



2018 - 2019 DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating... we BELONG



TCDSB MISSION STATEMENT



OUR 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.

OUR VISION

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

2018 - 2019

we **BELONG**



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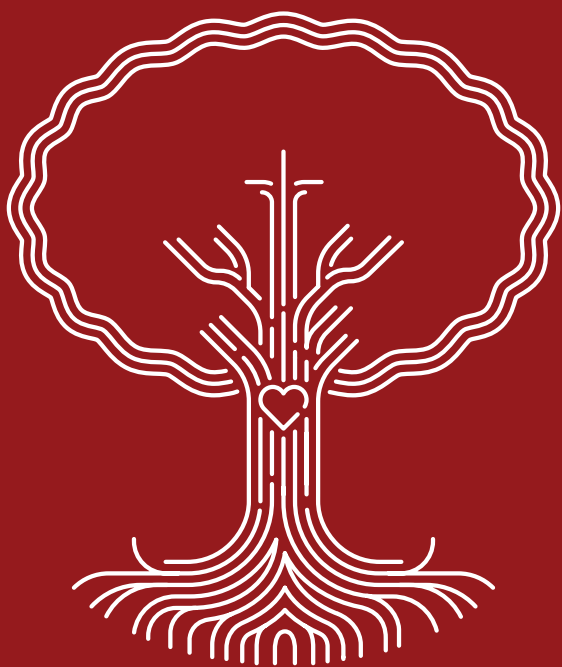
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ROOTED IN CHRIST

"Live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith...abounding in thanksgiving." – Colossians 2:6b-7

we
BELONG

we
BELIEVE

we
BECOME



2018 - 2021



The 2018-2019 school year has been filled with so many important accomplishments that it's actually difficult to narrow it down to just a few success stories, celebrations, and examples of growth and development. I am happy to share some of the highlights from the past year.

Seeing the collaboration among our staff, parents, parishes and other stakeholders throughout the year is a constant reminder of the importance of publicly funded Catholic education to the community, and the shared commitment we all have for student success and well-being.

With our continued commitment to equity and inclusion it was fitting that our Pastoral Plan theme focused on belonging. Our three-year plan Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become, reminds us that we all belong to one family and to one educational community, that we share beliefs and values that are at the core of our humanity, and that we must use the unique gifts and talents that each of us has to help our students become the very best version of themselves.

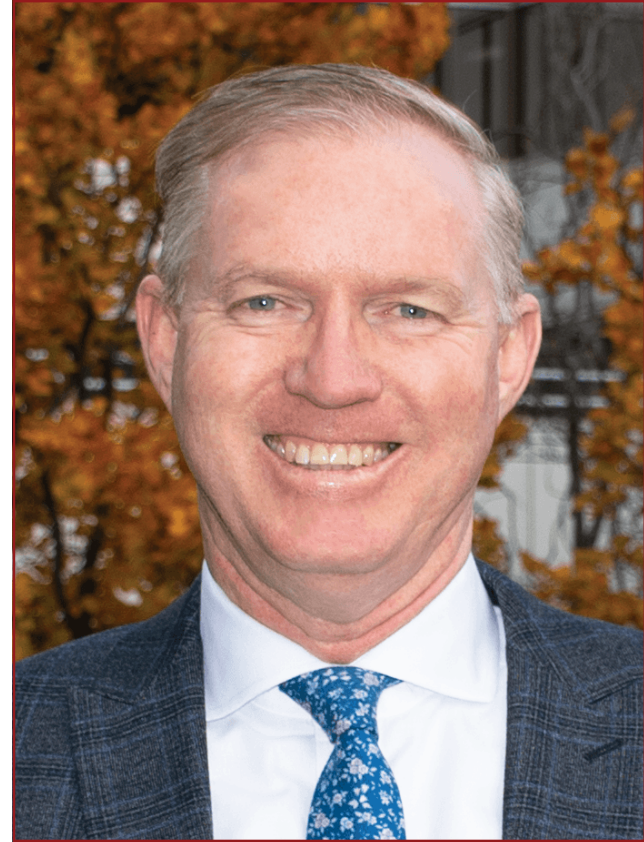
This annual report will provide you with a snapshot of what has been accomplished to bring our Multi-Year Strategic Plan to life in our schools and offices.

I hope you will see how much we have accomplished together, and that if we continue to work collectively, there is so much more than we can do for our students, our schools and our communities.

Sincerely,



Rory McGuckin, Director of Education



Message from the Director

Living Our Catholic Values

celebrating...

***we* BELONG**



Rooted in Christ: we Belong, we Believe, we Become

TCDSB has just completed the first year of its new pastoral plan, “we Belong”, which focused on our commitment to inclusion, acceptance, respect, community and friendship. Schools embraced the theme and celebrated the many ways they nurture a sense of belonging in their local communities through social media, school and board websites, and incorporated the theme into the curriculum as well as special events and activities throughout the year. At St. Robert, the community created a mural to celebrate the pastoral plan.



www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/We_Belong/Pages/default.aspx



FaithTalk

In partnership with Radio Maria Canada, FaithTalk was created, and students in grades 7 to 12 were invited to submit written work or videos to highlight how they are living their faith today. The winning submission came from Marcia Dubskey, a student from Brazil, who is attending Dante Alighieri Catholic Academy. She was featured on air during Catholic Education Week talking about her experiences as a newcomer who was welcomed into her school community, and through that sense of belonging developed the confidence to put her beliefs and convictions into action helping others. Marcia also shared her submission and her experience with FaithTalk at the year-end culminating celebration for our pastoral plan.

www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/rooted-in-christ/We_Belong/Pages/radio-maria.aspx

IYAM! - Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement

The Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement, organized by Madonna Catholic Secondary School students, brought together more than 200 culturally diverse youth from TCDSB, Durham, Dufferin-Peel, TDSB and As-Sadiq Islamic School. Participants had the opportunity to connect and bond with youth from a variety of world views and faith traditions. The goal was to encourage a better appreciation of others, develop deeper connections to their understanding of faith, celebrate commonalities and differences, and work together on issues to unify communities. Students participated and engaged in faith celebrations through the arts, meaningful dialogue, and the genesis of an interfaith youth community. IYAM calls youth to live *The Golden Rule*, and take collective action on issues such as climate change, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, hate crimes, Truth and Reconciliation, mental health and other critical issues.



CEC Hug in Support of Meagan's Walk

TCDSB schools for many years have participated in the annual school hug to show support for all who are dealing with life-threatening illnesses and other challenges. Circling Our Angels of Hope grew from the annual Meagan's Walk in support of SickKids Hospital. This year on April 13, staff from the Catholic Education Centre joined students and staff from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts and elementary student leaders in front of the administrative offices to pray together, and show support for all who are in need of a hug. The event was also an opportunity to reflect and remember the victims of the Yonge Street van attack one year earlier.

ShareLife

TCDSB school communities were successful in raising more than \$102,000 to support the work of ShareLife. This was accomplished through a Board-wide civvies day in April, as well as numerous local fundraising events at schools and in partnership with parishes throughout the year.



▲ Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic School.



◀ Nneze from St. John Vianney Catholic School created the winning artwork that will be featured in the ShareLife campaign in 2020.



The Angel Foundation for Learning



The Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL) enables students to focus on their education through four wings of support. During the 2018/19 school year, close to 60,000 TCDSB students benefitted daily from a healthy breakfast, morning meal, lunch or snack, with more than one million meals a month being served by school nutrition program volunteers.

The Foundation also disbursed \$42,084 to 87 schools to help pay for school excursions so that no child was left behind. Through its seven Guardian Angel Funds, a total of \$142,581 was distributed to support students with basic necessities such as food, warm clothing, shelter or medical supplies. Future dreams became possible for 135 students whose summer camp and/or after school sports program fees were covered under the fund.

Four awards totaling \$1600 were administered to elementary schools and \$16,500 was distributed in eight bursaries to students to assist with their post-secondary education.

