 10 and 11 special education teachers have started preparation for the EQAO Literacy Test - March 31. They have been reviewing the Individual Student Reports, the scores and samples from last year and using the resource materials and the Don't Panic workbooks to help students learn how to write a news report, a summary and a three paragraph opinion piece and how to interpret graphic information.

Preparation will be ongoing until the test. Parents who would like more information or additional resources to practice at home, can go the EQAO website at www.eqao.com.

2. Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment- June 7

All students enrolled in grade 9 Core, applied, academic and gifted math courses must write the math assessment. Special Education teachers will be helping students in Learning Strategies and Core math to prepare for the test. Students may access accommodations for the test through their Special Education teacher and will be writing in a different location from their math class.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) wishing more information about the test or wishing to access resources, may visit the website www.eqao.com.

3. IPRC Reviews

Every year we review the placement of students in the special education program. Special education teachers will begin to call parents/guardians in February and March to discuss an appropriate placement for next year.

Your son/daughter will be bringing home an invitational letter to a review meeting. It is important to return the invitational letter ASAP indicating whether you wish to attend.

We encourage you to attend; however, if you waive the right to attend, an informal meeting will be held with your child, his/her special education teacher and Diane Burns. If you wish to attend, a formal meeting will be held in the week of April 11-18th with your child's VP, guidance counsellor, your child and I. You will be notified in late March/early April as to the date, time and location of the meeting.

4. Is Your Son/Daughter Heading to College / University???

Students, who wish to access accommodations, should be contacting the Special Needs departments at the college or university to find what is required.

The OUAC and College applications do not include a place to indicate if a student has received special education support so it is VERY IMPORTANT for students to self-advocate with the institutions.

The documentation usually required is:

- an up- to- date psycho-educational assessment (within the last three years)
- most recent IEP
- a copy of the original IPRC decision sheet (if a student had an area IPRC with the TDSB, can be found in the OSR)

Mr. Solomon and Diane Burns spoke to the grade 11 and grade 12 Learning Strategies classes in the fall about the process. Maureen Haig, from York University, also gave an informative presentation on the topic on February 3rd.

Parents are encouraged to help their teens with the process. For one of the Ministry transition planning resource guides go to: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.pdf>

EQAO Literacy Test Schedule - March 31

The schedule for the EQAO Literacy Test on March 31st is as follows:

8:50 a.m. Students report to test rooms
 9:00 a.m. Instructions
 9:10 a.m. Booklet 1 begins
 10:25 a.m. Break-return to test room by 10:40 a.m.
 10:40 a.m. Booklet 2 begins
 11:55 a.m. EQAO questionnaire
 12:00 p.m. Teachers return test materials
 12:30 p.m. Lunch **Note:** no food service on site - students must bring their own lunch
 1:20 p.m. Test continues for special education students only
 2:15 p.m. Staff Meeting

*Regular classes will resume on April 1st at 8:50 a.m.

Grade 9 Applied EQAO Information Session - March 31

All grade 9 Applied Students are to attend this **important mandatory information session** on March 31st, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Pizza will be served.

Building Resiliency in Youth Presentation - April 7

This is a special invitation to all parents to attend this presentation. It will be held at North Toronto Collegiate on **April 7th** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

With the help of a couple of guest speakers, we will be looking at: How we can support youth as they face a whole host of issues relating to their lives such as – peer pressure, academic pressure, constant media stimulation, grief and loss, being raised in a single parent home...

If you are asking yourself, "How do we model resiliency and provide support for our children without becoming helicopter parents' who resolves every issue for our children", you will find this evening very interesting and helpful.

The evening is sponsored by Anne Johnston Health Station and our five local high schools.

Questions and Answers

Question: How does my son/daughter access accommodations for tests or quizzes in their subject classes?

Answer by Diane Burns: If a student only requires extra time, they must speak to their teacher, before a test or quiz and arrange for the extra time at a time that works for the student and the teacher. If a student requires a reader, rephraser, scribe or computer, accommodations that cannot be provided in the class during a test or quiz, the student needs to complete a "green sheet".

This is a standard form that provides information about the date, time, period, and accommodations the student requires for a test or quiz as outlined in their Individual Education Plan, (IEP). The student can get green sheets from either his/her special education teacher or by coming to room 312- the special education office.

The student completes the form, gets the signature of the subject teacher and the special education teacher and then submits the completed form to room 312 at least 2 days prior to the test or quiz. I will then organize a room, equipment needed and a supervisor for the test or quiz.

