

## February Student Trustee Board Report

### Update from the Student Trustees:



- Keith and Stephanie hosted the first CSLIT General Assembly Meeting of the year on February 2nd. We had an amazing guest speaker, Tanika Riley from the non-profit organization Por Amor. Being February, she talked about the virtue of love. We also had superintendents Derek Chen and Michael Caccamo share their remarks.
- Keith held the third meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Student Advisory Committee, to further discuss plans and ideas for this year. They are exploring the idea of hosting a Catholic 2SLGBTQ+ panel discussion as well as planning the annual Inclusion and Belonging Retreat.
- Keith was a panellist on the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario's Data Privacy Day webinar. Keith contributed the youth perspective and spoke about digital literacy as well as give tips for educators and students to maintain their safety during online learning.
- Keith attended a meeting with the Leadership, Collaboration and Governance Branch of the Ministry of Education to talk about student trustee elections. He advised the branch that school boards should be given leniency or an extension for elections given the circumstances with covid.
- Keith met with Stephen Lecce for some coffee. They discussed upcoming Ministry of Education programs and student-led OSTA-AECO initiatives. It was a great way for them to reconnect and to see where their advocacy aligns.
- Keith sent a memorandum alongside the CBC President and Vice-President to every Catholic School Board in Ontario, to give recommendations on better supporting the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Catholic Education.
- Keith planned and spoke at a press conference with OSTA-AECO and MPP Kathleen Wynne to present the 2SLGBTQ+ memorandum. Keith presented the memorandum and spoke about the importance of 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion within Catholic school boards.
- Stephanie joined a meeting with OneChild to discuss an ongoing initiative and campaign focusing on raising awareness and starting conversations surrounding sexual abuse and child trafficking.

- Keith and Stephanie attended the Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting to discuss, collaborate, and enhance Indigenous education throughout TCDSB secondary schools.
- Keith and Stephanie planned and hosted Student Council Centre, where student councils from 30 TCDSB secondary schools gathered to share best practices and receive student run professional development. Close to 200 student council members across the board participated. Thank you to Director of Education Dr. Browne and Superintendent Michael Caccamo for attending.
- Keith and Stephanie attended the OSTA-AECO February Executive Council meeting to continue working on this year's initiatives and finalizing details for events and conferences.
- Stephanie helped organized and spoke at the iLITE conference for intermediate students. More information about this event is in the next section.

## **CSLIT Executive Council**

### Elementary Affairs

The Directors of Elementary Affairs, Audri and Mara, successfully executed the virtual iLITE 2021-2022 conference. 6332 students from 132 elementary schools registered to attend the event as well as 68 secondary CSLIT volunteers who helped facilitate the day. The wonderful Sam Demma was our keynote speaker who spoke about the importance of “small consistent actions” and random actions of kindness. Students also have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from Sharelife, Development and Peace, Meagan’s Hug, Por Amor, People Everywhere Actually Co-Existing Equally (otherwise known as PEACE), and the Angel Foundation for Learning. Teachers were also given curriculum links, follow up activities and resources to explore with their students so that iLITE goes beyond just being a one day event.

Audri and Mara also hosted their monthly ECSLIT General Assembly meeting. As per their pillars, their theme of the meetings revolved around the 7 Grandfather

Teaching of Love. Guest speaker Phil Echols live streamed from North Carolina and spoke about how love is a trait that all effective leaders need to possess. Thank you to Superintendent Caccamo for attending. Next month's meeting will focus on anti-racism.

### Social Affairs

The Director of Social Affairs, Serenity Bui, has been working closely with her subcommittee organizing events that help the balance between school responsibilities and having fun. This month's activities revolve around Valentine's Day and there are 3 in total all under the umbrella title "Learn to Love with CSLIT." The first initiative invites students to write a letter to their future self which focuses on goals, hopes, and dreams. The second initiative is sending out CSLIT made virtual Valentines Day cards to their friends. And the third program is an online event where students can get together online to socialize, play games, and win prizes.