Several unique and inspirational community-wide fundraising efforts are held annually. Events such as the *Evening to Feed the Soul Gala*, *Toronto Marlies Day*, and the *AFL golf tournament* bring Board staff, students, parents, Trustees and community partners together in support of the Foundation's work to help, inspire and nurture TCDSB students.



Celebrating Diversity

The Board continues to celebrate the diversity of its school communities by recognizing a variety of days, weeks and months that are set aside to reflect on the contributions of a wide range of cultures. These heritage events serve to nurture respect and understanding, and are reminders to ensure that a wide variety of cultural perspectives are woven into curriculum. In September 2018, the Board celebrated its first Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month. During the inaugural year of celebrations, a board-wide poster contest was initiated and the winning design by Grade 12 student Zoriana Wankiewicz from Michael Power/St. Joseph is being used for future celebrations.



Indigenous Education

With an increased focus on Indigenous Education, the Board created the Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education Department. The department is focused on ensuring that the curriculum is culturally responsive, relevant and authentic, while also providing opportunities for parent engagement, and celebration of the rich traditions and heritage, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Toronto and throughout the world.

With the launch of the Revised Social Studies Curriculum, teachers were in-serviced on the new curriculum expectations. Professional learning opportunities were provided on the history of residential schools, oppression, and colonization, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the contributions of Indigenous peoples. The new expectations support actions 62 and 63 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

OPENING OF MEDICINE WHEEL GARDEN AT ST. TIMOTHY

The school's ECO Team led the project with the goal of strengthening and reconciling connections with the environment and with First Nations in Canada. TCDSB resident Elder, Clayton Shirt helped students and staff see the interconnectivity of all living things, especially the relationship with ourselves, our neighbours, all living creatures and the environment. It is the school's hope that this garden will help illuminate the importance of Indigenous perspectives and the interconnectedness and interdependency of our environmental systems. The Medicine Wheel Garden was made possible with the generous support of a grant from TD Bank, specifically Friends of the Environment, and the working hands of D & G Contracting.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

For the second year, the TCDSB participated in Orange Shirt Day to show solidarity with the victims, survivors, and their families in Residential Schools.



The Director and the Senior Administration Team visited the Woodland Cultural Centre/ Mohawk Indian Residential School in Brantford to deepen their understanding about Indigenous students and families within the TCDSB community.



INDIGENOUS FAMILIES ENGAGEMENT EVENING

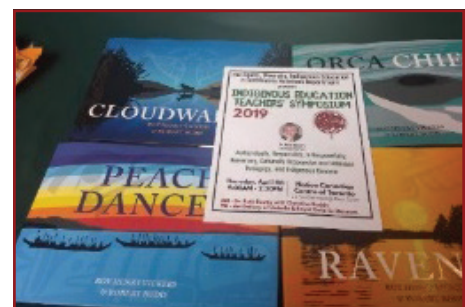
The TCDSB hosted the first Indigenous Families Engagement Evening in the fall, providing an opportunity for students and their families to meet Board senior staff, Indigenous community members, and agencies that support Indigenous student success and well-being. The event also included a number of special performances, including First Nation Dancers, Métis Fiddler and Jigger, and Throat Singers.

RECONCILIATION

Elementary students were once again invited to the CEC in June to experience a Mini Pow Wow, led by Toronto Council Fire. That same month, under the guidance of Métis Knowledge Keeper and Artist Diane Montreuil, students in Special Education classes from 15 different schools explored the concept of reconciliation with our land's Indigenous peoples through art. The artistry that resulted from lessons learned about the life of the Indigenous peoples in Canada has been captured in a multi-panel quilt that ties together a number of key elements of the Indigenous experience. The quilt has been mounted in a stunning hand-carved, rosewood frame created by Indigenous craftspeople, Marise and Curtis, and was unveiled on June 5.

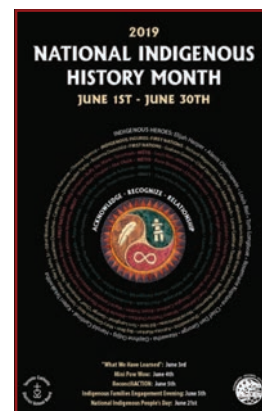
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS' SYMPOSIUM

The annual Indigenous Education Teachers' Symposium brought together more than 100 teachers for a day of professional development at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto that focused on Mathematics, Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy, and Indigenous Ways of Knowing. This day of learning was led by Dr. Ruth Beatty from Lakehead University, and supported with presentations from the Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario.



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WEEK

The TCDSB recognized National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Education Week with the opening celebration show called "What We Have Learned". Students from St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy and Dante Alighieri Academy showcased their work done as part of the English program in understanding First Nations, Metis, and Inuit voices and Writers' Craft classrooms. With the launch of the Revised Social Studies Curriculum, teachers were in-serviced on the new curriculum expectations. Professional learning opportunities were provided on the history of residential schools, oppression, and colonization, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the contributions of Indigenous peoples. The new expectations support actions 62 and 63 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.



Ten original written works St. Mother Teresa grade 11 Native Studies English students and illustrated by grade nine Native Studies Art students, with the guidance of Native Studies English teacher, Jol-Christine Molina, and Native Art teacher, Julia DiCarlo, were compiled to create Lacuna, with the book being launched in June 2018.



Addressing themes of identity, discrimination, fear, bravery, and love, Lacuna, which means the missing part, was written as a means to bridge the gap in literature and voice the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples today.



Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being

celebrating...

***we* BELONG**



STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)

STEAM Secondary School Administrators met to support the enrichment programming this year. The professional development days established a shared understanding of STEAM, the balance between central objectives and site responsive programming, and an onsite visit of the MakerSpace. A longer discussion involved determining a four-year cycle where cohorts would have a project that culminates in a graduating capstone was initiated. Work was also done to create a resource of vendors, events and opportunities to better support new schools to the program. Guest speaker, Graham Green (The Gorilla Store – Ontario Science Center), presented an integrated model of collaboration that involves various curricular areas.



MathUP

MathUP School, a resource designed to improve understanding and performance in mathematics, provides tools such as common tasks, implementation and monitoring checklists, professional learning modules, etc. that allow staff to analyze student work to gather evidence that points to school-wide curriculum gaps and targeted professional learning.

These tools empower the principal as the lead learner in the School Improvement Cycle, to create a measureable and sustainable school wide improvement in mathematics (aligns with Board Learning Improvement Plan goal D – School and Classroom Leadership, Collaboration and Engagement).

Spoken Word at St. Gerald

A Spoken Word workshop at St. Gerald Catholic School culminated in a whole school showcase during Catholic Education Week. Every class from Grades 1-8 participated in three separate workshops facilitated by members of the TCDSB Elementary Literacy Team. The students learned about the unique characteristics of the Spoken Word poetic style, the stages of the writing process from brainstorming to editing of a polished work, and the choreography involved with a group presentation. The incredible passion for a variety of social justice issues that was on display through their Spoken Word presentations was truly inspiring.



Our Lady of Sorrows Featured in Award Winning Ad Campaign

Students from the Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School choir had the opportunity to record the background vocals for the anti-bullying song called No More with Rapper SonReal in partnership with Telus. Telus was awarded a silver medal at the national level in recognition for one of the best marketing campaigns in the country, and was also nominated for the Cannes Lions (international) Award, one of only four nominees in total, and the only Canadian nominee. Congratulations to the choir and the staff for the role they played in supporting bullying awareness.

<https://marketingawards.strategyonline.ca/winners/winner/2019/?c=79648&w=No+More>



Music

The Toronto Catholic District School Board Music Festival was held in April, 2019. Over 1300 secondary students from 20 schools and 2700 elementary students from 80 schools performed for their peers and received adjudications from a dozen different adjudicators. The Adjudication Team was made up of industry professionals and music educators. The performances were held in auditoriums and gymnasiums around the city including Michael Power/St. Joseph, Blessed Cardinal Newman, St. Joseph Morrow Park, Epiphany of Our Lord Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas.

For 2019-2020 the Board is looking to expand attendance in the vocal area, including a larger showing for show choir, by enlisting high profile industry professionals as adjudicators. All sessions will be held in auditoriums to provide students with a richer performing experience.



