



Director's Monthly Report

October 2021

We continue to be so proud of the ways in which all staff, students, parents and caregivers have contributed to a return to school that has allowed for the re-establishment of connections and relationships that are vital to student achievement, well-being, and faith-formation. Whether in-person or virtually, staff continue to connect with students in ways that support their learning and sense of community as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. We continue to work closely with Toronto Public Health in support of preventative health and safety measures, and are working to support the facilitation of the next round of opportunities for vaccination for elementary-aged students.

The beginning of this year has been unprecedented as pandemic-related student enrolment decline has resulted in a larger re-organization process. We acknowledge that such change is difficult every year, but particularly so given the scope and scale this year, and the on-going challenges that this pandemic presents. We move forward into the 2021/22 school year focused on stabilizing the system, with an eye toward increasing vaccination opportunities and rates, decreasing cases, and a hopeful and optimistic future moving into the new year.

Despite these challenges, we recognized important observances over the past month, acknowledged and celebrated locally and systemically, and continued to balance health and safety priorities with the importance of relationships, community, and faith-formation. We remain ever-hopeful about our way forward, recognizing the strength of our faith community and our shared commitment to one another.

Highlights from the past month include:

- Celebrating **Gratitude as the Virtue of the Month** and recognizing important observances such as: National Principals Month, National Custodial Workers Day, World Teachers Day, Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day and Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- **Back to School Visits** – celebrating the return to school and student success through school visits that included St. Jane Francis Catholic Elementary School, Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School, St. Columba Catholic Elementary School, St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Elementary School, St. Edward Catholic Elementary School, St. Timothy Catholic Elementary School, Precious Blood Catholic Elementary School, St. Cosmos and Damian Catholic Elementary School

- Welcoming in-coming Grade 9 Student leaders at the monthly **CSLIT** meeting, and our elementary school leaders from across the system at the **ESLIT** meeting.
- Participating in the flag raising ceremony at the CEC recognizing **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day** on September 30th
- Praying and welcoming all those who are new at the Catholic Education Centre at this year's **Virtual Heart of Welcome Mass**
- Speaking to staff and students across the system as part of the board-wide livestream **Thanksgiving Liturgy** in thanksgiving and gratitude for all who serve in Catholic Education
- Speaking with our future leaders at the at the **Autumn Foundations Series Session**
- Connecting with candidates who are discerning school leadership at the **CPCO Principal's Qualification Program Fall Session**
- Joining the mayor, trustee, and senior staff at the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new community center adjacent to Bishop MacDonnell Elementary school downtown.
- Engaging & collaborating with Directors of Education from across Canada at the **ERDI (Education, Research, Development, & Innovation)** Fall Conference
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly "**Lunch with the Director**" series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube, while looking forward to the next opportunity on **October 29th**
- On-going engagement with **Toronto Public Health** with vaccination and testing strategies in Toronto, and public health recommendations from TPH that impact and influence TCDSB staff and students, including support for the impending rollout of a vaccination strategy for children aged 5-11yrs old.
- Continuing **important connections throughout the 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 conversations** 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.