



TCDSB'S UNSUNG HEROES



September 2022

Anna Bonanno-Sofras, Teacher, St. Norbert Catholic School



With over 30 years of dedicated service within the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) community, Ms. Bonanno-Sofras is an integral part of the St. Norbert Catholic School. She is known for leading her classes with Christ-centered lesson plans and has an enthusiastic focus on presenting a Catholic approach to all subject matter. Ms. Bonanno-Sofra's daily interactions with students, parents and staff provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment inspired and formed by the Catholic faith. As a dependable collaborator, Ms. Bonanno-Sofras consistently highlights the successes of others before her own and brings immense joy to the staff with her infectious laughter, along with her innate ability to make light of challenging situations. The entire St. Norbert Catholic School community is thankful for her dedicated service and endless support.

Matthew Tanel, Head Caretaker, St. Edmund Campion Catholic School



As the Golden Rule states to treat others as you wish to be treated, and Mr. Tanel is a shining example of this principle. He ensures to treat everyone with dignity and respect and is known for handling difficult situations calmly and professionally. Mr. Tanel's office door is never closed, and he is always available to lend a helping hand to staff and students in the St. Edmund Campion Catholic School community. Whether he is tidying up an accident or heading up to the school's roof to retrieve yet another errant basketball, Mr. Tanel does it with a cheerful smile on his face. In addition to his regular duties and responsibilities, Mr. Tanel went above and beyond to ensure that the Kindergarten and Grade 8 graduation events ran smoothly and without a hitch. He graciously led the setup and takedown of the Grade 8 graduation, which ran well beyond his shift and even stayed throughout the ceremony to show his support for the class of 2022. He is a shining example of what a leader in Catholic Education should be.

Tom Hartmann, Education Assistant, St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School



Mr. Hartmann works in the Multiple Exceptionalities/Developmental Delays (ME-DD) program at St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School and demonstrates a genuine passion and sincerity for connecting his students with meaningful opportunities through sports and extracurricular activities. As a dedicated ME-DD Education Assistant, he works tirelessly to create a safe, inclusive, and fun learning environment for all his students and is incredibly dedicated to maximizing every student's potential. Mr. Hartmann is also involved in several extracurricular activities at St. Patrick's and initiated the Girls at Bat and Challenger Baseball programs through the Jays Care Foundation. Without Mr. Hartmann's leadership and initiative, many of the baseball-related programs at the school would not be possible. He works hard to engage students with special needs and ensures that all students have a chance to be successful and have fun. During the beginning of the pandemic, he volunteered a great deal of time before work and took the lead in creating a physically distant and accessible computer lab in the Library Learning Commons. Mr. Hartmann has a genuine way of connecting with students and allows each of them to feel encouraged, valued and understood.

Mary-Grace Bujold, Education Assistant, St. Norbert Catholic School



Ms. Bujold personifies grace, tenderness, and empathy toward all children in her role as Education Assistant at St. Norbert Catholic School. For nearly 20 years, she has been a valuable member of her school community and is described as an "absolute treasure" who is known for her kindness and nurturing demeanour, along with her dedication to helping and supporting all students. As a committed member of the St. Norbert community, Ms. Bujold sprang into action when a colleague began choking on her food, which restricted her breathing. Without hesitation and guided by her First Aid certification, Ms. Bujold performed the Heimlich maneuver and was able to dislodge the piece of food blocking her colleague's airway. Ms. Bujold was and continues to be a true TCDSB angel and hero for her steadfast First Aid support.

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