



Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Peel chapter Newsletter

www.abcpeel.org

Winter 2017/2018
news@abcpeel.org

The Association for Bright Children in Peel (ABC Peel) can provide advice and advocate with you on issues for gifted children and youth from pre-school through secondary in the Peel Region, which includes Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon (Peel DSB and Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB)

Congregated Gifted Program at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB are Moving

ABC Peel has been informed that there will be changes in the gifted programs at the elementary level, to accommodate growth in the North:

- In the North (Brampton), self-contained gifted classes will be at St. John Bosco & St. Cecilia
- In the South (Mississauga), self-contained gifted classes will be at St. Mark & St. Barbara

We have been advised that current St. Jerome students will be moved to St. Mark, and current St. Rose of Lima students will be moved to St. Barbara for the 2018/2019 year. If you have a gifted student at St. Rose or St. Jerome, you should get more information at an upcoming tour/event at your new school.

Link to map of current locations

www.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Gifted_IB_Map_DD2017_2018.pdf#search=map%2520of%2520gifted



New Research - More Students Should Grade Skip

Johns Hopkins University recently found that 2 in 7 students may be ready for higher grade curriculum.

When gifted students who grade-skipped were compared to similarly gifted students who did not grade-skip, the grade-skipped students came out ahead in all academic categories. Grade-skippers compared to non-grade-skippers were 1.6 times as likely to earn a doctorate of any kind.

A meta-analysis by Karen B. Rogers showed positive effects on a range of social and psychological adjustment outcomes, including greater social skills, maturity, peer acceptance, motivation and persistence.

Miraca Gross found that students who had skipped two or more grades in early elementary school had higher social self-esteem in childhood and built better social relationships later in life.

Read more at <https://theconversation.com/should-i-grade-skip-my-gifted-child-66359>

ABC Ontario POSITION PAPER: Acceleration in Education

ABC endorses acceleration as a proven, cost-effective practice to support high-ability students in achieving excellence and reaching their full potential. These outcomes align with Ontario's renewed goals for education outlined in Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario. Therefore, we encourage more opportunities for high-ability students to accelerate.

Read more at <https://www.abctoronto.org/acceleration>

Inclusive education doesn't challenge high achievers, students say

Three high school students in Moncton are calling for a return to enriched classes for students who excel academically, saying the inclusive education model in New Brunswick isn't working. Read more at



<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/inclusion-new-brunswick-education-1.3862204>

Destreaming pilot could be in the works for Peel board

Learn more at <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/7347576-destreaming-pilot-could-be-in-the-works-for-peel-board/>

School Trustees -Who are they, what do they do?

School trustees are not education experts appointed or promoted to the Trustee position by the School Board or the Ministry of Education. Trustees are elected by you, the voting public, during the municipal election to serve as members of the District School Board. They serve a four year term and meet regularly as the **Board of Trustees**. At the Board table, trustees represent the issues and concerns of their community and make decisions based on the interests of all students in the board's school district. A good trustee puts the needs of students first and asks the community what it needs and wants from their schools. They are your advocate. How can you be sure that the education system continues to adapt and transform to meet the ever-changing needs and challenges of our twenty-first century world? A good place to start is by electing an effective school trustee.

The current trustee term ends November 30th, 2018. The next municipal election will be held Monday, October 22, 2018.

More on the Trustee role <http://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/en/about-trustees/what-trustees-do.html>

Peel DSB trustees <http://www.peelschools.org/trustees/meetyourtrustee/Pages/default.aspx>

Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB trustees <http://www.peelschools.org/trustees/meetyourtrustee/Pages/default.aspx>

Interested in becoming a Trustee? Go to <http://candidates.ontarioschooltrustees.org/en/introduction.html>

Financial and Digital Literacy Coming To Career Studies Course Next September



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Ontario Enhancing Grade 10 Course to Equip Students for Careers

The Ministry of Education announces that starting in September 2018, Grade 10 students will be required to complete a revamped course to provide them with the knowledge and tools employers are looking for.

