

# Weekly Update March 6, 2023

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## Generative Artificial Intelligence (Ai) Tools

“ Today, artificial intelligence plays a role in billions of people’s lives. Sometimes unnoticed but often with profound consequences, it transforms our societies and challenges what it means to be human.”

### UNESCO

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, are emerging technologies that many people are engaging with frequently for fun and to support learning and inquiry. Within educational settings there is a great deal of conversation related to how these tools may be used to support teaching and learning. The Ontario Curriculum provides many entry points within both the [Program Planning](#) sections and specific subject areas for engaging in this learning. However, there are also concerns about how it may be used to generate content to be submitted for assessment and evaluation purposes and the potential to perpetuate stereotypes, reinforce biases, and cause harm. Given the recent nature of this technology, we are continuing to explore consistent ways to determine if students have submitted something written by AI.

Educators can begin to mitigate and address these concerns by:

1. Developing awareness and ongoing learning about the generative AI tools and its use in society and educational settings
2. Talking about the benefits, risks, and challenges with students and families. This includes supporting students to develop an equity stance and critical information literacy skills.
3. Designing inquiry based learning experiences that align with CRRP, UDL, and differentiated instruction.
4. Focus on assessment as and for learning to provide ongoing, relevant, responsive feedback during the learning process. Use the conversations and observations documented throughout the learning process to inform instruction and evaluation.
5. Engaging in Ongoing Professional Learning as technology and practice evolves

As this emerging technology continues to evolve, resources and professional learning opportunities will be made available. This is an exciting opportunity for educators to bring innovative teaching and learning strategies into the classroom as we prepare students to meet the ever changing landscape of society and the world today. [Explore some of the articles and resources curated here to begin your learning.](#)

For additional information please contact the [Global Competencies, STEM/ICT Department](#) or [Library Learning Resources and Global Education](#).

## Annual Offense Declaration (AOD) Non-compliance 2022-2023

In March, the Police Reference Check office will be communicating with staff who are non-compliant with their AOD requirement as required under the Education Act, Regulation 521.

Compliance to the AOD is a condition of employment and failure to comply with this legislative requirement may impact staffs' ability to work for the Toronto District School Board.

Staff who have not completed their AOD have until March 10, 2023 to submit their declaration through MyInfo, under MyAOD.

Staff cannot declare their 2023/2024 AOD until they have completed the AOD requirement from the previous 2022/2023 year.

If you have any questions, please email, or call the TDSB Police Record Check Office at [policereferencecheckoffice@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:policereferencecheckoffice@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-393-0759.

## Epilepsy Awareness Month and Purple Day

Celebrate Purple Day with us on March 24th!

Epilepsy Awareness Month and Purple Day is recognized on March 26th however this date falls on a Sunday this year and will be celebrated on Friday, March 24th, 2023.

Epilepsy Awareness Month is all about spreading awareness and educating others about epilepsy to help end the stigma surrounding the condition. What better way to celebrate than by helping educate students about epilepsy?

Epilepsy Toronto's Children and Youth Services Department have developed a full lesson plan, including an educational video and learning activities, that students can participate in for [Purple Day](#).

For more details, please visit Epilepsy Toronto at <https://epilepsytoronto.org>

## Facing History and Ourselves: Antisemitism Webinar

The Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Department is offering TDSB staff the opportunity to register for an [Antisemitism Webinar](#) hosted by Facing History and Ourselves.

During this live webinar, TDSB staff will foster awareness for the specific impact that anti-Jewish hate has on the lives and learning experiences of Jewish students, and the impact that hate has on all members of a school community.

Participants will explore and acknowledge the diversity and complexity of Jewish identities and voices in Canada today, and examine the historical roots of antisemitism, some of their contemporary manifestations and the consequences of labels, myths and hate when these go unchecked. As well as equip participants to recognize and address antisemitism through a case study approach.

This webinar has a maximum of 75 spaces available, which is on a first come-first serve basis. It runs from 4:30-6 p.m. and is free for TDSB staff.

