

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ELEMENTARY CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP IMPACT TEAM REPORT 2022

"Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

Drafted Meeting Date

November 7, 2022

December 1, 2022

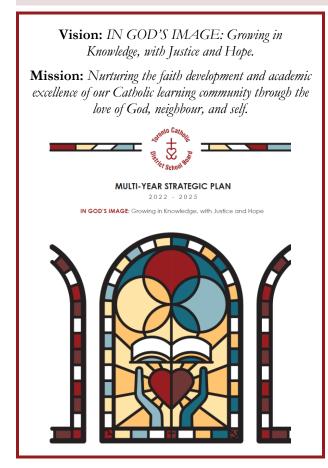
R. Lewis, CSLIT Director of Elementary Affairs

M. Chua, CSLIT Director of Elementary Affairs

A. Jorge, Catholic Student Leadership Resource Teacher

M. Caccamo, Superintendent of NCC, Safe Schools, Cont. Ed., and Monsignor Fraser College Alternative and Adult Secondary School

INFORMATION REPORT



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce

Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT) Directors of Elementary Affairs collected information from a representation of students from elementary schools across the Board. To capture student voice, all students were asked to review the 5 Pillars of Focus developed by CSLIT and rank them in order of importance to identify local and global issues that they believe should be a focus for the 2022-2023 school year. The Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (ECSLIT) wishes to implement actions that address each issue.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 40 hours.

B. PURPOSE

- 1. This information report is on the order paper of the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee through an approved motion requesting an annual report for information on the initiatives and activities of the Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team.
- 2. The report includes practical activities that elementary schools can perform to support initiatives that would address the recommendations made by elementary students.
- 3. Initiatives and activities of the Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team reflect the goals of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations as developed by the Institute for Catholic Education:
 - a. A Discerning Believer
 - b. An Effective Communicator
 - c. A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker
 - d. A Self-directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner
 - e. A Collaborative Contributor
 - f. A Caring Family Member
 - g. A Responsible Citizen

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C. BACKGROUND

- 1. Through a survey, elementary students were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and rank what they believe are the most important topics on which to focus. The input from elementary student leaders have given the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs guidance to develop the Pillars of Focus for ECSLIT in the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2. This report includes practical action plans that elementary schools and ECSLIT can perform to support initiatives that would convey the recommendations made by elementary student leaders.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

- 1. A summary of ECSLIT's 2021-2022 recommended actions, achievements and events based on the Pillars of Focus from 2021 can be found in the Appendix.
- 2. During the previous academic year, CSLIT's annual *Voices that Challenge* conference was held in-person, at the Ontario Science Centre on Earth Day on April 22, 2022, with 392 TCDSB students in attendance. This conference featured innovative content on Environmental Stewardship and Indigenous Education. During this event, students were given the opportunity to advocate for social justice issues. However, the elementary student voice was not directly captured within that process. To best serve the needs of our elementary community, students were asked to complete a short survey so that the CSLIT Directors of Elementary Affairs could compile ideas directly from elementary students. The survey was conducted during our first general assembly of the 2022-2023 academic year.
- 3. Based on the recommendations made by elementary students, ECSLIT will be focusing on the following three pillars for the 2022-2023 school year:
 - (1) Mental Health & Well-Being
 - (2) Cultural Appreciation and Diversity
 - (3) Equity and Accessibility

ECSLIT 2022-2023 Recommended Actions

Pillar of Focus #1: Mental Health and Well-Being

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

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-Matthew 18:20

In collaboration with the TCDSB Mental Health Department, the Directors of Elementary Affairs aspire to ensure mental health resources are available to all students to create a Catholic community of living examples of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. We can achieve this by offering mentoring opportunities from TCDSB secondary students. During our ESCLIT monthly general assemblies, students will interact with secondary students directly, to receive information about high school with the opportunity to ask questions.

Furthermore, we hope to consult with the TCDSB Mental Health Department to host guest speakers who can demonstrate practical activities for students.

Pillar of Focus #2: Cultural Appreciation and Diversity

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

-1 Thessalonians 5:11

In collaboration with the Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education and Community Relations department, this year, we plan to celebrate culture and diversity as a unified student body. We aspire to encourage multicultural diversity during all elementary events of the Catholic Student Leadership department where students can celebrate their culture.

Further, we will integrate diverse keynote speakers into our General Assemblies and other events including the Intermediate Leaders In Training Event (ILITE) and the Camp Olympia Catholic Student Leadership Program days. These motivational speakers will inspire and educate our student leaders to support our Catholic community through connection and compassion for all members of our TCDSB community.

Pillar of Focus #3: Equity and Accessibility

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
-Galatians 6. 10

Equitable and accessible education allows students to thrive with equal opportunities regardless of socioeconomic status, cultural background, or level of exceptionality. Working together with Board staff, external organizations, and

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school communities, we will endeavor to provide additional financial resources to schools. This will involve the selling of gently used uniforms within school communities to generate funds to purchase school supplies, athletic equipment and technological devices that can enhance student learning.

Finally, the Catholic Student Leadership Department in collaboration with the Safe Schools and Physical Education department will implement a recess mentorship program where Junior and Intermediate grade students and teachers will be trained in games and activities to encourage active play during all recess times. Training and knowledge from this program will be integrated into all elementary Catholic Student Leadership initiatives to embody walking with Christ with hearts of kindness and love.

Additional Topics of Focus

Every month attendance numbers will be provided to our Student Trustees for monthly reporting purposes. Our hope is for all Trustees and area superintendents to get more schools involved in all initiatives brought forth by CSLIT, ECSLIT and the Catholic Student Leadership Department.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1. Students should be motivated to affect positive change in our world. Students feel a calling to actively live out their faith through involvement in social justice initiatives. The current Student Trustees will support ECSLIT to implement their specific recommendations addressing current global and local social justice issues.
- 2. Student Trustees and ECSLIT report to the Board on the impact of their initiatives in their annual report to the Board of Trustees.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.

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