### Social Justice

The World Day of Social Justice is celebrated globally on February 20th. The Social Justice Subcommittee wants to plan a virtually gathering of students before the end of the month to celebrate this day to discuss global and local social justice issues which include: youth homelessness, climate justice, Indigenous communities, poverty, and how we can put our faith into action while addressing these needs.

Due to COVID protocols, the Social Justice Subcommittee has decided to put their recycling project on hold but hope to revisit it before the end of the year. The Director of Social Justice, Rushan Jeyakumar, has also been working with the Director of Equity, Adekunbi Luwaji in co-chairing the Student Census Committee.

### Equity

The Director of Equity, Adekunbi Luwaji has been working alongside her subcommittee and the newly formed Catholic Visible Minority Alliance - CVMA, to prepare for a Black Heritage Month panel discussion which will take place on February 17th. The goal of the event is for local successful black role models to share tips and life lessons they used to overcome different cultural hurdles that

students might also be experiencing today. Panelists include board staff, CSLIT alumni, and community organizations.

Adekunbi is also co-chairing the Student Census Committee alongside the Director of Social Justice, Rushan Jeyakumar. Adekunbi will also be meeting Karen Ens from the Health and Physical Education department to discuss effective ways to educate students about period poverty and menstrual maturity.

### Faith

The Director of Faith, Roy Bou Abboud, prepared opening and closing prayers for our monthly CSLIT and ECSLIT online meetings. With the help of the Faith Subcommittee. Roy will host the first Let's Talk Faith webinar of 2022 on Wednesday, February 16th at 4:30 pm. The Faith Subcommittee has been meeting on a weekly basis, planning the upcoming Let's Talk Faith webinar as well as preliminary planning for our annual Faith Camp. In addition, this subcommittee has set the goal of creating two additional faith-based initiatives before the end of the year. Ideas are being brainstormed around student-led activities that can occur during the Lenten season.

### Charity

As CSLIT's Charity Directors, Nicole and Julissa move into the second half of the school year, with the goal to increase student leadership participation within the 4 charities they work with. Part of this plan is the creation of the AFL A-Team. At *Student Council Central*, they have invited every council to put forth one individual who is passionate about putting their faith into action! This new board-wide A-Team will help create initiatives to support the Angel Foundation and increase overall student involvement. Julissa and Nicole will be presenting more details about the A-Team at the next AFL monthly board meeting.

This month, Nicole and Julisa met with Meagan's Hug to discuss ways to get more TCDSB secondary schools involved with this year's annual Hug event. For those unfamiliar about the event, participating schools gather around the perimeter of their building, symbolizing a sign of solidarity with families that have children suffering from pediatric diseases.

In addition, Nicole and Julissa are assisting Sharelife with their high school poster campaign. This will run similar to the elementary competition, but students will be challenged to make their poster using recyclable materials.

Nicole and Julissa are also working on creating a CSLIT Charity newsletter to share with students in staff to inform communities about ways to support and get involved with various calls to action.

The Catholic Visible Minority Alliance (CVMA) is a group that Nicole and Julissa help organize with the CSLIT Director of Equity. All three leaders will be helping organize the Black professional panel discussion on February 17th.

### Public Relations

The Public Relations Team has kept one goal in mind this month which is increasing student participation. Promotion for events like CSLIT General Assemblies, ECSLIT General Assemblies, iLITE, and Student Council Central, were all events our CSLIT PR team helped promote this month. Each PR Team member is responsible for two superintendent areas. It is their job to ensure their two areas are well represented for each Catholic Student Leadership and CSLIT event.

### Administrative Affairs

Junette, the Director of Administrative Affairs has been in close communication with the student trustees, Michael Consul our CSLIT moderator, and all members of the CSLIT Executive and has been a huge part of every CSLIT and Catholic Student Leadership event within the months of January and February.

Junette helped coordinate iLITE high school volunteers as well as organize the iLITE opening prayer skit.

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For more information about these initiatives, visit  
[www.catholicstudentleadership.com](http://www.catholicstudentleadership.com).

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