

SUMMARY OF 2021-2022 ECSLIT INITIATIVES & EVENTS

ECSLIT monthly general assemblies typically occurred on the first Thursday of the month to nurture faith development and leadership skills. Virtual monthly ECSLIT meetings occurred from October 2021 to April 2022. Although the efforts of ECSLIT student leaders and teachers/staff were challenged by both a global pandemic and labour-related matters (work-to-rule sanctions), many events were celebrated and successful in building a Catholic community of elementary student leaders.

Pillars of Focus

During the October 2021 general assembly, ECSLIT students were asked to fortify their student voice and select 3 pillars on which to focus. These pillars were derived from the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Teams' (CSLIT) original 5 Pillars of Focus for the academic year. The pillars represent the collective voice of students across the Board; during the general assembly students completed a survey to present their 3 most-pressing concerns at the Board level, to promote dialogue regarding relevant issues that directly impact TCDSB students.

Pillar #1: Enhancing Equity

Each month at ECSLIT general assemblies, all invited guest speakers were selected from various cultures and traditions to reflect those of the students. For instance, during the general assembly in October, the guest speakers were members of the CSLIT Executive Team, 6 student leaders representing 6 different cultural backgrounds.

Pillar #2: Mental Health & Well-Being

ECSLIT student leaders developed a “Mental Health Toolbox” over the course of the academic year to incorporate activities during assemblies to improve mental health and wellness, including Christian Meditation.

Pillar #3: Indigenous Education and Immersion

Que Rock, an Indigenous knowledge keeper was invited as a guest speaker during our June general assembly. He also participated in a number of other Catholic Student Leadership initiatives including the development and launch of the Welcome Bench.

Additional Exemplary Catholic Student Leadership Initiatives

- Intermediate Leaders in Training Event (ILITE) – on Thursday January 27, 2022, the annual ILITE elementary Catholic student leadership symposium was attended by over 6000 intermediate students in grades 6-8 from 113 different TCDSB elementary schools. During the event, the guest speaker challenged all students to show kindness to one another. The theme of the conference scaffolded the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation of a Caring Family Member where all students will “live their lives like Jesus because they care about the families at home, at school, at Church, in the community and the world.”
- From June 10-12, 2022, the Camp Olympia Catholic Student Leadership Camp took place. During this camp, students travelled to Huntsville, Ontario to grow in faith and knowledge through experiential learning and kinaesthetic activities reflecting themes in our Pastoral Plan (With Eyes of Faith and Hope).