

## **February Student Trustee Board Report:**

### **Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO)**



From February 16th to 19th, Student Trustees Karina Dubrovskaya and Rhea Carlisle attended the Board Council Conference of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) in conjunction with Le Regroupement des Élèves Conseillers/ères Francophones de l'Ontario (RECFO). The conference was filled with educational resources, professional development, and training that provided the Student Trustees with tools for success to take back to the TCDSB student leaders.

The Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO is currently working on recruiting submissions for the annual Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day and planning the Province Wide Mass. Over the weekend, Catholic Student Trustees followed their Catholic call to serve and volunteered at the Ottawa mission to provide the homeless with sandwiches and trail mix. They also broke out into diverse discussion groups over the weekend and discussed various Catholic Myths and possible ideas for a position paper.

Throughout the conference, the Student Trustees listened to multiple inspiring speakers including: Member of Provincial Parliament and Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, SEM Group member Denise Siele and Nepean MP Pierre Poilievre. The Student Trustees also received professional development from the Ontario and Physical Health Education Association (OPHEA) and White Ribbon on sexual violence prevention programs within schools.

### **Subcommittee Reviews:**

**Equity:** This month, the Equity subcommittee discussed volunteering as counselors at PAST camp (the annual camp hosted by the TCDSB at Olympia Sports Camp for students with autism) and are currently looking into the dates to attend. The Equity subcommittee has also taken on the People To People Action Team alongside the Social Justice subcommittee which will focus on issues such as Aids support in Ethiopia and equitable treatment of others.

**Social Justice:** The Social Justice subcommittee would like to plan a school day excursion to visit a former Residential School, in order to raise awareness to a history deeply rooted in Canadian culture and to participate in a workshop on "First Nations Stereotypes and Racism".

**Elementary Affairs:** Elementary School Catholic Leadership team held their fourth face to face meeting at the CEC, with over a total of 120 students attending on Thursday, February 9, 2017. The theme of this month's presentation reflected the virtue of this month, love. The first guest

speaker was Mike G from St. Maria Goretti who gave an eloquent and poetic spoken word presentation to the youth about the remembrance of important role models for black history month. The second guest speaker was Dwayne Matthews, a strategic educationalist who focuses on empowering younger students through motivational and inspirational speeches. Afterwards Andrew Peacock, the head of the guidance department of Michael Power High School, gathered information from the students on how Canada's 150th anniversary should be celebrated. In addition, each school completed the previous month's Development and Peace postcard challenge, bringing in an approximate total of over 1800 postcards.

**Social Affairs:** This month, the Social Affairs subcommittee is discussing and determining logistics for the CSLIT Gala such as theme, location and date. The team is looking towards a date in the month of May.

**Faith:** Together the Faith subcommittee has been planning to sell hand-held rosaries at a General Assembly to promote the Catholic faith and to make hand-held rosaries more accessible. The Faith Subcommittee is also in the process of organizing a donation to take place at the next GA. They will be collecting new products to be donated to women's shelters around the city of Toronto. Products may include soap and/or any hygiene products, articles of clothing or any other product that the shelter is in need of at that particular time.