

March Student Trustee Board Report

Update from the Student Trustees:



- Keith gave remarks for the Ministry of Education's announcement on Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan, emphasizing the importance of investing in mental health.
- Keith sent a memorandum alongside the OSTA-AECO 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.
- Keith and Stephanie hosted the February CSLIT General Assembly Meeting, where we highlighted Black History Month. We planned engaging activities and invited student panellists to speak on their experience of being a black youth in TCDSB.
- Keith was invited to join the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Strategic Advisory Council, with a focus on "Children and Youth in a Digital World."
- Keith joined a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, Yael Ginsler, to talk about the Ministry's directives on which online courses should be focused upon when it comes to developing and updating.
- Keith and Stephanie attended the OSTA-AECO March Executive Council Meeting to work on ongoing initiatives.
- Stephanie is working on a collaboration with CIVIX which is the organization that provides the Canada Student Vote experience in schools to enhance student involvement and information distribution in the upcoming provincial election.
- Stephanie met with *Peace of Mind Toronto* to collaborate on their upcoming mental health joint letter in support of better mental health resources and access to both secondary and post-secondary levels.

- Stephanie was featured in two articles on the Toronto Star where she talked about student opinions on the mask mandate and the recent announcement of graduations and proms getting a green light from school boards around the province.
- Keith and Stephanie released student trustee applications for Grade 10 students interested in applying. Applications are set to close on March 25th at 6 pm.
- Stephanie joined other student leaders on an International Women's Day student panel to speak about experiences as a girl, perspectives and empowerment as women, and the importance of gender equity.
- Stephanie and Keith attended OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference online where they listened to various guest speakers including Stephen Lecce and OCSTA. It was a great opportunity to collaborate with other OSTA-AECO members.

CSLIT Executive Council

Elementary Affairs

Audri and Mara have continued fulfilling their action plans as per their pillars of focus by hosting their March ECSLIT GA. This meeting's theme focused on equity and the beauty of diversity. The directors held a panel discussion with their guest speakers, the Hip Hop HeadUcators. The panellists were asked questions about leadership, diversity, and Hip Hop. The educators provided insightful advice and insights that will inspire all young leaders. Like all ECSLIT meetings, this month also included these 3 segments: Mental Health Toolbox, 7 Grandfather Teachings, and highlighting one cultural leader. Mara and Audri would like to thank Mr. Caccamo for attending and for his continuous support. The directors are continuing to plan for their next ECSLIT GA which will be focused on Indigenous Education.

Social Affairs

Tuesday, March 8th marks International Women's Day and the Social Affairs subcommittee decided to celebrate by hosting an art exhibition where student leaders are able to submit art pieces dedicated to empowering women and the successes they've had in history. At the end of the month, the art pieces will be

compiled into a slideshow and showcased to students on social media and at a future CSLIT general assembly meeting. In addition, the Social Affairs subcommittee has also put together fun facts and trivia where students can test their knowledge to see how much they truly know while celebrating all the amazing accomplishments of women throughout history and the present. With COVID mandates starting to relax, the Social Affairs Committee is now planning our annual CSLIT BBQ and CSLIT Gala and movie night. The students are extremely excited.

Social Justice

On March 10th, The Social Justice Subcommittee held a student-led conference to celebrate World Day of Social Justice. The theme of the conference was putting our Catholic Faith into action through social justice. 30 high school classes from across the TCDSB joined the conference, with approximately 700 students.

Luke Stocking, Deputy Director of Public Engagement at *Development and Peace* joined as the keynote speaker. Director of Faith, Roy Bou Abboud also joined the conference to provide opening prayers and other assistance.

The conference was entirely student-led. Members of the committee facilitated 4 workshops: Youth Homelessness in Toronto, Indigenous Truth, Reconciliation & Restoration, Climate Justice, and Conflict and Crisis in Kashmir. These topics were chosen as they include issues that are present locally, nationally, and internationally. The students worked tirelessly to create these presentations and initially linked each one with our Catholic Social Teachings. Overall, the conference was a great success and everything has been recorded for teachers and students to use as a future resource throughout the year.

