



Director's Monthly Report

January 2023

As we enter a new year, we do so with a profound sense of hope for 2023 after the past few years of upheaval and anxiety. While we are cautiously optimistic that we are progressing further from the darkest days of the pandemic, we continue to promote vigilance and respect for one another. If we learned anything from the past few years, it is that we are all in this together. As a Catholic community, we are called to model unity in the face of discord, and support for one another as examples of Christ's love in the world.

This past Christmas season allowed for so many celebrations, liturgies, and performances throughout the system. Students, staff, and families gathered together to mark the season in recognition of Christ's birth, and in the spirit of celebration and fun. During my many school and event visits throughout December, I was consistently reminded that there is no better place to be in the lead up to Christmas than in a Catholic school. While these celebrations brought us closer to "normal", such normality had so much more importance this year.

The beginning of a new calendar year brings with it commitments to continue to serve, sacrifice, and lead in ways that promote our own well-being, and that of our Catholic community. I hope the upcoming year brings health, happiness, and harmony to all students, staff, and families.

The month ahead brings us closer to the end of halfway point in this academic year, and the end of the first term in both elementary and secondary schools. We are so grateful to our staff who continue to create the conditions within our schools and departments that support student learning, mental health and well-being, and equity, grounded in the foundation that is our faith. We celebrate success and look toward the second semester with these priorities in mind.

Warmest wishes to all members of the Toronto Catholic community for the year ahead and a happy and healthy 2023!

During the month of **January**, we celebrate **Courage** as the **Virtue of the Month for January** and recognize important observances such as: Tamil Canadian Heritage Month, World Day of Peace, Epiphany, Eastern Rite Christmas, Eastern Rite New Year, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year (Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian), International Day of Education, Family Literacy Day, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Bell Let's Talk Day, Family Literacy Day, and Kindergarten Registration

Highlights from the past month and throughout January include:

- Attending **Christmas** events and celebrations including:
 - Christmas Concerts at **St. Conrad** Catholic School, **St. Ambrose** Catholic School, and **St. Cecilia** Catholic School
 - **St. Clare** Catholic School Family Christmas evening
 - **Cardinal Carter** Academy of the Arts Christmas Concert
 - **Loretto Abbey** High School Mass with secondary Principals and Vice Principals
 - “Santapalozza!” at **St. Gregory** Catholic School with Santa
- Attending the annual Christmas Breakfast at **Father Henry Carr** where staff buy, prepare, and serve a warm breakfast for all students in the spirit of Christmas and community
- Delivering remarks at the Secondary **Pastoral Day of Care** for a day of learning with Dr. Josephine Lombardi and to further express our gratitude and appreciation to our Spiritual Caregivers
- Attending the **Annual Meeting of the Chairs and Directors of Education** from all of the Catholic School Boards within the **Archdiocese of Toronto** with **Cardinal Collins** and the Episcopal Board
- Visiting schools: **Our Lady of Guadalupe** Catholic School, **St. Kateri Tekakwitha** Catholic School, and **St. Matthew** Catholic School
- Participating at the 2023 **OCSTA Catholic Trustee Seminar** along with the Chair and Trustees
- Attending the **Annual CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) CEO/CFO Conference** with all Directors and CFOs from across Ontario
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly “**Lunch with the Director**” series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube
- Continuing **important connections into the beginning of the new school year 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.
- Participating on and contributing to **provincial leadership conversations** with **Directors of Education and Health officials** from across the province in support of TCDSB staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care

- **Meeting with Catholic Directors, particularly Catholic Directors from neighbouring GTA Catholic School Boards** in support of best practices, shared issues, solutions, and advocacy throughout Catholic education in Ontario