French

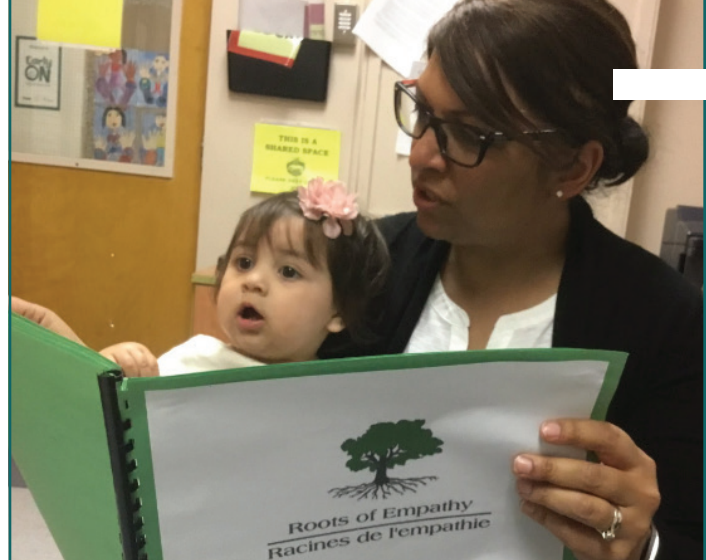
The demand for French Immersion programs continues to grow throughout the City of Toronto. Adam McMahon, Grade 12 Student at Bishop Allen Academy, in 2019 won 1st place at the provincial *Concours d'art oratoire 2019* in the Core French category and represented TCDSB at the national level. Adam won a \$300 cash prize and a \$4000 post-secondary scholarship to continue to his French studies. *Le Concours d'art oratoire* offers students a chance to showcase their skills in both written and spoken French.

Roots of Empathy 2018-2019

The integration of the Roots of Empathy program within a classroom and school community helps to build healthy, positive relationships, problem solving skills and emotional literacy skills. Roots of Empathy fosters safe and welcoming school communities, promotes well-being, and seeks to reduce levels of bullying, aggression and violence in schools.

The program, which started in 2004 currently operates in 11 sites, with plans to expand further in the future.

The program enriches a school community, with nine family visits throughout the year, increasing knowledge of human development, learning and infant safety. The students in the classroom where the program is being delivered develop a special bond with the infant, watching the many milestones that the baby reaches during the program.



▲ Holy Spirit Catholic School.

Physical Education

Student athletics were cause for celebration throughout the year, with a wide range of sports events and activities that allowed students to engage in friendly competition, and skills such as leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Working with Special Olympics, students with special needs were included in events during the cross-country and track and field finals. TCDSB owes a debt of gratitude to the many coaches and volunteers who work with our students throughout the year to prepare for these events.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day

In response to the Ministry of Education's Bill 44, an Act to amend the Education Act in relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), the TCDSB declared **September 9th** as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day. Resources have been provided to schools and posted to the Board's website to support learning about the significance of the day <https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2019/pages/fasd.aspx>.

On September 9th, the first FASD day will be recognized in September 2019 and students and staff are encouraged to wear red shoes/socks to show their support for those who are living with FASD.

Grey Day for Brain Cancer Awareness

TCDSB celebrated the inaugural Board-wide Brain Cancer Awareness Day on May 24, 2019 at St. Cecilia Catholic School, where the idea was first initiated by student Isabel Andrews to raise awareness about the disease after her father was diagnosed with brain cancer.



Mental Health

The Board welcomed Dr. Marie-Josée Gendron as TCDSB's new Chief of Mental Health, and Melissa Hanlon as the new Mental Health Leader. In consultation with the Mental Health Steering and Advisory Committees, a new Mental Health Strategy has been drafted and will be implemented in September 2019. TCDSB hired 6 Mental Health Professionals (psychologists or social workers), funded by the Ministry of Education to work with existing staff. The team implemented mental health promotion and prevention programming, with a focus on topics such as stress, at the classroom level in 12 classrooms at 6 secondary schools, reaching approximately 360 students. The Board also implemented individual student counseling to respond to identified student needs, with about 35 students benefiting from the service from April to June 2019.

Three TCDSB schools are participating in the pilot of Faith and Wellness: A Daily Mental Health Resource. Resources developed by OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association) and School Mental Health ASSIST are provided to support the development of social emotional learning and builds student resiliency, consisting of brief mental health practices that teachers can incorporate into daily routines.

Suicide awareness (SafeTalk) and suicide intervention (ASIST) training workshops were provided to staff (developed by Livingworks Education), to prepare staff to notice and respond to situations where thoughts of suicide might be present, to recognize often overlooked invitations for help, and to move beyond the common tendency to miss, dismiss, and avoid suicide. Four mental health clinicians were trained in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

Stop the Stigma Board-wide events encourage student leaders from intermediate grades to take leadership roles in their own schools in supporting and raising awareness around mental health issues, with school participation increasing year to year.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2019/Pages/stigma.aspx>



Supporting All Students

TCDSB continues to support families of students with special needs through a variety of initiatives including the annual Special Education and Community Resources Fair, which provides resources and information about supports that are available through the school, as well as those that are offered through community organizations.

This commitment to all students was demonstrated in the annual celebration of Autism Awareness Month in October as well as Autism Awareness Day in April. The Board and all its schools raised the Autism flag in recognition of our students with Autism as well as the staff and families who support them. The Board also hosted its annual evening celebration featuring Mass, special presentations and dinner.



For Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, the Board hosted its 30th Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing Family Picnic at Sts. Cosmas & Damian. Current and former students, teachers and alumnae attended the exciting day in celebration of friendships, community and new experiences.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Girls' Talk and Boys' Clubs provide an opportunity for students to gather regularly with their peers who share similar challenges and to enjoy a variety of activities, including a magic show.



One of the highlights of the year is always the TCDSB Secondary School Student Special Olympics which brings together secondary students with special needs at the Hangar in Downsview Park for a day of friendly competition, activities, fun and friendship, including an opening parade of athletes.



Assisting with the programming and entertainment for the day are student leaders from across the Board who always say that they get just as much joy and excitement out of the experience as our participating student athletes.

TCDSB also acknowledged National Inclusive Education Month, Children's Mental Health Week, World Down Syndrome Day, Deaf Blind Month, International Day of Persons with Disabilities and other days, weeks and months of recognition for individuals with special needs.

Celebrating Women

On Thursday, March 21, 2019, the TCDSB celebrated International Women's Day with a special event that brought together students and staff from several schools to hear empowering stories from Women of Distinction, pray as a community and watch student performances that addressed the theme of empowerment.

The day showcased art pieces from our students that reflected the spirit of the day. <https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stjosephcollege/News/Pages/International-Women%27s-Day-Art-Exhibition.aspx>

The first ever winners of the **Sister Evanne Hunter Young Women in Leadership Award** were also announced at this event. [Click here to read](#) more about Sr. Evanne and the Award.

The 2019 winners are:

Elementary: Emily Karagossian, student at St. Kateri Tekawitha Catholic School
Secondary: Adaeze Mbalaja, student Madonna Catholic Secondary School



The students were recognized at the Board's annual Awards night which celebrates the outstanding achievement of students, alumni and partners and friends of Catholic education.

Technology for Students

The Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Services Division supported student achievement and well-being by preparing and distributing more than 1,600 devices (Chromebooks, iPads and laptops) to schools for student use. ICT Services was responsible for ensuring that the online registration site for kindergarten would be able to handle the volume of traffic, particularly on the first day.



Recent Assessment Results

TCDSB remains committed to student success and well-being, and we continue to focus resources in areas where they are needed to help students succeed.

