



# DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



**LEARNING • EQUITY • WELL-BEING**

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE WITH JUSTICE AND HOPE



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### TCDSB Mission Statement

#### OUR MISSION

Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.

#### OUR VISION

In God's Image: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.

# Message from the Director

Reflecting on the 2021-22 school year, we remember just how September began with feelings of anxiety, trepidation, and concern about our way forward in the pandemic. Although these realities initially challenged our resilience and impacted our social, emotional, academic, and mental health and wellness, they also ushered in a new beginning in education for the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).



As a Catholic community with a focus on enriching learning, faith experiences and ministry, we introduced our new [Pastoral Plan: \*Walking with Christ: With Eyes of Faith and Hope\*](#). Beginning with a focus on our own personal understanding of God who is revealed through Jesus Christ, our teacher and guide, I am moved with compassion to love as Jesus did through our efforts to increase equity, inclusion, and anti-racism as revealed in the scriptures: “with eyes of faith and hope, with hearts of kindness and love, with minds of justice and peace.”

This year, my second as Director of Education for the TCDSB, was another year like no other. While we became used to protective measures, protocols, and health guidelines, we also knew that any success and safety in our schools was a direct result of every member of our school community coming together to ensure students felt supported. I am proud of the work our central team and school leaders engaged in to keep schools safe. From mask distribution to the unpacking, re-packing, and distribution of rapid antigen test kits, to opportunities for students to remain engaged in their learning whether in-person or remote, our staff went above and beyond during these challenging times. Our schools are the heart of each community throughout the city, and how staff continued to go beyond the norm to ensure students and families were welcomed, safe, and included in every school, is something for which I am tremendously grateful. With the support from families partnering with us in our shared commitment to health and well-being, we have all been able to come together in the community to overcome the challenges and strengthen the bonds that make the TCDSB so unique.

While I certainly enjoyed opportunities to connect with our students virtually, my time with students in person at schools revealed wonderful smiles (even behind masks) in the playground and throughout our buildings. The opportunity to be in our schools visiting with students, staff, and families, and recognizing how important our role in education is, provides me with a universal appreciation and acknowledgement of the importance of being engaged and connecting not only with peers but with the whole Toronto Catholic community.

Just as September started with uncertainty, the end of the school year brought with it the culmination of an academic year filled with exciting in-person events and opportunities for all our students. From celebrating with our students as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas and certificates from Kindergarten to Grade 8, to our graduating secondary students, I joined in applauding our students, families, and staff for their resilience, perseverance, and creativity over the past year.

For everything done to support and enable our students, families, staff, and Catholic education to grow and prosper, I am so thankful.

**Dr. Brendan Browne**  
Director of Education



# LEARNING

## Growing in Knowledge

*“Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.” Psalm 25:4*

The Toronto Catholic District School Board continues to develop a Christ-centered learning organization in pursuit of knowledge, innovation and responsiveness. Our community was thrilled to welcome students back to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Before our return to the classrooms, our remarkable staff and school leaders worked together to identify gaps and develop proactive solutions and engaging educational programs to best support our students and staff as they continued to learn and work from home.

Throughout the pandemic, we were reminded of the integral role that schools play in our Catholic learning community’s academic, professional, and personal lives. We harnessed that inspiration and focused on creating and expanding our educational programs and professional development initiatives for students and staff members who experienced gaps or roadblocks whilst learning or working remotely. We also focused our efforts on extracurricular programs and activities while upholding the importance of our collective health, well-being, and safety.

Despite the ever-present challenges, our incredible community maintained their faith and continued to be inspiring leaders in Catholic education while supporting and guiding our students throughout their academic and personal goals.

