

# The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

REGULAR BOARD MEETING | FEBRUARY 27, 2017

## Student Recognition

The recognition program is Grand Erie District School Board's way to honour and celebrate students who excelled in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts, as well as in the community. All recipients were presented with a certificate from Brenda Blancher, Director of Education and Trustee John Harris.

### Doug Archer, Mt. Pleasant School

Doug placed first in the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture public speaking competition, with a speech titled, "How can we improve the media's perception of Canadian agriculture?" (His older brother, in Grade 10 at BCI, placed second.) Doug will emcee the junior competition in 2017.



### Aidan Gavey, McKinnon Park Secondary School

Aidan is a competitive golfer who won the CJGA Georgian College Junior Series this summer, which qualified him to represent Canada at the US Kids Teen World Championship. He then played in the Golf Canada Junior Boys Championship and the American Junior Golf Association Under Armour Championship, where he placed first.



*Do you know a student to nominate for this recognition? Learn about the criteria and the nomination process by visiting the Student Recognition section on the Board's website under the Student tab or directly through this link: <http://bit.ly/1T2CS1v>*

## Black History Month Student Artwork

As part of an English and arts assignment coinciding with Black History Month, Mr. Robert Joynt's Grade 8 class at Walter Gretzky Elementary created striking silhouettes of individuals important to black history, including both historic and present day icons from politics, activism, sports, and the arts. Students were given the chance to choose an individual, then research and reflect on the impact that person had through a writing assignment. They then created the shadow silhouettes as part of a visual arts project, adding an important element of visibility to a history that hasn't always been told, recognizing and celebrating the achievements of black individuals to our collective history.

- Read more in a special profile in The Brantford Expositor: <http://bit.ly/2lgttd8l>



## Learning Commons

Cynthia Gozzard, Delhi Public School, and Kate Johnson McGregor, BCI, presented to the Board about Learning Commons using a dynamic Sway presentation, access here: <http://bit.ly/LC-sway>

Learning Commons is a departure from the traditional understanding of the role of the school library. The transition to Library Learning Commons is a whole school approach, presenting exciting opportunities for learning multiple literacies and collaboration among teachers, teacher-librarians and students. Within the Learning Commons model, inquiry, project/problem-based learning experiences & MakerSpaces are designed as catalysts for intellectual engagement with information, ideas, thinking, and dialogue. Important components of the Learning Commons space include Physical & Virtual Space, Equitable Access, Learning Partnerships, and Technology to support learning.

- Learn more about a Learning Commons in Grand Erie: <http://bit.ly/2IrEluF>



## Ontario 150

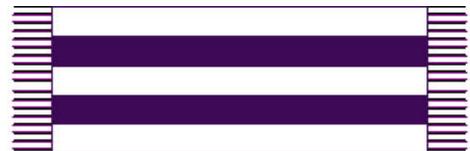
In order to provide opportunities for schools to celebrate and participate in Ontario and Canada's upcoming sesquicentennial, the Ministry of Education has made funding available. The Elementary School Playground Space Enhancement is intended to increase opportunities for students to participate in physical activity by enhancing outdoor activity spaces. Congratulations to the following schools who were successful in accessing funding to enhance their playground space: Cedarland PS, Graham Bell-Victoria PS, Bellview PS, Ecole Confederation, Banbury Heights School, Major Ballachey PS, and Agnes G. Hodge PS.

# ONTARIO 150

## Tekeni Teyohaha:ke Living the Two Row Student Conference

More than 100 students from several Grand Erie secondary schools will attend a student conference on Friday, March 3, 2017 at Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School.

"Living the Two Row" is a full-day conference for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and will focus on topics related to treaties and culture from an Indigenous perspective. Special guests include: Leroy Hill, Haudenosaunee Faith keeper, Lacey Hill, musician, and Rick Monture, Academic Director of Indigenous Students, McMaster University will be in attendance. Students will participate in several learning engagement activities.



## GEPIC Parent Event

Parents play a vital role in education. The Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee invites parents to a day of learning and networking at Ryerson Heights Elementary School in Brantford. Information Sessions will be held on Achievement, Mental Health and Well-Being, Safe Schools and Technology.

- To register and learn more, click here:  
<http://bit.ly/2I5fP18>



The Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee invites you to a day of learning and networking.

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**8:30 am – 2 pm**

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

**Workforce Report:** Grand Erie District School Board approved the Workforce Report with data as of January 31, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2mmoV4y>

**Approval of Minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of January 30, 2017 (Regular Board), and February 13, 2017 (Committee of the Whole).

Trustees received the following as information:

- Summary of Accounts - January 2017: <http://bit.ly/2m35yNh>
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – January 12, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2mDfyJA>
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – January 19, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2mCVOGi>
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (Draft) – January 19, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2IYFfr3>
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes – December 13, 2016: <http://bit.ly/2IMFViU>
- Privacy and Information Management (Draft) – February 3, 2017: <http://bit.ly/2IOg0py>