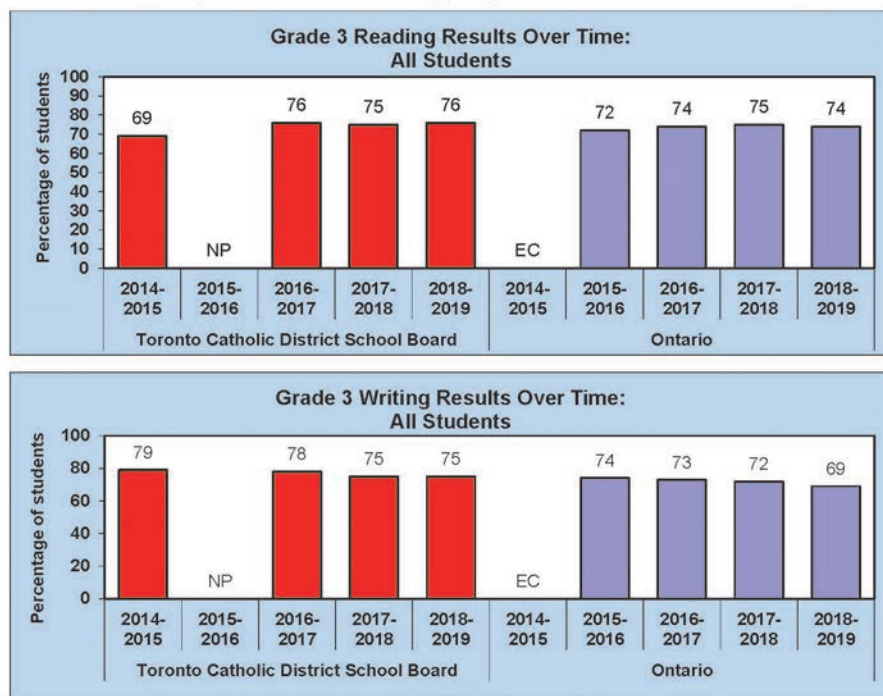
The latest EQAO results show TCDSB students performing at or above the provincial average in some areas, however, overall results in mathematics show that further investments and supports are needed.

While these standardized tests provide a snapshot of a student's progress, they are just one of the valuable tools that can be used to help our educators and support staff focus efforts where they are most needed. These results are used in combination with regular assessment and testing throughout the school year, and day to day observation of a student's performance to guide teaching practices and programming.

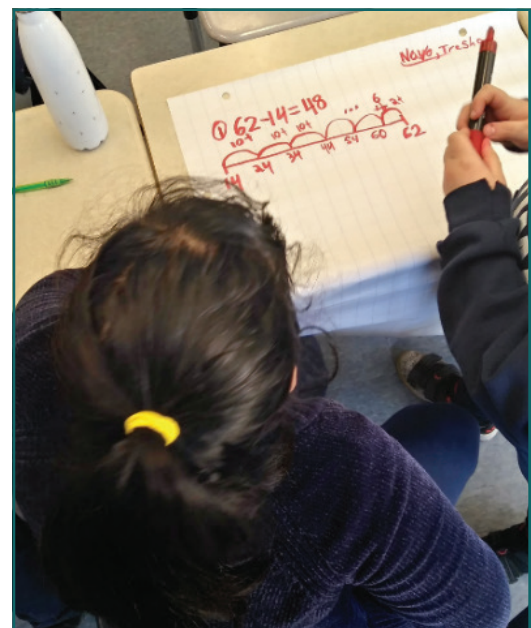
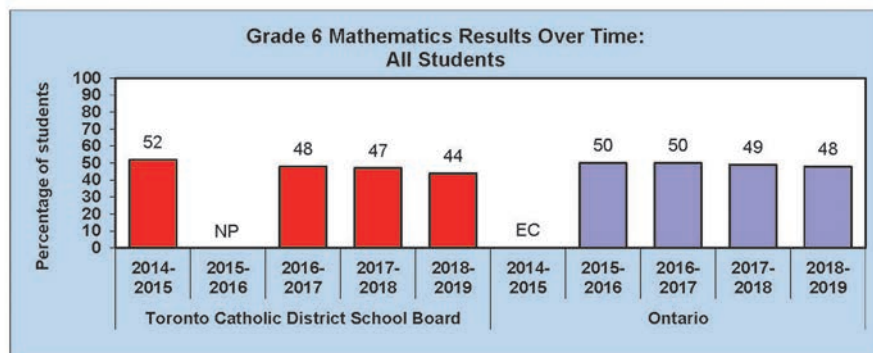
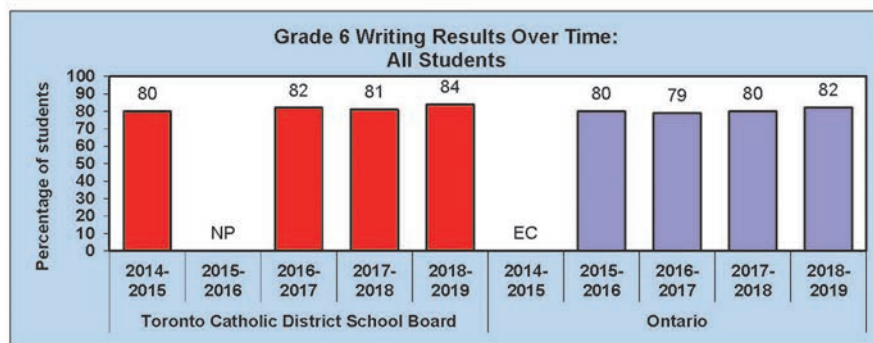
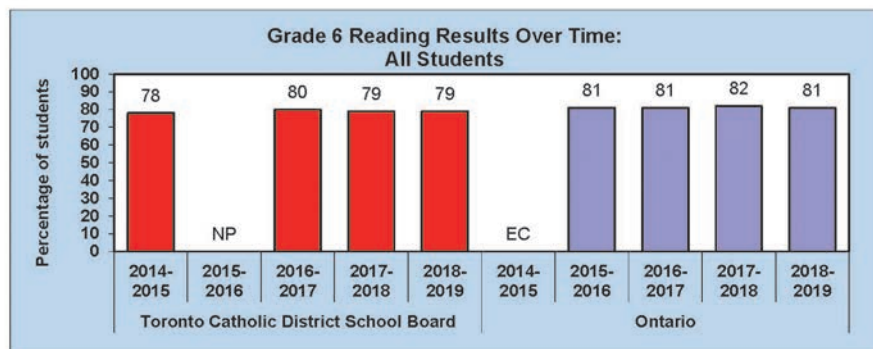
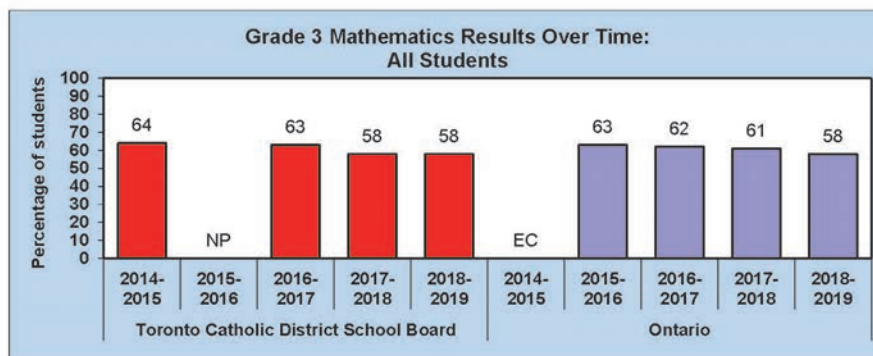
TCDSB shares the province's views that these results are not meant as a ranking tool. We know that our school communities are as diverse as the students and families that we serve, and we recognize that there are many factors that can impact an individual's academic achievement.

EQAO RESULTS OVER TIME

Note: EC = Due to exceptional circumstances, provincial data were not available in 2015;
NP = Elementary schools in TCDSB did not participate in 2016.