The new course will include mandatory learning on financial literacy, such as budgeting and financial management. Students taking the career studies course will also explore:

- Career pathway planning*
- Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship*
- Digital literacy*

To learn more go to: <https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2017/11/financial-and-digital-literacy-coming-to-career-studies-course-next-september-1.html>

ABC Membership

By Mary Heinmaa

ABC members should be proud of our organization's achievements of ensuring the legislation of the educational rights of bright and gifted children and requiring school boards to identify exceptional students and to provide appropriate special education placements and programmes to meet their needs.

After achieving these goals, one may feel that an advocacy group like ABC may not be necessary. However, as many parents of gifted children know, this is grossly inaccurate. There is a misconception that gifted students are privileged and that they don't need all the guidance that other special education students do. Being gifted does not guarantee anyone success in life. Many gifted children also may have one or more other exceptionalities such as: a learning, visual, hearing or physical disability. Furthermore, many children have complex social and emotional needs requiring them to seek additional support from home, school or health professionals. As parents and advocates for our bright and gifted children, it is essential to educate the public regarding the *need* for specialized programming for our children.

Why stay a member of ABC (or maybe even become one!) if your child has already been identified and placed in an appropriate programme?

a) ABC participates in consultation and monitors the implementation of legislation, which may affect bright and gifted children. Nothing is static ... we need to ensure that gifted programs stay in our educational system, that teachers are qualified to instruct gifted students and that parents have a voice in their children's education.

b) ABC acts as a network for parents and educators by providing opportunities for the sharing of information and common concerns.

c) ABC provides information, programmes and materials pertaining to the social, emotional and intellectual development of bright and gifted students.

d) ABC works with other associations and organizations through such venues as the Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC on SEAC) and the Consortium for the Ontario Gifted(COG). By working cooperatively with all levels of government and other organizations, ABC is positioned to inform members of current educational issues and actively advocate for appropriate educational programs and services for gifted students.

Your membership benefits you, your family, your child, and all bright and gifted children in Ontario.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the needs of bright and gifted children. The current fee for an annual membership is \$40.00. [Click Here](#) to download the application, once completed save it and send it as an email attachment to membership@abcontario.ca (a cc to membership@abcpeel.org would be appreciated) then make your payment or donation through CanadaHelps.org. Please select **Peel chapter** as your fund.

Let's Talk: Provide input on the Peel District School Board's 2018-19 budget priorities

To guide the Peel board in the development of its 2018-19 school year budget, trustees are seeking input from staff, parent, student and community members. We'd like to hear from you about what you see as budget priorities for the upcoming school year.

To provide input, individuals may:

Delegate the board at Regular Meetings of the Board on March 27, April 10, April 24 or May 8, 2018.

Provide input through your School Council. Please contact your School Council chair to find out when budget consultation will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Complete a brief, online survey at www.peelschools.org/BUDGET by March 31, 2018.

Before you provide your input, you may choose to refer to the Peel board's Plan for Student Success at www.peelschools.org/PlanforStudentSuccess in an effort to align your ideas with the board's strategic plan, goals and key priorities. Other resources are available at www.peelschools.org/BUDGET.

Ontario Seeking Public Input on Student Transportation

Has your family been affected by the delays in school bus service?

The Province Looking at How System can Better Support Students

Ontario is seeking public input on how to strengthen its student transportation system and create a new vision for the future of student transportation that will be responsive to the changing needs of students and school boards, as well as school bus drivers and operators. Read more at

<https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2017/12/ontario-seeking-public-input-on-student-transportation.html>

Peel DSB Trustees launched a government lobbying campaign, #StoptheBusDelays, to seek provincial funding for bus driver recruitment and to assist the board in exploring alternate transportation options. The Peel DSB invites School Councils, families, staff and community members to join the campaign by asking their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to urge the ministry to provide additional transportation funding to reduce bus delays. Contact your School Council chair for the fact sheet, prepared by the board, that outlines the issue and campaign in more detail. More information and resources, including template letters to MPPs for School Councils and parents, are available at www.peelschools.org/StopTheBusDelays



Ontario Student Voice Awards - Scholarships

Application is now open to graduating students!