The following dates are available for staff to register:

1. Thursday, May 4, 2023

To sign up for one of these webinars, [click here](#)

## Islamic Heritage at the TDSB – Ramadan

During late March and most of April, Muslims will be celebrating Ramadan, one of the holiest months in the lunar Islamic Calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims around the world abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 30 consecutive days. They practice charitable giving and spend increased time prayer and worship.

The Islamic Heritage Committee invites you to share the Ramadan Acts of Kindness calendar to honour and learn about this special time with your students. Teaching resources about Ramadan are linked below.

1. [IHM Acts of Kindness Calendar Ramadan 2023](#)
2. [Ramadan Teaching Resources](#)
3. [Poster Call Out – Written](#)
4. [Poster Call Out – One pager](#)

Should additional information be required please contact Islamic Heritage Month Co-Chairs  
Kulsoom Answer @ [kulsoom.answer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:kulsoom.answer@tdsb.on.ca) or Salma Nakhuda @  
[salma.nakhuda@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:salma.nakhuda@tdsb.on.ca)

## Italian Heritage Months - Invitation to Join Volunteer Planning Committee

Throughout the school year, the TDSB recognizes 14 Heritage/History Months (List of all Heritage/History Months that the TDSB recognizes may be found at this link:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Heritage-and-History-Months>

Italian Heritage Month is recognized at the TDSB during the month of June. A volunteer planning committee is established annually to fulfil the mandate which includes planning educational opportunities on further learning on the Italian heritage as well as to enrich the curriculum resources. The current members of the volunteer planning committee are looking for additional individuals to join them in implementing this mandate and develop system-wide educational opportunities for students, staff and the TDSB community.

This year, we are collaborating on a joint project with the Jewish Heritage Committee project to commemorate the 90 Year Anniversary of the Christie Pits Riot that took place in Toronto - please join us on March 21st at our first Italian Heritage Committee meeting (details below) to learn more about this initiative. Please visit our resources website to learn more about the Christie Pits Riot and the plans for the months of May and June.

Details of the first planning meetings for Italian Heritage Month are being shared with you below. We hope you will be able to join us!

### Italian Heritage Month First Volunteer Planning Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/97619287156>

Should you have any questions, please contact Dani Carnevale, Service Co-ordinator at [dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dani.carnevale@tdsb.on.ca)

## Know Your Worth Conference for Educators 2023 - Invitation to Attend

In celebration of African Heritage 365, the 3rd annual Know Your Worth Conference for Educators will be taking place to allow TDSB staff members to attend workshops where best practices to uplift Africentric Education along with eradicating anti-Black racism, in schools and beyond, will be discussed. The theme of this year's Know Your Worth Conference for Educators is: Africentric Education IS Transformative.

Details of the KYW Conference for Educators may be found in the [attached](#) letter and below.

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Location: Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement (located in Winston Churchill C.I.)

Should further information be required, African Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee's Know Your Worth Conference for Educators Sub-Committee Chairs, Kurt Lewin (Preferred Name - Amani Kwadwo Ausar) at [Kurt.lewin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kurt.lewin@tdsb.on.ca) and Monique Willacey at [monique.willacey@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:monique.willacey@tdsb.on.ca)

## Attention Team and Group Staff Advisors

From Nico Birch and the Yearbook Committee:

Could you please fill out this google form to write a very brief summary of your team's season this year? This will go next to the team's section in the yearbook, and we would love to be able to remember each team properly.

<https://forms.gle/hSEk6NcrCKUR4ENs8>

## #PrideTDSB Committee Call Out!

As part of TDSB's long standing commitment to celebrating June as Pride month. Across the Board we are beginning preparations for #PrideTDSB 2023. As part of honouring student and staff feedback and to make our work more impactful, we are happy to announce the creation of two #PrideTDSB sub-committees. One which will focus on the Academic side of the organization and one which will focus on the Operations side. While two groups will focus on the promotion of #PrideTDSB within their respective areas the committees will collaborate on system initiatives and creative ways to engage our staff, students, and allies during #PrideTDSB month.