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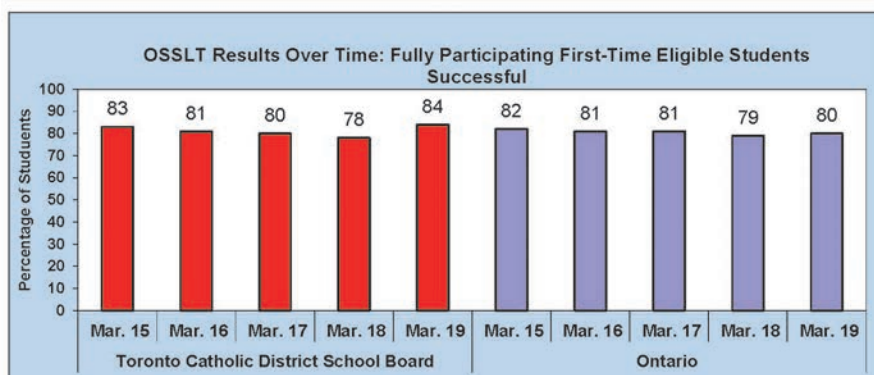
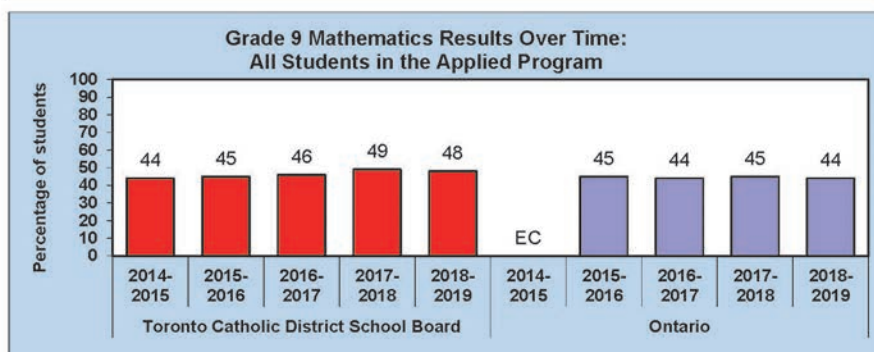
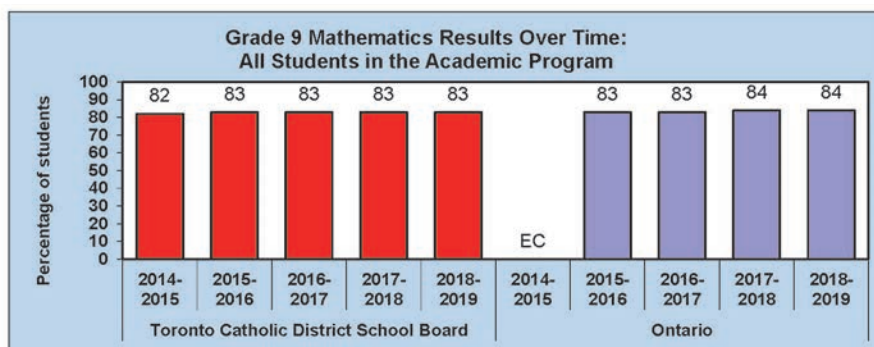
We value the involvement of parents, and our schools seek opportunities to engage them more fully in the education of their children.

The Board's Equity Action Plan aims to help level the playing field so that all students have the same opportunities for success at all levels.

Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) was the key theme at spring and fall (2018-2019) department heads' symposium designed to increase teacher efficacy in CRRP.

The Board introduced the equity fund, school block budget enhancements earmarked to support Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) and poverty mitigation. This fund provided 20% for the purchase of materials that support CRRP, 20% to be used for direct poverty mitigation in the learning environment and 60% for locally determined needs.

Note: EC = Due to exceptional circumstances, provincial data were not available in 2015.



Inspiring and Motivating Employees

celebrating...
we BELONG





Workforce Census

As a Catholic learning community, we are inspired and guided by the Gospel in our pursuit of equity as a value rooted in our faith. It is our Christian call to act with intentionality to ensure those we serve are treated with respect and dignity.

The TCDSB is advancing its commitment to equity and inclusion at all levels of the organization. The Workforce Census supports the Board's Equity Action Plan, the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the Board Learning Improvement Plan and the Three-Year Pastoral Plan, Rooted in Christ: we Belong; we Believe; we Become. It supports the overarching goal of equity of opportunity and equity of outcomes for all. Staff at all levels of the organization are being encouraged to participate in the Workforce Census in an effort to further inspire success, confidence and hope in each other. TCDSB thanks its labour partners for their support and participation in this initiative.

Together, we represent the diversity of the communities in which we live and work. The workforce census conducted between November and December will help us:

- paint a picture of who we are as a community;
- identify strengths and barriers to inclusion as well as equity of opportunities and outcomes; and
- develop and implement plans and supports to address workplace equity.

TCDSB Celebrates Retirees and Long-Serving Employees

Trustees, senior staff, school administrators and staff, former colleagues, as well as family and friends attended a Mass of celebration in honour of recent TCDSB retirees.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2019/Pages/Retirement-Mass-2018.aspx>

Local celebrations were also held at schools and central offices to acknowledge staff who have worked for the Board for 25 years or more, in recognition of their dedication to publicly funded Catholic education.



Staff Access to Technology

The ICT Services deployed 790 new laptop computers for Principals and Vice-Principals and desktop computers for Secretaries and Clerk Typists with upgrades to Windows 10 and Office 365 ProPlus. They also replaced some 200 desktop computers for caretakers in TCDSB schools.

The TCDSB Intranet was migrated to the cloud service (Office 365 SharePoint Online) to enable upgrades to all departmental webpages and publishing sites to a modern webpage format and to migrate external vendor components to components of the Office 365 SharePoint Online platform.



As of October 2018, the former ICT Help Desk became the ICT Service Desk. This was not just a change in the name, but reflected the implementation of the new Information Technology Service Management (ITSM) tool – Ivanti Service Manager – which is used to process all ICT requests. The self-service portal is accessible from any device, and allows staff to submit incidents and service requests and check on their status in real time.

Staff Appreciation Days

TCDSB continues to celebrate the many days, weeks and months set aside to acknowledge specific employee groups for the unique role that each of them plays in student success and well-being.

Some of these observances are established internationally, some nationally or provincially, while still others were initiated by the Board in an effort to be inclusive and recognize all staff members.



Providing Stewardship of Resources

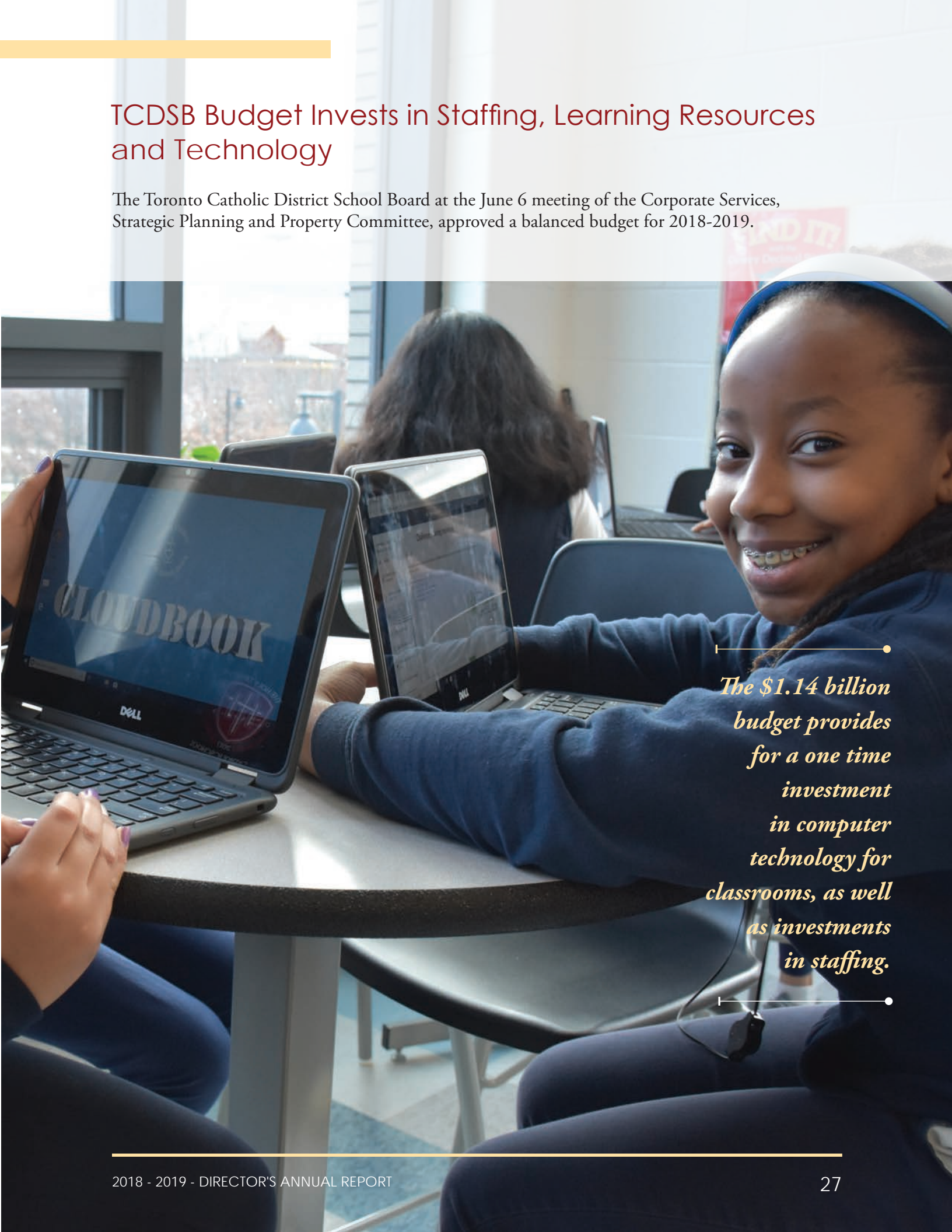
celebrating...

