



Director's Monthly Report

November 2024

The month of November is one of transition as we move from the warm days of early fall to the changing colours on our trees to falling leaves and brisk temperatures. We recognize and remember with tremendous gratitude those who have served, suffered, and those we have lost in defense of our country and freedoms on Remembrance Day. I was honoured to represent Toronto Catholic District School Board along with Trustee Morrisson at the City of Toronto Remembrance Day event at the Cenotaph at Old City Hall. The representation of so many for their service is a humbling and important experience, and one which was recognized appropriately in our schools throughout the city on November 11th.

Parent/Teacher interviews during November represent an important milestone for students and families as progress is discussed, plans are made, and relationships between home and school are strengthened through on-going communication and partnership. I always appreciate the time to connect in partnership as my wife and I embraced the opportunity to do so this November with our daughter's teacher. Thank you to our amazing staff throughout the system who prepared to welcome parents, students, and community members into our schools for these important meetings.

I continue to be so proud to have the opportunity to speak with teachers who are entering the profession in our NTIP (New Teacher Induction Program) program, teachers who are considering formal leadership at principals' qualification classes, and students who are studying to become teachers, and students who are pursuing leadership and academic pursuits at Queen's University this month. It is a privilege to contribute to such discernment, enthusiasm, and ambition to support the next generation of teachers and leaders in education.

We gathered together as a large Catholic community in Toronto for the Cardinal's Dinner, and we do so again at the end of the month for the TCDSB community for the annual Angel Foundation Gala. Events like these bring our community of faith together in fellowship and in support of the important charities and programs that make such a contribution to our students and families.

I can see the Christmas decorations starting to pop up in my neighbourhood now that we are well into November. With Advent beginning on Sunday the 1st, we will be in the midst of the Advent season and all it brings soon.

During the Month of November, we Recognize and Celebrate:

- Celebrating **Peace Making as the Virtue of the Month for November** and recognizing important observances such as: All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Treaties Recognition Week, National Indigenous Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, National Child Day, Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week, Take Our Kids to Work Day, International Day for the

Elimination of Violence Against Women, English as a Second Language Week, Holocaust Education Week, Louis Riel Day, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - King of the Universe, National Holodomor Memorial Day, Diwali begins, and Advent

Highlights from November include:

- Along with the Chair, Trustees and Senior Staff had the pleasure of attending the **Annual Cardinal's Dinner** held at the Metro Convention Centre
- Meeting Grade 9 students **on Take Our Kids to Work Day** and answering their many questions on the work we do at the TCDSB
- Representing the TCDSB with Trustee Morrison at the City of Toronto **Remembrance Day Services at Old City Hall Cenotaph**
- Welcoming our newest Elementary and Secondary educators at the **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)**
- Attending and welcoming students at the **I am King Conference** at the CEC
- Delivering greetings at the **Safe School Secondary and Elementary Symposium** at Montecassino Place
- Attending the **The English Catholic Council of Ontario Directors of Education (ECCODE) AGM & Conference** with Directors of Education from across the province
- Meeting with **Minister of Education Jilly Dunlop** and **YAAACE Executive Director Devon Jones** in support of initiatives for students in the city
- Speaking with Bachelor of Education students, and Masters/PhD students in Educational Leadership studies at **Queen's University** about educational leadership, pathways, and our work at the TCDSB
- Participating in the **Corporate Services Leadership Learning Day**
- Celebrating **mass in memorial of TCDSB families** who have lost loved ones
- Attending the **2024 Angel Foundation for Learning Gala**