



Revised Director's Monthly Report

November 2021

The past month has been one of transition as the bright leaves throughout the city continue to fall, the days get shorter, and we begin to prepare for the season of Advent beginning in a few short weeks. We are well into the academic year at this point, and we continue to appreciate the leadership, support, and care that every member of our TCDSB staff and community provide for our students as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. Our staff continue to go above and beyond in every conceivable way to ensure our schools are as safe as possible and conducive to student learning.

We continue to work closely with Toronto Public Health and appreciate our partnership on all public health matters, particularly as we plan for the rollout of vaccines for our elementary aged students. This logistical work is complex but vitally important to support opportunities for families to take advantage of ways to protect their children and continue to slow the spread of COVID 19. Staff continue to engage and influence decision making on all aspects of public health as it intersects with education, as we work in partnership to keep students, staff, and the community safe.

This year continues to be one of enormous and unique challenges, but we face each with optimism and resilience, knowing that in partnership, the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming brighter and brighter. Parishes are welcoming more parishioners in-person, while virtual streaming continues to bring masses and liturgical celebrations into our homes. It is in partnership, support, and mutual respect between home, school, and parish that the strength of our Catholic community is most pronounced, and it is what will see us through difficult days toward brighter futures. With the coming of Advent in a few short weeks, our focus on preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord will continue to root our Catholic community in faith, hope, and optimism.

Highlights from the past month include:

- Celebrating **Peacemaking as the Virtue of the Month** and recognizing important observances such as: All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Treaties Recognition Week, National Indigenous Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, National Child Day, Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week, Take Our Kids to Work Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, English as a Second Language Week, Holocaust Education Week, Diwali, Louis Riel Day, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - King of the Universe, National Holodomor Memorial Day, Hanukkah and Advent
- Recognizing **National Indigenous Veterans Day** on November 8th for the first time in the TCDSB by sitting on a webinar panel with Indigenous Veterans, current military, and elders in recognizing the significant contributions of Indigenous service members

- Representing the TCSDSDB by **laying a wreath with the Mayor at Old City Hall on Remembrance Day on November 11th**, honouring the men and women who served Canada in times of war and peace at the Toronto Old City Hall **Remembrance Day Service**
- Visiting **Loretto College Secondary School** to participate in the first English-Indigenous Literature class where students are introduced to Indigenous literature
- Visiting **Mary Ward Secondary School** and participating in their “Words from Ward” student-led podcast promoting issues important to the Mary Ward Community and TCSDSDB
- Joining staff and students at the launch of the hundred-year celebration of **St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School**
- Celebrating the Eucharist at **St. Demetrius Catholic Church** with staff and students from St. Demetrius in honour of St. Demetrius Feast Day
- **School visits:** St. Boniface Catholic Elementary School, St. Ursula Catholic Elementary School and Holy Angels Catholic Elementary School
- Joining our Nurturing our Catholic Community Team participating in the **All Saints and All Souls Day Reflection Livestream**
- Engaging and delivering greetings at the **Elementary and Secondary Safe School Student Ambassador Symposium** - focus on Healthy Relationships & Hope
- Speaking with teachers who are beginning their career in the TCSDSDB through the **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)** series
- Celebrating mass in memorial of TCDSB families who have lost loved ones
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly “**Lunch with the Director**” series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube at which Associate Director Boyce joined me in discussions focused on capital projects and priorities in the TCSDSDB. I look forward to the next opportunity on **November 26th**
- 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