***we* BELONG**



TCDSB Budget Invests in Staffing, Learning Resources and Technology

The Toronto Catholic District School Board at the June 6 meeting of the Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee, approved a balanced budget for 2018-2019.

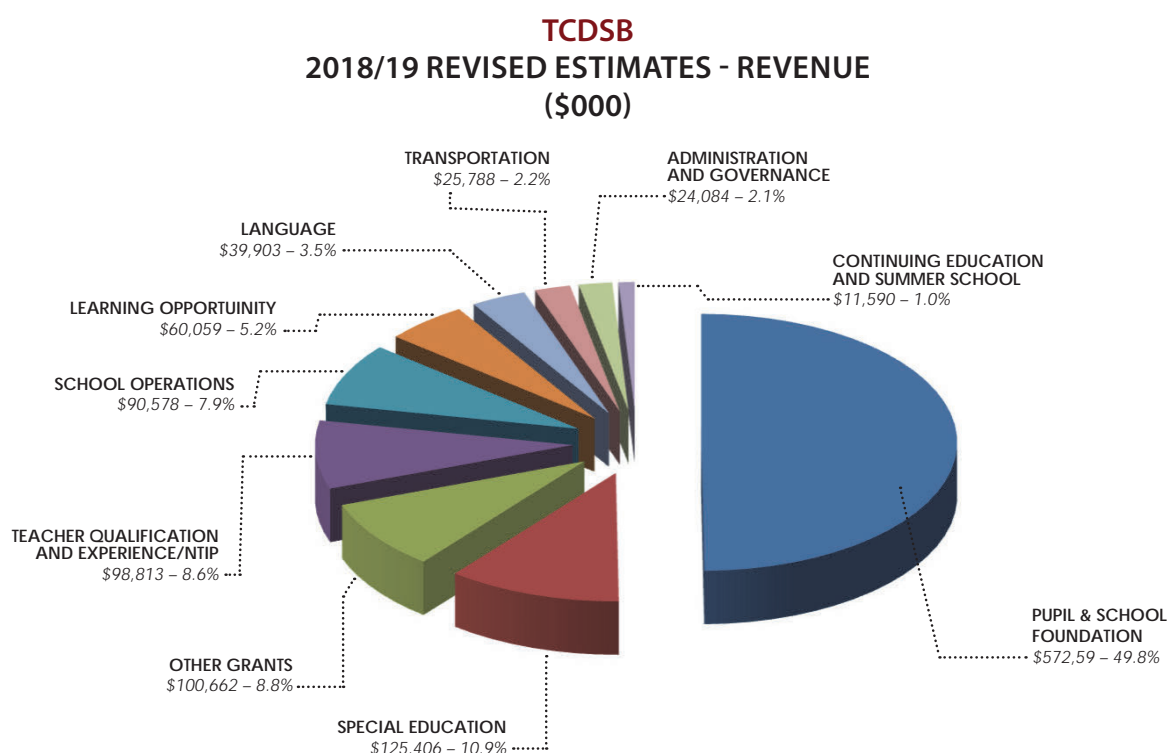


The \$1.14 billion budget provides for a one time investment in computer technology for classrooms, as well as investments in staffing.

The Board appreciated the feedback provided by parents, staff, students and other community members through our annual budget consultations. The decision as to where we invest available resources was very much driven by the input received through that consultation process.

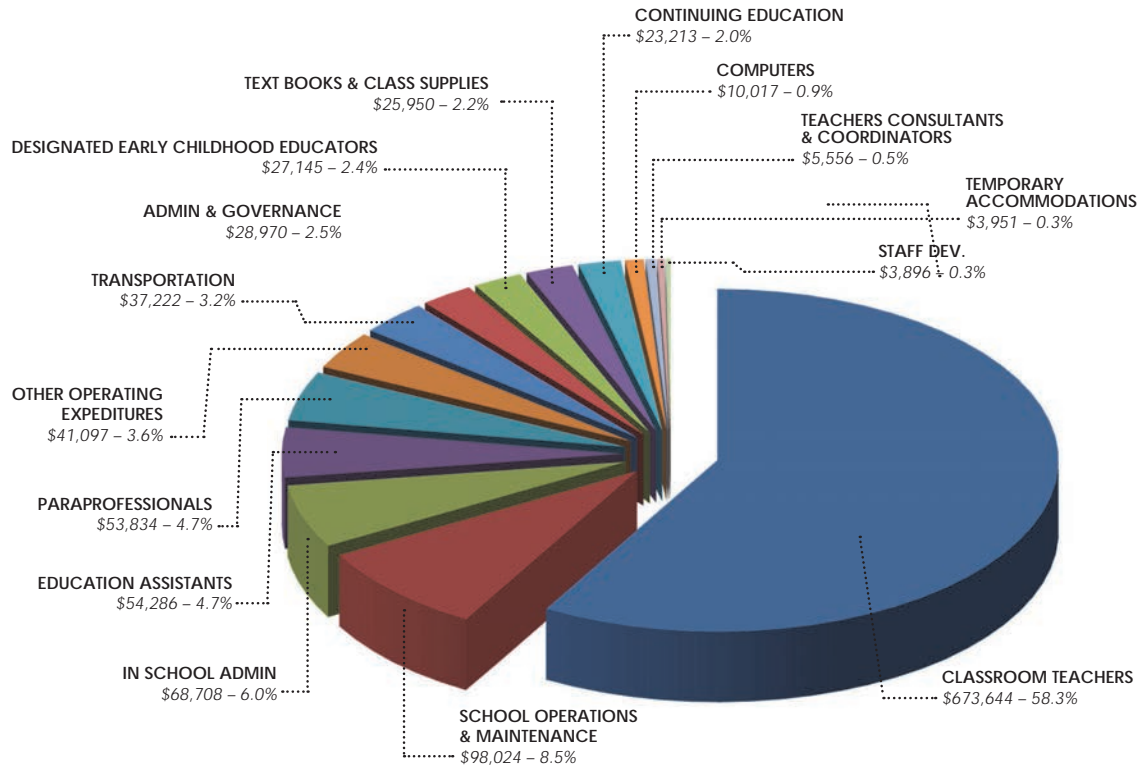
The increase in staffing investments provides for the creation of 98.9 full time equivalent positions including classroom teachers and special education supports.

This budget reflects the Board's continued commitment to the goals of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan including stewardship of resources and student achievement and well-being. We continue to look for ways to focus spending in areas which will directly benefit the students in the classroom.



