



Director's Monthly Report

April 2024

The month of April is a time of rebirth every year. We are in the midst of the 50 days that make up the Easter season liturgically and as Easter people, we delight in this time of year. An unseasonably warm winter and rising temperatures are resulting in the blooming of flowers and the rebirth of grass from the slumber of the past few months. We are new with hope at this time of year.

Students and teachers are focusing on mid-terms in our secondary schools and consolidation of key curriculum and milestone concepts in elementary leading up to provincial assessments in the coming weeks. Our students have been working hard and staff are supporting to ensure our students are learning and thriving. Spring sports have begun, dramatic performances are moving from rehearsal to the stage, and our schools are buzzing with clubs, activities, and events. We are so blessed by the ongoing leadership and dedication of our staff and parent volunteers who serve and support these initiatives that provide opportunities for our students. Thank you!

I am proud to be present in many schools over the past few weeks to connect with students, staff, leaders, and parents and witness the ways in which students are learning, engaging, and thriving academically, spiritually, and socially.

Highlights from **April** include:

Celebrating **Justice** as the **Virtue of the Month for April** and recognizing important observances such as: World Autism Day, Palm Sunday, Passover (Judaism), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, World Health Day, Holy Saturday, Vimy Ridge Day, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday, Katyn Massacre and Smolensk Air Disaster Commemoration Day, International Day of Pink (Anti-bullying Awareness), Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year), Sri Lankan, Sinhala, and Tamil New Year (Puthandu), Orthodox Good Friday (Eastern Rite), Orthodox East (Eastern Rite), National Volunteer Appreciation Week, Yom HaShoah (Judaism), Laylat al-Qadr (Islam – Night of Power), Election Day (Student Trustee), Eid al-Fitr (Islam), Festival of Ridvan (Baha'i faith), Earth Day/School Clean-Up Day, Anne Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love, Administrative Professionals Day, Catholic Education Week

- Delivering remarks at the **Easter Celebration of the Eucharist at the CEC** and broadcast throughout the system
- Welcoming Grade 5, 6, and 7 students at the **Young Disciples' Day at St. Roch's Parish** - the day included Mass, community-building activities, inspirational music, and discussions
- Attending the **2024 Toronto Catholic District School Swim Invitational (TCDSSI)** hosted by **St. John Catholic Elementary School** – welcoming approximately 1000 swimmers representing 26 elementary schools across Toronto

- **Visiting schools:** Annunciation Catholic School, Blessed Trinity Catholic School, St. Cyril Catholic School, St. Gabriel Catholic School, St. Paschal Baylon Catholic School, Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic School, St. Roch Catholic School, and St. Basil-the-Great College School
- Attending the Spring **Education Research Development and Innovation (EDRI)** Conference along with other Directors, CEOs, and Superintendents of key school boards across Canada
- Attending **St. Patrick's Secondary School** National Theatre School Production of **Mag-ina** – a relevant story on the Filipino immigrant experience
- Along with the Chair, delivering greetings at the **Celebration of Women 365** at the CEC – connecting students with successful women professionals
- Along with the Chair, attending and delivering greetings at the **2024 Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)** Conference
- Attending and delivering remarks at the annual **Ontario Premier's Cup Launch event – 2024 Toronto School Cricket Recognition** Awards at W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute
- Delivering greetings at the **Safe Schools Student Ambassador Secondary Symposium**
- Attending and delivering remarks at the **170th Anniversary of St. Joseph's College Catholic School**
- Attending the annual **ECCODE Spring Meeting - OCSOA AGM & Conference 2024** with members of the TCDSB senior team
- Along with the Chair, delivering greetings at the **Toronto Catholic Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association** as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary as an association
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly **"Lunch with the Director"** series live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube
- Meeting with **Archbishop Leo** to discuss our shared work in support of faith and academic leadership and development throughout the city of Toronto
- **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