

Student GuluWalk

This year again, ETT will be in partnership with TDSB to jointly organize and participate in the 3rd Annual Student GuluWalk. Last year, 4000 TDSB students from all grade levels took part in the walk. The Student GuluWalk will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010. A workshop will be held preceding this date to provide teachers with curriculum support ideas for programming linked to character development, and social justice issues. The workshop, entitled “Steps to a Successful GuluWalk” will help teachers launch their participation in the TDSB Student GuluWalk. The GuluWalk reveals the issues of children caught in a civil war in Northern Uganda and is a natural connection to our classrooms as these children are the same as those we teach. *“For children who have never known peace, the fight for hope never ends.”*



The workshop will be held in the North York Memorial Hall (Gold Room) on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 4:30. More information can be found on www.guluwalk.com.

As in the past, the ETT Office will send out a registration package. Additional information

PAC Teacher Film Series

Thursday, March 25, 2010, marks the return of the Teacher Film Series for the spring. We plan on having two more events after that: one on Thurs., April 22nd, in conjunction with the ETT Environmental Committee, to mark Earth Day; and the final one for this year on Thurs., May 20th. The March screening is a unique double-bill. Both films revolve around amazingly engaging students. **Four Feet Up** examines the issue of child poverty. The eight year-old boy who is the main character is well aware that he is characterized as “less fortunate”. His parents are struggling to overcome a legacy of stereotypes desiring more than anything for Isaiah and his siblings to have access to the opportunities they never had.



Hannah’s Story introduces us to an inspiring 11 year-old. Having seen her first homeless person at age five, the experience had a profound effect on Hannah. It led her to help establish a charitable foundation, the Ladybug Foundation, that has raised over \$1M, literally making change for those lacking life’s basic needs. Join ETT members at the NFB, located at 150 John St. (at Richmond St.) for an evening of food, film, and a little dialogue. Light Supper - 5:00; Speaker - 6:00; Films - 6:30-8:00.

School Evaluation Survey 2010

PAC is preparing to send out the 9th annual survey for ETT members to fill out. The results will be tabulated and posted in time for teachers to utilize this resource as they ponder potential choices during the Surplus and Transfer period.





This information is also critical in monitoring adherence to and implementation of the Collective Agreement, and administrators' level of support for teachers. Individual copies of the surveys will be sent to stewards to distribute to ETT members at their work sites.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia. In March 2009, hundreds of millions of people took part in the third Earth Hour. Over 4000 cities in 88 countries officially switched off to pledge their support for the planet, making Earth Hour 2009 the world's largest global climate change initiative. Earth Hour 2010 takes place on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm (local time) and is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community throughout the world. It is a call to stand up, to take responsibility, to get involved and lead the way towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Europe to Asia to the Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world from all walks of life will turn off their lights and join together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common – our planet. For more information, including education ideas, go to: www.earthhour.org



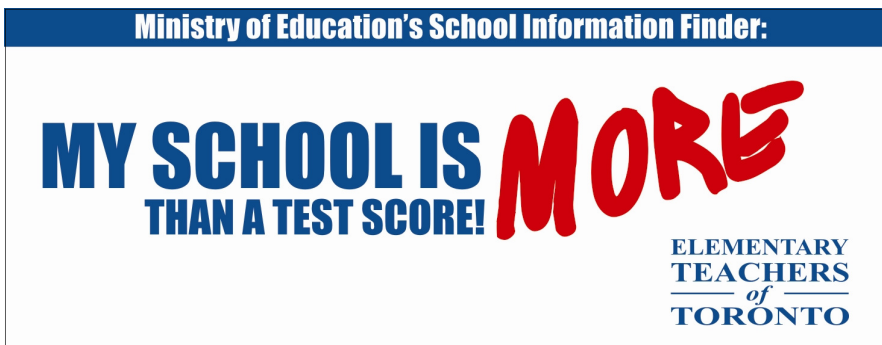
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School Information Finder (SIF)

A year ago this month the Ontario Ministry of Education launched the School Information Finder on its website. Despite near universal opposition of this initiative from a wide and varied group of education stakeholders committed to public education, the site remains in place. ETFO has renewed its concerns with the SIF and is undertaking a campaign to bring public pressure to have this site closed down. Teachers in all locals are being asked to get involved. Check the ETT website to see a link to this campaign. ⇒ ETT is also sending out two magnetic bumper stickers per work site for teachers to utilize in an effort to get discussions started on the merits of the SIF, and to strengthen the campaign.



⇒ The magnets can be affixed to anything that is metal, not just cars. Teachers interested in the image on the magnet can download it on its own from the ETT website, by first linking through the noSIF.ca icon (the “school bus”) on the ETT website’s public page.



Toronto Transit Workers

Toronto's transit workers seem to be the latest to be caught in the crosshairs in the fight for dignity and the politics of privatization. The TYR Labour Council has issued a statement entitled “Respect and Solidarity” echoing the very well received letter from ETT President Martin Long (“Be Kind to TTC Workers”). Both can be accessed at: www.labourcouncil.ca