

## APPENDIX A:

### Summary of CSLIT 2022-2023 Actions:

*“For nothing will be impossible with God.” ~ Luke 1:37*

#### **Pillar of Focus #1: Supporting Special Education**

- On February 8, 2023, 29 students (13 CSLIT Executive Team members and 16 St. Mary’s Catholic Academy student leaders) and staff attended a retreat at L’Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill. During this time together, the students and staff learned, lived and danced in a community that embodies their mission: “In a world that often sees people with intellectual disabilities as less than whole, L’Arche celebrates their creativity, transparency and great capacity for joy as important gifts to be shared.” ([L’Arche](#))
- On May 19, 2023, 18 student leaders from the CSLIT Executive Team and St. Mary’s Catholic Academy, in collaboration with staff from the TCDSB Special Services Department and St. Mary’s Special Education Department, planned and participated in an Inclusion and Belonging retreat. The morning involved an educational component about Autism including the Autistic student perspective and voice, and the afternoon incorporated community-building with support staff and 10 additional students in the S.T.A.R.S Intensive Support Program. The event created life-long memories and learning for all.
- On June 13, 2023, in support of the Special Education Department at James Cardinal McGuigan, 12 student leaders from Monsignor Percy Johnson and from the CSLIT Executive Team supported a track and field event at the City of Toronto Track and Field Centre at York University. The outcome was a universally accessible event for Special Education students and leadership students exemplifying love of self and neighbor mirrored in the Gospel.

#### **Pillar of Focus #2: Mental Health and Well-Being**

- On September 27, 2022, 219 Catholic Student Leaders from across the Board gathered at the Catholic Education Centre for our first General Assembly of the new academic school year. The structure for this meeting was designed for an hour of information gathering and an hour of socializing in honour of student mental health and well-being. Students enjoyed an evening filled with music, pizza and time to briefly disengage from their studies and divert

their attention from anything that might be causing them tension or anxiety. Moving forward, the structure of general assemblies was modified to emulate this model.

- Throughout the year, working directly with staff from the TCDSB Mental Health Department, the CSLIT Executive Team collaborated and contributed to the development of student posters to be distributed to schools in September of 2023.

### **3. Cultural Appreciation and Diversity**

- On December 14, 2022, 164 Catholic Student Leaders representing 31 schools from across the Board gathered at the Catholic Education Centre for our Christmas General Assembly and social event. Students appreciated multicultural foods and built Gingerbread houses in support of the charity, [Meagan's Hug](#).
- In January of 2023, student leaders filled a movie theatre downtown to attend a special screening and question and answer period with the star of the movie, [14 and Muslim](#), in collaboration with the TCDSB Equity and Community Relations Department.
- As a commitment to integrate diverse keynote speakers in our General Assemblies to inspire and educate our student leaders, both the CSLIT and ECSLIT community hosted [Vanessa Treasure](#) from Hart House at the University of Toronto to demonstrate the valuable connection between mental and physical health.
- In addition, the Voices That Challenge Conference, was proud to invite TCDSB alumni, [Stephen Mensah](#) of the Toronto Youth Cabinet to encourage participation in active citizenship.

### **4. Environmental Stewardship**

- During both our CSLIT and ECSLIT general assemblies, with the collaboration of staff in the TCDSB Printing and Mail Services, the CSLIT Executive Team offered gently used, recycled school supplies such as binders to students to decrease the amount of school supplies that end up in landfills.
- In support of environmental stewardship, the CSLIT and ECSLIT communities, committed to environmentally friendly policies where single use plastic water bottles were not provided and instead encouraged reusable water bottles at all general assemblies and events.

- The CSLIT Executive Team received supplies from the City of Toronto (gloves and garbage bags) to encourage garbage cleanups in their local communities.

## **5. Equity and Accessibility**

- On October 26, 2022, the Catholic Student Leadership Department, in collaboration with the Community Relations/Equity Department and ELL/ESL Departments, supported the TCDSB Secondary Newcomer Conference at the Catholic Education Centre. Students and staff benefitted from a workshop on cultural awareness and social development.
- On November 24, 2022, the Catholic Student Leadership Department in collaboration with the Safe Schools, Health and Physical Education and Outdoor Education Departments, launched the Catholic Leaders Engaging in Active Play (C-LEAP) recess and peer mentoring pilot program. This award-winning pilot program encouraged elementary student leaders in junior and intermediate grades to lead games with primary students during recess time. In the secondary panel, students and staff were encouraged to build new or scaffold existing peer mentorship programs in their schools for educational and social support purposes. The C-LEAP pilot program training was facilitated at over 33 elementary schools and 6 secondary schools across the Board. Additional facilitation for C-LEAP was provided during the Catholic Student Leadership excursions at Olympia Sports Camp in May 2023.
- On March 22, 2023, the CSLIT Executive team hosted a virtual event entitled, Women in Solidarity. During this initiative, female guest speakers with diverse backgrounds, TCDSB alumni and student leaders were brought together in an interactive setting.
- From April 28 to May 7, 2023, over 880 Catholic Student Leaders and staff attended the Catholic Student Leadership excursions held at Olympia Sports Camp in Huntsville, Ontario. While at camp, students participated in faith-filled, kinesthetic and informational activities to bring back to their school communities.
- Working together with Board staff, several meetings were held to discuss resources that support the financial aspects of transportation for students in need. As most students take public transit everyday to get to and from school, transportation costs can accumulate. Staff from the Executive office were very receptive and supportive during this dialogue.