



## Director's Monthly Report

February 2022

Every year in the month of February, we recognize and celebrate the significant achievements and contributions of Black Canadians during Black History Month which we celebrate as African Canadian Heritage Month in the TCDSB. This nationally observed month came to be through the leadership of a former Toronto Catholic District School Board teacher and principal, the Honourable Jean Augustine. At the TCDSB, we recognize African Canadian Heritage Month in "February and Beyond" as we commit to learning, listening, and partnering in February and every month of the year. There are so many activities, events, and opportunities planned for staff, students, and communities to learn more about the history of African Canadians in the month of February and throughout the year in Toronto Catholic.

We continue to appreciate the importance of our schools as the heart of each community throughout the city, and staff continue to go beyond the norm to ensure students and families are welcome, safe, and included in every school. While we have become used to protective measures, protocols, and health guidelines, we know that any success and safety in our schools is a direct result of every member of our school staff supported by our central team. From mask distribution to the unpacking, re-packing, and distribution of rapid antigen test kits, our staff behind the scenes support those working directly with students to provide opportunities for students to feel safe and engaged at school. We are grateful for support from parents as we partner in our shared commitment to health, safety, and student well-being.

While the on-going realities that impact the operation of our schools have presented challenges for all, we remain steadfast in our optimism that, as a Catholic community united in joyful hope, better days are on the horizon and becoming brighter with each passing day.

### Highlights from February include:

Celebrating **Love as the Virtue of the Month** and recognizing important observances such as: African Canadian Heritage Month, Psychology Month, TCDSB Energy Conservation, World Interfaith Harmony Week, Lunar New Year, Winter Walk Day, Canadian School Counselling Week, Safer Internet Day, World Day of the Sick, UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science, St. Valentine's Day, World Day of Social Justice, International Language Instructor's Appreciation Day, Pink Shirt Day, and Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

- Delivering remarks at the annual **CSLIT Virtual Student Council Leadership Meeting** for all TCDSB Student Councils
- School Visits: **Senator O'Connor Secondary School, St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School and St. James Catholic Elementary School**

- Participating in the **TCDSB Equity Champions session** as part of the professional learning series “Walking with Christ: Equity Champions Supporting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Action”
- Speaking with **York University Teacher Candidates** who are currently fulfilling their practicum requirements at TCDSB
- In recognition of **African Canadian Heritage Month** celebrating and recognizing the **Honourable Jean Augustine** with Trustee Lubinski and Ward 4 grade 6, 7 and 8 students and administration
- Welcoming new teachers at the **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) Orientation** along with Chair Kennedy
- Supporting newly appointed principals through the **Succession Series** for administrators
- 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 **February 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Participating in monthly **Ripple Effect Circle** Meetings - Ripple Effect Circle - an action-oriented alliance of individuals of influence across multiple sectors (private, public, non-profit) in Canada created to take action and work towards combatting systemic racism in Black communities
- On-going engagement with **Toronto Public Health** with vaccination and **booster** strategies in Toronto, and public health recommendations from TPH that impact and influence TCDSB staff and students
- Continuing **important connections throughout the pandemic 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-19 pandemic
- Participating on and contributing to **provincial leadership conversations** with **Directors of Education and Health Officials** from across the province in support of TCDSB staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care