



## **Director's Monthly Report September - October 2020**

### **September 18 - October 15**

The beginning of this school year continues to be like no other. Students, staff, and parents are engaged in new routines and realities intended to support healthy and safe learning for all students. It has been and continues to be a significant challenge to fully operationalize our virtual school and staff have been working around the clock seven days a week to make sure students are connected with teachers and learning. I want to take the opportunity in this report to thank our outstanding staff for all they continue to do to go above and beyond, and to our students and families for their unwavering support, patience, and partnership. It is during times like this that our strength as a Catholic community is most obvious and required. We are blessed by so many who continue to serve in support of safe and healthy learning for all students.

Some highlights from the past month include:

- Recognizing October observances such as National Principals month, National Custodial Workers Day, World Teacher Day, Bus Drive Appreciation Day, and Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day
- Attending the Ontario Catholic School Trustee (OCSTA) Leadership Fall Regional meeting with TCDSB OCSTA representatives focused on the theme: Nurturing Hope. Learning and sharing with school leaders from Catholic Boards across Southern Ontario is important for shared leadership and strengthening Catholic Education.
- Meeting regularly with the Deputy Minister of Education, Toronto Public Health, and the Ministry of Health in support of provincial and local initiatives to keep students, staff, and families safe and healthy during this current COVID pandemic.
- Participating on and contributing to provincial leadership committees with Directors of Education and Health officials from across the province in support of TCSDB staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care.
- Weekly collaboration with Catholic Directors from across the province in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy
- Continuing to meet with Trustees, Senior Staff and Parent Groups individually and at planned meetings to discuss our partnership and collective commitments for the immediate and the year ahead

- Recognizing Indigenous Education and CEC Orange Shirt Day with staff from across the TCDSB
- Connecting with the African Canadian Advisory Committee in support of shared commitments to disrupting anti-black racism and the removal of barriers for students throughout the TCDSB
- Participating in the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee's initial meeting for the new school year.
- Being blessed and commissioned on behalf of all new TCDSB employees, and then speaking with staff and students across the system as part of the board-wide livestream Thanksgiving Liturgy - in thanksgiving and gratitude for all who serve and are served in Catholic education as we recognize Gratitude as being the Virtue of the Month for October.
- Continuing to connect with school leaders, teachers, and students in communities through weekly school visits