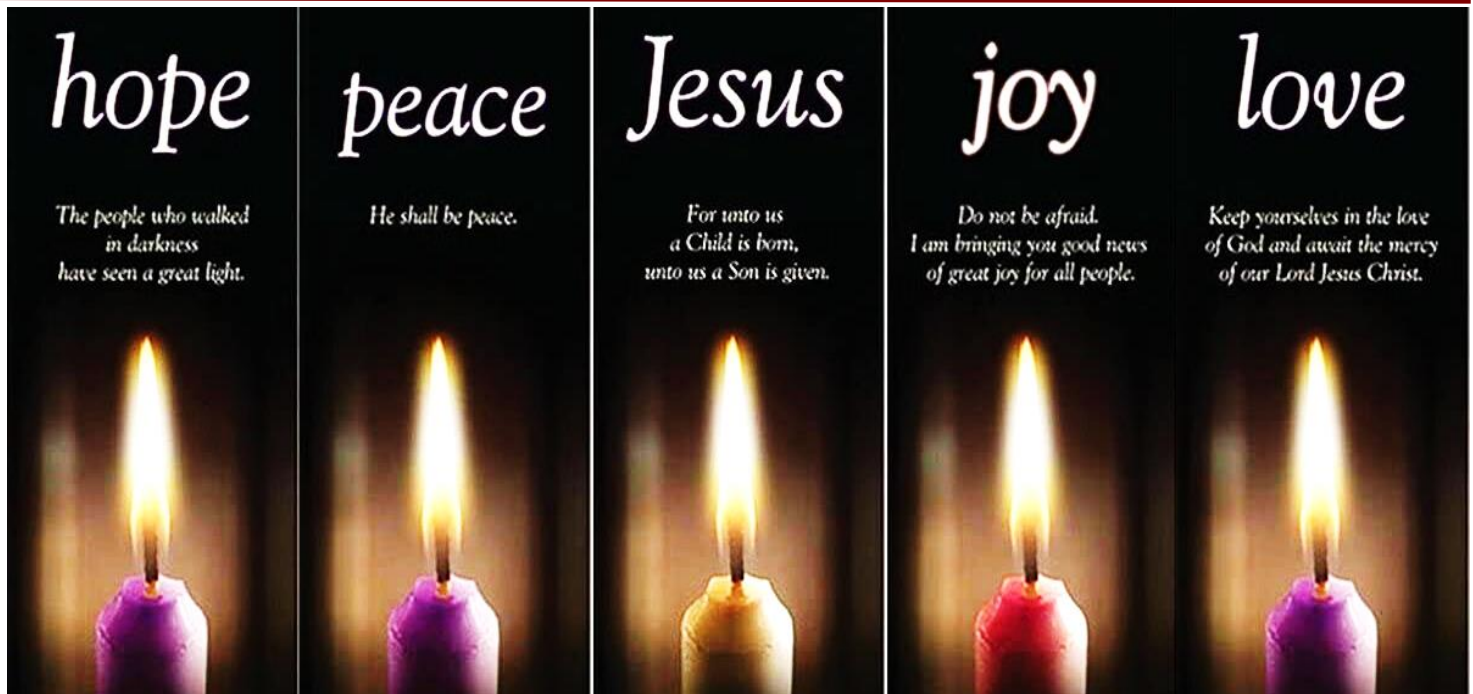


SPECIAL SERVICES

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2024



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) is celebrated annually worldwide on **December 3!**



To honour this day, staff responsible for AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act), reached out to the Rick Hansen Foundation and through their Schools Program hosted a one-hour webinar, *Be an Ally!*, providing students (grades 4 and up) with an opportunity to explore how small actions can create accessible and inclusive communities while becoming Difference Makers.

Moderator Marco Pasqua chatted with youth panelists Talina Papazian and Paulo Guerrero about how youth can be allies and Difference Makers in their communities.

Students learned what inspired Talina and Paulo to set off on their advocacy journeys and were encouraged to take action, whether big or small, to make a positive impact on disability inclusion and accessibility.

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING (D/HH)



The D/HH team will welcome families and students to St. Bruno/St. Raymond Catholic School on December 6th for the upcoming *Social Butterflies* event. This special day is for students in Preschool to Grade 2 and is designed to provide an enriching communication experience and an opportunity for students to socialize and engage in meaningful activities with their peers.

The event will focus on helping students:

- Develop social skills to build healthy relationships and respect for diversity.
- Strengthen their sense of identity and belonging as individuals with a hearing difference.
- Enhance critical and creative thinking to support decision-making and problem-solving.

Activities for families will also be provided to help build and foster strong community connections.

SOCIAL WORK

Leaders from the community serving black students and families were grateful for the opportunity to co-learn with Social Workers on November 22 where strategies were discussed and compassionate conversations took place. This will ensure continued, intentional, identity-affirming care not only for our black students and families, but all communities.

Our preparations for the Christmas season are well underway and TCDSB Social Workers are eagerly preparing donations and gifts for our neediest families. As needs are greater than ever, we are grateful for fellow TCDSB members who generously support our Angel Tree initiative.

