

April Student Trustee Board Report

Update from the Student Trustees:



- Keith and Stephanie hosted the first in-person CSLIT General Assembly meeting of the school year on March 26th, after having two years of online meetings. We had over 200 students in attendance with 30 schools represented. We had Superintendent Michael Caccamo, Associate Director Derek Boyce and Director of Education Brendan Browne give remarks to our students. Students had an amazing time participating in our activities, giveaways and leadership development!
- Keith attended a recording session with the City of Toronto to talk about the importance of vaccination. The video series will focus on the experience of youth throughout the pandemic, and how increasing vaccination rates will improve it.
- Keith attended OCSTA's Annual General Meeting and partook in student trustee professional development. Keith was able to network with other Catholic Trustees and Directors of Education from across the province.
- Keith and Stephanie hosted the annual Voices That Challenge Conference on April 22, 2022, at the Ontario Science Centre. VTC is a student leadership conference with keynote speakers, leadership training and a focus on students' voices. Students were able to fill out a survey that lets them express what issues are prominent within their schools. The results of this survey will be used in a Pillar Report next school year by the Student Trustees
- Keith attended a meeting with the Student Achievement Branch of the Ministry of Education to talk about a variety of topics related to the modernization of the high school curriculum, including graduation requirements, course types and pathways, and the curriculum review cycle.
- Stephanie and Keith signed onto the Equal Access Initiative white paper which emphasizes the importance of equal access to mental health resources.
- Stephanie has been coordinating with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee to delve deeper into how we can work with Indigenous communities to engage and enhance Indigenous education in our TCDSB secondary schools.

- Stephanie has been doing outreach with Special Education Departments in secondary schools with a goal of further engaging secondary students in Special Education in Catholic Student Leadership.
- Student Trustee elections are being held on April 26th, 2022 at Cardinal Carter to elect the student trustee for the 2022/24 year.

CSLIT Executive Council

Elementary Affairs

The Directors of Elementary Affairs hosted their April ECSLIT virtual General Assembly on April 7th. As per their pillar requirements, the meeting focused on the topic of Indigenous Education. The amazing Que Rock came to teach the students about Indigenous culture, as well as answered interesting questions about his own personal life. As always, Audri and Mara thank the board, especially Mr. Caccamo for joining the meeting and offering his remarks.

The girls are continuing to plan for the next ECSLIT General Assembly which will be taking place on May 5th, with the main focus being on mental health and well-being.

Social Affairs

The Social Affairs Subcommittee has been working diligently on the end of the year's annual AFL Gala. After the cancellation of the annual gala for two years in a row, the group is ecstatic to be hosting in person once again.

With an amazing venue just minutes away from Waterfront Toronto, the group is excited to start selling tickets from April 26th to June 1st, allowing students ample time to take time off and plan for a night of fun.

Social Justice

For the month of April, The Social Justice Subcommittee decided to act in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To raise funds for those in Ukraine, a raffle was held at the Voices That Challenge Conference on April 21st and at the April CSLIT General Assembly on April 26th.

Acknowledging the TCDSB's significant population of students with Ukrainian heritage, the subcommittee also wished to provide a method for students to express their thoughts, emotions, and reflections on this conflict. With this in mind, the subcommittee made contact with the Ontario Branch of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada to propose an exhibition focusing on the experiences of the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada, specifically with TCDSB students. More information on this project is TBA.

Equity

This month, the members of the Equity subcommittee have continued planning a food drive. Some schools were contacted to designate one of their classes to donate non-perishable foods, hygiene products, and toiletries to be distributed to youth homeless shelters. Numerous students have also donated gift cards. Toronto Youth Forward also donated the sum of \$200 towards the effort of the food drive.

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 the first in-person CSLIT meeting and ECSLIT online meeting. With the help of the Faith Subcommittee, Roy hosted the second Let's Talk Faith webinar of 2022 on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 with two guest speakers from the Office of Catholic Youth. The Faith Subcommittee has been meeting on a weekly basis planning our annual Faith Camp. With Covid restrictions being relaxed, Faith Camp will be in person at the Catholic Education Center and Senator O'Connor Catholic Secondary School. Events will start Friday, April 22nd after school and run until Sunday, April 24th. Mass service will be held on Sunday.

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 five subcommittee members in order to create a

new Instagram account for the Faith Subcommittee, which has gone public. The account will be posting faith-based updates, announcements and engaging activities.

Charity

This month, the Charity Committee has expanded their efforts to give back to the students of the board. Nicole and Julissa ran the first A Team meeting and met with students who represented their schools across the board. This meeting was focused on creating the first AFL initiative which was the Easter Baskets, and throughout these weeks, were excited to see the level of engagement students showed through volunteering at the CEC by assembling these baskets. People were able to order 3 different types of baskets at affordable prices and the Committee was able to raise over \$1400 for the Angel Foundation for Learning. The next event the Charity Committee hosted was Origami Night. During this evening, students across the board came together to enjoy dinner, trying something new, and working towards a great cause! The next day, Nicole and Julissa traveled to De La Salle College to MC the Annual Crane Ceremony for Meagan's Hug, and present the cranes made, representing the students of the TCDSB. The directors of Charity are extremely proud of all those who got involved during this time period, and the students who supported their many efforts.

Public Relations

The month of March has kept the Public Relations Team busy. The Public Relations Team has continued their goal of creating a sense of transparency between those in the community, and the CSLIT Executive Team. This has been done by maintaining a relationship with other members of the CSLIT Executive Team, and the Student Trustees. Hand in hand, the Public Relations Team has been serving the community by drafting advertising material for CSLIT endeavours such as the CSLIT General Assemblies, ECSLIT General Assemblies, and much more upcoming events such as the CSLIT Gala, Camp Olympia, Faith Camp, and Voices that Challenge. Furthermore, the Public Relations Team has continued to rapidly respond to any questions or concerns received through the CSLIT social media platforms, in order to perpetuate the goal of transparency

Administrative Affairs

Junette Tindan has been fulfilling her duties as director of elementary affairs. As expected, she has assisted the student trustees with the April general assembly for the student trustee elections by creating the meeting agenda and slides. She has also helped in preparing for the upcoming Camp Olympia weekend, Voices That Challenge conference and Indigenous Education pillar fundraiser.