



Director's Monthly Report April 2022

The past month has included the season of Lent which led up to the most important celebration on our liturgical calendar: Easter. The mystery of our faith is revealed through the Passion of Good Friday, and Jesus' resurrection in fulfillment of the scriptures on Easter Sunday. Easter recognizes Jesus as the Son of God who suffered, died, and rose again for our salvation and as such is the very foundation of our faith. This was recognized in our schools and parishes throughout the system.

While the provincial approach to the pandemic changed dramatically in March and April, we found ourselves in the midst of a sixth wave of Covid infections. Mask mandates changed, as did testing and expectations for reporting, and we recognize how these changes have impacted the system. After two years of restrictions, mandates, and processes, we have been transitioning closer to pre-pandemic norms under the direction of the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education. We know how divisive these issues are within our communities as some think things have gone too far, while others think things have not gone far enough. Through it all, we continue to be so appreciative of the ways our community members continue to respect one another, treat each other with dignity and compassion, and understand that while perspectives may be divided, we remain united as a community of faith.

We continue to appreciate the ways in which staff lead and support families and one another in community through these difficult times. We remain ever hopeful of moving toward the end of this pandemic while vigilant in our approach to safety and well-being for students, staff, and families. We know how much everyone is looking forward to a return to pre-pandemic norms, and also recognize that the way forward may look different than it did before this began. We will continue to support and advocate for keeping our students, staff, and families safe, understanding the importance of well-being and mental health.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is looking forward to hosting Catholic Directors and Superintendents from across the province at the end of this month for the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA) Conference here in Toronto. Having been cancelled each of the past two years, the TCDSB is looking forward to welcoming colleagues to the city and to our Board.

Highlights from April include:

Celebrating **Justice as the Virtue of the Month** and recognizing important observances such as: Volunteer Appreciation Month and National Volunteer Appreciation Week, Share Life Week, World Autism Awareness Day, Ramadan, World Health Day, TCDSB Share Life Wear Green Day,

Vimy Ridge Day, Katyn Massacre and Smolensk Air Disaster Commemoration Day, Palm Sunday, International Day of Pink (Antibullying Awareness), Vaisakhi, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Pesach/Passover, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, Earth Day/School Clean-Up Day, Orthodox Good Friday, Orthodox Easter, Administrative Assistants Day, and Yom Hashoah.

- Visiting **St. Sylvester** Catholic Elementary School, **St. Gerald** Catholic Elementary School, and **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** Catholic Elementary School
- Delivering remarks and participating in the **World Autism Day** events
- Attending and participating in the annual **Education Research Development and Innovation** (ERDI) Conference with Director's from across Canada
- Attending the **92nd Annual AGM & Conference** with Catholic School Trustees from across Ontario – this year's theme being "Communities of Faith & Resilience"
- Attending the **2022 OCSOA AGM** with Superintendents and Directors from all Catholic school boards from across the province for shared learning and networking
- Speaking to future leaders at the **Foundation Series** final session
- Participating in **St. Anne Virtual school classroom visits**
- Participating in the **TCDSB Parent Census of Students JK - 8 Town Hall Meeting**
- Participating in the **Equity Walk** at St. John Paul II, supporting schools that are welcoming and inclusive
- Engaging and delivering remarks at the **Safe School Elementary Student Ambassador Symposium** "Healthy Relationships and Hope"
- Joining our **Nurturing our Catholic Community Team** and delivering opening remarks at the **Easter Celebration for the Eucharist** – Livestream event
- 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 in May
- Continuing to engage and partner with **Toronto Public Health** regarding all public health strategies and initiatives 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 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