

## **APPENDIX A - Anne Marie D'Amico Memorial Award (April 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

### **About the Award**

On April 23, 2018, Anne Marie D'Amico, a graduate of the TCDSB, along with ten other people, were killed in what has been called the "Yonge Street Van Attack". The [Anne Marie D'Amico Foundation](#) was launched by the D'Amico family in December 2018 to honour their loved one and to carry Anne Marie's legacy with them each day.

The TCDSB proclaimed April 23 as the 'Anne Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love' and beginning in 2024, the annual Anne Marie D'Amico Memorial Award will recognize one elementary and one secondary student who embodies the spirit of kindness and love.

Award criteria:

- Existing TCDSB student,
- Demonstrates the foundational principles of this award, as outlined below:
  - demonstrates acts of kindness and love towards others. This can include acts of compassion, empathy, generosity, and selflessness;
  - creates initiatives at school that support safe environments;
  - advocates for human rights through awareness campaigns, or volunteering;
  - actively nourishes and strengthens healthy relationships within the school community, focusing on respect, empathy, and conflict resolution;
  - champions inclusivity and celebrates diversity within their school, ensuring that their fellow students, staff and visitors feel welcome and valued;
  - inspires peers to be the best they can be and actively seeks to create a more just society.
- Student applicants must provide an explanation in writing as to why they should receive this award.
- Please provide two (2) references supporting the application.

Regulations:

- TCDSB community members can nominate an existing student.
- In January of each year, nominations are submitted to [commdept@tcdsb.org](mailto:commdept@tcdsb.org) using a standard nomination form that will be shared online with all TCDSB staff and Elementary and Secondary Principals will be asked to share information about the award with their students
- Nomination forms will be reviewed by an internal TCDSB Selection Committee, and one (1) elementary student and one (1) secondary student award recipient will be selected on an annual basis based on the criteria noted above.
- The D'Amico family will be invited to present the award to the recipient at the TCDSB's Awards Night in May.
- A TCDSB award certificate and Anne Marie D'Amico Memorial Award will be presented to one elementary student in the amount of \$300 and to one

secondary student in the amount of \$500 at the Annual TCDSB Awards Night in May.

- Each year, the [Anne Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love \(April 23\)](#) requires that school communities be encouraged to engage in events, share stories and/or activities to commemorate the official Yonge Street Tragedy and other events celebrating acts of kindness and love.
- In the event the D'Amico family is unavailable to attend the awards night the recipient's principal can present the award on their behalf.

#### Communication Strategies:

- The Superintendent of NCC will communicate with school leaders the importance of this day including details in the board-approved motion, expectations of students to celebrate in acts of kindness, and sharing with the TCDSB community via communications channels including wrap-up, social media and web.
- Pitch to appropriate media outlets once we learn of student-related initiatives for the day.

#### Sample School Event Plan:

**Title:** Anne Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love

**Date:** April 23, 2024

**Duration:** 15-20 minutes

**Target Audience:** All students and staff

#### About the Day:

This day commemorates Anne Marie D'Amico, a TCDSB alumnus and victim of the Yonge Street Van Attack, by promoting values of kindness, love, and community support, reflecting her spirit and legacy.

#### Event Schedule:

##### 1. Opening with Prayer for Kindness and Love (2 minutes)

- **Time:** 9:00 AM - 9:02 AM
- **Activity:**
  - The school community starts with the following prayer:
    - *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Caring God, with each new day comes new experiences and new opportunities for us to be kind to one another and to learn new things about life and creation. You show us kindness and care every day, wherever we are. You give us people in our lives who are with us when it is difficult to smile or when we are unhappy or sad. We appreciate their love and support – a reminder that you are always with us. May we be ever grateful and trust you to be with us*

*at all times. Help us to walk together, recognizing how special each person is and how fortunate we are to have friends and family around us. Grant us your protection and safety always. We place our trust in you and your presence with us to help us to let go of our worries and our fears, our disappointments and doubts. And it is good for us to care for one another. Support us always in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**2. Moment of Silence (1 minute)**

- **Time:** 9:02 AM - 9:03 AM
- **Activity:**
  - A moment of silence in memory of Anne Marie D'Amico and the other victims of the Yonge Street Van Attack.

**3. Student Presentation (5 minutes)**

- **Time:** 9:03 AM - 9:08 AM
- **Activity:**
  - A brief student-led presentation or performance that encapsulates themes of kindness and compassion.

**4. Kindness Writing Activity Announcement (5 minutes)**

- **Time:** 9:08 AM - 9:13 AM
- **Activity:**
  - Encouragement for students to write about kindness and love throughout the day, to be shared in classrooms or on a special board.

**5. Closing and Call to Action (2 minutes)**

- **Time:** 9:13 AM - 9:15 AM
- **Activity:**
  - Closing remarks emphasize the importance of carrying kindness and love into daily actions.
  - Reminder about the Anne Marie D'Amico Memorial Award.