



TCDSB'S UNSUNG HEROES



January 2023

Ren Gonsalves, Secondary Teacher/Physical Education Department Head, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy



As an inspiring and remarkable member of the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy (SJOA) community, Mr. Gonsalves is dedicated to making SJOA a wonderful place for students, staff and families. He proudly devotes his time to coaching the school's basketball, volleyball, and several other SJOA sports teams and encourages his students through leadership and physical education. Mr. Gonsalves mentors many of his students and new coaches with whom he inspires the desire for learning and promotes a healthy work-life balance. He is also known to always put the needs of his students before his own, Mr. Gonsalves supports the SJOA community with his open-door policy and ensures that everyone feels welcomed and safe in his classrooms. As an Executive Committee Member of the Toronto District Colleges Athletic Association (TDCAA), Mr. Gonsalves and committee members oversee the administration of interscholastic athletics and support the development and promotion of fair play within TCDSB sports. Mr. Gonsalves has truly captured the foundation and purpose of the TCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, "In God's image, Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope" and to "Strengthen an environment rooted in Gospel values that nurtures hope and well-being".

Justina Ogokeh, Elementary Teacher, St. Cyril Catholic School



Dedicated to infusing the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Ten Theological Virtues into her daily lessons, Ms. Ogokeh is a source of inspiration for all St. Cyril Catholic School students. As a third-grade teacher, she fosters a safe, inclusive and equitable environment for all her students and is dedicated to incorporating culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy in her class. Ms. Ogokeh proudly takes on a great deal of responsibility in coaching the volleyball, basketball and soccer teams at St. Cyril and she dedicates countless hours to preparing her teams while helping them develop their athletic abilities. From Spirit Weeks to School Dances, Food Drives to Candy Gram sales, Carnival Week and Play Days, Ms. Ogokeh enjoys working with intermediate students to plan and coordinate exciting school-wide initiatives and events for everyone to enjoy. As someone who models Gospel Values throughout her day-to-day life, she instills them throughout her lessons. Ms. Ogokeh routinely participates in Nurturing Our Catholic Community (NCC) led virtual liturgies and reflections and provides opportunities for spiritual reflection for her students. She is truly a remarkable teacher, a devout Catholic and a valuable resource to the entire St. Cyril Catholic community!

Alberto Tacadino, Head Caretaker, St. Anthony Catholic School



A humble member of the St. Anthony Catholic School, Mr. Tacadino is truly one of a kind! As the dedicated Head Caretaker, he works tirelessly to maintain the school's grounds and ensures tasks are completed ahead of schedule. Throughout the day, Mr. Tacadino can be spotted maintaining the school's grounds and completing every task with a warm smile. The entire St. Anthony Catholic Community truly appreciates his dedication and wishes to recognize him with their sincere gratitude and love. He is a brilliant example of what it means to put faith into action with a heart of kindness and love.

Tonya Williams, Elementary Teacher, St. Timothy Catholic School



Ms. Williams is a tremendously dedicated and highly regarded member of the St. Timothy Catholic School community and can always be relied upon to be the first person to help anyone in need. Whether through fundraising, producing beautiful visual displays, coordinating student assemblies or even helping a colleague push their car through an icy patch in the school's driveway, Ms. Williams is always there to lend a helping hand. Her sincere passion and professionalism in teaching are demonstrated in the exuberant commitment she puts forth for her students and the entire student body. She is a wonderful role model who selflessly contributes to any school events, and can always be counted on to provide wise advice for any issue that may arise in her community. Ms. Williams faithfully exemplifies the second year of the TCDSB's Pastoral Plan, Walking with Christ, with Kindness and Love through her humility, kindness and dedication to her students, colleagues and learning community. The St. Timothy's learning community is tremendously grateful for Ms. Williams' commitment to Catholic education and feels so blessed since she joined their school.

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