The first meeting for the Academic Committee will be on Wednesday, March 22nd at 4:00pm via [Zoom](#).

The first meeting for the Operations Committee will be on Thursday, March 23rd, also at 4:00pm via [Zoom](#).

Zoom Meeting Links:

Academic: March 22, 2023 4:00pm

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/91950579751?pwd=aExGcGV4VGNhQVIGUVVNIQwY1dvdz09>

Operations: March 23, 2023 4:00pm

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/91950579751?pwd=aExGcGV4VGNhQVIGUVVNIQwY1dvdz09>

We encourage all staff and students who are interested in recognizing #PrideTDSB join us for these meetings. Together, we can make Pride month a memorable and inclusive event for everyone in our community.

If you're interested in joining either committee or have any questions, please reach out to [tdsbpride@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:tdsbpride@tdsb.on.ca)

We look forward to seeing you there!

# World Autism Awareness Day

Celebrate World Autism Awareness Day with us on April 3rd.

World Autism Day (April 2nd, 2023) falls on a Sunday this year and will be celebrated on Monday, April 3rd, 2023. This day is dedicated to raising public awareness by recognizing individuals around the world living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), we acknowledge this important day each year as we work to gain a better understanding of neurodiversity.

According to Autism Ontario, 1-2% of the Canadian population is on the spectrum, which means there are approximately 135,000 autistic people in Ontario. Autism diagnoses are prevalent in childhood. Approximately 1 in 66 Canadian children and youth (ages 5-17) are diagnosed with ASD.

Let's help support TDSB students on the spectrum and increase awareness and understanding of autism.

Resources to support your discussions can be found here: link [World Autism Awareness Day Resources](#) or by contacting Tippet Library and Autism Ontario [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com)

If you require additional information, please contact  
Lydia Tisma, Autism Services Coordinator.

## Urban Indigenous Education Centre Course Offerings 2022-2023

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre is offering an upcoming series of multi-part, professional learning courses for TDSB staff. Please see the [calendar](#) for course descriptions and dates.

To register, visit MyPath

For more information, contact Robert Durocher, Centrally Assigned Vice-Principal, Indigenous Education, [Robert.Durocher@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Robert.Durocher@tdsb.on.ca)

## What is Transformative Justice? Part One.

This workshop situates Transformative Justice within abolitionism, anti-racism and freedom. Transformative Justice will be discussed as an aspect of educational activism for police free schools, noting that educators, social workers and other professionals are often asked to police Black students and families in our roles. Transformative justice will be explored in through the work of the Black Panther Party's Oakland Community School and the work of FreedomSchool – Toronto. Participants will begin by understanding the difference between punitive practice, restorative practice and transformative justice. Through sharing their experience as practitioners, participants will be asked to reflect on moments when they have witnessed the impacts of punitive practice on Black students as punitive practice is

connected to: “the school as a carceral space”, the adultification of Black children and the criminalization of Black children/youth.

Through activities and conversation, educational leaders will explore different ways to transform classroom spaces such as:

- Reframing conversations about “student behaviour”
- Reducing conditions in the classroom that lead to harm
- Engaging children in abolition practice and transformative justice using resources such as: Rastamouse and Afrotina and the Three Bears
- Encouraging the use of daily transformative justice circles in schools for the purpose of cultural competence
- Building capacity for teachers to conduct transformative justice circles in response to classroom, playground and school incidents

Facilitators: LeRoi Newbold and Nauoda Robinson

Audience: TDSB Staff

Date: March 29, 2023

Time: 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Save the date! Registration on MyPath opens soon!

## Worth Repeating

## Direct Line

Please check out [Direct Line](#) for opportunities and information from the Board

## Employee Family Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program is a complimentary resource for all full-time employees.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a voluntary, confidential counselling and information service for TDSB Employees and their families.

<http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/section23program/employee-assistance-program>

## Hyperlinks

A reminder that the [Hyperlinks page](#) has a consolidation of frequently used links, forms, etc.