The Ontario Student Voice Awards (OSVA) are given annually to outstanding students across Ontario. OSVA's are a way for the Ontario Student Trustees to give back to the most exceptional students in our province, those who dedicate their time into passionately representing their community and advocating for the issues most important to them. The deadline for all applications is **March 20, 2018**.

- ❖ Student Voice Award
- ❖ Commitment to Justice Award
- ❖ Dedication to the Arts Award
- ❖ Sports Leadership Award
- ❖ Entrepreneurial Initiative Award
- ❖ Cultural Involvement Award

Each of the above scholarships awards are valued at \$500.00

These are also two Student Trustee Alumni Leadership Award of \$1,000 each

For more information go to <http://www.osta-aeco.org/scholarships/>

Options for Earning a High School credit outside of school

EduTravel

EduTravel works in partnership with Ontario public school boards and private schools, to provide innovative programs to students with the opportunity to travel locally and internationally while earning a wide variety of Ontario secondary school credits. EduTravel programs are open to all high school students on Ontario regardless of the school board you attend. **EduTravel for Credit** is a wholly Ontario owned and operated tour provider founded on the concept of experiential learning. Credits are issued through our education partners, and teachers are supplied by the local Ontario school boards. For more information go to

<http://www.edutravelforcredit.com/>

The Canadian Ecology Centre

A non-profit environmental science education and research facility. Their "School of Experiential Education" has been offering EXPERIENTIAL credit courses to students in grades 9 through 12 for over 25 years. Throughout the year they offer many day and over-night programs related to; environmental education, use of technology in the forest and traditional outdoor skills and activities. All credits are Ministry of Education approved.

For more information and a list of programs go to <http://www.canadianecology.ca/highschool-credit-courses>

On-line Learning options

TVO ILC

ILC is the chosen distance learning partner of the Ontario Ministry of Education, and the largest online high school in the province. ILC is an Ontario Ministry of Education accredited secondary school. ILC offers students the opportunity to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) that is equivalent to an OSSD earned through a publicly funded secondary day school or an inspected private secondary school. Learn more at <https://www.ilc.org/en-ca/ilc-courses/explore-ilc-courses>

Virtual High School

Virtual High School (VHS) is a fully online, private, asynchronous secondary school offering high quality Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) credit courses to students all over the world. Ontario Ministry of Education BSID# is 665681. Learn more at <https://www.virtualhighschool.com>

E-Learning Ontario

E-learning credit courses allow secondary school students to:

- Select from a wide range of subjects, in Catholic and public versions
- Benefit from applied, college, university/college, university, workplace, and open course types
- Reduce time table conflicts.

Learn more at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/courses.html>

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

The world leader in gifted education since 1979, is a non-profit dedicated to identifying and developing the talents of academically advanced pre-college students around the world.

Online Programs give academically advanced students the freedom to access more than 170 online courses, expert instructors, and engaging curriculum wherever they are. Offering a variety of gifted online courses from elementary to college-level, including math, AP science, Chinese, grammar, critical reading, computer science, and writing.

Learn more at <https://cty.jhu.edu/ctyonline/>

BRIGHTMINDS

A fully online, self-paced Ontario Secondary school, committed to helping students achieve their short-term and long-term goals. They follow the most current guidelines and expectations set forth by the Ontario Ministry of Education and takes advantage of latest educational software and technologies to provide students the opportunity to learn and earn a credit while improving learning skills and abilities.

Learn more at <https://brightmindsonlineschool.ca/>

Summer Enrichment Experience @ Queen's (SEEQ) | Grades 8-12

Excite your curiosity! Experience university for a week!

Students have the opportunity to learn beyond the school classroom with engaging and challenging courses that motivate them to explore and apply new knowledge. They return to school with renewed energy, an excitement for learning, and ideas for post-secondary and career planning.

