



Director's Monthly Report

August 2022

The new normal that has dominated these past two academic years is starting to recede into our pandemic memories. While we remain vigilant as we acknowledge that Covid remains ever-present, we do so preparing for an academic year in which the overwhelming majority of students will be back to school in-person. This transition back to schools as the hubs of our communities is exciting for students, staff, and families. We are looking forward to those events and activities usually associated with the fall as students and staff embrace spiritual, academic, athletic, and social life in our Catholic schools.

We hope that the summer has afforded staff, students, and families the opportunity to slow down, be together, explore our city and communities, travel near and far, and recharge as we look forward to the year ahead. The past two years have been demanding and exhausting and it is important to acknowledge this reality as we prepare to return in September with renewed optimism and well-honed resilience.

Staff have been focusing on supporting students throughout the summer with the many programs and activities focusing on supporting student learning, particularly those students who might be returning to in-person learning after a year or more of virtual. Programs throughout the system have seen TCDSB staff partnering with community agencies and leaders to provide quality programming intended to support students academically, socially, and spiritually.

Staff have also been busy throughout the summer moving building projects forward. From brand new buildings to upgrades to our existing sites, the summer has provided opportunities for shovels in the ground and work to progress. We are so grateful to staff who continue to ensure that our buildings, sites, and projects are moving forward with the goal of increasing the experience of all students, staff, and families in our TCDSB buildings throughout the system.

As we begin to transition into the start of another school year, we are appreciative of the partnership and support of our community as we work together as a Catholic community to create spaces where students, staff, and families feel safe and supported. Whatever we accomplish we do so together, unified by our faith, commitment to community, and partnership in our shared goals. We are looking forward to walking with Christ through our Pastoral Plan this year with eyes of faith and hope, hearts of kindness and love, minds of justice and peace.

To those who are returning to TCDSB this September, we welcome you back for another year. For those who are joining the TCDSB family this year, we offer a special welcome to you, and hope that your experience in our schools throughout the system reveal our commitments to student learning, well-being, and equity, firmly rooted in our Catholic faith.

Highlights from the summer include:

- Delivering remarks at the **Head Start Liturgy and Luncheon** recognizing newly appointed Principals and Vice Principals.
- Attending the **Council of Ontario Directors of Education** Summer Meeting in Toronto.
- Delivering the keynote address at the **York University Faculty of Education** Conference focused on equity in education.
- Participating in monthly **Ripple Effect Circle** Meetings - Ripple Effect Circle is 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.
- Continuing **important connections throughout the summer with the Deputy Minister of Education, Toronto Public Health, and the Ministry of Health** in support of provincial and local initiatives focused on public health as we transition to a new normal from years of pandemic restrictions and health measures.
- Participating on 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.
- **Meeting with Catholic Directors** from across the province in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy throughout Catholic education in Ontario.
- Partnering with **Toronto Public Health** to discuss school health and pandemic related support and initiatives to promote public health and respond to COVID-related issues in on-going ways.