



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP IMPACT TEAM (ECSLIT)

*But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
(Psalm 85:15)*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 22, 2018	November 1, 2018	Click here to enter a date.
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INFORMATION REPORT		

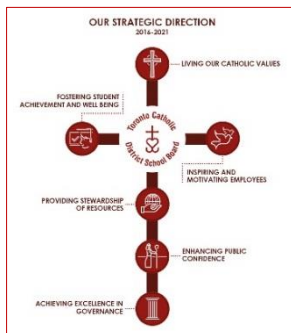
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



- Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

- D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

- T. Robins
Acting Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

- L. Noronha
Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 4, 2018, CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs held the monthly Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (ECSLIT) meeting at the Catholic Education Centre. Twenty-two elementary schools were represented from across the TCDSB composing of 136 students. Seven pillars of focus were identified at last year's secondary school Voices that Challenge conference held in April of 2018. In an attempt to capture elementary student voice, ECSLIT students were asked to rank the importance of each pillar. In addition, ECSLIT students were asked to come up with an issue important to them that was not included on the CSLIT list. ECSLIT wishes to further address and implement these recommendations in order to better serve the elementary students of the TCDSB.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This Information Report is on the Order Paper of the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee through an approved motion requesting an annual report for information on the initiatives and activities of the Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team.
2. The report includes practical activities that elementary schools can perform to support initiatives that would address the recommendations made by elementary students.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Although it has been customary for CSLIT to complete a yearly report based on the findings of their Voices That Challenge conference, this will be the first year that ECSLIT students have been asked for their input in a formal board report.
2. Getting ECSLIT students the opportunity to vote on CSLIT pillars will allow the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs to judge whether these complied pillars of focus are relevant to elementary students. Elementary students will also be given the opportunity to list their own pressing needs.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Although over 150 secondary students were polled on Sept. 25th, 2018 during CSLIT's first general assembly meeting, the elementary student voice was not directly captured within this process. In order to best serve the needs of our elementary students, an opportunity for them to voice their opinions is necessary. This opportunity was provided to elementary students on October 4th during ECSLIT's first monthly meeting for the 2018-19 school year.
2. Based on the recommendations made by the ECSLIT, the following action plan is being proposed by our elementary student leaders in collaboration with CSLIT's Directors of elementary affairs and the CSLIT Executive. Three pillars of focus will be concentrated on by ESLIT.

Note: The issues listed are not necessarily in order of importance as all are selected as priorities for this year's ECSLIT.

ECSLIT 2018-2019 Recommended Actions

1. Creating Safe and Inclusive Schools

Being comfortable in school is essential to being a successful student. Elementary students spend a considerable amount of time on devices for schoolwork, entertainment, and communication. ECSLIT students will learn how to recognize online bullying and learn how to better practice online safety. The Directors of Elementary Affairs will host 2 ECSLIT online meeting (December and May) which will focus on internet safety. All elementary schools, even those who do not participate in ECSLIT on a monthly basis, can participate.

At ECSLIT monthly meetings, the Directors of Elementary Affairs will engage the students in activities that elicit feelings of safety and belonging. These activities will be designed to make participants feel loved, welcomed, and appreciated. These same activities, as modelled by the Directors of Elementary Affairs, can be brought back to each ECSLIT school and delivered in elementary classrooms, assemblies, and events. SMILE Camp, and Camp Olympia are other student leadership initiatives where activities as such can be implemented and modeled for elementary students to help them become more *effective communicators* with regards to creating safe and inclusive environments where everyone should be able to *participate* and belong to a community.

The ECSLIT would like to maintain its support for the **Safe Schools Policy**, which helps contribute to a healthy learning environment for all our students. ECSLIT

would like to take a more prominent role in the elementary Safe Schools Symposium moving forward.

2. Inclusion and Belonging

As *Caring Family Members*, our elementary students have shown a deep concern for the support and value of minority groups in our communities. Everyone needs to be treated with *Human Dignity* because everyone is created in the likeness and image of God.

ECSLIT would like to work to support the diverse communities present within the TCDSB. The Directors of Elementary Affairs will attempt to further educate ECSLIT students regarding Indigenous, International, Newcomer, physically and/or mentally challenged, and other marginalized communities.

The Directors of Elementary Affairs will seek out guest speakers and/or workshop facilitators that address the challenges these marginalized communities face and invite them to present at upcoming ECSLIT meetings as well as events such as iLITE, Camp Olympia, and SMILE camp.

To further advocate for Inclusion and Belonging in our Board, the ECSLIT fully supports the *Equity Action Plan* which states the importance of culturally relevant pedagogy. Students should feel represented in the curriculum they learn as well as be taught by staff that represent their culture. At each monthly ECSLIT meeting, one elementary teacher will be asked to share one best practice that models inclusion and belonging. Other supervising teachers can take this activity into their own communities.

The celebration of various TCDSB Heritage Months will be encouraged at each ECLIST meeting. TCDSB Community relations liaisons will be invited to present at ECSLIT to share ways these heritage months can be celebrated within individual schools as well as promote board wide cultural events in which ECSLIT schools can get involved.

3. Environmental Stewardship

As *Stewards of Creation*, elementary students have expressed concern for the environment and wish to improve the situation. The ECSLIT will promote the use of reusable water bottles in their schools and encourage their use at all elementary school events (school plays/performances, parent/teacher nights, staff meetings).

Water is a sacred gift and a basic human right. Due to the privatization of water and its negative effects on the environment, ECSLIT students want to promote and enforce the TCDSB's Plastic Water Bottle Free initiative. For this reason, although water will be made available at each ECSLIT meeting, no plastic or Styrofoam cups will be provided and students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own reusable bottle to reduce the amount of monthly waste produced.

ECSLIT also recognizes that animal agriculture is the leading cause of greenhouse gases, water consumption, and clear cutting of the Amazon rainforest. The choice of cheese pizza over pepperoni pizza at our monthly meetings will allow for ECSLIT's carbon footprint to be reduced and act as a reminder of the harmful effects that animal agriculture has on the environment.

Lastly, ECSLIT would like to explore elementary school recycling procedures to ensure that our schools are actively carrying out mindful disposing habits (sorting garbage and recycling in their respective bins). ECSLIT would like to have a more prominent role in at the board's Environmental Committee and Eco Conference moving forward.

Additional Topics of Focus

Elementary students of the ECSLIT were also asked to present other issues that they feel passionately about and that are evident in their schools and greater communities. Multiple social justice issues such as youth homelessness, child soldiers, and education in underdeveloped countries were brought up. Personal issues such as anti-bullying, mental health, and physical health were also presented.

When selecting guest speakers and workshop facilitators for various Catholic Student Leadership events, these topics can be touched upon since they are areas of importance brought forth by our elementary student leaders.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Students should be stimulated to effect positive change in our world around injustices. Students feel a calling to live out their faith, thus involvement in social justice actions allow them to make their faith visible. The current Student Trustees will be engaging the ECSLIT so that they can work with

various staff to address their specific recommendations. Students feel that board policies must address and be in line with current global social justice issues relevant and important to students.

2. The Student Trustees and ECSLIT will report back to the Board on the impact of their initiatives in their annual report to the Board of Trustees.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.