Queen's **Enrichment Studies Unit** spring and summer programs encourage students to explore their interests and passions in a university environment. Whether a student wants to enhance their school curriculum requirements, learn a new skill or experience all that Queens has to offer. **Enrichment also available for students in grades 1 to 12.**

For more information and a list of programs go to <https://esu.queensu.ca/programs>

Events of Interest

➤ Peel District School Board's **Empowering Modern Learners: 2018 Parent Conference**

Parents and caregivers will discover new ideas to support their child's learning and development.

Saturday, March 24, 2018

8:00am to 2:30pm

Mississauga Secondary School

550 Courtneypark Dr. W.

Mississauga L5W 1L9

The conference will focus on Empowering Modern Learners. Parents will have the opportunity to attend workshops on topics, including numeracy, literacy, special education, technology and science.

To register and more information, visit www.peelschools.org/parents/conference

ABC Peel will have an Exhibitors booth at this event. If you can volunteer to staff the booth at any time please contact Barb at bcyr@abcpeel.org. Please include the time you're able to volunteer.

Other Events

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/communitycorner/communiterevents/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/news/events>

Volunteer with ABC Peel

ABC is a volunteer run organization. As such, volunteers are integral to ABC operations. Services could not be delivered, locally or provincially, without committed and active volunteers. Dedicated ABC volunteers have spent over four decades ensuring that the needs of bright and gifted learners are not forgotten.

If you believe in supporting educational excellence, then volunteering with ABC is a great way to demonstrate your support. If you or your family members have benefited from ABC activities, advice or advocacy, then volunteering with ABC is an ideal way to express your gratitude.

Volunteer opportunities include:

Event Volunteers: ABC Peel has an ongoing need for volunteers to help run activities, workshops, events, enrichment activities for children, youth, parents and educators. We currently need volunteers to staff our booth at the Peel DSB annual Parent Conference, March 24th at Mississauga S.S. from 8:00am to 1:15pm.

Outreach Volunteers: Public Relations, Resources, Chapter Development, Support Services, the website, Newsletters and Facebook group, organize conferences and events.

SEAC Representatives: School boards are legally required to provide appropriate programs and services to all students regardless of their needs. Further to that, the Education Act (Section 82, Subsection 2) requires that each school board “shall establish a Special Education Advisory Committee (aka SEAC). As a provincial parent association representing exceptional children, ABC has many volunteers serving as representatives on the SEAC of District School Boards throughout Ontario. ABC SEAC representatives need alternates, this is a great way to learn what is involved while being mentored by an experienced volunteer. Invariably good gifted programming exists where there is a strong voice for gifted learners at the SEAC table.

More information about SEAC at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac/>

If you're interested in volunteering please contact support@abcpeel.org, tell us about yourself and where or how you would like to volunteer.

Resources

Worksheets, Games, Workbooks, Activities, Lesson Plans and more

<https://www.education.com/resources>

Ministry of Education developed resources to support mathematics learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12

<http://www.mathies.ca>

Genius Hour

<http://www.geniushour.com>

Practical Money Skills

<http://practicalmoneyskills.ca>

Ontario Ministry of Education What's New

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/new/new.html>

Ontario Schools, KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12, Policy and Program Requirements 2016

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/index.html>

Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide, 2017

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board - Special Education Plan - See pg. 23 & 26

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/programs-services/special-education/special-education-plan>

Peel District School Board Special Education Plan - See pg. 11

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/specialed/sep/Documents/Spec.%20Ed.%20Plan%20Amendment%202017-18.pdf>

Peel DSB - Enhanced Learning

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/specialed/enhancedlearning/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.peelschools.org/parents/specialed/Documents/Elementary%20Enhanced%20Learning%20in%20Peel%20-%20Parent%20Info.pdf>

Ontario School Trustees

<http://ontarioschooltrustees.org>

Association for Bright Children of Ontario (ABC) has the Reg. charity # 11877 7275 R0001

To learn more about ABC Peel, go to www.abcpeel.org

To make a donation or become a member go to www.abcontario.ca