



Director's Monthly Report

January 2025

The month of January represents rebirth and recommitments as we enter a new year with faith and hope for the year ahead. We get to re-set our priorities, align our commitments, and strive to be better versions of ourselves so that we can serve others. We wish everyone in our TCDSB community the very best for 2025 for health, happiness, and hope.

This year is particularly special as Catholics as we celebrate 2025 as a Jubilee year here in Toronto and throughout the world! Rome is buzzing already as the Holy Doors at St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major Basilicas are all opened during this Jubilee year for pilgrims as Rome expects over five million visitors this year specific to the Jubilee year. We look forward to marking this important Jubilee throughout the year in the TCDSB and Archdiocese.

January represents the conclusion of first term in our secondary schools as culminating activities, exams, presentations and performances dominate our courses. Students and staff are working together to support our students' success during this important time of year, leading up to the transition to second semester at the end of the month. Winter athletics are in full swing, and rehearsals for spring concerts, plays, and performances are taking place in classes and on stages throughout the system. We continue to thank our staff and community volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to provide these opportunities for our students.

January also provided the opportunity for professional development and strengthening collegial connections across the province both for Trustees and senior staff. Catholic Trustees from all 29 school boards gathered for their winter professional seminar series where staff proudly presented our TCDSB Pastoral Plan as a workshop, and trustees were represented on a panel discussing the provincial performance appraisal process. School Board Directors and CFOs from all 71 school boards in Ontario for the annual CEO/CFO conference where important discussions about common issues, commitments, and advocacy for education took place with one another, provincial organizations, and government officials. We continue to participate in and lead these important conversations on behalf of the TCDSB, Catholic education, and publicly funded education in Ontario.

We also look forward to welcoming new students and families to the TCDSB in January with our Kindergarten registration! Our schools are places of welcome as we recognize the importance of putting our “best foot forward” when bringing new students and families into our TCDSB family. Thank you for encouraging anyone who is considering registering to do so as soon as possible during this registration period as this helps us plan our staffing and school organization for the year ahead!

January is an important month to reflect on what has been accomplished to date, while looking ahead at how much more there is to do. We are blessed by the opportunity to serve so many students and families in Catholic education and continue to embrace our responsibility as leaders here in the city and throughout the province.

Stay warm!

In the month of **January**, we celebrate **Courage** as the **Virtue of the Month for January** and recognize important observances such as: Tamil Canadian Heritage Month, World Day of Peace, Epiphany, Eastern Rite Christmas, Eastern Rite New Year, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year (Buddhist, Daoist, Confucian), International Day of Education, Family Literacy Day, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Bell Let’s Talk Day, Family Literacy Day, and Kindergarten Registration

Highlights from January include:

- Attending the **Annual Meeting of the Chairs and Directors of Education** from all of the Catholic School Boards within the **Archdiocese of Toronto with Cardinal Leo** and the Episcopal Board
- Attending the Leaders in **Catholic Education Mass of Thanksgiving** for Frank Cardinal Leo at **St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica**
- School visits: **St. Leo Catholic elementary School and St. Ambrose Catholic Elementary School**
- Delivering greetings at the **Tamil Heritage Month Celebration** at **St. John Paul II Secondary School**
- Participating at the **OCSTA 2025 Catholic Trustee Seminar** along with the Chair and Trustees

- **Leading a workshop on the TCDSB Pastoral Plan** at the OCSTA Catholic Trustee Seminar
- Attending the **Annual CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) CEO/CFO Conference** with all Directors and CFOs from across Ontario
- Attending the annual **Make Happy Tummies** (formerly called Toonies for Tummies) arranged by The Grocery foundation at St. Augustine Catholic elementary School
- Attending the **Black History Launch at the CEC**
- Attending and delivering greetings at the **Intermediate Leadership in Training Event (i-LITE) at St. Patrick Secondary Catholic School**
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our “**Lunch with the Director**” series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube this month