



Director's Monthly Report

May 2025

The month of May always starts with the buzz of Catholic education week and all the events, activities, and performances throughout this exciting celebration of Catholic education. I was blessed to have the opportunity to attend charitable events and fundraisers, performances, and liturgical celebrations throughout the week as we celebrated excellence. We encouraged all schools throughout the system to participate in the "Drawing God" art exhibition where students drew, painted, and presented their interpretations and understanding of God. We mounted all submissions in the atrium here at the CEC and enjoyed the opportunity throughout the week to engage with each piece of art and see God through the eyes of our students. Thank you to our central staff and school staff for bringing this opportunity to our students and encouraging their participation.

Our sports fields and tracks are buzzing this month as spring sports are in full swing. I was delighted to attend the track and field events, cheering on all students with a particular eye for the Grade 8 girls 800-meter race as a proud dad! I am always so appreciative of the staff and volunteers that make these events happen every year. From the logistics and organization on the day of, to the commitments to practices and coaching at the school level, I am so grateful to our staff and volunteers for giving so much of their time, experience, and expertise to provide these important opportunities for our students. So many proud students and parents!

Our students are preparing to participate in the annual provincial assessments (EQAO) during May. We are proud of our staff and students and wish them well as they always put forth their best efforts every year.

As a senior team, we are spending a significant amount of time on our budget process and working closely with the Ministry as we do. We bring our financial conversations to the public every month for transparency and constructive conversation in the board room and commit to continuing to do so. Our students remain our focus with all decision making as we commit to utilizing any available funding to support student achievement, equity, and well-being as a Catholic school board.

Highlights from May include:

Celebrating **Compassion** as the **Virtue of the Month for May** and recognizing important observances such as: Catholic Education Week, Speech, Language and Hearing Month, Asian Canadian Heritage Month, Polish Canadian Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Week, World Principals and Vice Principals Day, TCDSB Awards Night, TCDSB Polish Heritage Day, Red Dress Day - National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit

People, Wesak – Buddha Day, Respect for Life Week, Day of Action on Litter, Tamil Genocide Education Week, Meagan's Hug 2025, Mother's Day, Children and Youth in Care Day, International Day of Families, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, Vyshyvanka Day, Ascension of Our Lord, World Catholic Education Day, Victoria Day, Toronto Newcomer Day, Ascension Day (Orthodox Christian), Shavuot (Judaism), Pentecost, Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá Faith), Brain Cancer Awareness Grey Day, National AccessAbility Week, Red Shirt Day, and Bike to School Week.

- Along with the Chair of the Board and TCDSB Trustees, attending the **Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)** Annual General Meeting and Conference with Director's and Catholic School Trustees
- Participating in the annual **TCDSB Awards Night** celebrating the launch of Catholic Education Week and celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our students, alumni, staff, and friends of our Catholic education system
- Delivering remarks at the Celebration of the Eucharist at the Catholic Education Centre to mark the beginning of **Catholic Education Week 2025**, themed Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope
- Participated in the **The LearnIt Podcast** – an educational leadership focused podcast within the education community
- Participating in the Meagan Bebenek Foundation **Annual School Hug Day 2025** – at **Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Elementary School**
- Welcomed students from **St. Dorothy Catholic Elementary School** and **St. Andrew Catholic Elementary School** who participate in the **Trust 15 program** — a charitable organization supporting youth in the Etobicoke area by providing mentorship and positive role models to help them succeed
- Attending the **Loran Scholarship Celebration Assembly** - for **Student Trustee JoyGold Goodluck** at **Father Henry Carr Secondary Catholic School**
- Attending the School Opening and Blessing Ceremonies for the **Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School** and **St. Leo Catholic Elementary School**
- Attending the **Filipino Canadian Heritage Mass and Cultural Expose** at **Brebeuf College Catholic Secondary School**
- Attending the **Black Career Fair** at **Father Henry Carr Catholic Secondary School**
- Attending the Year end BBQ Celebration at **St. Bruno Catholic Elementary/St. Raymond Catholic Elementary School**

- Participating in School Anniversaries:
30th Anniversary Celebration of Holy Child Catholic Elementary School
50th Anniversary Celebration of Dante Alighieri Academy Catholic Secondary School
60th Anniversary Celebration of Annunciation Catholic Elementary School
- Attending the **2025 Swim Meet** at the Etobicoke Olympium Centre
- Participating in the **Regional Education Council conference** along with Director of Education colleagues from GTHA
- **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