Grants for Student Needs (GSNs)	Millions \$	%
Pupil & School Foundation	\$ 572,599	49.8%
Special Education	\$ 125,406	10.9%
Other Grants	\$ 100,662	8.8%
Teacher Qualification and Experience/NTIP	\$ 98,813	8.6%
School Operations	\$ 90,578	7.9%
Learning Opportunity	\$ 60,059	5.2%
Language	\$ 39,903	3.5%
Transportation	\$ 25,788	2.2%
Administration and Governance	\$ 24,084	2.1%
Continuing Education and Summer School	\$ 11,590	1.0%
Total Operating & Capital Grants	\$ 1,149,482	100%

TCDSB
2018/19 REVISED EXPENDITURE BUDGET ESTIMATES
(\$'000)



	Millions \$	%
Classroom Teachers	\$ 673,644	58.3%
School Operations & Maintenance	\$ 98,024	8.5%
In School Admin.	\$ 68,708	6.0%
Education Assitants	\$ 54,286	4.7%
Paraprofessionals	\$ 53,834	4.7%
Other Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,097	3.6%
Transportation	\$ 37,222	3.2%
Admin & Governance	\$ 28,970	2.5%
Designated Early Childhood Educators	\$ 27,145	2.4%
Textbooks & class Supplies	\$ 25,950	2.2%
Continuing Education	\$ 23,213	2.0%
Computers	\$ 10,017	0.9%
Teachers consultants & Coordinators	\$ 5,556	0.5%
Temporary Accommodation	\$ 3,951	0.3%
Staff Dev.	\$ 2,896	0.3%
Total	\$ 1,154,513	100%

Detailed information can be found in the budget book:
<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/BudgetandFinance/Pages/default.aspx>

Success Stories from Information & Technology (I&T)

Now, more than ever, our community of students, parents and Catholic supporters is engaging the educational system through the lens of the digital world. To maximize our effectiveness as the largest Catholic school system, and to support our students in achieving their full potential, the TCDSB needs to leverage technology and the associated best practices that drive success.

The new draft Information & Technology (I&T) Strategic Plan will focus on the organizational long-term vision of the “Digitally Enabled School”. While the first three years of the plan are focused on many behind the scenes foundational elements of the longer-term vision, we are taking pragmatic step to improving outcomes for students and engage parents. These steps include improving increasing digital communications with a new public website, parent portal, and digital newsletters; deploying a new student information system that will help better track student success; improving cyber security to safeguard student’s personal information; and developing a sustainable technology refresh plan for classrooms across the system.



Focusing on the Environment

ST. ANDRÉ WINS ENBRIDGE ENERGY SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the students and staff at St. André Catholic School for winning the Enbridge Energy School Challenge. The Challenge includes classroom curriculum modules that help students understand how natural gas is consumed and how to reduce demand through more efficient technologies and behavioural changes. Students from each participating elementary and secondary school then put their energy-efficiency knowledge to the test through friendly competition with other schools registered in the challenge.



Please click here to watch the video:

<https://video.isilive.ca/play/tcdsb/communications/StAndre-Enbridge.mp4>

TCDSB ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT

In June, TCDSB hosted its first-ever Environment Summit for Elementary ECO Schools at the Catholic Education Centre.

The event's keynote speaker was Kehkashan Basu, winner of the 2016 International Children's Peace Prize, United Nations Human Rights Champion and President and Founder of the Green Hope Foundation.

It was an incredible opportunity to listen to an ECO-Warrior and 'world game changer' and participate in other presenters, student performances and 'maker-space' activities for students.



GRADE 6's ENGAGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

From April 24 to April 26, the Grade 6 students from various TCDSB schools participated in an Environmental Leadership program at Claremont Nature Centre, where they gained hands-on experience in implementing sustainable practices in their homes and school environments.

The Toronto Conservation Authority along with the Ontario EcoCentres Network delivered a fun-filled and engaging program which helped to promote a solutions-oriented approach to sustainable living.



NORTH YORK STUDENTS WANT TO ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AT SCHOOL

James McDonough, Alexandra Miller and their Grade 8 peers at St. Bonaventure Catholic School want single-use plastics — like straws and bottles — to become extinct. For a couple of months, the students at the North York elementary school have been working on ways to achieve that goal — and they're starting by tackling the problem in their community.

After viewing documentaries on the topic, James, Alexandra and their peers wanted their school to cut down on the amount of single-use plastics like yogurt containers that are found in its snack program and to educate other classes on how not to contaminate recycling and which plastics are recyclable.

The students' ultimate goal is to get large grocery chains like Loblaws to eliminate single-use plastics in their stores — and they have created an online petition to help achieve this goal.



(Photos courtesy of Toronto.com)

FEBRUARY IS TCDSB ENERGY CONSERVATION MONTH

The Environment Committee led the charge with four initiatives throughout the month to focus staff and students on easy ways to conserve energy.

Flip the Switch Friday invited schools to turn off non-essential lighting for the whole day.

National Sweater Day encouraged schools and offices to turn down the temperature by a degree or two and wear warmer clothing.

Energy Education Day and ***Phantom Friday*** gave students a chance to explore other opportunities to save energy.

Schools also participated in other annual Board-wide initiatives including the ***Earth Day Community Clean Up*** and ***Earth Hour***.

FEBRUARY is TCDSB Energy Conservation Month

4 DAYS
4 THEMES
1 MONTH

Join TCDSB
In FEBRUARY
to save on energy!

FEB 01

Flip the Switch Friday

Earth Hour 2.0 - Turn off all the lights in the school where it is safe to do so for the entire day. Promote "lights out lunch" throughout the week.

FEB 08

National Sweater Day

National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Register online on the TCDSB Environment webpage before January 25, 2019. Facilities Services will turn down the heat in your school by two (2) degrees to support your efforts. Please note this may need to be arranged at a local level with the school Custodian.

FEB 14

Energy Education Day

Tweet your videos or, posters, action plans, to celebrate TCDSB Energy Conservation Month using #tcdsbenrgy. For additional resources, visit: www.tcdsb.org/board/environment.

FEB 22

Phantom Friday

Investigate and find out what Phantom Power is all about. Did you know that your home devices, when plugged in, continue to draw power even when they are off?

All participating schools will receive a certificate of participation.

WALK TO SCHOOL AND BIKE TO SCHOOL

TCDSB schools continued to participate in the annual Walk to School Week initiative in October, the Winter Walk Day in February and Bike to School Week in May.

The common goal for all these observances is to focus students, staff and families on active and healthy living as well as reducing our carbon footprint and pollution from automobile exhaust.



Investing in Our Schools

TCDSB was delighted to celebrate the completion of a number of capital projects with ribbon cutting and blessing ceremonies including: the new additions at St. Paschal Baylon Catholic School and St. Clement Catholic School, and the newly rebuilt St. Simon Catholic School.



▲ St. Paschal Baylon Catholic School



▲ St. Simon Catholic School



▲ St. Clement Catholic School

Outdoor Spaces Improved

In 2018/2019 TCDSB also invested in upgrades to outdoor spaces for students.

During the past year projects that were completed included new playgrounds at Blessed Sacrament and St. James Catholic Schools.



OPAL Program

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Program provided by Earth Day Canada EarthPLAY encourages play outdoors in a freely chosen, intrinsically motivated and self-directed way.

Two TCDSB schools piloted the program where students were engaged in self-directed play with “loose parts” (tools, boxes, spare tires, fabric, etc.), boosting their sense of agency and creating a more inclusive and reciprocal social environment:

- St. Augustine Catholic School
- Holy Family Catholic School





Enhancing Public Confidence



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Consultations

Parents, staff, students and members of the community were invited to provide feedback on many policies throughout the school year.

They were also invited to participate in consultations on a number of matters including the Board's budget and capital/planning projects. Input was solicited from everyone in the TCDSB community about the elementary International Languages program as well as the Fifth Block program, and parents were also encouraged to participate in the annual Parent Voice Survey.