### WALKING WITH CHRIST: YEAR ONE



Our new [3-Year Pastoral Plan](#) is a Board-wide common mission to renew the promise of Catholic education. While “Walking with Christ”, we deepen our sense of belonging and caring in our schools and communities. We walk with our Catholic communities and follow in Jesus’ footsteps by exemplifying the love of self and neighbour as revealed by the prophet Micah. *“Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Our God.”* - Micah 6:8. This passage helps us transition from our previous Pastoral Plan, with an increased awareness of our fragile world.

While building on our previous Pastoral Plans, the new Plan is also in support of our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), [Catholic School Graduate Expectations](#), and Catholic Social Teachings. Not only does it promote the public profile of Catholic education, and enhances relationships in our local communities amongst staff, students, families, volunteers and parish members, it also inspires all stakeholders to actively participate in a faith community. The Pastoral Plan allows us to focus together on the sacramentality of life, in connection to the TCDSB mental health strategy of well-being within, between and around our families, schools, parishes and communities.





## SUMMER LEARNING

As leaders in Catholic education, our staff offered some special summer learning programs. Over the 2021-2022 year, I am so proud to highlight these Summer Learning Programs. From our Kindergarten to Grade 5 students having the opportunity to attend one of nine daily full-time summer school locations across the city, to our Grade 6-Instrumental Music Program where students were offered a two-week summer instrumental program that included learning to play a band instrument (brass, percussion or woodwind). We supported the participation of Grade 6, 7 and 8 students in several skills based camps with a focus on understanding the skilled trades, one of these informed by Indigenous ways of knowing. Along with a greater understanding of music theory, this and other summer learning programs supported our students in developing and enhancing skills for literacy, numeracy, self-regulation, collaboration, adaptability, belonging, relationship building, and contribution.

## SPECIALIZED PROGRAMMING FOR FUTURE-FOCUSED CAREERS

We are proud to offer several courses that focus on designing technological information systems, which include instruction in the principles of robotics, algorithms, telecommunications, and human interface design to support our students with interests in pursuing tech-focused careers.

This past year we expanded the Specialist High School Majors program complement in four different secondary schools: St. John Paul II, Neil MacNeil, Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts and St. Joseph's Morrow Park.

Throughout the school year, I had several opportunities to visit our classrooms and witness the extraordinary achievements of our students and teachers at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts and Madonna Catholic Secondary School and was able to experience the creative and remarkable talent in the Robotics program.



## OUR RETURN TO IN-PERSON: LEARNING AND CELEBRATING

To celebrate the return to in-class learning, I had the privilege of welcoming students, school staff and families back to St. Paul and St. Margaret Catholic Schools for their first day of classes. I also celebrated back-to-school week at St. Clare during Bike to Work Month, welcomed newcomers at St. Lawrence, and spent time at St. Bonaventure, St. Augustine of Canterbury, and James Cardinal McGuigan.

Following two years of virtual graduation ceremonies, it was an absolute delight to transition back to in-person graduations and celebrate this significant milestone alongside our students, families, and staff. I had the honour of attending and addressing the 2022 graduating class of St. Joseph's College School, along with St. Bonaventure, St. Monica, and St. Jude Catholic Schools, Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, and St. Michael's Choir School.

I shared the immense joy in celebrating our students' success, and I look forward to seeing all that they will achieve in the future.





# EQUITY

## Growing in Knowledge with *Justice*

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."  
John 15:12*

In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (2.11), we read: "For God shows no partiality"

In the Toronto Catholic District School Board, it is important that every person be treated with respect and dignity; and that equity remains a central goal. Every person should have the opportunity to succeed personally, professionally and academically, regardless of their background, identity or circumstances.

Scriptural accounts of Jesus provide a constant witness of this inclusiveness. Jesus sought out and welcomed all people into the Kingdom of God. The social teachings of the Catholic Church promote a society founded on justice and love, in which all persons possess inherent dignity as children of God and are to be welcomed and treated equitably.

Guided by Catholic Social Teachings and our [Equity Action Plan](#), the TCDSB remains committed to identifying and eliminating discriminatory practices within our classrooms, workspaces, and communities, while fostering safe and inclusive spaces for everyone. We do this work by keeping our students, families, staff, and community members at the heart of every decision we make.

