



REPORT TO

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

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OUTDOOR EDUCATION

On the glorious splendour of thy majesty, and on thy wondrous works, I will meditate. Psalm 145:5

Created, Draft

October 26, 2020

First Tabling

November 4, 2020

Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

Lori DiMarco Superintendent, Curriculum Leadership & Innovation; Academic ICT

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.



Brendan Browne, PhD
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

L. Noronha
Associate Director of Facilities,
Business and Community
Development, and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains a summary of the outdoor education opportunities that are available to schools in the TCDSB. The outdoor education opportunities fall into two categories: ongoing activities from previous years and new programs, activities and resources that are being offered.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 10 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. At the September 10, 2020 Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee Meeting, following a delegation by a representative of the Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER), the delegation was received and referred to staff to come back with a report on how the TCDSB can implement more outdoor education

C. BACKGROUND

1. The TCDSB Health & Physical Education and Outdoor Education (HPE&OE) department has a long tradition of offering schools a variety of opportunities to engage in healthy and active living and outdoor education activities.
2. The HPE&OE department works in collaboration with other central TCDSB departments and in particular the Science, Social Studies and ECO department.
3. The HPE&OE department works in collaboration with various organizations to explore programs, activities and resources that align with, support and supplement the Ontario Curriculum to ensure that our students are able to participate in outdoor education opportunities.
4. Partnerships and grants are pursued in order to offer schools affordable to no cost opportunities. When grant monies are available they are used to offset costs for schools and are offered to needier communities first on a rotating basis.

5. Outdoor education programs, activities and resources are shared in various ways with schools. Opportunities that are available each year and limited in number are shared with schools who are eligible to participate. When such opportunities are limited, criteria is set and a schedule is set up to ensure that as many schools as possible benefit over a number of years. Programs, activities and resources that are available to all schools are posted on the department intranet site and/or communicated via email.
6. The HPE&OE department continually reviews existing programs, activities and resources and seek to explore new ones. Schools have been encouraged to explore including more outdoor education into programming. As a result of suspension or restrictions on some of the programs and activities during the pandemic, the HPE&OE and Science, Social Studies and ECO departments have sought out many new programs, activities and resources to support our schools in their efforts to include more outdoor education.
7. In the appendices with this report are lists of the ongoing outdoor education activities (Appendix A) and the new programs, activities and resources (Appendix B) that are available to TCDSB schools.

D. METRICS

1. Programs related to grants that are funded (partially or in full) are tracked for attendance and participation by the PHE&OE department.
2. Information is collected from participating schools, through teacher and principal feedback, to inform future recommendations of the programs, activities or resources.
3. The HPE&OE department collects data from third party providers of the various programs, activities and resources, when available.

E. COMMUNICATION

1. All of the details of the outdoor education opportunities are being shared with schools via a Google classroom. Schools will be able to share highlights of their experiences and give feedback for other schools to consider.

2. Emails are sent to all teachers and school administrators advertising the various outdoor education opportunities that are available.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.