



Director's Monthly Report April – May 2021

April 26 - May 21

As we continue under provincial lockdown orders, our students, staff, and parents remain committed to creating experiences, learning opportunities, and celebrations of faith in our virtual reality. Creativity and patience, understanding and resolution continue to be required as we navigate teaching and learning in this current context. We are so grateful to our staff for the ways they are connecting with students and families, parents for the ways they are supporting and partnering, and students for their commitment to learning and to one another. We are truly blessed as a Catholic community.

We are encouraged by the on-going rollout of vaccines and are proud to have successfully prioritized staff access, with all staff now being eligible to receive a vaccine. We continue to partner with the Ministry of Health, Education, and with Toronto Public Health as we plan to provide access to vaccines to students from the age of 12 to 17. As we plan for September, we look forward to welcoming students back in-person in our schools as we are cautiously optimistic that all staff and students from the age of 12 and up will have had the opportunity to receive their second dose before the start of the school year. We are sharing information about the new year with families and asking parents to respond to our survey by June 4th in order to plan for the year ahead.

We continue to pray for all students, staff, and families for their health and safety during this difficult time and look forward to the opportunity to gather together again as a community of faith.

Highlights from the past month include:

- Celebrating Compassion as the **Virtue of the Month for May** and recognizing important observances such: Speech, Language and Hearing Month, Polish Canadian Heritage Month, Asian Canadian Heritage Month, World Principals' Day, Catholic Education Week, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Mother's Day, ShareLife Week, Respect for Life Week, World Catholic Education Day.
- Participating in the Board Wide **Justice Liturgy Livestream** on April 27.
- Connecting with our TCDSB community through our monthly **"Lunch with the Director"** series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube **on April 30, 2021**. Answering questions that are timely, relevant, and important to students and families in real-time.

- Joining staff and students for “morning announcements” at **St. Sylvester Catholic** school including prayer and special monthly recognitions.
- Speaking at the “**In Gratitude for Catholic Education**” webinar during Catholic Education Week where I shared my experiences and journey in Catholic Education from student to Director.
- Connecting with Superintendents, Associate Director’s, and Director’s from across Ontario at the annual **Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers’ Association Virtual 2021 AGM & Conference**.
- Singing, Dancing, and Reading over Zoom with amazing kindergarten students and teachers from **St. Gerald Catholic School Elementary School**.
- Visiting St. John the Evangelist Elementary School as they hosted **Woman’s College Hospital pop up vaccination site** welcoming community members and facilitating access to vaccinations.
- Attending and speaking at the **Anti-Racism Conference** hosting by CSLIT– Highlights include wonderful keynote and student speakers on topics such as Diversity as Strength, Inclusion withing the TCDSB, our collective role in ending racism in our schools.
- Participating in the first **Leadership for Equity Webinar – Leading in Complex Times: Finding a Way Forward**.
- Engaging with our outstanding **school principals** at regional meetings.
- Joining the **Indigenous Advisory Committee** meeting.
- Joining the **Regional Departments Heads Chaplains Annual Retreat** in prayer, reflection, and conversation.
- Engaging with **Focus on Youth** students with a virtual tour of their program
- On-going dialogue with **His Eminence Cardinal Collins** on matters of shared interest and partnership between home, school, and parishes throughout Toronto, and shared faith leadership.
- 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.

- 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.
- **Meeting weekly with Catholic Directors** from across the province in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy throughout Catholic education in Ontario.
- Continuing to connect with **Trustees, Senior Staff, Union Leadership partners, Principal and Vice Principal Associations, and Parent Groups** individually and at planned meetings to discuss our partnership and collective commitments for the immediate and the year ahead.
- Partnering with **Toronto Public Health** weekly to discuss school health and pandemic related support and initiatives to promote public health and respond to COVID-related issues in on-going ways.