Equity

Adekunbi proceeded to work alongside the Equity Subcommittee to put together and facilitate a black history month panel. The Director of Faith, Roy Boy Abboud was present to say the opening, closing prayer, and the land acknowledgment. The panellists present were Andre Fullerton, Tanika Riley, Matthew Ray Jones, Stephen Mensah, Dr. Danielle Hylles, Natasha Okpi, Tesean Hamilton, and Julissa

Perez. It was a very powerful discussion on the current state of equity and what we need to do as a community to create a better future.

On International Women's day, Adekunbi was a guest on the Break The Bias panel discussion to promote empowerment for women and female students across the board and gave detailed insight into living as a woman while overcoming obstacles and social barriers.

The members of the Equity subcommittee have started planning a food drive. Each committee member will select one of their classes to donate non-perishable foods, hygiene products, and toiletries to be distributed to youth homeless shelters.

Adekunbi is collaborating with Health and Phys-ed resource teacher Ms. Karen Enns regarding menstrual maturity awareness in schools across the TCDSB which includes developing an effective means of distributing menstrual products.

Faith

The Director of Faith, Roy Bou Abboud, has prepared opening and closing prayers for each monthly CSLIT and ECSLIT online meeting. With the help of the Faith Subcommittee, Roy will host the second Let's Talk Faith webinar of 2022 on Wednesday, March 23rd with two guest speakers from the Office of Catholic Youth. The Faith Subcommittee has been meeting on a weekly basis planning upcoming Let's Talk Faith webinars as well as our annual Faith Camp. With Covid restrictions being relaxed, the subcommittee hopes to have Faith Camp in person like it once did. Events will start Friday after school and end on Palm Sunday with mass and putting Faith in Action activities.

In addition, this subcommittee has set the goal of creating two additional faith-based initiatives before the end of the year, with more details to come. Roy has also put together a team of four subcommittee members in order to create a new Instagram account for the Faith Subcommittee, which is set to go public by the end of the month.

Charity

Nicole and Julissa continue to work diligently to get students more involved with giving back to their own communities, and throughout the month of March, they continue to do so! This year on International Women's Day, Nicole and Julissa were featured on the Break The Bias panel where they gave insight on what it is like to be a woman in today's society. They have also been promoting several of their upcoming initiatives. The We Share Life poster campaign contest was first introduced at the end of February and the lucky winner will be announced during the March CSLIT General assembly. One of the elements needed for the poster competition is to incorporate recyclable materials. This campaign is doing a great job at raising awareness across TCDSB secondary schools on what Sharelife does for our community. Nicole and Julissa are currently also in constant contact with the charity Meagan's Hug. The girls will be helping prepare for the Meagan's Hug annual crane ceremony taking place in April. CSLIT students from across the board will be asked to create handmade origami cranes as a symbol of solidarity with the Meagan's Hug Heroes and their families.

Lastly, Nicole and Julissa recently launched the creation of the A-Team, which will comprise 2 students per TCDSB high school. The A in A-team represents the Angel Foundation for Learning. The girls are excited to host their first A-Team meeting after March Break.

Public Relations

This February the public relations team has been working on getting important information out to the students of our board. One event in specific is the Student Trustee elections for the term 2022 to 2024. Other promotional materials include posters for Work on Wealth, International Women's Day and the promotion of various Social Affairs events mentioned above.

Administrative Affairs

Junette continues to fulfill her responsibilities as Director of Administrative Affairs. She has assisted with the February General assembly meeting. All the online activities, slideshows, polls, attendance, and prizes are all organized by Junette. She is in constant communication with our CSLIT moderator Michael Consul, executive members, student trustees and general assembly regarding current and upcoming events. Junette is in the process of fulfilling the Indigenous

Education and Immersion pillar by organizing a fundraiser along with the Director of Social Justice and the co-directors of ECSLIT. Now with Covid 19 restrictions being lifted, the plan is to have our next CSLIT general assembly meeting in person right here in the boardroom like CSLIT used to have 2 years ago. Our next general assembly meeting is on Tuesday, March 29th at 4:30 pm. This is perfect timing to finally bring back in-person meetings since our March meeting is always designated as “meet the student trustee candidates” night.

We invite all of you to join any and all of our events. We would love to have you. And our student leaders look forward to the possibility of finally being able to run the following in-person events:

- Voices That Challenge (April)
- Faith Camp (April)
- Olympia Leadership Camp (May)
- Indigenous Leadership Camp (May)
- CSLIT Gala (June)
- CSLIT BBQ (June)

Catholic Student Leadership - Get Involved!