Every member of our Catholic learning community offers a unique perspective and has a distinct role to play in delivering curriculum, coordinating initiatives and events, and creating learning environments that support the fundamental needs of our students. The TCDSB is dedicated to better understanding who our students are and removing any barriers to student

success.

We continue to apply Catholic social justice to nurture a community focused on our shared responsibility and objective to develop inclusive, diverse, and equitable learning opportunities for students and staff to grow and achieve their full potential.

## RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS



## EDUCATION

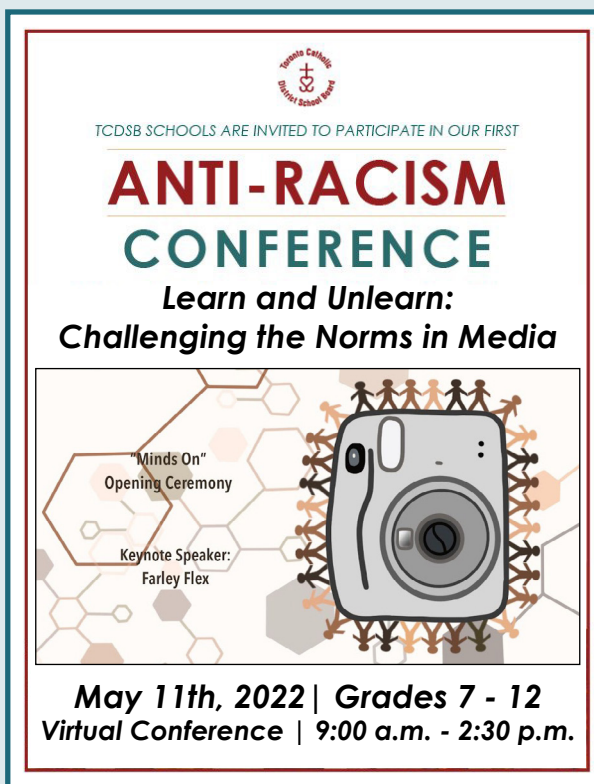
Our Indigenous Education curriculum shows recognition of and respect for Indigenous peoples in both the past and the present, and encourages us to recognize Indigenous people whose traditional territories we live and work on.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, we conducted virtual and in-person Indigenous-focused initiatives, which included the virtual [TCDSB Indigenous Heritage Month Celebration](#), the National Indigenous Heritage Month opening and closing ceremonies at the Catholic Education Centre, and the flag-raising ceremony in recognition of [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) and Orange Shirt Day in support of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

## CONVERSATIONS ON RACISM

This past year Toronto Catholic students had a variety of opportunities to participate in equity discussions, including at our [Anti-Racism Conference](#), which covered topics such as white privilege, Indigenous education, the Bible and anti-racism, anti-Asian racism, and anti-Black racism. I also had the immense pleasure of meeting and speaking with the members of the Boys of Excellence, an after-school program initiated by [Trust 15](#), a charitable organization that supports youth in the Rexdale/North Etobicoke that develops and promotes creative expression, and collaborative working skills.

To continue our conversations and to further inspire change throughout our Catholic learning community, we continue to participate in and contribute to the Ripple Effect Circle Meetings, whose focus is to create change and combat systemic anti-Black racism in communities across Canada. As an entire Catholic learning community, we also observed and celebrated [African Canadian Heritage Month](#) in February of 2022.



The poster features the TCDSB logo at the top, followed by the text "TCDSB SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FIRST". The main title "ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE" is in large, bold letters. Below it, the subtitle "Learn and Unlearn: Challenging the Norms in Media" is displayed. The central graphic shows a camera surrounded by a circle of diverse human figures. Text on the graphic includes "Minds On" Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speaker: Farley Flex. At the bottom, the date and time are listed: "May 11th, 2022 | Grades 7 - 12 Virtual Conference | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m."



