



Director's Monthly Report October - November 2020

October 16 - November 19

Over the past month, students, staff and parents throughout the system have continued to adapt to new realities and routines in both virtual and neighbourhood schools. We are so appreciative of the resilience of our Catholic community as we work together to overcome the significant challenges and realities of this pandemic we are living through. These times are unprecedented in both scope and complexity. While we continue to evolve to meet the needs of students and families impacted by the current reality, we recognize that the disruptions we are working through are both difficult and disruptive. It is during these times that we most appreciate the partnership and patience in each school community. We are committed to serving and supporting all students, and to do so has required some realignment of resources. We are in this together and know that we will move forward as a Catholic community. As difficult as these times have been, there has been so much to celebrate and recognize throughout the system.

Highlights from the past month include:

- **Observing Remembrance Day through an Afrocentric lens.** In the TCDSB we were proud to engage school communities in the important historical significance of the service of Black-Canadian men and women in shaping our country's history in conflict and peace. Students and staff participated in a webinar dedicated to exploring Remembrance Day through this lens.
- Recognizing **October observances** such as All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Down Syndrome Awareness Week, Holocaust Education Week, Treaties recognition Week, ESL Week, Take our Kids to Work Day, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Louise Riel Day
- Connecting with **Principals and Vice Principals** in areas meetings throughout the city.
- Engaging with **local, provincial, and national media** to promote TCDSB, address system plans and changes, and share perspective on education in our current context.
- Contributing to the **"Wholehearted Teaching" Podcast** focusing on the theme: **"Finding Your Calling"** hosted and created by a TCDSB teacher in support of collaborative professionalism across the system and beyond.
- Launching the first **"Lunch with the Director" Facebook live stream Q&A** for parents and community members to ask questions and engage on important issues to parents, staff, and students.

- Addressing our important school leaders at the **Chaplaincy Council Meeting**
- Meeting with the **Premier, Minister of Education, and area MPP** at Bishop Allen Academy regarding **funding for new elementary and secondary schools** to support growing Etobicoke Community
- Continuing **weekly meetings 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.
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- Participating on and contributing to **provincial leadership committees** with Directors of Education and Health officials from across the province in support of TCSD staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care.
- **Meeting weekly with Catholic Directors** from across the province in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy
- Continuing to meet with **Trustees, Senior Staff, Union Leadership partners and Parent Groups** individually and at planned meetings to discuss our partnership and collective commitments for the immediate and the year ahead
- Continuing to connect with **school leaders, teachers, and students in schools** and communities through weekly school visits