Staff as well as Catholic School Parent Councils were invited to provide feedback on the Weekly Wrap Up, a regular digital communication tool.

Service Alerts

In an effort to keep the community informed about accessibility challenges, the Board is now posting on the website, and sharing on Twitter, any issues that are reported. This would include elevators and automatic doors that are temporarily out of service, as well as any issues with wheelchair ramps or accessible washrooms.

Implementation of School Messenger



The Board implemented the SafeArrival module of SchoolMessenger providing parents the opportunity to communicate with schools about a child's attendance. Through the online or mobile application, parents can notify the school in advance about an upcoming absence, or inform the school of an unexplained absence after the fact. As soon as schools enter absent students into the student information system, SafeArrival reconciles all absences against the parent-reported absences. SafeArrival automatically notifies parents of unexplained absent students by telephone, email, and mobile push notification. School secretaries contact parents unresponsive to the notifications saving up to 90 minutes each school day. The broader SchoolMessenger application can also be used to push notifications about critical issues such as cancellations, closures and lockdowns to parents/families.

www.tcdsb.org/programsservices/safeschools/newsandevents/pages/signupschoolmessenger.aspx



Achieving Excellence in Governance

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Trustees Out and About in Their Communities

In addition to attending Board and Committee meetings throughout the year, and representing the Board on external committees as well, the Trustees of the Board continue to be actively involved in their school communities and at board-wide events.

Here are a few of the many events and activities our Trustees have been engaged in during the past year:



▲ TCDSB Trustees



▲ Mayor John Tory joined TCDSB Chair Maria Rizzo in celebrating the 2018 TCDSB Elementary Cricket Champions, Blessed Sacrament, at the 2019 Mayors Cup Awards. Also in the photo, Trustee Norm Di Pasquale (Ward 2) and Blessed Sacrament coach Paul Monaghan.



▲ Trustee Ida Li Preti at the unveiling of a boulder to commemorate the former site of Melody Public School. The site is now the new home of St. Simon Catholic School.



▲ Trustee Markus de Domenico at the elementary golf tournament.



▲ Trustee Teresa Lubinski at the 30th anniversary celebrations for Bishop Allen Academy.



▲ Trustee Nancy Crawford speaks to students at the annual Student Mass and Peace Walk during Catholic Education Week.



▲ Trustee Angela Kennedy at St. Monica's annual spring fair.



▲ Trustee and Chair Maria Rizzo at the Indigenous Week celebration at the Catholic Education Centre.



▲ Trustee Frank D'Amico at the TCDSB Secondary School Student Special Olympics.



▲ Trustee Garry Tanuan speaking with students at the first TCDSB Faith Camp organized by student leaders.



▲ Daniel Di Giorgio celebrates 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School with students, staff and families.

Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee for 2018 - 2020

Taylor was a grade 11 student at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts when she was elected to a two year term. She is an avid volunteer and student leader who is dedicated to making a difference in her school and community. Taylor has served on the TCDSB Safe Schools Committee, the Student Mental Health Advisory Council, and the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team as the Director of Social Justice.

Taylor has participated as an executive member for several youth-led organizations, such as Model City Hall, Global Figure, and the Federation of Canadian Secondary Students. Taylor is also an engaged member of her school community, having been involved with Camp Olympia, Peer Tutors, Science Olympics, Yearbook Club, Youth Orchestra, DECA, Stop the Stigma, Model UN, and Eco Club.

One of Taylor's highest achievements was receiving the 2018 Rotary Club of Toronto Platinum Youth Civic Leadership Award where she was selected as the top youth in the City for her impact on the community. Some of her other achievements include winning first place provincially at the 2018 Concours d'art oratoire, having the winning entry in her category for the 2018 OECTA Young Authors Award, being third place for Speakers Idol 2017, and placing in the Top 10 provincially for her event at the DECA business competition. Taylor is an honour roll student and had the top mark in five of her grade 9 courses.

As Student Trustee, Taylor acts as a voice for TCDSB students. She is interested in fostering Catholic student leadership opportunities and working with students to represent their needs at the Board level. Taylor is a strong advocate for equity and hopes to inspire students to put their faith into action in order to create positive change.



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Acknowledging Long-time Committee Chair



On June 26th, 2019, the TCDSB recognized former Chair of SEAC, Marilyn Taylor with a certificate of appreciation and a small gift at the Year End Mass. Taylor had served on the Board for many years and was a passionate advocate for students with special needs.

I&T Advances to Support Governance

The ICT Services division supported the transition of the new Board of Trustees in November 2018 including 6 first term Trustees through the deployment of new laptops, phones, and tablets. Teams also worked with all Trustees to develop a new Trustee Service expense policy that governed the use of technology by Trustees and orient Trustees to the technology environment.

In 2018, Trustees approved a new plan to upgrade 14-year technology in the boardroom and public meeting rooms at the CEC. Connecting and communicating with the public and other board stakeholders promotes good governance and transparency which in turn enhances public confidence in the Board's decisions and operations. Once upgrades are complete, the updated rooms will have improved sound and visuals for all participants, improved accessibility for those who are visual and hearing impaired, added functionality for video and web conferencing, and improved overall reliability of these important public venues.

New Committees Established

The Board established new committees to facilitate the decision-making process by providing opportunities for more in depth exploration of various issues. These included the By-Laws Ad-Hoc Committee to enable a thorough review of TCDSB By-laws as well as the Catholic Education and Living our Catholic Values Sub-Committee, which reviews policies and practices through a Catholic lens, Ad-Hoc Labour Committee and Ad-Hoc Political Advisory Committee. The Board also established a Ukrainian Advisory Committee to provide input into the needs of Ukrainian students and their families.

Students Learning About Government

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, greeted students from St. Joseph's College School's grade 10 Civics class on their recent visit to Queen's Park to learn more about the role of government.

This was just one of many opportunities for our students to learn about the role of government in their lives.



Milestones

Each year the Board is reminded of its long and proud history as we celebrate significant anniversaries and other milestones in our school communities. Among the many celebrations in 2018-2019 were:

ST. OSCAR ROMERO CELEBRATES RENAMING OF SCHOOL

On Tuesday, October 16, students and staff came together at St. Oscar Romero to celebrate the canonization of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the renaming of the school from Blessed Archbishop Romero to St. Oscar Romero.



ST. PAUL VI CELEBRATES CANONIZATION OF POPE PAUL VI

On Monday, October 14, the St. Paul VI Catholic School community celebrated the canonization of Pope Paul VI and the renaming of the school from Blessed Pope Paul VI to St. Paul VI.

BLESSING OF NEW ST. JOSAPHAT SCHOOL LOCATION

On September 19 the St. Josaphat school community celebrated the blessing of the new permanent location with Bishop Stephen Chmilar.



School Anniversaries

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



<https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/ourladyofvictory/News/Pages/Our-Lady-of-Victory%27s-75th-Anniversary.aspx>

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOTHER CABRINI CATHOLIC SCHOOL



<https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/mothercabrini/letscelebrate/20182019/Pages/Celebrating-50-Years-at-Mother-Cabrini.aspx>

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



<https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stalphonsus/News/2018-2019/Pages/St-Alphonsus-Celebrates-50-Years-.aspx>

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VICTOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL



<https://www.tcdsb.org/schools/stvictor/News/2018-2019/Pages/50thAnniversary.aspx>



JOSEPH MARTINO
WARD 1



MARKUS DE DOMENICO
WARD 2



IDA LI PRETI
WARD 3



TERESA LUBINSKI
WARD 4



MARIA RIZZO
WARD 5



FRANK D'AMICO
WARD 6



MICHAEL DEL GRANDE
WARD 7



GARRY TANUAN
WARD 8



NORM DI PASQUALE
WARD 9



DANIEL DI GIORGIO
WARD 10



ANGELA KENNEDY
WARD 11



NANCY CRAWFORD
WARD 12



TAYLOR DALLIN
STUDENT TRUSTEE



JOEL NDONGMI
STUDENT TRUSTEE

2018 - 2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



2018 - 2019

Celebrating ***we* BELONG**