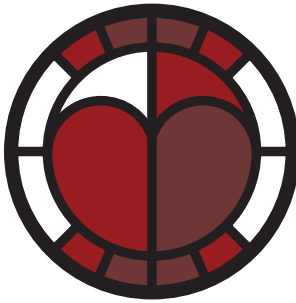
## CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN FAMILIES

In support of displaced Ukrainian families, TCDSB welcomed over 170 students at our Eastern Rite Catholic Schools. To celebrate and honour [Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month](#), I had the immense privilege to visit Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, St. Demetrius and St. Josephat Catholic Schools and personally welcome Ukrainian students to our Catholic community.

## FOR THE LOVE OF READING

To inspire our students at an early age with a love and joy for reading, a new library was opened at St. Elizabeth Catholic School. The school's library was previously closed in 2017, but thanks to the dedication and persistence of St. Elizabeth's staff and Catholic School Parent Council, the library was re-opened on March 23, 2021, with new carpets, bean bag chairs and shelves filled with brand new books.





# WELL-BEING

## Growing in Knowledge with Justice and Hope

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

### SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Supporting student mental health and well-being remains a collaborative endeavour that includes all staff and recognizes each student as a unique child of God. By strengthening an environment rooted in Gospel values that nurtures well-being and the virtue of hope, all staff are engaged and supported in building mentally healthy school communities that welcome and inspire our students and families.

Throughout the school year, our Social Workers and Psychology Service providers continued to [support the mental health needs of students](#) in consultation with school staff. Staffs continued to receive various targeted professional development to better equip them in their work with students, including Staff Well-Being workshops, Suicide Awareness and Intervention training, and Student Re-Engagement for all educators with a special focus on culturally responsive social-emotional learning activities for the classroom.

Despite large gathering limitations, we successfully facilitated several board-wide virtual student outreach events. Ranging from April's Annual Stop the Stigma Symposium

which featured a special guest who spoke to 300 Grade 7 - 12 classrooms on creating safe and inclusive spaces, to the Bi-Annual Safe Schools Symposiums on the theme of Hope which reached thousands of students across the board.

The Special Services Department continued its outreach to families throughout the year by distributing Mental Health Parent Newsletters. As well, the team facilitated seven live webinars for families on various topics such as Helping Teens Navigate Emotional Times, Supporting Students with Anxiety and Preparing Life After High School for our Special Needs community. Catholic faith elements were consistently included in both the mental health newsletters and monthly staff well-being themes by highlighting the Virtue of the Month and making connections between faith and mental health (including during Mental Health Awareness Week and Catholic Education Week).

Thanks to a special grant from the Ministry of Education, our clinical team of Social Workers continued to offer counselling services to students providing continuity of care, supporting all of the summer school programs, and responding to situations of crisis over the summer months.

### LAUNCH OF THE STUDENT CENSUS

As another first in the TCDSB's history - we held our Student Census for both elementary and secondary students. The Student Identity-Based Data Collection project was created and conducted in a very timely manner so as to meet and exceed the requirements of the [Anti-Racism Act](#) (2017); to better understand and support our students, and to allow families to

share more about who they are through the collection of identity-based information.

I'm so proud of this initiative, as the results of these data collection projects inform the TCDSB's ongoing efforts to improve our schools and create welcoming and inclusive environments, rooted in faith, and fostering the values of equity, diversity, and social justice for our students to succeed.



# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 2021 Budget Consultation was held virtually, and input received from TCDSB stakeholders was carefully considered in the Board's discernment and deliberations. At the June 2021 Board meeting, Trustees approved the 2021-22 Operating Budget in compliance with the Education Act. Guided by the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the TCDSB budget continues our commitment to providing effective, efficient and equitable programs and services, while meeting the needs of all learners.