The day of the test or quiz, the student goes to room 312 before school starts to find out where they are writing. At the end of the test or quiz, the supervisor will return the green sheet to the special education teacher and it can be reused next time there is a test or quiz.

The Lunch Club

Does your son or daughter need a place to meet other students and have their lunch? Come to the Lunch Club!!

Every day Ms. Pinet runs the Lunch Club in room 332. It's open to all students! Students eat their lunch play cards, games, and socialize with others. They can use the computers or work on their own. It's a great place to chill, be safe, socialize and have fun! It's not a homework club.

Ms. Pinet joins in the fun and helps all students feel comfortable. A great alternative to the cafeteria and more fun!!!! Have your son or daughter check it out today!!!

Did you know?

While a psychoeducational report written within the past 3 years is preferred by most postsecondary institutions, some may accept one that is 5 years old as part of the modified admission process.

TDSB and Trustees

TDSB website <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/>

South West Special Education
Phone: 416-394-3763

Superintendent: Ian Allison -SW3 Region
Phone: 416-394-2046
EMail: Ian.Allison@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee: Shelley Laskin
Phone: 416-397-3094
Email: shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Special Education at TDSB

The [TDSB Special Education](#) section has information on:

- What's New
- Who Can Help
- Programs, Supports and Resources
- Special Education Initiatives
- Assistive Technology
- Procedures
- Contacts

Summer School Registration

If your student needs to enrol in **FULL CREDIT** or **REMEDIAL** Summer School programmes, direct them to the guidance department.

Summer school 2011 begins Tuesday, July 5 and runs until Friday, July 29, 2011. Registration begins mid-April. Full Credit registration closes Friday, June 3, 2011. Remedial and Literacy/Numeracy registration closes June 29, 2011.

Courses are held in various TDSB Schools (but not at Northern).

All students must register through their home school guidance department. No registration will take place at the summer school locations. Students who do not meet the registration deadline cannot be admitted to the summer school program.

Did you know?

Modified admission is available at many community colleges and universities. While students must meet all minimum requirements, such as having a high school diploma, the required number of grade 12 U or M courses and faculty prerequisites, grade requirements are given consideration.

Delisle Youth Services

Dale R. Callender, Counsellor
Room 312A - 416-489-9586
dcallender@delisleyouth.org

Counselling and support service offered full time directly in the school, with the premise that services provide youth, easily accessible, trustworthy counseling and supports for teachers and educators enable them to understand and respond well to a range of challenging behaviours.

Learning Disabilities Resource Community

The [Learning Disabilities Resource Community](#) is a virtual information community open to anyone affected by learning disabilities either as an individual with a learning disability, a parent, teacher, researcher, or a concerned community member

The LDRC is a place to gain knowledge about learning disabilities, discover new teaching and educational tools, share information and experiences, and contribute to a greater understanding of the "hidden disability".

IEP 101 for Parents & Students

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario and the Special Education Policy and Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education have created a workshop to help parents and students to understand their role in the IEP process. Take this online workshop when you have the time.

Go here to login: [IEP 101](#)

Did you know?

Some postsecondary institutions offer psychoeducational testing and the cost can be covered if a student with disabilities is OSAP eligible. Apply for OSAP even if your child won't use it. This will also enable them to apply for the Bursary for Students with Disabilities.

Ministry of Education Resources

The Ministry of Education has many excellent resources for understanding [Special Education](#) in Ontario.

Students who have behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities, may require special education programs and /or services to benefit fully from their school experience.

Special education programs and services primarily consist of instruction and assessments that are different from those provided to the general student population. These may take the form of accommodations (such as specific teaching strategies, preferential seating, and assistive technology) and/or an educational program that is modified from the age-appropriate grade level expectations in a particular course or subject, as outlined in the Ministry of Education's curriculum policy documents.

Turn Your Passion into a Career

Check out the new [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities](#) website that helps students and their parents prepare for postsecondary education. Through the use of interactive tools, students can find a career they will love. The website is easier to navigate; it contains comprehensive information such as [choosing a career](#), [finding a school](#) and [financing their studies](#).

Find out how postsecondary education can help students turn their passion into a career. With a range of grants, scholarships and loans, starting college or university may be easier than they think.

Did you know?

Students need to self-identify that they require additional supports and accommodations by approaching the disability services program/access centre at the postsecondary institution they are attending. Someone at the college or university will not automatically seek them out to offer help.

Resources in the Community

See [Special Needs Ontario Window](#) for Upcoming Conferences & Workshops.

