

October Student Trustee Board Report

September General Assembly:

On September 26th, CSLIT held the first General Assembly of the year with around 130 diverse secondary students in attendance. This meeting was filled with exceptional speakers to help students enter the mindset of leadership after the summer break. The virtue of the month, hospitality, was a main focus of the meeting and students were encouraged to create a welcoming environment for all in this new school year. Rory McGuckin gave our students with a warm welcome on behalf of the Board. Trek for Teens also provided a keynote speech to inform students on the topic of youth homelessness and how to combat the issue of youth poverty within our communities using our Catholic call to serve. Students were challenged to complete a monthly team building exercise and were encouraged to come out and attend the next GA which will be held on October 31st.



Important Student Trustee Events

ME to WE:

Both the Student Trustees were in attendance at both WE Day and the ME to WE Global Learning Centre Opening where Student Trustee, Rhea Carlisle, gave a speech on the importance of accessibility in our 21st Century communities.

OPHEA Conference:

Student Trustee Rhea Carlisle attended the OPHEA Healthy Schools Healthy Communities Conference in Niagara from October 12th to 13th where she was able to partake in meaningful dialogue surrounding the state of well-being within our school communities, both local and provincial.

Newcomers Conference:

Both Student Trustees, Joel Ndongmi and Rhea Carlisle, will be Emcees for this year's Newcomers Conference taking place on October 20th. This conference will address the importance of providing adequate supports to our International students and all Newcomers to the TCDSB.

When Faith Meets Pedagogy:

Both the Student Trustees will be attending the When Faith Meets Pedagogy forum on October 26th. Student Trustee Rhea Carlisle will be one of the Emcees for this event alongside the President of the Catholic Board Council for OSTA-AECO.

Subcommittee Updates

Social Justice:

Environmental stewardship and Indigenous rights will be two major areas of focus for the Social Justice Committee this year. They plan to host a field trip with the Equity Committee to a former residential school in order to educate students and encourage reconciliation. Another planned initiative is for TCDSB students to come together as environmental stewards by going on a volunteer trip to Evergreen Brick Works. The Social Justice Committee will also be carrying out donation drives for organizations like WWF-Canada and Development and Peace in order to raise funds and enable students to get involved with social justice while promoting our Catholic Values.

Equity:

During the month of October, the Equity Committee will be organizing the L'Arche Daybreak retreat to be held in the first week of November. At this retreat, members of the Equity Committee are encouraged to strive for an environment where all can belong by engaging in diverse cultures and working as a team.

Elementary Affairs:

October's meeting marked the beginning of the E-CSLIT year. Student leaders from the elementary level were called to reflect on the virtue of the month – gratitude. They reflected on the devastation caused by the hurricanes in Puerto Rico and were challenged to bring in non-perishable food, daily items, and clothing to the next meeting to support those in need. The elementary student leaders are putting the virtue of the month into action and giving back where it is needed most. The E-CSLIT face-to-face meeting will take place on November 1st.

Faith:

Prayer, as a way to strengthen our faith, is a major area of focus for the Faith Committee this month. CSLIT's opening prayer focused on being able to rely on our faith as the new school year begins. This reflection targeted the present student leader's spiritual borders through a reminder that as Catholics, it is important to be more open towards God's guidance and support.

Angel Foundation for Learning:

This year, the AFL Committee will continue with last year's goal to coordinate and execute various forms of fundraisers for the Angel Foundation throughout the school year. Possible fundraisers include selling CSLIT themed sweaters to student leaders at General Assemblies, bake sales, and various leadership activities.

Social Affairs:

Social Affairs will be starting the school year off by hosting a Fall Dance in the month of November. This event is a way for TCDSB students to socialize, have fun, and also contribute to a good cause. The purpose of this event is to fundraise for Sick Kid's Miracle Network Foundation and provides an opportunity for students attending service trips to fundraise money through selling baked goods and refreshments.