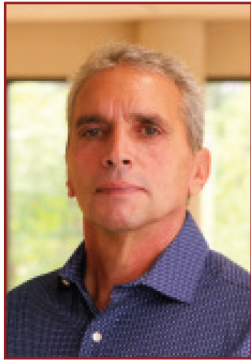
With a full return to school in September 2021, and still, amid the pandemic, the Board focused on the safety and well-being of our schools and communities, the enhancement of learning recovery strategies, as well as ensuring system stability without compromising long-term financial sustainability. Investments were made in additional staffing, enhanced cleaning, mental health and special services supports, remote learning, technology, facilities and transportation. Overall, the use of \$34.2 million of Board reserves was required to supplement additional pandemic-related costs.

Looking ahead, one of the greatest challenges facing the Board is the reality of declining enrolment as families choose to relocate outside of the City of Toronto for various reasons. As a result, funding will decrease, and the system will need to continue to right-size, at a time when expansion of service and enhancement of programs and services is expected. Effective stewardship of resources will be critical to ensure financial viability while maintaining the flexibility to adapt as priorities evolve.

<b>2021-2022 Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ Thousands</b>
Pupil and School Foundation	\$544,855
Teacher Qualification and Experience	\$108,979
Special Education	\$125,164
Other Grants and Revenue	\$105,041
School Operations and Maintenance	\$88,676
Learning Opportunity	\$50,876
Language (FSL, ESL, ELL)	\$45,346
Transportation	\$33,274
Administration and Governance	\$22,514
Continuing Education and Summer School	\$13,121
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,137,846</b>

<b>2021-22 Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ Thousands</b>
Classroom and Supply Teachers	\$680,886
School Operations and Maintenance	\$100,182
School Administration	\$70,714
Paraprofessionals	\$62,987
Educational Assistants	\$55,705
Transportation	\$42,865
School Generated Activities	\$30,000
One-Time Ministry Initiatives	\$10,371
Designated Early Childhood Educators	\$25,520
Administration and Governance	\$27,193
Textbooks and Classroom Supplies	\$21,192
Continuing Education	\$21,989
Computers and Technology	\$10,992
Teacher Consultants and Coordinators	\$6,644
Temporary Accommodation Costs	\$2,350
Staff Development	\$2,474
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,172,064</b>





JOSEPH MARTINO  
WARD 1



MARKUS DE DOMENICO  
WARD 2



IDA LI PRETI  
WARD 3



TERESA LUBINSKI  
WARD 4



MARIA RIZZO  
WARD 5



FRANK D'AMICO  
WARD 6



MICHAEL DEL GRANDE  
WARD 7



GARRY TANUAN  
WARD 8



NORM DI PASQUALE  
WARD 9



DANIEL DI GIORGIO  
WARD 10

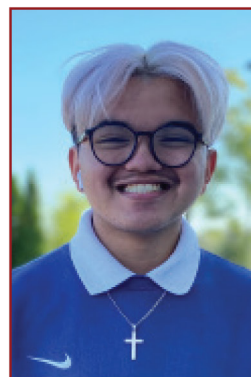


ANGELA KENNEDY  
WARD 11

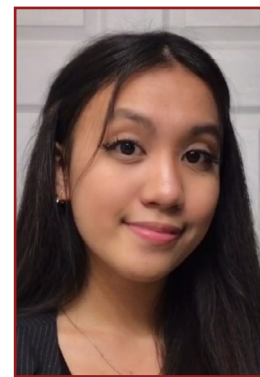


NANCY CRAWFORD  
WARD 12

# 2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



KEITH ANDRE BAYBAYON  
STUDENT TRUSTEE



STEPHANIE DE CASTRO  
STUDENT TRUSTEE



## 2021 - 2022 Annual Report

### Notes on Translation:

The electronic translation service on the Toronto Catholic District School Board's website is hosted by Google Translate. The quality of the translation will vary in some of the languages offered by Google.

[www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)



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