[Ability Tax Group](#) provides Tax, RDSP, Trust and Estate Services for people with disabilities and their families.

[Ask Lindsay](#) is a tool for parent and families to ask questions about special education in Ontario. Lindsay Moir is a former Ministry of Education special education specialist.

[Family Matters](#) is a newsletter by Adam Cox, PhD., who is a leading advocate for fostering the cognitive abilities and emotional wellbeing of youth.

[Learning Disability Association of Toronto District](#) provides education, advocacy, research, services, workshops and a newsletter

[Handwriting for Kids](#) - online animated handwriting help.

[Integra](#) is dedicated to helping with social, emotional and behavioural problems related to learning disabilities.

[Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital](#) is pioneering in treatments, technologies, therapies and real-world programs for children with disabilities.

[Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network \(PLAN\)](#) is a family-led organization founded to secure the future for people with disabilities.

[Toronto4Kids](#) is a Parenting and Kids Directory in the Greater Toronto Area and includes after-school programs, camps, services, parenting articles, resources, & more.

[ARCH Disability Law Centre](#), as a specialty legal clinic with a provincial mandate has excellent resource links at: <http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca/?q=useful-links>

Did you know?

Total number of students with disabilities has grown from 4,045 in 1991-1992 to 17,002 in 2007-2008 - a 320% increase
Headcount has grown from 335,101 in 1991-1992 to 442,189 in 2007-2008 - a 32% increase

Source: Universities Full-Time and Part-time Headcount (Eligible and Ineligible for Funding)
Universities Disabilities Offices AFSD Annual Reports Table 1: Principal Disabilities

Trends and Supports Report

Identifying Trends and Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder Transitioning into Postsecondary

The goals of this project were twofold:

1. to identify the numbers of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who will be graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and entering postsecondary studies in 2009, 2010 and 2011
2. to perform a gap analysis comparing the services provided in secondary schools with those currently provided in postsecondary education (PSE). This data may assist postsecondary institutions in planning for the services and supports that are required to promote success for these learners.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/24006/302387.pdf>

Famous People Quotes

There are many paths to success; your challenges could very well be what lead you there. Embrace your strengths and your uniqueness.

Albert Einstein: Physicist/Mathematician

- "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

Charles Schwab: Founder of Schwab Learning

- "The difference between those who fail and those who succeed is largely perseverance. Never quit."

Walt Disney: Director/Screenwriter

- "If you can dream it you can do it."
-

Winston Churchill: British Prime Minister

- "Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking your potential."

George Patton: U.S. Army General

- "If a man does his best what else is there?"

Erin Brockovich: activist

- "Life is full of challenges. How you handle these challenges is what builds character. Never be afraid to be who you are."

Agatha Christie: author

- "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

Upcoming Community Events

- ◆ **Parents in Transition** is an organization that helps parents cope with troubled teens. To learn more about their supports, you can reach them at: <http://parentsupportconnection.org/home.php>
- ◆ **RDSP Ontario Webinar Series** - register at: <http://www.rdspontario.ca/>
- ◆ **The Geneva Centre for Autism** is offering a series of workshops and training events over the next 6 months. For more information go to the website: www.autism.net
- ◆ **Integra** is offering a series of winter/spring workshops from Wednesday February 16th - Wednesday March 30th on topics including Moods, Anxiety, Depression and Learning Disabilities, nonverbal disabilities, executive functioning and ADHD and LDs in Teens. Cost - \$10 a workshop - must pre-register. For specific dates & topics, call 416-486-8055 or visit online at: <http://www.integra.on.ca/workshop1.htm>.

Did you know?

Some postsecondary institutions offer summer programs for students with learning disabilities to help them learn about academic strategies, study, life skills, assistive technologies and more.

For example, York University has Project ADVANCE, a 5-week institute from July 4th-Aug. 11th to prepare students for success. You don't have to be a York student but with only 25 spots available it does get filled up quickly!

Famous People with Disabilities

Pablo Picasso, Tom Cruise, Whoopi Goldberg, Richard Branson, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Edison, Jay Leno, Albert Einstein, Napoleon Bonaparte, Sylvester Stallone, Cher, Robin Williams, Lindsay Wagner, Suzanne Somers, Henry Winkler, John Lennon, Beethoven, Mozart, Dustin Hoffman, Danny Glover, Steve McQueen, Irvin "Magic" Johnson, Carl Lewis, Bruce Jenner, Greg Louganis, Alexander Graham Bell and Jason Kidd to name just a few.