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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable and safe summer. As we prepare to embark on a new school year, I am filled with anticipation and excitement for the opportunities and growth that lie ahead for TDSB students and communities.

As the elected public school board trustee for your community, my role is to advocate for you and your child and represent the needs of all students and families in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in strengthening student achievement, fostering a sense of belonging, and spreading joy throughout our schools and community.

This past school year, we tackled several critical issues, including cell phone use in schools, social media, and academic achievement. These initiatives are at the heart of our commitment to creating productive and supportive learning environments for all students. Despite the financial challenges we've faced in recent years, we continue to maintain important supports for students while advocating for the Ministry to provide the necessary and sustainable support and adjustments for the TDSB to deliver the highest quality education.

In Ward 13, we have celebrated many notable successes in the 2023 – 2024 school year.

- Our students from Georges Vanier Secondary School represented Canada in the World Robotics Competition in Texas
- Zion Heights Middle School hosted the North Toronto Speech Arts Festival & Competition where students from Ward 13 schools won top prizes.
- Woodbine Middle School Cricket Team won the TDSB North Championship and came in 2nd place in the City Finals.
- AY Jackson Secondary School Chess Team won first place in the Northview TDSB Finals.
- AY Jackson also hosted the first ever official TDSB Lunar New Year celebration and concert.
- We pushed forward 57 individual capital projects in 23 Ward 13 schools to upgrade and improve school grounds, play equipment, parking lots, and school buildings so our students can have a better environment to learn.

I am also thrilled to share that we recently launched our TDSB 2024-28 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), which was developed through extensive collaboration and focuses on high achievement, student well-being, and accountability. We are committed to excellence and addressing the unique needs of each student.

We are also developing a new Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use in Schools Policy, aimed at enhancing student success, belonging, and well-being. A pre-consultation was conducted earlier this spring to gather feedback from school and community partners, ensuring the policy will meet legislative requirements and align with best practices.

To ensure you and your child have a great year ahead, I invite you to explore our website www.tdsb.on.ca for information about the school year calendar, transportation, ways to get involved, as well as helpful resources for the upcoming school year. You can also sign up for my e-newsletter and visit my webpage at www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward13.

We will be ready to welcome students back for the first day of the 2024-25 school year on September 3, 2024. I am here to support you every step of the way, ensuring a successful and rewarding educational journey for your child.

Sincerely,

James