



REPORT TO

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

### ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP IMPACT TEAM REPORT 2020

*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 26, 2020	November 4, 2020	Click here to enter a date.

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#### INFORMATION REPORT

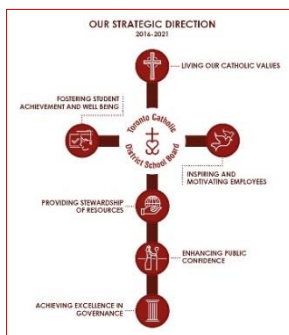
**Vision:**

*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.*



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Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Throughout the month of October, the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) Directors of Elementary Affairs collected information from two hundred (200+) students from thirty-two (32) elementary schools across the board. In order to capture elementary students' voices, students were asked to complete a survey identifying local and global issues that they believe should be a focal point for the 2020-2021 school year. The Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (ECSLIT) wishes to 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 40 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. Through the survey, ECSLIT students were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and rank what they believe are the most important topics that should be focused on. The input from elementary student leaders will give the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs a road map to help direct what should be the main areas of focus for ECSLIT in the 2020-2021 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 four-hundred fifty (450) secondary students were polled in September, the elementary student voice was not directly captured within that process. In order to best serve the needs of our elementary community, students 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 elementary students, 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 2020-2021 school year: (1) Mental Health and Well-Being; (2) Multiculturalism and Diversity Advocacy; (3) Indigenous Education and Immersion.

<b>ECSLIT 2020-2021 Recommended Actions</b>
<p><b>1. Mental Health and Well-Being</b></p> <p>Both the Directors of Elementary Affairs and ECSLIT leaders acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll both emotionally and physically on students across the board. It is important that the mental health and well-being of all elementary TCDSB students be a focal point during these unique times. Mental health affects every aspect of a student's life - the way that we think, feel and act towards our family, peers and teachers. When we make our mental health a priority, we are better capable, reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers. The following action plans have been put in place to take care of the well-being of students so that they can better fulfill all Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.</p> <p>In collaboration with the TCDSB Mental Health Department, the Directors of Elementary Affairs will arrange and provide mental health resources to students across the school board. This includes electronically distributing posters that list resources, inviting keynote speakers to address the topic, and organizing workshops that focus on mental well-being.</p>

### **1. Mental Health and Well-Being**

Both the Directors of Elementary Affairs and ECSLIT leaders acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll both emotionally and physically on students across the board. It is important that the mental health and well-being of all elementary TCDSB students be a focal point during these unique times. Mental health affects every aspect of a student's life - the way that we think, feel and act towards our family, peers and teachers. When we make our mental health a priority, we are better capable, reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers. The following action plans have been put in place to take care of the well-being of students so that they can better fulfill all Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

In collaboration with the TCDSB Mental Health Department, the Directors of Elementary Affairs will arrange and provide mental health resources to students across the school board. This includes electronically distributing posters that list resources, inviting keynote speakers to address the topic, and organizing workshops that focus on mental well-being.

At least one ECSLIT general assembly meeting will be dedicated to the topic of mental health and well-being. With the support of the TCDSB Mental Health Team, this meeting will focus on de-stressing and relaxation in addition to showing students simple everyday strategies they can implement in their daily lives.

Elementary students will also have the opportunity to participate in guided meditation at the end of each monthly meeting, supported by the TCDSB Nurturing our Catholic Community Team and the TCDSB Mental Health Department. This will give elementary students a chance to increase their self-awareness and manage any stress that may be apparent.

## **2. Multiculturalism and Diversity Advocacy**

To be *collaborative contributors*, student leaders need to learn the value of multiculturalism and diversity. Students should be given the opportunity to both celebrate and be educated about the cultures and traditions of our diverse TCDSB. It is important to emphasize that everyone needs to be treated with *Human Dignity* because everyone is created in the likeness and image of God.

With the support of the Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, and Community Relations team, ECSLIT will designate one meeting to host a panel that will focus on dismantling anti-Black racism. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions of our esteemed guests.

Within our monthly meetings we also want to highlight important role models from a variety of diverse cultures. During each ECSLIT monthly meeting, one cultural leader will be introduced and highlighted. We will have different schools volunteer to make these presentations that will focus on leaders that have lived out their Catholic values and fought for social justice.

In addition, we will incorporate multicultural education within the games and activities we will be running within our monthly meetings. For example, rather than just doing trivia about random topics, we will be intentional about selecting questions that can inform elementary students about certain aspects of a particular culture.

### **3. Indigenous Education and Immersion**

As *caring family members* it is important to learn about and address the needs of all members of God's family. Based on survey results, our elementary students have shown great interest in furthering their education pertaining to Indigenous issues and heritage.

The Directors of Elementary Affairs plan to deliver engaging Indigenous education within the existing programs we will be running this year. These educational sessions and workshops will take many forms, including but not limited to, having an Indigenous guest speaker at one of our monthly meetings, highlighting Indigenous art within our events, offering workshops during our elementary Intermediate Leaders in Training Event (iLITE) conference.

Going beyond Orange Shirt Day, we want to put more emphasis on Indigenous Heritage month in June. With the support of the Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education, and Community Relations team, CSLIT will be creating a resource that will list a variety of activities and ideas that schools can easily implement during the month of June to celebrate Indigenous culture.

In collaboration with Student Trustees and CSLIT, the Directors of Elementary Affairs plan to expand the week long Indigenous leadership program to include elementary students. This will enable intermediate students the same opportunity to immerse themselves in Indigenous culture, and to provide them with hands-on learning regarding this topic.

#### **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 additional topics can be also be touched upon since they are areas of importance brought forth by our elementary student leaders.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Students should be motivated to affect positive change in our world around injustices. Students feel a calling to live out their faith; therefore, 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 and local social justice issues.

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.