



REPORT TO

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

ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP IMPACT TEAM REPORT

*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
November 25, 2019	December 5, 2019	Click here to enter a date.

M. Muluneh, CSLIT Director of Elementary Affairs
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M. Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools, and Continuing Education

INFORMATION REPORT

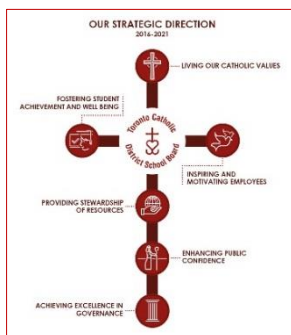
Vision:

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.



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Director of Education

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 7, 2019, Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) Directors of Elementary Affairs Makeda Muluneh and Christopher Di Matteo held the second monthly Elementary CSLIT (ECSLIT) meeting at the Catholic Education Centre. Twenty-eight (28) elementary schools were represented from across the TCDSB, composed of 196 students. In order to capture elementary student voice, ECSLIT students were asked to complete a survey in their school teams identifying local and global issues important to them. ECSLIT wishes to further address and implement actions that address each issue to better serve the elementary students of the TCDSB.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 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. ECSLIT students were given the opportunity to voice their concerns and what they believe are pressing issues at the November 7, 2019, ECSLIT meeting. The input from elementary student leaders will give the Directors of Elementary Affairs a guide to directing the focus of ECSLIT for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. This report includes practical plans-of-action that elementary schools and ECSLIT can perform to support initiatives that would address the recommendations made by elementary student leaders.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Although over 200 secondary students were polled on September 24, 2019, 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, students attending ECSLIT on November 7, 2019, were asked to complete a short survey so that the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs could compile ideas directly from elementary students.
2. Based on the recommendations made by members of 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. ECSLIT will be focusing on the following three pillars for the 2019-2020 school year: (1) Environmental Stewardship; (2) Mental Health and Well-Being; (3) Inclusion, Belonging and Respecting Differences.

ECSLIT 2019-2020 Recommended Actions

1. Environmental Stewardship

As Responsible Citizens, elementary students have expressed concern for the environment and wish to improve the situation. 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; 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 practices to ensure that our schools are actively carrying out environmentally mindful disposing habits (e.g. sorting garbage and recycling, limiting contamination). We

will ask a member of the Board's environmental committee to speak at a future monthly meeting.

2. Mental Health and Well Being

Mental health and well-being is a crucial aspect of the human person. It affects everything – physical health, school success, family life, and relationships. Self care is extremely important to fully realize each of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. As students within the Catholic system, we are called to be *reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers*. When safe environments are created, students can be more introspective and self-aware. When no stigma is attached to certain feelings, emotions, or particular states of well being, students will more likely and more openly seek assistance.

ECSLIT will designate a meeting to have a keynote speaker that can speak to the students about the realities of this pressing issue, and services that are available to provide support.

The Directors of Elementary Affairs will also take the time to compile a list of TCDSB resources that can help with the issues surrounding mental health and illness, as well as exterior supports, and de-stress techniques. This compilation will be made available to students through the Catholic Student Leadership website.

As well as helping students learn to cope and manage stress, the Directors of Elementary Affairs will take an interest in learning about the areas of stress and concern that students in Grade 8 face with their impending graduation to secondary school. It is paramount that students feel comfortable graduating to secondary school. To help put their minds at ease and answer and questions they may have, one meeting will be designated for a Q&A session with a panel of CSLIT secondary school leaders.

3. Inclusion, Belonging, and Respecting Differences

As *Caring Family Members*, our elementary students have shown a deep concern for the support and value of marginalized 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 provide learning opportunities for ECSLIT students regarding Indigenous, International, Newcomer, physically and/or mentally challenged, and LGBTQ+ communities that are aligned with Catholic teachings and the elementary Religious Education and Family Life programs.

Bullying in schools is a topic discussed at SMILE Camp. The Directors of Elementary Affairs will attend elementary SMILE camp this year so they can engage with intermediate students to better understand some of the issues surrounding bullying most common in elementary schools. To address these issues, high school mentors attending SMILE Camp will help intermediate students create school based action plans that are aligned with Catholic teachings and the elementary Religious Education and Family Life programs.

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 that ECSLIT schools can get involved with.

Additional Topics of Focus

In addition to these three areas of focus, survey results listed other areas of need. When selecting guests speakers and workshop facilitators for various Catholic Student Leadership events (ex. iLITE, Camp Olympia), 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. Moving forward, 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.